



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

28th January 2022

## Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

School continues to be challenging with Covid cases but I am pleased to share that things seem to be gradually improving. We still have several staff off but children at home are accessing their learning via the ITS Learning Platform and staff in school are working hard to keep classes covered. I want to say thank you to everyone (staff, governors, parents and carers), for your additional support, understanding, flexibility and cover.

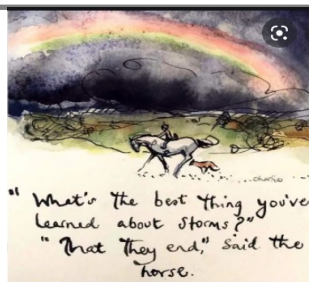
Please keep testing at home and let us know immediately of any positive cases. We need to record all cases and we will continue to liaise with Dorset Public Health who advise all schools in the county on best practice. We are very excited that the Eco Club, with help from Mr Mein, Mrs Willis and Mrs Crichton, have made a start on our new orchard garden, planting fruit trees. This is thanks to The Tree Company and the children have even given each tree a name! It has also been great that despite the recent spike we experienced in the number of Covid cases, we have been able to continue to provide our wraparound provision and most of our enrichment clubs.

This week I have met with a few of our incredible Year 8 prefects who are keen to fund raise to buy new books for our library. I am also very proud of our digital leaders who have been working with Miss Palamountain to plan whole school activities for Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022. They are all amazing ambassadors for our school and we are impressed with their commitment, enthusiasm and drive.

We are grateful for your kind words of appreciation and the community support for our school has been hugely valued, particularly at the moment. Please continue to bear with us if calls and emails are not answered immediately. Our priority is the children who are doing well and enjoying being in school

With all best wishes,

Dr Craddock



## Rights Respecting News

### Article of the Week

This week on the 27<sup>th</sup> January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Holocaust Memorial Day is for everyone. Each year, across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. The theme for 2022 is One Day – that in the future there may be one day with no genocide.

**Article 2** - The Convention applies to every child without discrimination

**Article 19** - Protection from violence, abuse and neglect

**Article 37**- No child should be tortured, sentenced to death, imprisoned unfairly or treated in a cruel or inhuman way

**Article 38**- No child under 15 should join the army and children should be protected in war

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children 'Why do we remember Holocaust Memorial Day each year.' The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- The awful events around the Second World War must be remembered
- Few survivors are still alive, but the truth of what happened should be kept alive beyond their lifetime
- If we don't learn lessons from history, we won't be able to make better decisions in the future
- It helps people to learn and to remember
- To honour people who lost their lives in the Holocaust and in genocides



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**School Improvement Priority**  
**To further improve levels of punctuality and attendance**

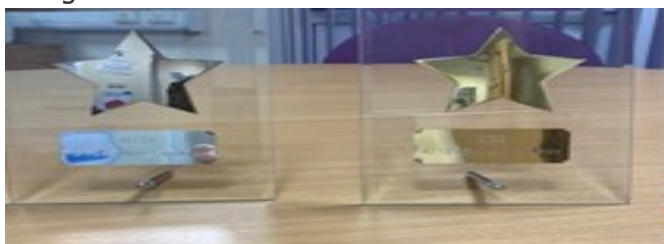
### Attendance and Punctuality

West Moors Middle is committed to providing an education of the highest quality for all its pupils and recognises this can only be achieved by supporting and promoting excellent school attendance for all its pupils. This is based on the belief that only by attending school regularly and punctually will pupils be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. High attainment depends on good attendance.



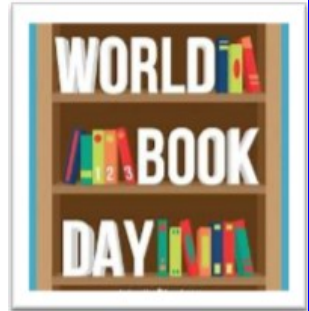
#### Key attendance facts:

- 90% attendance may sound good. However, this is the equivalent of missing a half day of schooling EACH WEEK. If this continues over the five years a child spends at high school, a child with 90% attendance will miss HALF A YEAR'S schooling. A child with 80% attendance will lose A FULL YEAR of schooling over the same period
- Taking your child out of school for a two week holiday during term time immediately reduces their attendance to 95% for the year
- Poor attendance has a direct link to attainment – the more school a child misses, the less likely they are to achieve good exam grades



### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 3rd March** and the whole school community is invited to come in dressed up as their favourite character from a book. This year is extra special, as World Book Day is celebrating 25 years of bringing a love of reading to children and young people.



#### Ensure that everything is named

Thank you to everyone who has remembered to name items of clothing. If you haven't already done so, please name all items as soon as possible, so that any mislaid items can be returned promptly to their owners.

#### Jewellery and nail varnish

A reminder that children are not permitted to wear jewellery or earrings other than one pair of studs for those children with pierced ears.

During PE, studs will need to be removed or covered with surgical tape. In general terms, you are advised not to allow your child to wear jewellery to school in case of loss, damage or injury.

