



Parents' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

Friday 06th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has seen the return of key events in the life of the school that reminds us all of what makes this such a special place to work and learn. It was, for example, wonderful for our children to attend the inter-school rowing competition last week in Cranborne and do so well. Our children in KS2 also played a football match this afternoon, competing against children from Cranborne Middle School. It was a great game and they all played really well- and importantly, had fun.

Whilst musical life has continued to flourish during the last two years with virtual concerts, our preparations are under-way for the Summer School Production- there is nothing like the 'live' experience of sharing the joy of music and drama.

Our Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy have also been helping with school visits and tours, sharing their experiences with others. Visitors to our school have shared how articulate, confident and enthusiastic they all are when sharing their experiences of our school, and I am incredibly proud of them.

At the end of the summer term, we are holding a Year 8 leavers' prom with an outdoor BBQ, disco and photographer to capture special photographs and memories that they will always have. I wanted to hold this event last year but with the legal rules in place due to Covid, this was not possible. So, supported by the PTFA, we are delighted to be able to make this possible.

Lastly, our after school clubs for the summer term have started this week. Please encourage your children to come along as the more time that they spend outdoors engaging with sports and having fun, the better. To register your child's choices please [click here](#).

We hope that you have a wonderful weekend.

Warmest Wishes,

Dr Craddock



Rights Respecting News

Articles of the week

'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 'Why is play important to children?' The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- It is good to have fun
- It is good to exercise
- It helps promote mental health
- Children learn to take turns and share
- It helps children imagine and be creative

Events this month:

International Day of Families — 15th May

[International Day of Living Together in Peace](#) 16th May



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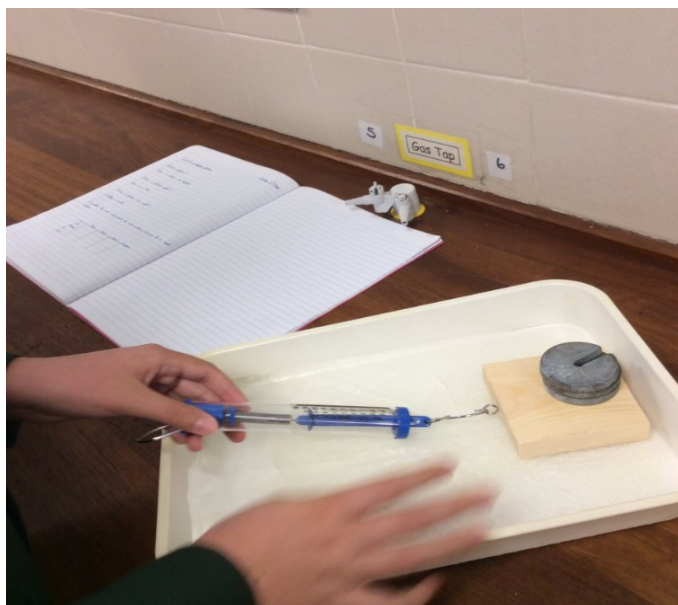
Head Teacher: Dr Deborah Craddock Deputy Head Teacher: Deborah East



Curriculum

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

This week in science, Year 7 were testing how much friction different surfaces had.



This week Year 8s have been testing foods to see which foods group they belong to. We tested for Starch, Protein, Sugars and Lipids.



Fun at Forest School

This week at Forest School:

Year 5 – Very attentive and able to follow instruction so we could safely use the Kelly Kettle for the first time and enjoy a lovely cup of hot chocolate.

Years 6 & 7 – Getting crafty in a game of Capture the Flag and building barricades to stop the opposite team.

Year 8 – Lots of activities from relaxing in the hammock to making a lovely hot chocolate using the Kelly Kettle – good team work.



This week in Year 6

Our children in Year 6 will be completing their SATs 'quizzes' next week and are showing great strength and confidence in their preparations. We are very proud of the efforts and resilience they have shown in their revision completed over the past few weeks. We want to wish them the best of luck, reminding them that they are all unique and special. We just want them to do their best as that is all anyone can ask of them. They have worked hard and deserve every success.



