



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

04th March 2022

## Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our children back to school this week. We are looking forward to the second half of the spring term with lots of exciting and fun activities to do. Staff and pupils are also all looking forward to the better weather when we can be outside a lot more.

Earlier this week we were proud to share our school's Ofsted report with our Governors, parents and carers. The inspectors focused on the Quality of Education, students' behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management over the course of the two days, meeting with over half the children in our school in a series of targeted focus group interviews to gain an in-depth understanding of their views. Inspectors were impressed with the embedded nature of our school's vision and values, stating that the school's leadership was 'transformational' and, praising the ambitious nature of our new curriculum. I would like to give my personal thanks to all our children, staff, governors and parents and carers at school, who together, made this possible.

Excitingly, from this term, we are fortunate to have specialist Sports coaches leading on the delivery of our PE lessons and afterschool sports clubs. Our children's high level of engagement, learning and enjoyment has been a pleasure to observe and with intra-house sports competitions planned before Easter we have much to look forward to.

Lastly, we were blown away by the amazing costumes our children's wore yesterday, of their chosen book characters. They drew incredible sketches of their favourite book characters for a whole school display and enjoyed talking about their preferred book with peers, motivating others to read the same books in the future. Mrs Mok also took some wonderful photographs throughout the day so if you have not had a chance to look at them, please visit our school's Twitter feed: @west\_moors  
We hope that you all have a lovely weekend ahead.

Dr Deborah Craddock.

## Rights Respecting News

### Article of the Week



**Article 17 - access to information from the media'** 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.

**'Article 29 - goals of education'** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

**'Article 31 - leisure, play and culture'.** Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

During our weekly assembly, we emphasised how reading is such an important skill and so we asked the children 'How can reading help us?'

The children came up with a range of excellent responses:



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



- ♦ Can help us calm down and go to sleep
- ♦ It inspires us
- ♦ We can use our imagination
- ♦ We can learn new skills
- ♦ We can learn new things about the world

### World Book Day

**Date:** 4 March

**What is it:** World Book Day was designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

**Rights Link:** Article 29: Goals of education

### **RED NOSE DAY—FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022**

Red Nose Day is coming. Whatever you do, no matter how small, you can help people live free from poverty, violence and discrimination. Because you have the power to change lives we are inviting all the children to bake or buy and bring in to school a cake to sell and raise funds for this valued charity. Please see the attached flyer with all the information.



### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**



A polite reminder that we are a nut free school and therefore children should not be bringing in any food items that contain nuts into school. Thank you for your ongoing co-operation.



All the staff at West Moors Middle School, are passionate about building strong mental wellbeing and resilience in all our pupils. This is why as a school we have embraced 'Zumos' as a major part of our school's pastoral care. Zumos is a leading online wellbeing system that is CAMHS kitemarked and was developed as part of the HeadStart project.

As we move to the end of the Covid restrictions and begin to recover following this difficult time where everyone has spent long periods of time stuck at home, it is even more vital that we take care of our children's mental wellbeing as well as our own. Therefore, we wanted to reach out and remind everyone of this additional support available to all of our students.

The messages are very powerful, we know our teachers love to hear them too. If you like you can discuss the recordings and ensure the messages have been understood. The recent national crisis has forced us all to look at how we do things in a new way and we are determined to offer as much support to our students and their families as we can.

Why not listen to the daily 'How to be happy' recording with your child? It is a short daily recording that offers you a simple mind technique written by experts. It is designed to make you feel good, think positively, motivate and empower you – step by step



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## World Book Day



We marked World Book Day again this year by having a non-school uniform day in school and all children were invited to 'dress up' as their favourite book character (if they wished to!). It was lovely to see the children also bringing in some of their favourite books to share in school. The teachers enjoyed reading lots of stories during the day to emphasise the enjoyment of books. Each child was given a World Book Day token on the day.

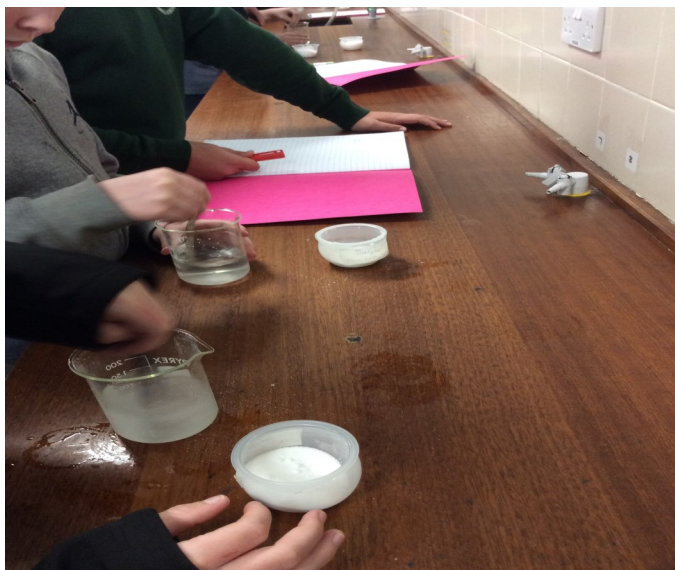


We just loved our children's amazing costumes and spending time in tutor groups discussing our favourite books and authors.