Make up, including nail varnish, is not appropriate in school and should also not be worn.



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## FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL

This week at Forest School:

**Year 6** – All the children volunteered for various jobs and this great team work meant we made a very successful chocolate cake, which gave us plenty of energy for a game of Tug-of-War!

**Year 7** – Great teamwork to bake a ginger cake to keep us warm on a chilly morning! Some of us recycled the charcoal from last week to make pictures.

**Year 8** – Happily baked their first chocolate cake which was quickly devoured!



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# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## **Nut-Free School**

People who suffer from nut allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy, it is not just eating nuts that can cause a severe reaction, just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has had nuts or a product containing nuts can trigger anaphylactic shock (which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties).

### **We cannot have nuts in school in any form.**

So please can we ask that you have **no nut products** in the lunch boxes or brought into the school as treats. For example:

- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Chocolate spreads
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes that contain nuts
- Biscuits / Cookies that contain nuts
- Peanut butter cakes

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely. We appreciate that this is an additional thing to check and we know that you recognise the importance of it. We do have to insist we are a nut free school. I know if this was your child you would expect that we all help, especially as it is a life-threatening condition.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff.



## **Safer Internet Day 2022**

Safer internet day is on the 8th of February and will be celebrated with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

However, there are some emerging safety issues in these spaces as well as issues young people have been navigating for some time; particularly the lack of respect individuals display towards each other, groups 'ganging up' against other groups, and the sense that it is easy to 'get away' with negative behaviour such as meanness, bullying and swearing. They speak about hate directed at particular groups, particularly LGBT+ users, and misogyny on gaming platforms. They tell us the apparent lack of consequences for negative behaviour has an impact on their safety and well-being.

We need to address these issues so that all young people understand what constitutes respectful behaviour online, and know what to do if they encounter hate or bullying directed at them or someone else.

This year's theme for Safer Internet Day is:

**All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online.**

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022>



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## Extra Curricular Clubs Spring 2022

We hope that your children have signed up to and are enjoying one of our extra-curricular clubs. It is great to see so many children having lots of fun in our basketball after school club today! It's wonderful to see so many children keen to develop new basketball skills and techniques.

We're very impressed!



## 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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# 10 Ways You Can SHARE KINDNESS ONLINE

Last year, around one in five young people aged 10–15 in England and Wales admitted experiencing online bullying: most commonly being insulted or sworn at, or having hurtful messages sent about them. To someone who's being bullied, the world can seem like a bleak, negative place – but just one kind word can be a ray of hope: a turning point that brightens their day and refreshes their perspective. That's why 'One Kind Word' is the theme of Anti-Bullying Week 2021. We're supporting this year's event by bringing you ten top tips for beating online bullying by replacing it with kindness.

## 1 PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE

Sometimes a friend or relative might post online about something they're proud to have achieved: maybe an exam they've passed, a new skill they've learned or a task they've completed. Celebrate their hard work and determination by being kind enough to praise them for it publicly.

## 2 REACH OUT

It's not always easy to tell what kind of mood someone is in just from what they post online. Simply dropping somebody a message to say 'hi', to ask if they're OK or to tell them that you're thinking of them could totally make their day.

## 3 RECOMMEND FUN THINGS

If there's something you enjoy doing online – perhaps you play a particular game, or you've found a really cool site – share it with someone you think will enjoy it. Even recommending a film or TV show you think they'll like can bring a little happiness to someone who really needs it.

## 4 OFFER TO HELP

Sometimes you might see a friend or family member posting a question online or asking for help with something they can't do themselves. Don't just ignore it – if you can help, get in touch. Something that's difficult for them might be no trouble for you!

## 5 POST POSITIVELY

Lots of people seem to go online purely to complain about things or be negative. Just because you're communicating online (and not face to face) doesn't mean you can't be positive, though! Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten someone else's day.

## 6 SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

If somebody that you know has done something positive or shown kindness themselves, go online and thank them with a message or a post. Expressing your gratitude costs nothing and showing someone that you appreciate them will really make them feel good.

## 7 BE UNDERSTANDING

Showing empathy towards others is an act of online kindness which often gets overlooked. If you notice that someone you know is upset, drop them a message. Sometimes people just need someone else to listen to them and understand their situation.

## 8 SHARE INSPIRATIONAL POSTS

When you see something online that inspires you or makes you feel happy, share it with people you know. A spot-on quotation, a beautiful photo or an uplifting video can lift someone's spirits and help them to feel better about life.

## 9 THINK BEFORE COMMENTING

Thinking before we act can be just as important as acting in the first place. Taking a second to consider what you're saying in advance could stop you from posting something negative, hurtful or offensive – even if you don't mean to. It's better to post positively or not post at all.

## 10 LIKE, LOVE AND ENGAGE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, don't just scroll past – take the time to like it, love it or leave an appreciative comment! Reacting positively to other people's posts might seem like a small gesture but could mean a lot to them.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with more than 10 years of experience in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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