



Parents' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

17th December 2021



Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our last Newsletter Bulletin before Christmas and the New Year. This week, we have enjoyed lots of festive activities and special Christmas events. On Tuesday, all our children in KS2 loved their pantomime trip to The Lighthouse Theatre to watch Beauty and the Beast. They all represented our school to perfection and the staff working at the theatre took the time to tell teachers how impressed they were with children from our school. Then, in KS3, children were given the opportunity to watch the pantomime stream of Jack and the Beanstalk with many laughs!

A HUGE WELL DONE to our children for their Christmas performances- they were truly superb! Mrs Burns has been busy editing videos of their performances this week to create a link so parents, carers and their families can enjoy watching it in the comfort of their own homes. This week, in school, we have been thinking about what makes us feel happy and joyful along with the importance of kindness. Our key message is clear: 'in a world where you can be anything- be kind'.

We have supported some families in need in our community with Christmas hampers and encouraged everyone to carry out random acts of kindness. With birthday celebrations today, along with a lot of festive cheer and sweet treats, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you all for your continued support and we hope that you have a safe and joyful holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2022!

Warmest wishes,

Dr Craddock

Rights Respecting New

Article of the Week

This week's article of the week is, 'Article 14 – Freedom of thought, belief and religion.'



Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their children as they grow up.

Every child grows up with their own thoughts and beliefs about the world. During our weekly assembly, we asked the children, 'Who or what do you think influences children and young people's thoughts and beliefs about how they want to live?' In tutor groups, the children came up with many responses, for example:

- Parents and family
- Friends
- School
- Places of worship
- Where you live

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- Holy books or faith stories
- Religious leaders or teachers
- Social media
- Governments
- Events in the news
- Personal experiences

Event Days in January

Big Schools' Birdwatch

Date: 6 January to 21 February

What is it: Big Schools' Birdwatch is an educational activity that gets your class closer to nature. It takes just an hour and works for all ages and abilities.

Rights Link: Article 2: Right to Education

World Religion Day

Date: 17 January

What is it: A day to recognise, respect and accept the hundreds of differing faiths across the globe.

Rights Link: Article 2: The right not to be discriminated against; Article 14: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Holocaust Memorial Day

Date: 27 January

What is it: Holocaust Memorial Day provides an opportunity for everyone to learn lessons from the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides and apply them to the present day to create a safer, better future.

Rights Link: Article 38: War and armed conflicts



Taking part in extracurricular activities can be really beneficial to children's mental health and wellbeing.

After School Clubs

We are offering a wide range of after school clubs in the Spring term. Please encourage your child to sign up and write a note in their planner giving them permission.

These clubs will commence from week commencing the 10th January 2022 and all afterschool clubs will end between 16.30/16.35.

We hope that our children will be excited by the new enrichment opportunities we will be providing in the New Year with planned interschool sports events planned in 2022.

If your child would like to attend any of the clubs detailed on the letter sent out on Thursday, please can parents and carers complete a short survey which will only take a few minutes. You will find this on the letter.

Zumos

Reminder—All children have log on details to access Zumos, which is an online programme which offers a range of techniques for children to use to improve their happiness. Please ask your child to contact their class tutor if they require their log on details.



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FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL

There were some great moments at Forest School this week.

Year 7 – Great team work to get the fire going so we could bake a chocolate fudge cake!



Year 8 - Taster session – Lots of creative thinking and problem solving to make dens and play Capture the Flag.



Outdoor Christmas Market



It was lovely to see so many families at our Christmas market last Friday. Thank you for all your support and kindness and a huge thank you to the PTFA, who helped to put it all together.



Our children were also a huge help in creating festive artwork and crafts in preparation for the

Christmas market on Friday. Thank you so much to our volunteers and KS3 leaders, who also stayed after school to help set up the stalls.



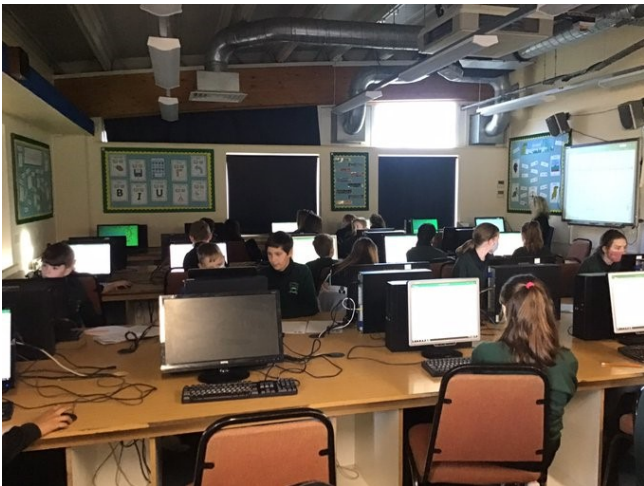
Year 5 Art

Developing new knowledge and skills working with clay in Art. We have such amazing artists in year 5- well done everyone!



Year 7

Year 7 have been learning how to use Excel Spreadsheets in ICT, filtering, sorting and analysing data.



Fun in PE playing bench ball together with a focus on children's eye hand co-ordination!



Virtual Festive Performance



Our children have been working so hard on their festive pieces, ranging from readings, to singing and playing musical instruments. All of the performances have been put together on a link for you to share with family and friends.

This can be found here: <https://youtu.be/PP-2mMC6zL8>

Fun at the Pantomime!

On Tuesday, Our children in KS2 visited The Lighthouse Theatre, in Poole, to watch the pantomime! Staff told our teachers how impressed they were with our children's impeccable behaviour and polite manners during their visit. We're incredibly proud of how well they represented West Moors Middle School. Most importantly, our children had an excellent time and thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime.



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Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day

A lovely day was had by all on Thursday for Christmas Jumper and Christmas lunch day, whilst raising money for a very important cause.



Thank you so much to our wonderful cook, Mrs Mein and to all of the staff who helped to serve the children. Also, to our school community for all of your kind donations.



Staff Updates

Our SENDCo, Mrs Tai will be starting a new role in January, returning to secondary teaching in KS4. We wish her all the very best and thank her for her hard work and contributions to support children and families in our school community. From January 2022, we will be welcoming Mrs Davies to our team, who has extensive experience working as a SENDCo across all key stages. We are also looking forward to welcoming Mrs Dyer, an experienced Art and Design Technology teacher who has lots of exciting projects planned for our children! With experience making props for television (Dr Who sets), and the film industry, her portfolio of work is truly impressive.

We look forward to welcoming them both to our staff team in the New Year.

We also would like to wish Mrs Burns all the very best for her maternity leave- with her baby due in January 2022, this will be a very special year for her family. We can't wait to meet her baby in the near future!

School Year: Term Dates & Holidays

2021/22

Spring Term 2022:

Term starts for students on Tuesday 4th January

Inset Day Monday 31st January

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:

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

Friday 3rd December 2021

Monday 31st January 2022

Friday 1st July 2022

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/](https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/)

[WestMoorsMiddleSchool/](https://www.facebook.com/WestMoorsMiddleSchool/)

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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.



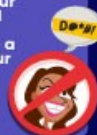
CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

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.



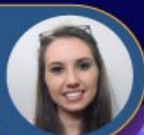
STAY CALM

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.



Sources: <https://www.medicinesdivision.gov.au/documents/about/programs/buly/approving-learning-appropriate.pdf> | <https://www.scsh.gov.au/education/training-professionals/professional-learning-program-search/inappropriate-content-fact-sheet/> | <https://www.wakeupwednesday.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/childline-media-usage-year-7.pdf>

