

# Parents' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

01st October 2021



# Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

After another very busy and exciting week, it feels as if we are almost back to normal again. Our Student Leaders are able to mix pupils from different year groups outdoors and it is great to see how well they are supporting and looking out for the younger children, whether that be siblings, friends or those they recognise from our feeder schools. It certainly feels like we are a community again and I am so proud of each and every one of them.

Next week, we are holding a series of open events for parents and carers of children in Year 4, with an Open Evening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 followed by a series of open morning sessions with me. Our Student Leaders will have a key role to play throughout with lots of exciting activities for children in Year 4 to take part in. I want to thank parents and carers of our Student Leaders for your support, agreeing for your child to support these events. We have asked that all children helping wear their full school uniform as they will all be representing our school. They have all been incredibly impressive presenting with such positive enthusiasm and commitment- I just know that they will do an amazing job!

We hope that you all have a lovely weekend ahead.

Warmest wishes,

Dr Deborah Craddock.

# **Rights Respecting News**

Article of the Week



This week, we are looking at 'Article 28 - Access to Education' and 'Article 29 - Aims of Education'. Every child has the right to an education and primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child.

During our weekly assembly, we asked the children two key questions, 'What do you think are the most important things children should learn in school?' and 'Think about the way things have changed over the past year, does this affect your answer?'

The children came up with a range of excellent responses:

- Learning how to be safe and healthy.
- How to cope with change.
- Learning new ways to learn, like on-line learning.
- Learning ways to support each other through hard times.
- Wellbeing and mental health.

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS SCHOOLS United KINGDOM 2019/29

West Moors Middle School, Heathfield Way,

Phone: 01202 872474 Email: office@westmoorsmia.aorset.scn.uk Head Teacher: Dr Deborah Craddock Deputy Head Teacher: Deborah East



- Ways to develop your personality in interesting ways.
- Learning how to develop your talents and abilities.
- Resilience and independence.
- Learn about the world we live in.
- Learning about our rights.

Learning about school subjects like English, Maths and Science.

# **Congratulations**

A huge congratulations to all of our newly appointment Rights Respecting Ambassadors:

Year 8: Amy, Luke (8CT), Kirsty and Aisha (8AS) Year 7: Mark, Mia (7AD), Samson and Lily (7MM) Year 6: Scott, Austin (6CC), Hayden and Anabelle (6CW) Year 5: Maisy, Oliver (5SB), Charley and Makiya (5KW)

We look forward to welcoming you all in our meetings and having your support in our journey towards becoming a 'Gold: Rights Respecting' school.



# <u>Year 6</u>

What a fantastic week again in Year 6! As well as reading their Accelerated Reader books so brilliantly every day, Year 6 pupils are also making fantastic progress with their writing, especially their vocabulary choices. Well done, Year 6!



# <u>WMMS - NUT FREE - ZONE</u>

A polite reminder that we are a nut free school and therefore children should not be bringing in any food items that contain nuts into school. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation.



All the staff at West Moors Middle School, are passionate about building strong mental wellbeing and resilience in all our pupils. This is why as a school we have embraced 'Zumos' as a major part of our school's pastoral care. Zumos is a leading online wellbeing system that is CAMHS kitemarked and was developed as part of the HeadStart project.

During this very difficult time where everyone has spent long periods of time stuck at home, it is even more vital that we take care of our children's mental wellbeing as well as our own. Therefore, we wanted to reach out and remind everyone of this additional support available to all of our students.

The messages are very powerful, we know our teachers love to hear them too. If you like you can discuss the recordings and ensure the messages have been understood. The recent national crisis has forced us all to look at how we do things in a new way and we are determined to offer as much support to our students and their families as we can.

Why not listen to the daily 'How to be happy' recording with your child? It is a short daily recording that offers you a simple mind technique written by experts. It is designed to make you feel good, think positively, motivate and empower you – step by step – day by day. <u>https://www.zumos.co.uk/</u>

Mental Health

and Wellbeing





# FUN AT FOREST SCHOOL

There were some great moments at Forest School today.

Year 6 – began by getting very creative with their den building, adding a raised floor and a kitchen!

Year 7 – Were learning lots of wood craft from coppicing to whittling, and making sure they kept each other safe when using tools.

Year 8- Were in a spin – learning knots to make a swing.





# <u>Year 8</u>

Harry Potter club got off to a great start, and this week we have been making the Helious potion!!! The

children loved mixing dragons' blood with unicorn horn and seeing what magical chemical reaction happened! We have children attending in person and remotely and all the children have expressed their joy in coming to the club.

