



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

18th March 2022

## Message from Dr Craddock



Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of another week, it is wonderful to see a growing number of children attend our after school clubs. We would love to see these numbers increase further so our children can be kept active and away from technology for a little longer. With a range of sports to choose from, including gymnastics, girls' football, boys' football, basketball and many more, please encourage your child to join in. To register your child to attend a club please click [here](#) and if there are any problems, contact the school office: [office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk).

This week, across the school, our children have been taking part in assessments in English and Maths and the focus and dedication they have shown in completing these is to be commended. The internal data submitted will then be used to inform the children's end of term, interim reports and the children's achievement and progress will be discussed during our parent and carer consultation meetings on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022.

As part of our fundraising efforts for families in Ukraine, thank you for everyone's kind shoe box and toiletry donations. To raise money, entries for the Ukraine cake competition were absolutely outstanding- we were honestly in awe of the children's efforts and talents as many of them were incredible. Mrs Mein, Mrs Izzard and Mrs Rodrigues had the incredibly difficult job of awarding the prize places but in truth all entries were absolutely amazing- we were lost for words. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all for your incredible kindness and support to enable this day to be such a success and photographs from today can be found on our school's Twitter feed - click [here](#).

In tutor groups, our children created hands with written messages to create a display which has been presented along the front fencing of our school. We've added photographs of this outdoor display to our school's Twitter feed and passers-by will be able to read these special messages as they walk along the footpath outside our school. All this is alongside our 'crazy hair day' for Red Nose Day, with amazing hair styles to be seen across the school!

In light of what is happening in the world today, it is wonderful to see everyone in our school community coming together to do all we can to support.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Dr Craddock

## **Rights Respecting News**

### Article of the Week

#### **'Article 12 - respect for the views of the child'**

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children 'At our school, how do we ensure that every child can have their voice heard, however they like to communicate?' The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- Through worry monsters (ks2) and worry boxes (ks3)
- We can talk to prefects in ks3
- By having surveys or questionnaires
- Having student interviews with staff
- By ensuring feedback is given so that children's views have been heard

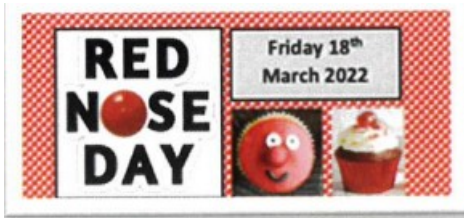


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Today to mark 'Red Nose Day' the children were invited to come into school with 'Crazy Hair' and make a donation to this worthy cause. This year the Comic Relief donations, collected on behalf of the children and families of West Moors Middle School, total **£80.06**. Thank you for your generosity! Please take a peek on our school Twitter feed to see more images of just how crazy the hair styles were.



### **Cake Sale and Shoe Box Collection**

We also held a cake sale and invited children to compete in a 'Bake off' competition. We were overwhelmed with the cakes baked to support the humanitarian appeal to support the people of Ukraine. The monies raised by selling the cakes today in school will be donated to the disasters emergency committee for the Ukraine Appeal. More information can be found at this website link. [Click here](#)



Here are the first, second and third place winners, judged by Mrs Rodriguez who helped organise the 'Bake off' with the help of Mrs Izzard and Mrs Mein. Thank you for all the fabulous entries, they were just amazing! More photographs are available on the school twitter feed. On Monday we will continue to sell the remaining cakes, so please bring a donation if you wish to purchase one. We will publish the final amount raised in the next school newsletter. Thank you for your generosity.



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## **FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL**

### **This week at Forest School:**

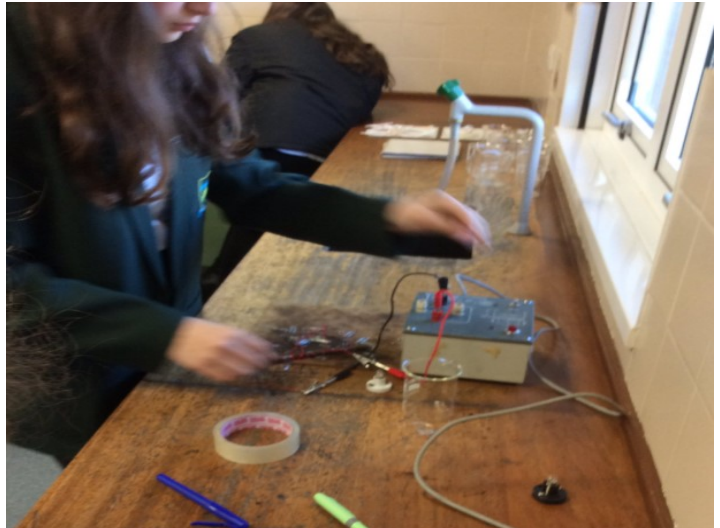
**Year 5** -Lots of co-operation whether playing a game, bug hunting or using the rope swing.

