



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

11th June 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after another long weekend for which the weather stayed perfect. I hope you all could make the most of the sunshine and the many Jubilee and other social events going on.

## Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies:

Rehearsals are well underway and we have been impressed with our children's acting, singing, dancing, dedication and enthusiasm. With performances on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, you are in for a real treat in the not too distant future. We are so proud of them all!

**Sports Day:** We plan to do this on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (with the event of poor weather conditions, a reserve date set on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022). Now, with Covid hopefully behind us, we hope you might be able to join the children on the school's field as they participate in a variety of active sport team games and competitive races. Refreshments will be available, with support from our PTFA, and the programme of events will follow shortly.

**Transition day:** Our **transition day** for all children moving classes will be on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Children will register in their tutor groups as normal before meeting their new tutors. That day, our Year 8 children will be with Miss Craddock and our Year 5 tutors for leavers' activities (as they will have already experienced their transition day on the 01.07.2022).

**Sun cream:** Just a reminder that although it often does not feel very warm there is a lot of strength in the sun so please do apply sun cream to your child's exposed skin before coming to school. Please can you also remind them to bring their water bottle, which they can access though out the day.

We hope that you all have a lovely weekend, enjoying the sunshine forecast.

Warmest Wishes,  
Dr Craddock

## Rights Respecting School News Update

**'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.

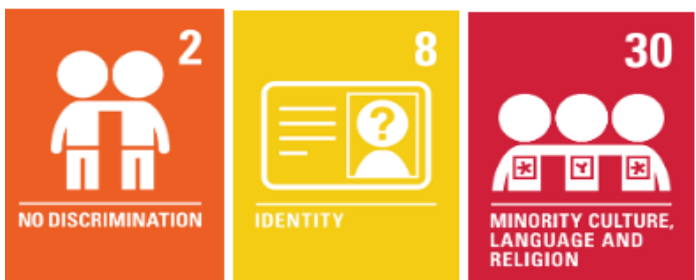
**'Article 8 protection and preservation of identity'** Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.

**'Article 30 children from minority or indigenous groups'** Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children 'This year's theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is 'What Makes a Home?'. What do you think is needed for a place to feel like home?' The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- Where you feel you belong
- You fell safe
- You feel comfortable there and can be yourself
- You can enjoy your right to relax
- It's where you feel connected and have memories

**Upcoming events:**  
World Blood Donor day



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## Artsmark

We are very excited to announce that we have officially begun our Artsmark Journey.



## Eco Club

The potato harvesting has begun. Well done Eco Warriors. Mrs Mein has begun using some for our jacket potatoes! Yum Yum!



This

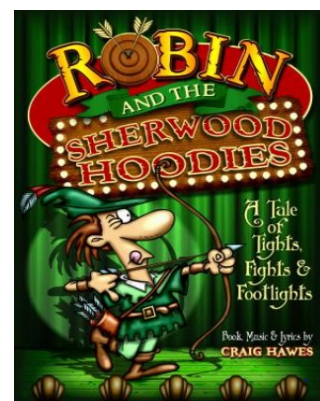
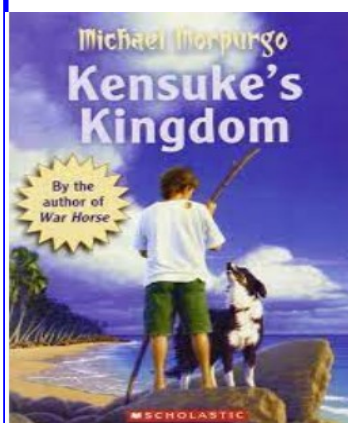
## Week in Year 5

In Y5 this afternoon, the children were sharing their post war speeches - thinking about how and why the NHS was started. [#Politicians](#) in the making!



## This Week in Year 6

Year 6 are exceptionally excited and enthusiastic about beginning their new set work novel for the term, Kensuke's Kingdom by the renowned author, Michael Morpurgo. The story is about a boy, who falls overboard his parent's yacht and is washed up on an island in the Pacific. *With no food and no water, he curls up to die. When he wakes, there is a plate beside him of fish, fruit and a bowl of fresh water. He is not alone...*

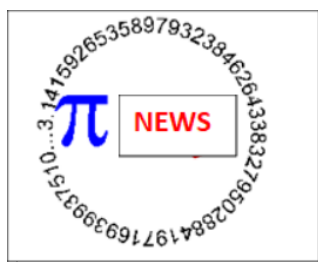


**Here is 7AD's mid-week Twitter report:**

**We are back and it is the first week of June, And we are starting to rehearse for our production, which is soon! It is Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies, which involves baddies and goodies, So please get your tickets now . . . it will be better than any cookie!**

We have begun our singing practice taking five minutes at the end of our music lessons to enjoy learning the songs for our forthcoming production of 'Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies'. I have been astonished by the children's quick learning and their beautiful singing voices and actions for the songs! What an amazing bunch of young people we have in our wonderful school community. Well done all year groups. Mrs Miller.

