



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

Friday 01st July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our weekly school newsletter. We hope that you enjoy catching up on all our school news.



The Eco Council were very excited to harvest more of their produce, which Mrs Mein has been able to use to help prepare school meals. Our thanks to Mrs Middleton, Mrs Coombs and Mrs Creighton for all their enthusiasm, commitment and support which they give to enable our children to plant, grow and harvest fruit and vegetables, and in doing so gain an understanding of where food comes from.

Our Sports Leaders have also been busy working with Mr Perry, our Sports Coach, to support preparations for Sports Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022! Post Covid-19, it is wonderful this year to be able to invite our parents and carers to join us to watch their children take part. The KS2 event from 09.30-11.50 and the KS3 event from 13.00-15.20 with our PTFA, supporting with refreshments.

We were delighted to meet all our new (Year 4) parents and carers on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, and share key information about our school. Then, to meet our new students for their Transition Day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 was an absolute joy-between team sports, engaging transition activities, outdoor gym exercises and tours of the school, time just flew by! I know that our new Year 5s will settle in quickly, make lots of new friendships and develop into respectful, caring and conscientious WMMS students.

Next Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, please can **all** children come into school dressed in their full school uniform as we have tutor group and whole school photographs being taken that day, by Fraser Portraits. If your child has PE, on this occasion, they will need to bring their PE kit into school to get changed into, after their photographs have been taken, in the changing rooms.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Best wishes,

Dr Craddock

## Rights Respecting News

**'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 asked the children 'What do you think is needed for a place to feel like home?' The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- Going to the science museum
- Going to the Pantomime at the Lighthouse
- Representing the school in football and racquet sports
- Coding club
- Having a safe space to relax, read and draw

Events this month:



Pride month  
Wellbeing week 27<sup>th</sup> -1July



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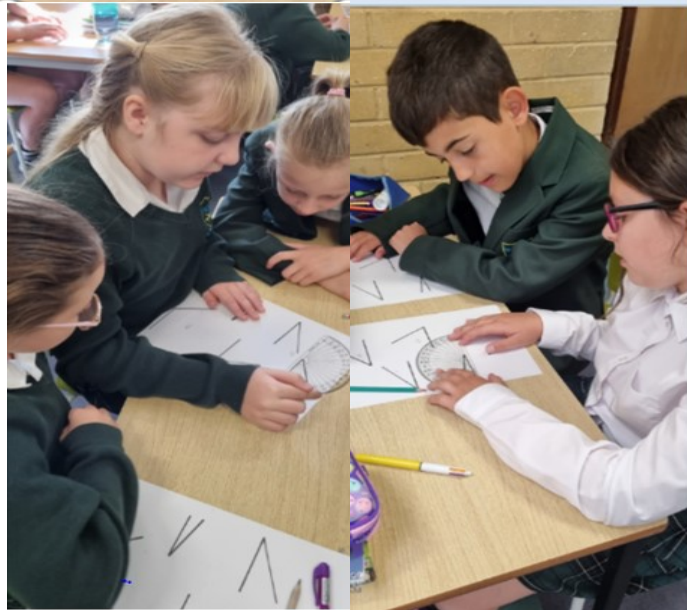
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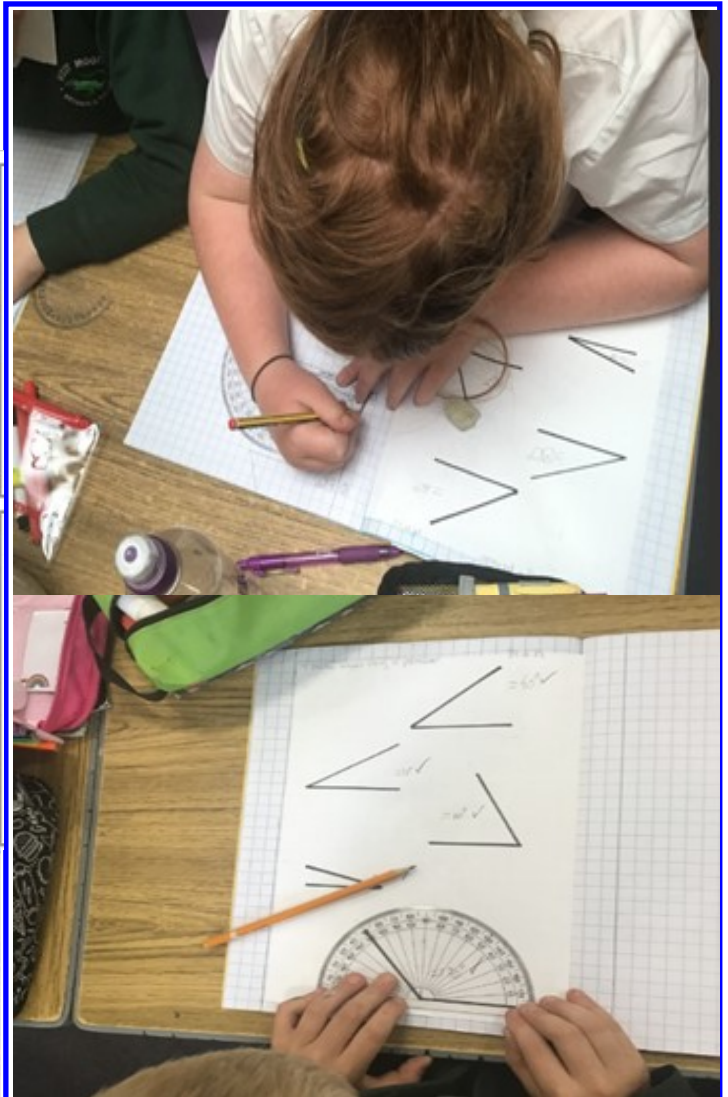


## *This Week in Year 5*

### Year 5 Wonderful Maths Work



This week year 5 worked really hard learning how to use a protractor for the first time. We even managed to write some Top Tips on how to use one! Y5 also were using key mathematical language including: acute and obtuse!



