



Parents' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

Friday 8th July 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am so pleased that our children shared how much they had enjoyed their Sports Day today, and Commonwealth Games/activities arranged- we were so proud of how they all had a go, and just had fun. As you can imagine, with 218 children, a significant amount of preparation and hard work goes into organising these events for our children to enjoy so I just wanted to thank Jamie Perry, our Sports Coach, and everyone involved, for all their help and support today to make our Sports Day such an enjoyable and special event. The children had a great time and the Sports Leaders from KS3, and Ferndown Upper, were just fabulous!

Next week, is another busy week between our Art exhibition on Monday 11th July and our School Disco, organised by our school's PTFA on Tuesday 12th July 2022. We also have full dress rehearsals in school performances of Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies in front of live audiences, including children in Years 3 and 4 in our local feeder school! Here are the key dates and times that have been published in our newsletters each week:

Monday 11 th July 2022	Children's Art Exhibition Gallery- assembly hall (15.30-16.30)
Tuesday 12 th July 2022	KS2 School Disco- 17.30-19.00 KS3 School Disco- 19.15-20.45 (organised by the school's PTFA)
Wednesday 13 th July 2022 and Thursday 14 th July 2022	Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies (School Production- doors will open at 18.00 with the show starting at 18.30)
Sunday 17 th July 2022	Summer Fair 11.00-15.00
Thursday 21 st July 2022	Year 8 Leavers' Summer Prom 18.00-21.00
Friday 22 nd July 2022	Last day of term- school closes at 13.00

There is much to look forward to and in their performing arts studies, we can't wait for you to see just how gifted and talented our children are! We hope that you all have a lovely weekend, enjoying the sunshine.

Warmest Wishes,

Dr Craddock (Headteacher)



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

Rights Respecting News

Articles of the week

'Article 24 health and health services' Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy.

'Article 33 drug abuse' Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children 'People use medicines, vaccines and drugs for lots of different positive reasons. What reasons can you think of?' The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- To treat illness
- To protect people from infections and possible illness
- To make sure people get the right vitamins
- To help people sleep better
- To feel relief from pain

Upcoming events:

Plastic Free July



OUR CURRICULUM

We continue to offer children a wide range of learning experiences.

Blooms at West Moors Middle School

Beautiful flowers planted and tended by the children finally in full bloom!



Writing in Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed creating their descriptions of Michael for their "Missing Person" in English today.



This Week in Year 6

Year 6 have found themselves engrossed in the adventures of Michael stranded on Kensuke's Island. At present, they are creating a missing person's poster to display for Michael's parents. They cannot wait to find out what will happen to Michael and who he will meet on the island?



Such incredible reading every day in Year 6! We are thoroughly enjoying reading Kensuke's Kingdom together, but also really love reading our own books independently too!



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



This Week in Year 7

KS3 MATHS BRILLIANT BOOKS

As we approach the end of term we shall be returning pupils books to go home – these are their class “brilliant” books that show their learning journey over the year and what they have achieved. Usually, we share these at parents’ evenings but have not been able to do so this year due to COVID restrictions.

Year 8 books will be sent home next week with Year 7 the week after. Pupils should be extremely proud of these brilliant books – I know that FUS have been impressed and I am delighted by their achievements.

Thank you

A.Dér

Here is 7AD’s mid-week Twitter report:

On Friday it was Sports Day with us wearing our House vests,

Where we all competed in various events to our best!

On Monday do come see our School Art Exhibition,

With wonderful creations that would win any competition,

That shows off our grand ambition!

competition,

That shows off our grand ambition!

PRODUCTION

The school’s production rehearsals are well underway and our children’s talents are simply phenomenal. We are all incredibly proud of them and next week, our school community is in for a real treat! Final dress rehearsal on Monday.

This Week at Forest School

Year 5 – Being supportive and creative from helping each other to learn a sheet bend knot to making a Hoover craft with tea making facilities!

Year 6 & 7 – All a bit fishy! After last week’s discovery of a frog in the woods we went for a nature walk to the pond. We saw no frogs but did find lots of newts.

Year 8 – Den building with nature materials to make a water tight shelter! Well done to our brave tester!