## Science in Year 7

Our Year 7's today have been busy in science, trying to find out which solute, out of salt and sugar, would dissolve better in water. This was looking at which solute had better solubility.



## 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/](https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/)

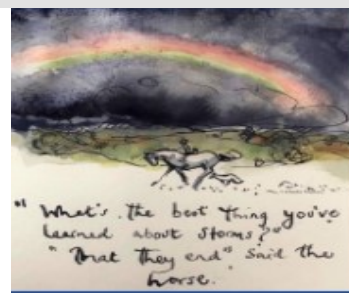
[WestMoorsMiddleSchool/](https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/)

## 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.

## Coding Club — Thursday 3-35– 4-30pm

Code club letters have been handed out by the year 8 digital leaders this week. There will be 10 spaces per class. Please be aware that we can only have 15-20 children in the club so it will be first come first served so return your slip promptly to Miss Palamountain. The club will begin next Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 3.35 - 4.30.



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

### Autumn Term 2021

Term ends on Friday 22nd October

Term starts for Students on Monday 1st November

Inset Day Friday 3rd December

Term ends Friday 17th December

### 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:

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

Friday 3rd December 2021

Monday 31st January 2022

Friday 1st July 2022



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# **Bake-off & Box-up**

*West Moors Middle School fundraiser supports Ukrainian children.*

West Moors Middle School is hosting a fundraiser on the 18<sup>th</sup> March in support of the Ukrainian children who have been affected by the war in Ukraine.

## How to support the fundraiser on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March

### EITHER choose to

1. Bake a cake in solidarity with the Ukrainian children and enter it into the WMMS Bake-off on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March with a small donation up to £2.00.
2. Photos of the magnificent submissions will be shared on social media and the winners of the Bake-off will receive recognition for their efforts.

*Some ideas to get the creative juices flowing:-*

1. Include the colours of the Ukrainian flag
  2. Bake a cake in the shape of the Ukrainian flag
  3. Create a cake by baking the individual letters in the word UKRAINE
  4. Decorate your cake/cupcakes with messages/flags of encouragement.
  5. Using biscuits, create children's faces
- Deliver your creation to the office on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March. Remember to include your donation in an envelope
  - The judging of the creations will take around lunchtime.
  - Pupils and staff will have an opportunity to shop for cake after lunch.

### OR choose from the following

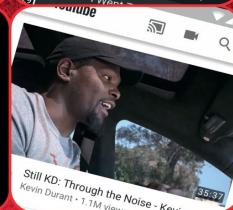
1. Send in an empty shoebox in the weeks running up to the fundraiser. Include your donation in an envelop.
2. Choose from the list of items below and send these into school. They will be shared between shoeboxes received:-
  - A picture / letter from your child/children to a Ukrainian child.
  - A toothbrush and toothpaste
  - A facecloth
  - Crayons or colouring pencils and a sharpener / coloured pens
  - Small colouring book / notebook
  - A pocket sized teddy
3. Fill a shoe box with the items listed above and send it in to the office on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

This is an opportunity to share in a co-ordinated drive to support child refugees fleeing from war. Your children will learn from this experience and feel involved in what is a devastating experience for any child.]





AGE RESTRICTION  
13+



# YouTube

**SPENDING A PREMIUM**  
YouTube Premium (formerly YouTube Red) is a new paid streaming subscription service in the UK, offering a three-month free trial to tempt viewers into a £12-per-month plan. This includes the ability to download videos, stream videos with the app in the background, gives exclusive access to original content and a separate music streaming service and gaming app.

On YouTube, 'challenge videos' are shared quickly and can be very dangerous. One person may post a video of themselves doing something unusual like eating a hot chilli or jumping in a river and before you know it, the video goes viral and everyone wants to join in and share their videos. The speed in which challenge videos spread across the Internet makes it difficult to keep up with the latest ones.

As well as watching videos, many children are keen to share their own videos online, emulating their YouTube heroes, such as Stampy or DanTDM. However, if they post something on YouTube, they may later regret it or feel embarrassed about what they have shared. There is also a risk that they will receive hurtful or negative comments regarding not only their content, but also their appearance. YouTube's comment section is infamous for being one of the most opinionated on the Internet.

When your child is logged into their Google account and browsing the YouTube website, they can share and talk about videos with their friends using the chat bubble. This can be found at the top right of the desktop site or through in-app messaging on their mobile or tablet. When they tap on the 'Friends' icon, they have a list of suggested people from their contacts - which can be any contact they've had on Google or somebody who has sent them an invite link.