## *This week in Year 7*



This term we are trying something different with Year 7 homework – we are going to go on-line! 7AD will be completing MathsWatch tasks for their homework. Pupils already know how to access this software (as we have been using it during lessons throughout the year) and the focus will be to consolidate newly acquired knowledge. There are also short videos alongside the set tasks to help pupils recall what we covered in class, perhaps they can share this with you? This will help to develop the self-discipline, perseverance and confidence to study independently 7MM will continue with their written “Intelligent practice” homework that revises prior learning and practise skills. They are welcome to do extra learning using Sumdog (again we have been using this software in class) which involve interactive mathematical games tailored to their individual needs.



## *This week in Year 8*

Well done Year 8 on another great first week back, you have returned raring to go. As we continue exploring Shakespearean texts, we have noticed how many phrases we use day-to-day that back date to the 1500s-1600s, for example 'to vanish into thin air'. We have also started practicing our sports day skills, preparing for the intra-house competitions in July- I am sure you will be amazing.

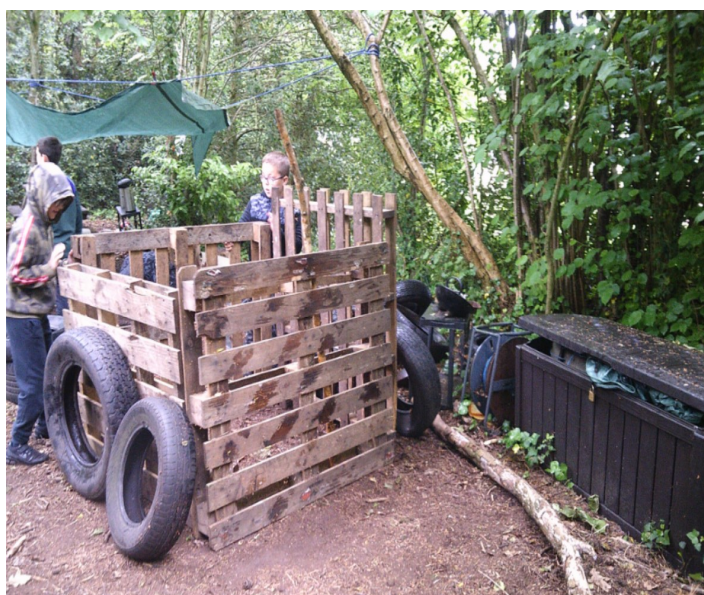
Fantastic job Year 8 and have a lovely weekend!

## *Fun at Forest School*

**Year 5** – All keen to try something new! They used lots of concentration to practise some useful knots. Followed by great team work to build cars and dens.

**Year 8/ 6 & 7** – all carried on Jubilee celebrations with traditional games such as sack racing and obstacle courses, followed by a feast!

When attending Forest School, please be mindful to send all children in clothing that covers their arms and legs to protect against ticks in the warm weather. See Poster and further advice. Thank you.



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## School Uniform – Reminder

A reminder that from the start of the summer term, Monday 25th April, all children will be expected to return to school wearing the correct school uniform each day, as they did before Covid. All children will be encouraged to keep themselves neat and tidy and to take pride in their general appearance. All clothing and personal belongings should be clearly marked with your child's name. On P.E. days children can continue to wear their P.E. kit with their school jumper and plain black tracksuit bottoms or leggings, with no logos. Children should wear plain grey or bottle green socks and black leather school shoes please (no white socks). For a reminder about our uniform expectations please [click here](#)

## Punctuality and Attendance

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

At West Moors our aim is to further improve punctuality and attendance at school. It is vital that all children arrive on time for registration each morning and prepare for the start of their school day. The school gates open at 8:20, 8:30 start time. Punctuality is an important life skill and we appreciate your support. Thank you.



## COMMUNICATION

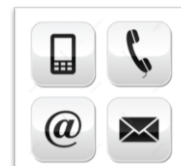
A reminder that at West Moors Middle School, we use our school website, email and our Twitter page to communicate and share information with you.