**Year 6 /7** – Great group work to create a tower of tyres to hide in while monitoring the stability of the tower. They also learnt a new knot – the sheet bend to join two ropes together.

**Year 8** – Team work was key to creating a fire that was perfect for toasting marshmallows for smores without burning them. Also practicing new skills of coppicing.



**Year 8's** making and investigating electromagnets this week in science.



### **ART WORK—Year 6**

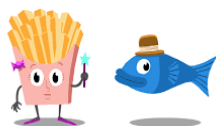
Lovely to see how proud our children were of their artwork this week. We can't wait to see the end product when their pictures are scaled up and painted!



## FISH SUPPER BINGO NIGHT

## Communication

**ON: THURSDAY 31st  
MARCH 2022  
Time: 18.00-20.00 pm**



The Friends of West Moors Middle School (PTFA) invite you to an evening of fun and prizes on Thursday 31st March 2022. Seafood Fish and Chips are providing a fish supper from 18.00 with eyes down from 18.45 for bingo. Tickets for bingo can be purchased on the night but food will need to be pre-ordered so please send in the slip below with full payment by Monday 28th March 2022. N.B. Parents and carers should not go directly to Seafood Fish to order.

All food orders should be brought to the school office.

- 6pm - Fish and Chips £7
- Veggie Burger and Chips £5.50
- Portion of chips £2.50
- Jumbo sausage and chips £5
- 7pm - £2 per book (6 games per book)

On the night, we will have a soft drinks bar and raffle. If you are unable to attend but still wish to support this PTFA fundraising event, please could you send in a bottle, chocolates or unwanted Christmas gift that could be used for a prize in the raffle? Many thanks in advance for all your support.

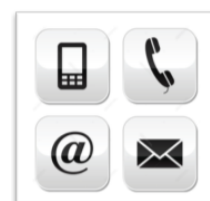
A reminder that at West Moors Middle School, we use our school website, email and our Twitter page to communicate and share information with you.

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 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:**

Friday 1st July 2022



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# FREE TICKET OFFER!

This voucher entitles the holder of it and up to 3 guests complimentary admission to our forthcoming league game.

'Pitching In' Southern Premier League South

**POOLE TOWN FC v  
YATE TOWN FC**

**DATE: SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022**

**3pm Kick off**

**Black Gold Stadium, off Well Lane, Poole, BH15 3JR**

We politely request that you please pass this on for someone else to use if you are already a Poole Town regular—Thank you.

This voucher entitles the holder + 3 guests entry to the match detailed above only. It has no cash value and cannot be substituted for attendance at any other match at Black Gold Stadium.

Poole Town FC reserves the right to refuse admission.

Name of qualifying school:

Number of people admitted with this voucher



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# This is our game.

**Join us at:** Ferndown Wayfarers Cricket Club, Castleman Trailway,  
Forest Link Road, BH22 9PH.

**Sessions will run:** GIRLS ONLY from Thursday 12th May 6pm-7pm  
MIXED from Monday 9th May 5pm-6pm  
Both programmes run for 8 weeks.

[dynamoscricquet.co.uk](http://dynamoscricquet.co.uk)



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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 screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

## 18 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 that you 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 chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

### GET SPECIALIST HELP

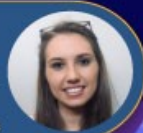
Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide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



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.education.gov.au/documents/about/programs/bullying-prevention-inappropriate.pdf> | <https://www.education.gov.au/education-training-professionals/professional-learning-program-teacher-inappropriate-content-fact-sheet> | <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/chickens-media-twee-year-7.pdf>

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