



Parents' and Carers' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

Friday 13th May 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our Year 6 children completed their SATs tests, and we are very proud of them all. Due to the pandemic this is the first time the tests were administered since May 2019. The children have worked incredibly hard, and it is a great opportunity for them to demonstrate their knowledge of the English and Maths Key Stage 2 curriculum. That said, it is wonderful to now return to normal with exciting learning opportunities planned for all this term. I am immensely proud of them as they have conscientiously tried their best, and I am grateful to the staff team who supported throughout the week. Our children truly deserved their special treat with reward time and fun activities this afternoon!

Across the year groups, it has been wonderful to see children actively engaged in their learning in a range of activities - from, sewing and cookery in Design Technology; programming in ICT; the testing of recovery heart rates and respiration in Science; and skills development in summer sports, including cricket and tennis, it has been a joy to observe. To keep abreast of what our children are doing throughout the week, you can follow us on our school's Twitter feed (@west_moors). A huge thanks also goes to our budding Eco Warriors in Year 5 who have helped with litter picking in our school's extensive grounds - Megan in 5KW even kindly helped litter picking on her journey to school. A bag of litter has been collected, with no stone left unturned, and they will be supporting Mrs Willis to lead a school assembly in the weeks ahead. Their drive and enthusiasm to look after our school environment and planet is a credit to them and they have demonstrated strong leadership potential!

I hope that you have a wonderful weekend, enjoying the sunshine.

Warmest wishes,
Dr Craddock

Rights Respecting News

Articles of the week

'Article 9 - separation from parents' Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.

'Article 20 - 'children unable to live with their family' If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.

'Article 25 - 'review of treatment in care' If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children 'Why might it not sometimes be possible for children to live with their parents?'

The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- Parents may be unwell and unable to care for them
- Parents may not be able to keep their children safe
- Parents may not be able to provide everything a child needs to be the best they can be
- Family situations may change, for example there may be a crisis



West Moors Middle School, Heathfield Way, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset. BH22 0DA

Phone: 01202 872474 Email: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

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



- Parents may live separately, even in different countries

Upcoming events:

National Teen Self Esteem Month

National Walking Month



Curriculum

We continue to offer children a wide range of learning experiences through our broad and balanced curriculum.

Learning in Year Five

Recently, due to the warm and wonderful weather, Year 5 have been able to venture outside and enjoy paired reading. The children from 5KW and 5PP paired up together and read their library books to each other under the trees. The children had been asking about this opportunity for some time and lucky the weather made it possible.



In other news, the children have been honing their skills in tennis and cricket. Thanks to our new and amazing P.E coaches, Year 5 have been able to get out on the courts and field to practise important skills like team-work, following games of rules and developing their maturity in the sporting world. We want to thank the coaches for teaching them these skills both inside and out (weather depending).



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DT this week

In DT, in small groups, children made (and enjoyed eating), a fruit salad, preparing all the ingredients. Thank you to Mrs Fountain's mother, Mrs Eary, for providing us with an amazing range of fruits to support this lesson. We are proud to be a Healthy School!



In year 5 this week, we have been practising our sewing skills, before our DT project.



A Science Challenge in Year 8

In P.E. this week, the year 8's tested their recovery heart rate after different amounts of exercise.





This week in Year 6

The Year 6 students have been working really hard on their German Landscape artwork. Lots of colour and learning of new techniques. Well done everyone.



GO 4 Schools

As a school we are no longer using the Go4Schools reward system as the teachers found it rather cumbersome. We are in the process of moving to an award winning reward system and we will be sharing further information after the half term. So please watch this space!

Meanwhile, we continue to reward the children in class with our counter system when rewarded with a house point. The tokens will be counted in class as a whole school and the winning house celebrated in assembly every week.



Meet the Inclusion Team

Please come and join the Inclusion Team, on: **Friday 20th May from 2:30pm -3:15pm** in the Courtyard. This is an informal opportunity to meet the Inclusion Team and chat to other parents of children with SEND.

Please confirm your attendance by reply email to: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk



ICE LOLLY FRIDAY

Starting this, Friday 13th May, please remember to bring your pocket money to buy an ice lolly or ice pop. These will be available at lunchtime or at the end of the school day.

Ice lolly 50p

Ice pop 30p



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 P.E, 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.

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

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

Twitter page: https://twitter.com/west_moors

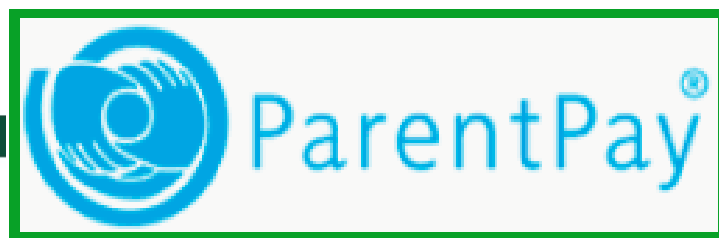
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/>



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**

Reminder— After School Clubs

Please sign up and complete the consent form for your child to attend after school clubs **via Survey Monkey**. It is not too late to join in the fun in a variety of after school and homework clubs!



School Year: Term Dates & Holidays

2021/22

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:

Friday 1st July 2022



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

SETTING UP

1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.

3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

Advice for Parents & Carers

REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lesser chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to talk to you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also safest to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are deemed suitable for their age group.

RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction – which can potentially lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may require spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (aka, Lunavolt) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2016, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunavolt Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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