



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*



04th February 2022

## Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earlier this week, we had our two day Ofsted inspection, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022-2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. Until the final report is shared, schools are not permitted to disseminate any information however as soon as this key document is published, please be assured that I will send out a copy to everyone in our school community.

I am happy to share that our attendance is now above the national average for secondary schools which has been a great improvement following the disruption caused by a spike in the number of Covid-19 cases at the start of the year. It is so important for our children to be in school learning that every minute of learning time is precious. We would therefore value your continued support to ensure that your child arrives at school promptly for registration every day.

This week I have met with prefects in year 8, Sarah, Amy and Maddie, who would like to fundraise to buy new books for our school library. They are planning a 'Book Bash' event, launching a competition for tutor groups with more details to follow! They are also designing a Book Request poster for each tutor group so we can order books from authors that our children want to read. In addition, our Digital Leaders have been planning an assembly for Internet Safety Day next week, on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, along with tutor group activities. I can honestly say that I could not be any prouder of all of these students and our prefects- they are an absolute credit to our school.

Our children's brightly-coloured, hand painted stones have been laid near the Petwyn as a tribute to the Queen's 70th Jubilee Anniversary. The patterns on these stones have been designed by children from all three schools in West Moors, celebrating this momentous occasion within our local community. If you have a few minutes, please take a look at the aerial photograph of this special Jubilee creation on our school's Twitter feed (@west\_moors).

Thank you for your continued support and we hope that you have a lovely weekend with your family and friends,

With all best wishes,

Dr Craddock

## Rights Respecting News

### Article of the Week

**Article 2:** (non-discrimination): The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

**Article 13:** (freedom of expression): Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information as long as it is within the law.

**Article 17:** (access to reliable information): Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

During our weekly assembly we asked the children 'Why is it important to listen to, learn from and celebrate people's differences in school and in our community?'

The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- It helps to remind us we are all unique
  - It reminds us we all have different experiences and everyone has the right to be listened to and express their opinions
  - Helps everyone feel welcome and valued in our school
- By listening to others we can continue to learn and grow as individuals



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Head Teacher: Dr Deborah Craddock Deputy Head Teacher: Deborah East



## FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL

This week at Forest School:

**Year 6** – Great co-operation and determination to light the fire to make smores – yummy!

**Year 7** – Lots of determination and team work for a very busy morning, baking a chocolate cake and then whittling a cooking stick to bake ash bread with.

**Year 8** – A new challenge to cook pasta in the great outdoors with great success. Also practicing our skills with the pull saw.



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## INTERNET SAFETY MESSAGE

Today, we have been made aware of some concerning chat and sexually explicit images that have been shared through a WhatsApp group called 'Weirdo'. This is a very large group of over 100 members and includes pupils from different schools across Dorset. We strongly advise that parents check their child's phone tonight, remove them from this group immediately (and preferably from WhatsApp in general) and step up the monitoring of what their child is doing online. We are finding that issues relating to the unmonitored use of WhatsApp on pupils' phones is becoming a significant safeguarding issue and that pupils are not applying the repeated messages they are given in ICT and PSHCE in the way that they are acting online. The potential for adults to be part of this group and the dangers this could pose for your child should not be underestimated. This activity is all happening in time outside of school hours, especially over the weekend. It is a parents responsibility to monitor the use of phones but I fully understand that this is not easy to do. However, we would give all parents the following advice:

- Ensure that you have all the passwords to your child's phone and that you check through their phones regularly.
- • Change the time you look at their phone so that they do not have any opportunity to remove content as they know it will be inspected.
- Do not allow phones in the bedroom whilst they sleep (regardless of what they tell you, this is quite reasonable and what happens to most of their friends)

- Talk to your child regularly about the dangers of social media and how important it is that they only ever are in groups where they know everyone involved
  - Encourage them to tell you when they see things that they should not see, even if it means a friend or classmate getting into trouble with their parents
  - Whilst children have a right to privacy, you have the ultimate responsibility to safeguard your child from harm. If your child will not hand over their phone, ask yourself why
- Further advice on WhatsApp use can be found on this [link](#) (WhatsApp social media guide from Internet Matter.org).

### Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on **7-13 February 2022**. This year's theme is **Growing Together**.

We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow. **Growing Together** is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Check out the free resources for families by clicking the [link](#).



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## Tuck Shop and Snacks

Just a reminder that the school tuck shop opens again on Monday 7th February and children can purchase a snack for 60 pence. The choices available consist of: bread roll, savoury snack to



change daily, fruit or a drink.



## Cold Weather

It looks like the colder weather has arrived and is here to stay for a while. Please ensure that all children have appropriate clothing such as a warm coat. Last term, there was an increasing number of parents also reporting items of lost property, some of which I know are expensive. Please can you ensure that all your child's items of clothing are named so that should they get lost, they can be easily identified and returned. Can I also remind you that children should be wearing appropriate footwear to school in the form of black shoes. Recently, some children have been coming in trainers and this is not correct school uniform unless a PE lesson is timetabled that day.

## Communication

A reminder that at West Moors Middle School, we use our school website, email and our Twitter page to communicate and share information with you.

Email: [office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)

School Website: <https://westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk>

Twitter page: [https://twitter.com/west\\_moors](https://twitter.com/west_moors)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/>



Finally, please also look out for **all key information** to parents such as events information, newsletters, trips and special events using the **parent mail system**.



## School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2021/22

### Spring Term 2022:

Term starts for students on Tuesday 4th January  
Inset Day Monday 31st January  
Term ends on Friday 18th February  
Term starts for students on Monday 28th February  
Term ends for students on Friday 8th April

### Summer Term 2022

Term starts for students on Monday 25th April  
Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May – school closed  
Term ends on Friday 27th May  
Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday 6th June 2022  
Term starts for students on Tuesday 7th June  
Inset Day Friday 1st July  
Term ends on Friday 22nd July

### Inset Days:

Monday 31st January 2022  
Friday 1st July 2022

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