SPAG HOMEPAGE						
Prefixes	Suffixes	Capitals/ Full Stops	Subordination and Coordination	Commas	Determiners	Plural & Possessive 's'
Verbs	Adjectives	Question/ Exclamation Marks	Present and Past Tense	Conjunctions	Fronted Adverbials	Modal Verbs
Nouns & Pronouns	Adverbs	Commands & Statements	Prepositions	Verb Inflections	Cohesive Devices	Formal and Informal
Apostrophes	Continuous Form of Verbs	Perfect Form of Verbs	Verb Prefixes	Parenthesis	Passive & Active Voice	Colons & Semi Colons
Synonyms & Antonyms	Inverted Commas	Relative Clauses	Noun Phrases	Subjunctive Form	Elision	Hyphens

This week in Year 8

8AS have had yet another great week. We have started sharing our ideas for what a good app looks like. In geography, we have started looking at the impact for the environment and civilization. We have also planned our next practical session in DT, making a fruit salad for either themselves or friends and family. Well done 8AS for another fantastic week.



Sport at West Moors Middle School

Gymnastics

Fantastic progress made by our budding gymnasts last term! They have all done brilliantly! We can't wait to see how your gymnastic skills and talents develop during the Summer term. You are all awesome.



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In Year 5

Y5 are currently having great fun reading different play scripts, including Oliver Twist. Each Y5 tutor group were placed into teams so they could organise themselves into how they'd like to perform it. 5KW went on to perform their versions to 5PP.



Ice Lolly Friday

Starting next 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



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

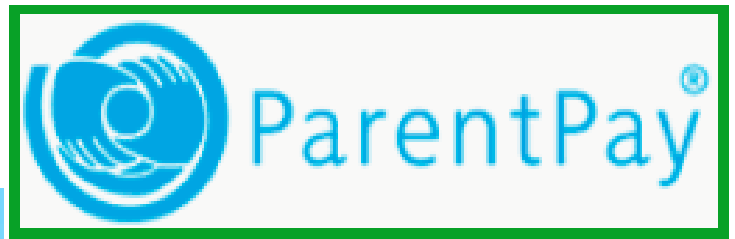
School Website: <https://westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk>

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**.



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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SAVE THE DATES

West Moors Middle School's PTFA Events

<i>End of Summer term disco</i>	<i>12th July 2022: KS2 17.30-19.00 KS3 19.15-20.45</i>
<i>Sunday Family Fun Day</i>	<i>17th July 2022 from 12.00-16.00</i>
<i>Including, for example...</i>	
<i>Food stands</i>	<i>Games for all</i>
<i>Tombola</i>	<i>Penalty shoot outs</i>
<i>Classic cars</i>	<i>Music</i>
	<i>Raffle</i>
	<i>Face painting</i>
	<i>Craft stalls</i>
<i>Year 8 Prom</i>	<i>21st July 2022 18.30-21.00</i>

PTFA Call Out:

If any parents and/ or carers would like to join our PTFA and help to support special events for our children, and make a difference, we would greatly value your support.

You would be made to feel very welcome as everyone is so friendly and open to new ideas and suggestions.

Please leave the PTFA a message at office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk and we will get in touch to welcome you on board.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FACEBOOK

AGE RATING
13+

With 2.9 billion users, Facebook, owned by the recently rebranded Meta, is the world's most popular social media platform. It encourages interaction with other people by (among other things) adding them as friends, reacting to or commenting on their content, sharing images and videos, posting status updates, joining groups and playing games. Facebook is free, and anyone over 13 can join – but with no age verification, younger children can easily create an account: it's likely your child is already familiar with the platform, even if they don't yet use it themselves.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Facebook's quick reward cycle of likes and comments on shared posts can be hugely addictive, it encourages users to keep returning to post things and increases FOMO (the Fear Of Missing Out), which leads to people checking the app even more frequently and finding themselves endlessly scrolling through content.