## *This Week in Year 6*

Year 6 have been thoroughly enjoying learning about the Titanic in Humanities. This week's focus was on the different classes traveling on the Titanic and the interesting and famous people that were a part of the journey too. Great fun was had searching up information about various characters, such as the Titanic's captain.





## *This Week in Year 7*

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

**On Thursday we had MUFTI day where we decided what to wear,  
And brought in a £1 or gifts for the Summer Fair!**

**We are planning our stall,  
Hoping to make a profit for all,  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 11am to 3pm, is the call!**

## *This week in Year 8*

Year 8 have really enjoyed participating in an alcohol awareness play and workshop, led by Paul Stevens, entitled 'Time in a Bottle'. They thought about and discussed the dangers and life long



implications of drinking alcohol. Well done Year 8s for listening and engaging so well.

It has been incredibly busy week for our Year 8s - we've been hard at work with the production, participating in drama workshops, practicing sports day activities, preparing for our transition day on Friday and planning our summer fete stalls.

Well done for all your efforts and hard work this week. We are certain you will be the best you can be on your transition day at your next school. Have a lovely weekend Year 8 and enjoy the sunshine!



## *Fun at Forest School*

A lovely day at Forest School this week. I know the children enjoyed the lovely weather and a great day occurred all round, with all year groups sharing lots of positive energy.

**Year 5** – Exploring how to build free standing dens with no tarpaulins. Lots of team work throughout the session.

**Year 6 & 7** – Experimenting with different styles of swings and lifts.

**Year 8** – Energetic! Lots of running games today to warm up before challenging themselves to Limbo and then inventing more challenges involving sticks and jumping!



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## BE SAFE IN THE SUN

**Sun cream:** Just a reminder that

as summer has arrived, and the weather is hotting up, please do apply sun cream to your child's exposed skin before coming to school. Please can you also remind them to bring a cap or sun hat and their water bottle, which they can access and fill with fresh water throughout the school day.



## 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 and registration closes at 8:40, after this time children will be marked as late. Punctuality is an important life skill and we appreciate your support. Thank you.



## COMMUNICATION

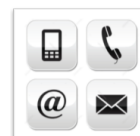
A reminder that at West Moors Middle School, we use our school website, email and our Twitter page to communicate and share information with you.

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**.

## West Moors Middle School Sports Day

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Sports Day due to take place on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022** **with KS2 in the morning and KS3 in the afternoon**. In line with tradition, we will again be inviting parents and grandparents to join us on the school field where field and track events will be held. We advise all children to wear sun-screen if necessary, sunhats and to bring a water bottle to keep hydrated. Visitors please sign in at the gate near the tennis courts. Thank you.

**KS2 event- gates open at 09.20 for 09.30 start; and for the KS3 event- gates open for 12.50 for 13.00 start.**

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

### Summer Term 2022

Inset Day Friday 1st July

Term ends on Friday 22nd July- **Please note school closes on the 22.07.22 at 13.00.**

### Inset Day:

Friday 1st July 2022



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## Key dates for diaries:

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Formal Tutor Group and Whole School photo, Fraser Portraits
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  (reserve date in the event of poor weather: 15.07.2022)	School Sports Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Children's Art Exhibition Gallery- assembly hall (15.30-16.30)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	KS2 School Disco- 17.30-19.00  KS3 School Disco- 19.15-20.45  (organised by the school's PTFA)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 and  Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies  (School Production- doors will open at 18.00 with the show starting at 18.30)
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Summer Fair 11.00-15.00
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	Year 8 Leavers' Summer Prom 18.00-21.00
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	Last day of term- school closes at 13.00

## Sports at West moors Middle School

We want to thank Mr Perry, for all of his hard work, commitment and enthusiasm to ensure that our children engage in a wide range of sports and inter-school competitions. This year, our children have attended interschool football tournaments, racquets tournaments, Festival of Sports events and rounders tournaments amongst others. Our enrichment sports clubs have been a great success and this is set to continue as we plan for 2022/23 with investment in yet more sports equipment. As a result of these amazing achievements, we have just been awarded the School Games Gold Award! With children's physical education a key priority in our School Development Plan, we are excited for what lies ahead in our future plans!



Message from Mr Malone: *I just wanted to take the opportunity to say goodbye after 14 successful years at West Moors Middle School! I have truly loved teaching the children, supporting parents, working with fantastic members of staff and being part such a special community. However, at this point in my life, now is the time for a new challenge. I will miss you all very much and hope that you continue to thrive on your journey to be the very best you can be.*



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

AGE RATING  
**7+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore location) are easy to find with search engines.

### GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

### SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### Meet Our Expert

Claire Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



**National  
Online  
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday





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