



# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

*'Thriving to achieve our best - together'*

10th December 2021



## Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an exciting week it's been. Our KS3 Playground Leaders have done a fantastic job of distributing our new playground equipment to each Year group bubble. It has been great to see the children enjoying the equipment and the way that the playground leaders are supporting is a credit to our school. The children have been working very hard this week on their Festive performances, which we have been filming. We are looking forward to putting the performances together and sharing them with our school community on the last day of term. We had a lovely evening last Friday at Carols at the Petwyn and we're incredibly proud of all our children with special use of sign language during the carol 'Away in a Manger'. A huge well done also to Simran who read so beautifully with such great confidence. I am so proud of all of you. We are incredibly excited for our Outdoor Christmas Market this evening and look forward to welcoming our school community. Next week, we look forward to our Christmas lunch day on Thursday, which will also be when we celebrate Christmas Jumper Day, to raise money for Save The Children.

We hope that you all have a lovely weekend ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Dr Deborah Craddock.

## Rights Respecting News

### Article of the Week



On the 10th of December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. This important moment in human history is now remembered on that date every year and is known as Human Rights Day. Children's rights are human rights so we can celebrate them alongside the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Human Rights Day can be closely linked with Article 4 (implementation of the Convention) and Article 41 (respect for higher national standards). Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights. If a country has laws and standards that go further than the present Convention, then the country must keep these laws.

During our weekly article of the week assembly, we explored the question, 'How do human rights (including children's rights) help to make life better for all humanity?'. In our tutor groups we came up with a range of answers.



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Some responses included:

- They are about protection.
- They set out what everybody SHOULD have or be entitled to.
- They are a reminder to governments and individuals.
- They should make everyone get fair treatment.
- They are about equality and against discrimination.
- Where you live shouldn't make a difference.
- They can help people and governments see where improvement is needed.
- If people know they have rights, they can claim their rights.

### **Thank you!**



Thank you so much to our school community for the generosity on elf day last week. What we raised will help to make a difference for people affected by dementia and their families.

### **Reminder**

As a school, we are celebrating **Christmas Jumper Day next Thursday, the 16th of December**. This coincides with Christmas lunch day, so it will be a festive filled day!



As part of being a Silver Rights Respecting School, we have signed up to OutRight 2021/22, which is all about children and young people's mental health.

The aim of this is to empower children and young people to realise their own rights, and speak out in support of the rights of all children.

As a school, our Rights Respecting Ambassadors have done an excellent job of creating 'Suggestion Boxes' for each class on how we can improve mental health. We look forward to hearing the views of our children.



All of our children have log in details to access 'Zumos', which is an online service that provides tools for children to deal with challenges and methods to find happiness in life. The aim of Zumos is to build self-confidence, wellbeing and resilience.



Each morning, during tutor time the children listen to, 'How to be happy'. This delivers a simple mind technique every day that's aim is to teach coping strategies, build strong character and help to achieve positive internal dialogue.



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## **FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL**

There were some great moments at Forest School this week.

Great team work in Year 7 with delicious hot chocolate to keep everyone warm. Then Storm Barra hit and with such strong winds and heavy rain we had to pause... at least, just until next week.



## **Carols at the Petwyn**

A lovely evening was had by all on Friday at Carols at the Petwyn. This is an event organised by the West Moors Youth Club with Churches' Together. It couldn't go ahead last year, so it was excellent to see it return this year!



A big well done to Luke, who played his saxophone alongside his band. We all really enjoyed listening to your band play lots of Festive music.



We're incredibly proud of all our children with special use of sign language during the carol 'Away in a Manger'. A huge well done also to Simran who read so beautifully with such great confidence.



A huge thank you to our PTFA members for their efforts to raise money for the school during Carols at the Petwyn. They sold these tasty Reindeer Hot Chocolate Cones.

## **Year 6 Science**

This half term in Year 6 science we have been looking at the evolution theory and adaptation within animals over thousands of years. This week, we investigated what beak shape and size would be beneficial for birds to have if their food source was mixed dry foods.



## Pneumatic Monster Project



6CC have done a great job at decorating their pneumatic monsters in DT this week. We are looking forward to seeing them in action.

## Year 5

Year 5 have been making mince pies in Design and Technology. They started by making the pastry last wee, and completed them this week. These will be sold at our Outdoor Christmas Market.



## Virtual Festive Performance



Our children have been working so hard on their festive pieces, ranging from readings, to singing and playing musical instruments. We can't wait to share our children's talents with you all on the last day of term. All of the performances will be put together on a link for you to share with family and friends.