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



ICE LOLLY DAILIES

At the children's request, we will be selling ice- lollies and ice pops daily so that they can choose which day they would prefer to enjoy their treat on! With this glorious sunshine, there is nothing better than an ice lolly/ pop treat!

Ice lolly 50p

Ice pop 30



ONLINE SAFETY GUIDES

In our weekly newsletter, we share National Online Safety's Guide about Group Chats. Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online, allowing them to send messages, images and videos.

While they are useful for helping friends and people with shared interests to communicate, they can result in young people feeling excluded as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared. Please take a look at this week's helpful guide.

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 portal system**.

CALLING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PLAN - PARENT / CARER CONSULTATION

It's that time of year when we are considering the improvements that we would like to make to the school in terms of learning and the whole school environment. Please let us know what you think we are doing well, i.e. all the positives which I can share with Governors, and if there's something you think we could improve - **please let us know [HERE](#)**. We cannot promise to act on all suggestions - but we care, and do promise to LISTEN.

Dr Craddock and all at TEAM WEST MOORS MIDDLE SCHOOL

School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2021/22

Summer Term 2022

**Internal Transition Day (Years 5-7)-
Tuesday 19th July 2022**

Term ends on Friday 22nd July AT 13.00pm

School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2022/23

Autumn Term 2022

INSET Day Thursday 1st September 2022

INSET Day Friday 2nd September 2022

Autumn Term 1 Start Monday 5th September 2022

Half Term Monday 24th - Friday 28th October 2022

Autumn Term 2 Start Monday 31st October 2022

INSET Day Monday 21st November 2022

Christmas Holiday Finish Monday 19th December 2022

2022 - Monday 2nd January 2023



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



Key Dates:

Monday 11th July 2022	Children's Art Exhibition Gallery- assembly hall (15.30-16.30)
Tuesday 12th July 2022	KS2 School Disco- 17.30-19.00 KS3 School Disco- 19.15-20.45 (organised by the school's PTFA)
Wednesday 13th July 2022 and Thursday 14th July 2022	Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies (School Production- doors will open at 18.00 with the show starting at 18.30)
Sunday 17th July 2022	Summer Fair 11.00-15.00
Thursday 21st July 2022	Year 8 Leavers' Summer Prom 18.00-21.00
Friday 22nd July 2022	Last day of term- school closes at 13.00

CASA Sports—Exciting Summer Camp

To book a place on our Summer Camp led by experienced CASA sports coaches over the school's Summer break, please contact CASA Camp (see, details below). Our students will receive 10% discount!

Contact Number: 07955742928

Email Address: casacamp@outlook.com



Welcome to Casa Camp



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



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

56

64

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or someone who's been posted. The risk of something your child (intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral)) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be pinged with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

74

117

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things an impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat. Instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block one user, sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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





West Moors Middle School

Heathfield Way, West Moors

Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 0DA

Telephone: 01202 872474

Email: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

ECO TEAM UPDATE from West Moors Middle School

COMING TO SCHOOL SOON – Bag2School – July 15th 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very excited to announce that once again our school has signed up with **Bag2School**. They are an amazing fundraising organisation which collect unwanted clothes and items, to help schools and other organisations raise funds. These unwanted items are then sent to Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. Nothing is wasted. What a great opportunity to share and recycle our unwanted items!

Do you have any unwanted items?

The **Bag2School** company will be at our school the morning of 15th July 2022

They will be collecting the following:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding

For further information please visit: <https://bag2school.com>

If you are able to donate, please leave your black plastic bag by the school gate where the children are dropped off in the morning, ready for Mr Mein (our Site Manager) to gather up.

Thank you for your support, as always!

Mrs Middleton (Miss Willis)



Headteacher: Dr D Craddock PHD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs D East BSc (Hons) PGCE SENDCo



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

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





WITH FREE ENTRY, JOIN US FOR OUR FAMILY FUN DAY!

OUR PTFA MEMBERS NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MANAGE THE STALLS. IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE PTFA VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE- TEL: 01202 872474 OR EMAIL (PTFA@WESTMOORSMID.DORSET.SCH.UK).



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