**AGE-INAPPROPRIATE VIDEOS**  
As YouTube is the biggest video sharing website in the world, there is content available for all ages, meaning that some content will not be appropriate for your child. You think that content is inappropriate, there is a flagging feature to submit it for review by YouTube staff, but you will need to be aware that just because video is not appropriate for a younger audience, it may not violate YouTube's policies. YouTube has mechanisms in place to automatically remove explicit and harmful content, yet offensive content may still slip through.



# National Online Safety

# Top Tips for Parents

**'Restricted Mode'** is an optional setting you can use to help screen out potentially mature content you may prefer your child not to see. Restricted Mode works on the browser or device level, so must be turned on for each browser or device your child uses. To do this, follow these steps:

- Go to the bottom of any YouTube page and switch 'Restricted Mode' to 'ON'.
- To make it more difficult for this to be turned off, you will be given the option to lock restricted mode onto your browser.

- Tap the three vertical dots at the top-right on the screen and press, 'Settings.'
- Click on 'Restricted mode filtering.'
- Press 'Restrict.'

**Please note that you can't 'lock' restricted mode on a phone in the same way that you can on a desktop. You will need to turn this on each time your child uses it.**

By having a shared family Google account, checking the history will enable you to see exactly what your child is watching and sharing on YouTube. To see the history on a computer, on the right hand menu under the library section, click 'History.' On mobiles, the viewing history can be found by clicking on the 'Library' tab.

On the YouTube Kids platform, parents can now handpick videos and channels for their children to view, giving parents and guardians full control over what their children view on the app. Simply enable the feature within the account settings and select "approved content only". It's important to note that this feature is only currently available on Android devices.

When using YouTube, there may be instances where your child receives negative comments. If somebody's giving your child a difficult time, here's how to block them and prevent future comments and replies:

- Go to their channel/account by clicking on their name.
- Click on 'About.'
- Tap the dropdown box with an image of a flag on it.
- Press 'Block user.'
- Tap 'Submit'.

The only way to truly know what your child may have been watching is to regularly monitor them. You can do this by checking their viewing history. YouTube videos can also be easily downloaded, so it is important that your child understands the associated dangers of content they are uploading and that it could harm their online reputation in the future. Show them how to set their videos to private or choose a small network of YouTube subscribers to view. To get started with YouTube, visit [www.youtube.com/learn](http://www.youtube.com/learn). While YouTube is a video which offers learning modules on creating a YouTube channel, however, you should encourage them not to use their real name.

YouTube has launched a tool called 'Time Watched' that allows you to see how long has been spent on the platform. Once you have discovered how much time has been spent on the app, there is the option to set a time limit. Once the limit is reached, a reminder will pop up on the screen. You can also disable sounds and vibrations to help resist the urge to check for notifications.

A YouTube family Premium plan may be a cost-effective option if you have more than one child. For £17.99 a month, it allows you to share a YouTube paid membership with up to five other family members – aged 13 and older – living in the same household. As the account holder, or family manager, you must create a Google family account.

If your child is accessing YouTube via your account, bear in mind that they may be contacted by Google contacts who are complete strangers to them. You can remove someone from the suggested contacts list by pressing and holding the person's name and tapping on the red 'x'.

YouTube has created its own destination for gamers, which highlights the top gaming video from the user's subscriptions, including live streams. There are hundreds of YouTube accounts which show other people playing and commenting on games. These are called "Let's Play" videos. While YouTube can be a great resource for hints, tips and news for games, it is a good idea for parents to keep a close eye on what YouTube's are posting. Often, the games they are playing will contain strong language and violence. A few examples of popular YouTube gamers for you to have a look at are:

- **Stampy**
- **Yogscast Lewis & Simon**
- **PewDiePie**
- **EthanGamer**
- **Markiplier**
- **PopularMMOs**
- **CaptainSparklez**
- **Jacksepticeye**
- **LtCorbis**
- **Dan TDM**

**SOURCES:** <https://www.tesun.ca/article/6702517/youtube-porn-vidoes-roblox-x-box-games-watch-online/>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-frXgtP96M>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2xy7hc-hc>; <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5136833/Terrifying-truth-child-videos-Youtube.html>, <https://www.todaysparent.com/family/crazy-youtuber-challenges-kids-are-going/>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yekl0oBsg8>; <http://abcnews.go.com/shows/american-born-seminole-tribe/story?id=4872646&cid=3>; <https://www.vox.com/gaming/2017/11/2/16466740/youtube-games-kids-not-enough-of-stamp>; <https://www.youtube.com/intl/en-GB/videoplayback?logos=icons.colors>; <https://www.commonssensemedia.org/blog/youtube-games-kids-not-enough-of-stamp/>

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