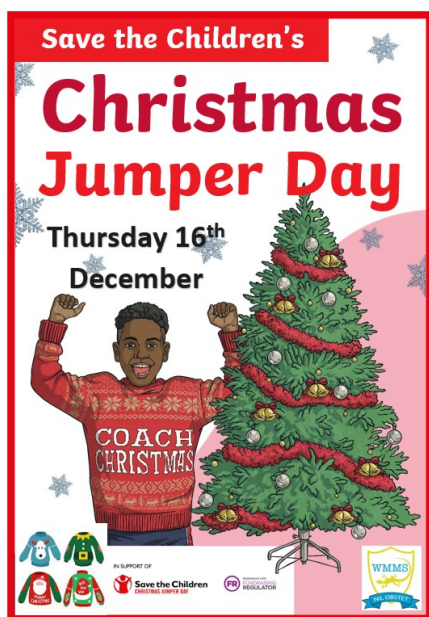
## Breakfast Club—Festive Fun!



The children in breakfast club have been making rag wreaths with Mrs Izzard and Mrs Quinn. How excellent do they look!

## IMPORTANT DATES

Christmas Jumper day—**Thursday 16th December.**



Last day of Term—**Friday 17th December**

**Year 5 and Year 7 finish at 13.00 and Year 6 and Year 8 finish at 13.05.**



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

### **Autumn Term 2021**

Term ends Friday 17th December

### **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

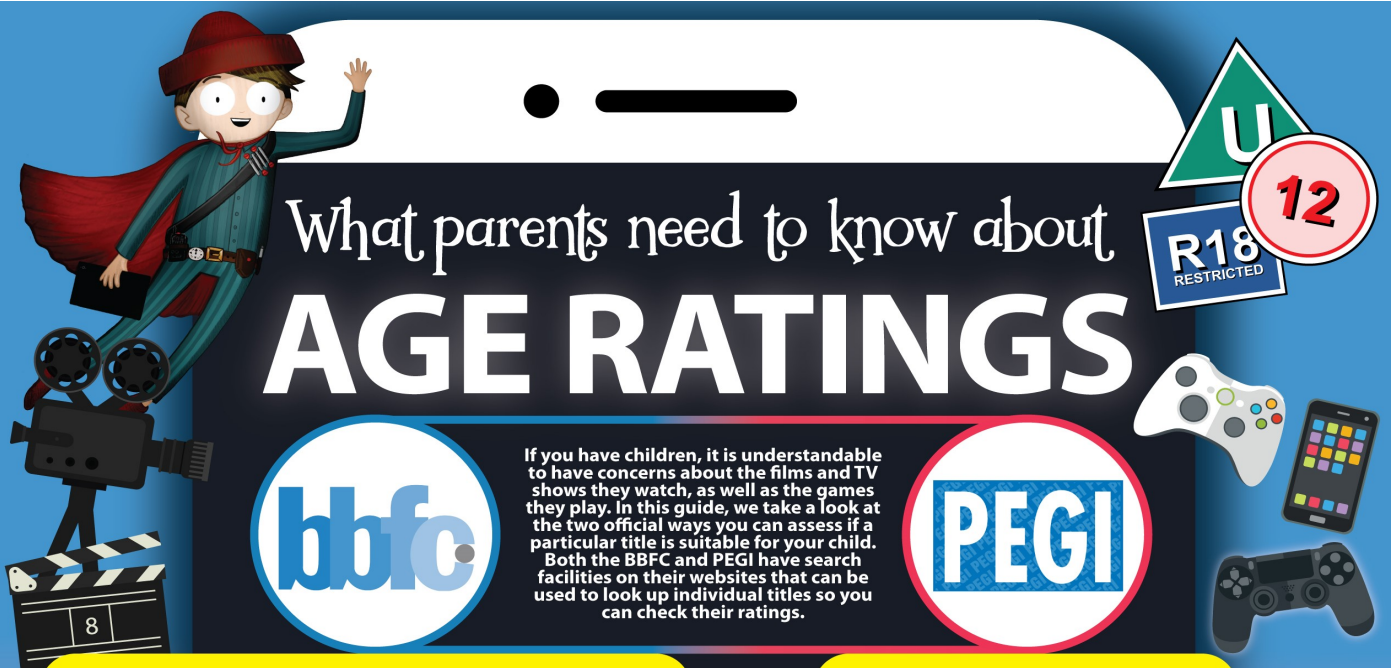
Friday 1st July 2022

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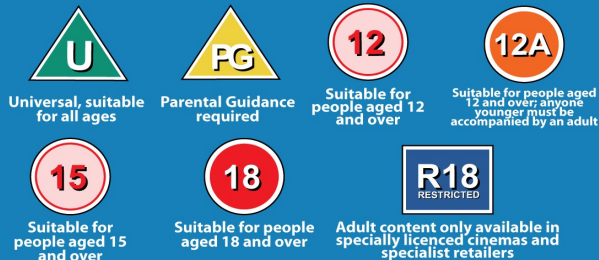


## RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

### WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



### WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

### LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk)

## RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

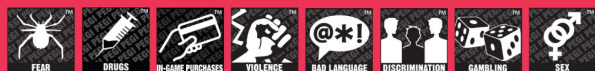
### WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



### LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: [www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)



**National  
Online  
Safety**

A whole school community approach to online safety  
**[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)**

Email us at [hello@nationalonlinesafety.com](mailto:hello@nationalonlinesafety.com) or call us on 0800 368 8061



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