



Parents' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

22nd October 2021

Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of our first half term, we just want to thank everyone in our school family for their positive feedback, support and recognition of our staffs' and children's hard work and efforts. From Monday, we stepped up our Covid safety protocols, and we have been impressed with how children in KS3 and staff have adjusted to wearing face coverings again in communal spaces (unless exempt). Everyone in our school wants to do his or her bit and we are incredibly proud of each one as we strive to maintain education provision in the face of extraordinary pressures brought about by this pandemic. With this continued rise in the number of cases nationally, we will continue to implement these additional Covid response measures in Autumn 2

Excitedly, from September we launched our early morning paired reading intervention and coupled with our Accelerated Reader programme we have been monitoring and evaluating children's love of reading and academic progress closely. With a focus on fluency and comprehension in reading, it has been great to see that already we have three word millionaires in KS2 with others very close behind! This is brilliant news, and it is wonderful to see them wearing their word millionaire badges with pride.

This year, for Remembrance Day, we will discuss with the children the significance of the 11th November 2021 and participate in a collective minute silence. We will be selling poppies and other items as part of the British Legion's Poppy Appeal and would like your support.



We have had so many highlights this half term, with our first cross country event at Canford School; our Harry Potter Potions Club; MacMillan Coffee morning; Harvest celebration; Forest Schools adventurous activities; making and setting up bird feeders in Eco Club and so much more! We post photographs from these events and many others, on our school's Twitter feed (@west_moors), for you to see our school in action- you'll even see photos from our Fire Investigation Officers visit today which is timely in the lead up to Guy Fawkes Night on the 5th November 2021. Please remember to follow us so you don't miss out on any school news and celebrations! Thank you once again for all your support. It has meant so much to us and we look forward to seeing everyone again after half term.

Until then, as we strive to follow the Government's guidance, 'Coronavirus: how to stay safe and help prevent the spread' ([click here](#)), take good care.

Warmest Wishes,

Dr Craddock



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



Rights Respecting News

OutRight - Speak out on children's rights

The aim of UNICEF'S OutRight campaign this year is, 'Supporting children as they learn about mental health'. It is vital that talking about thoughts, feelings, mental health and wellbeing is something everyone should feel safe to do.

In this year's OutRight we are focusing on:

ARTICLE 2: No discrimination - The Convention applies to everyone: whatever their race, religion or abilities, whatever they think or say, whatever type of family they come from.

ARTICLE 3: Best interests of the child - The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

ARTICLE 13: Sharing thoughts freely - Every child must be free to say what they think and to seek and receive all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

ARTICLE 24: Health, water, food, environment - Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this. During our weekly Rights Respecting assembly, we asked the children, 'How are these articles linked to mental health and wellbeing?' For example, Article 3 is important for every child's mental health as it means adults should consider how the decisions they make will affect children's mental health and that they should do what's best for the child. Article 12 is really important because it means every child's opinion matters when it comes to talking about their mental health and choices relating to it, including how they take care of their mental health and what kind of support or treatment they may receive. After half term, each tutor group will have an 'OutRight Campaign Suggestions Box' where children can suggest ways that we can improve our mental health in and out of school.

The task to create and decorate the boxes has been allocated to the Rights Respecting Ambassadors from each tutor group.

Poster Competition: We are asking our children to create a poster illustrating one of the above key Articles and what they think this right means to them and to children around the world. We will use these posters to remind children of the key rights throughout the OutRight campaign.

The deadline for these are the 3rd of November.



Year 5 Musical Instruments

For the past two weeks the children in Year 5 have been creating musical instruments for their homework. This has come from our History topic of Benin. During this time people would use materials that they have found and used these to create instruments. I am sure you will agree our year fives are very creative, with super ideas and all their efforts are so different.



FIRE SAFETY ASSEMBLY AND YEAR 5 WORKSHOP

The whole school assembly today led by Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, focused on the key safety messages as we approach the firework season. Please talk to your child and they can share what they have learnt about keeping safe this November 5th.



Year 5 also had a Fire Safety Workshop focussing on the consequences of outdoor fires, whether as a result of fire play or mis-use of BBQ's, bonfires and campfires. They discussed peer pressure—positive and negative. The children then watched a video and discussed the main character 'Nia's' feelings at different points in the story, and asked if you were with Nia, 'What would you say to to change her mind?' Other topics discussed were :

- Being responsible for your actions and safety
- The justice system—what happens if you are arrested, have a trial, get convicted. Do you think we have a fair system?



Join our PTFA



On **Wednesday 3rd November 2021**, after school from **15.45-16.45**, our PTFA members are meeting to discuss and plan our fund-raising events to help raise money towards an outdoor amphitheatre. We would love to see more parents and carers join and support us as any money we raise will go towards resources that will enrich our children's education further. There is so much that we can do for children in our school community, working together to support West Moors Middle School. So please come along with your children, join us and let's make this the best fundraising year ever! Refreshments will be provided, and colouring activities will be provided for children to enjoy whilst we meet.

Fun at Forest School



Year 6 – Holding on tight - they used lots of core strength to make across the rope bridge.

Year 7 – A couple of bright sparks! Being very determined to get a spark using the fire steels for the first time followed by a hot squash to celebrate.

Year 8 – More bright sparks. They also had a good go at using the fire steels before creating an obstacle course.



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IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Routines, Attendance & Punctuality



It's lovely to see your children confidently arriving at school. After gates open at 8.45am, we encourage children from Year 5 to Year 8 to enter classes independently; when ready, please encourage your child to be dropped off at the KS2 or the KS3 side gate. From there, children can walk around the school to their classroom where teachers will be ready to greet them. My staff and myself are also on duty outside at the start and end of the day so that in this way, if you have any urgent messages, these can be shared en route. Alternatively, you can also write a short message in your child's planner to share with their teacher.

Safety in the morning and at the end of the day

As always, we ask everyone to continue to walk, cycle or scoot to school. When parking, please do also consider our local residents. Please do not block driveways or cause obstruction and do not park close to junctions. A reminder that people should adhere to the Highway Code. Please abide by the Highway Code: Rule 243 - DO NOT STOP OR PARK: • near a school entrance • anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services • in front of an entrance to a property. Everyone working together really can make a difference and is key to making the school community safe.

Ensure that everything is named

Thank you to everyone who has remembered to name items of clothing. If you haven't already done so, please name all items as soon as possible so that any mislaid items can be returned promptly to their owners.

Jewellery and nail varnish

A reminder that children are not permitted to wear jewellery or earrings other than studs for those children with pierced ears. During PE, studs will need to be removed or covered with surgical tape. In general terms, you are advised not to allow your child to wear jewellery to school in case of loss, damage or injury. Make up, including nail varnish, is not appropriate in school and should also not be worn.

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 mail system.



School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2021/22

Autumn Term 2021

Term starts for students on Monday 6th September

Term ends on Friday 22nd October

Term starts for Students on Monday 1st November

Inset Day Friday 3rd December

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

Term starts for students on Monday 6th 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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