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 EXCELLENCE PLAN - PARENT 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 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**

Term starts for students on Tuesday 7th June

Inset Day Friday 1st July

Term ends on Friday 22nd July

### **Inset Day:**

**\*Friday 1st July 2022**

**\*Please note that this is also the Transition Day for Year 4 pupils starting Year 5 in September 2022.**

**For other Key Dates, please see the table on Page 6.**



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## Working Together

We are very proud and fortunate to have very dedicated and supportive wider community. Staff, governors, parents and carers all recognise that educating children is a process that involves partnership between home and school and understand the importance of a good working relationship to equip children with the necessary skills for adulthood. For these reasons we welcome and encourage parents to participate fully in the life of their child's school. To facilitate this we encourage conduct, enabling us to work together to ensure safe and positive environments for our children.

We hope for parents, carers and visitors to show respect and concern for others in our school community by:

- supporting the respectful ethos of our school by setting a good example in their own speech and behaviour towards all members of their school community
- working together with teachers for the benefit of children. This includes approaching the school to resolve any issues of concern and to discuss and clarify specific events in order to bring about a positive solution. This can include seeking to clarify a child's version of events with the school's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.
- if necessary, de-escalating their own child's behaviour, especially where it could lead to conflict
- demonstrating in their own behaviour that all members of the school community should be treated with respect and understand that even if there is conflict due to an error made by a member of staff, parents and carers remain calm and respectful
- reinforcing the school's policy on behaviour
- keeping our children safe by adhering to the school's request to park safely outside the school gates during morning and afternoon collections as well as showing respect and consideration for our neighbours

Staff are dedicated to all aspects of your children's education and development, academically, socially, morally and culturally, as they develop their knowledge and skills that will stand them in good stead, enabling them to be the best that they can be on their own individual journeys. By working together, we are giving them best chances in life and we should all be very proud of that.



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**Key dates for diaries: -**

<b>Thursday 30th June 2022</b>	<p>This is Mufti day in return for either £1 or a contribution to the tombola for our Summer Fair on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Items should be taken to the assembly hall before school. We would particularly appreciate the following kinds of gifts from these year groups:</p> <p>Year 5                      Chocolates or sweets</p> <p>Year 6 and Year 7      Toiletries &amp; Gifts</p> <p>Year 8                      Bottles</p> <p>This special event will be outdoors on the school's field. Please come along and join us in these summer celebrations, enjoy a snack and/ or hot chocolate with cream, take part in our tombola, and play summer fair games!</p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>	School Inset Day and Transfer Day for Year 4 starting Year 5 in September 2022
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>	Formal Tutor Group and Whole School photo, Fraser Portraits
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>  (reserve date in the event of poor weather: 15.07.2022)	School Sports Day
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>	Children's Art Exhibition Gallery- assembly hall (15.30-16.30)
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>	<p>KS2 School Disco- 17.30-19.00</p> <p>KS3 School Disco- 19.15-20.45</p> <p><i>(organised by the school's PTFA)</i></p>
<b>Wednesday 13th July 2022 and</b>  <b>Thursday 14th July 2022</b>	<p>Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies</p> <p><i>(School Production- doors will open at 18.00 with the show starting at 18.30)</i></p>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>	Summer Fair 11.00-15.00
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>	Year 8 Leavers' Summer Prom 18.00-21.00
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022</b>	Last day of term- school closes at 13.00



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UK Health  
Security  
Agency

# Enjoy the outdoors but 'be tick aware'

Being tick aware by using the following information can help to reduce the chance of tick bites and risk of Lyme disease:

- ticks can transmit microbes that cause infections such as Lyme disease
- you could be exposed to ticks whenever you spend time outdoors, including when in your garden or the local park
- ticks mainly attach to animals, but sometimes they may bite you or your family
- you can reduce the chance of tick bites by walking on clearly defined paths, using insect repellent and performing **regular tick checks**
- some tick bites can result in infection, so it is important to remove ticks safely and as quickly as possible
- the safest way to remove a tick is by using a pair of **fine-tipped** tweezers or a tick removal tool
- if you begin to feel unwell with flu-like symptoms, or develop a spreading circular red rash (which usually appears within 1 to 4 weeks after being bitten), **contact your GP or NHS 111 promptly**. Mention if you were bitten by a tick or have recently spent time outdoors

Tick sizes compared to a one penny coin



Tick in the environment



Tick attached to skin



Lyme disease bullseye rash



Tick found under hair



For more information, search for the phrases 'ticks' and 'Lyme disease' on these websites:  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) [www.nice.org.uk/guidance](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance)

GOV-11370



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

'Inappropriate' means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways - from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

## WHERE IS IT FOUND?

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

### GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

### STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

### ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content, usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on a screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

### CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake - but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

### BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chance of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

### GET SPECIALIST HELP

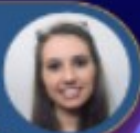
Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

### STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

### Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



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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).



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