CYBERBULLYING

A 2021 Ofcom report found that around one in four UK 12–15-year-olds had been cyberbullied or trolied (intentionally antagonised online). On Facebook, this can happen through private messages (on Facebook Messenger); hurtful comments on their profiles and posts; pages or groups set up purposely to torment a victim; or exclusion from pages or groups.

FUTURE IMPACT

Like most social media platforms, anything posted on Facebook leaves a permanent 'digital footprint'. This can have future consequences for young people: many universities and employers, for example, now review someone's Facebook timeline during the application process.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Just like in the offline world, there are people on Facebook with malicious intentions. Ofcom reports, for instance, that 25% of 12–15-year-olds have received a friend request from a stranger. This, sadly, can include individuals seeking to take advantage of impressionable youngsters.

OVERSHARING

Facebook encourages you to post "what's on your mind", but children should be wary of revealing too much about themselves online. Users can give away their location by checking in or using Facebook Live, for example, while some photos can also be traced using file data.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Facebook monitors and removes material like hate speech or extreme political views, while adverts on the platform are now forbidden from targeting under-18s based on their interests. Offensive content isn't always taken down instantly, however, so there's still a risk of children encountering it.

VIDEOS AND STREAMING

Facebook Live lets users stream video live to their friends or watch others' broadcasts. Viewers can comment in real time, which is problematic to moderate. Short, user-created clips called Reels can now also be displayed on profiles and feeds. These video features could contain unsuitable material or allow children to be coaxed into doing something on camera that they wouldn't normally do.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

In the settings area, you can choose whether a Facebook profile is public or private. By far the safest option is to switch your child's to private, so they can only interact with people who they are friends with on the platform. Facebook's settings can also prevent your child's personal information (such as contact details, school name or date of birth) from appearing publicly.

ENCOURAGE SAFE FRIENDING

Facebook can help your child to stay connected with the people and the things that they care about. However, it's important for them to understand that they should only accept friend requests from people who they know. The key questions to consider are "has your child met them in person?" and "do they know and trust them enough to feel comfortable accepting them as a Facebook friend?"

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your child watch you using Facebook – this will demonstrate how it can be used safely and appropriately, reducing the risk of them encountering harmful content themselves. Teach them the habit of thinking before sharing anything online and try to follow the same rules that you set for them – so if you agree time limits on your child's Facebook use, then you should stick to them, too.

SAVVY SHARING

Make sure your child realises that what they share online with friends can end up being shared again by others. It's important that they think about what they share online and who they share it with. Facebook's Audience Selector gives users the option to filter who sees what they are sharing, whenever a status is updated, photos are uploaded or anything is posted.

RESPECT BOUNDARIES

Once you've talked about Facebook safety with your child, give them some space and trust them to make smart choices. Make it clear, however, that you're always open to discussing social media if they need to. In the early stages, you could occasionally review your child's social media activity with them to put your mind at rest – but take care not to become reliant on checking it every night.

BLOCK AND REPORT

On Facebook, you're able to report harmful content and block particular people or groups so they can't contact your child or view their profile. Before they start spending serious time on the platform, show your child how these features work and explain why they might need to be used. Facebook's Bullying Prevention Hub offers advice on dealing with harassment on the platform.

Meet Our Expert

Alex Wright is a former Facebook employee and social media expert with more than 15 years' experience in digital media. He has worked with some of the biggest organisations on the planet and has a vast understanding of how social media platforms work and how they engage their audience.



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HALF TERM

MULTI-SPORTS HOLIDAY CAMP

MON 30TH MAY / TUES 31ST MAY / WED 1ST JUNE

**STANDARD
DAY**
(8:30-15:30)
£20

**EXTENDED
DAY**
(8:30-17:30)
£25



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