Why not join up and come along to any of the after school clubs available each week. In addition to Harry Potter Science Club; Zumba, TTRS, Writing group, Netball and Homework Clubs.







# Also in Science, our caterpillars have

become chrysalides which means in around 10-12 day we should have butterflies starting to emerge - exciting times! Please look out for future photographs.

# School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2021/22

# Autumn Term 2021

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

# Help is at hand for families struggling with utility bills

If you are having difficulties with the cost of energy bills, you may be eligible for a FREE fuel voucher from Citizens Advice to help pay for your utilities. For more details and to find local branch contact details visit the Citizens Advice website:

https://edpcitizensadvice.org.uk/



# 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: <u>office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk</u> School Website: <u>https://westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk</u> Twitter page: <u>https://twitter.com/west\_moors</u> Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>WestMoorsMiddleSchool/</u>

Finally, please also look out for <u>all key information</u> to parents such as events information, newsletters, trips and special events using the parent mail system.



# 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

Virtual





# SPENDING A PREMIUM

SPENDING A PREMIUM YouTube Premium (formerly YouTube Red) is a new paid streaming subscription service in the UK, offering a three-month free trial to tempt viewers into a £12-per-month plan. This includes the ability to download videos, stream videos with the app in the background, gives exclusive access to original content and a separate music streaming service and gaming app.

DANGEROUS 'CHALLENGE' & VIRAL VIDEOS On YouTube, 'challenge videos' are shared quickly and can be very dangerous. One person may post a video of themselves doing something unusual like eating a hot chill or jumping in a river and before you know it, the video goes viral and everyone wants to join in and share their videos. The speed in which challenge videos spread across the Internet makes it difficult to keep up with the latest ones.

### **SHARING VIDEOS**

As well as watching videos, many children are keen to share their own videos online, emulating their YouTube heroes, such as Stampy or DanTDM. However, if they post something on YouTube, they may later regret it or feel embarrassed about what they have shared. There is also a risk that they will receive hurtful or negative comments regarding not only their content, but also their appearance. YouTube's comment section is infamous for being one of the most opinionated on the Internet.

## **IN-APP MESSAGING**

n your child is logged into their Google accou YouTube website, they can share and talk abo for a share using the chat bubble. This can be for uTube we iends usi lesktop site or through in app messaging on their let. When they tap on the 'Friends' icon, they have a ted people from their contacts – which can be any ve had on Google or somebody whether body who has sent the ve had on Google or some an invite link.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE VIDEOS As YouTube is the biggest video sharing website in the world, there is content available for all ages, meaning that some content will not be appropriate for your child. If you think that content is unsuitable, there is a flagging feature to submit it for review by YouTube staff, but you will need to be avere that into the survey under the test of the provide for mit it for review by YouTube staff, but you w ware that just because video is not appropri-inger audience, it may not violate YouTube's p ube has mechanisms in place to automatically cit and harmful content, yet offensive content slip through.

# National Online Safety

# TURN ON 'RESTRICTED' MODE icted Mode' is an optional setting you can use to

cted Mode' is an optional setting you can use out potentially mature content you may pre not to see. Restricted Mode works on the brou ice level, so must be turned on for each brows ice your child uses. To do this, follow th<u>ese st</u>

- om of any and switch de' to 'ON.' e difficult irned off,
- Mobile: Tap the three vertical dots at the top-right c the screen and press, 'Settings.' Click on 'Restricted mode filtering.' Press 'Restrict.'

ease note that you can't 'lock' restricted mode on a ne in the same way that you can on a desktop. You will need to turn this on each time your child uses it.

CREATE A FAMILY GOOGLE ACCOUNT wing a shared family Google account, checking the ry will enable you to see exactly what your child is ing and sharing on YouTube. To see the history on a nputer, on the right hand menu under the library n, click 'History'. On mobiles, the viewing history car be found by clicking on the 'Library' fab.

# YOUTUBE KIDS - PARENT APPROVED CONTENT YouTube Kids platform, parents can now handpick nd channels for their children to view, giving parents dians full control over what their children view on th mply enable the feature within the account settings t' "approved content only". It's important to note tha ture is only currently available on Android devices.

# ips Parents

BLOCKING ACCOUNTS fouTube, there may be instances where your chi titve comments. If somebody's giving your child ne, here's how to block them and prevent future difficult time ng on their na

comments a Go to their channel/account by Click on 'About.' Tap the dropdown box with an Press 'Block user.' Tap 'Submit.'  $\bigcirc$ 

MONITOR WHAT YOUR CHILD IS WATCHING/POSTING only way to truly know what your child may have be ching is to regularly monitor them. You can do this king their viewing history. You Tube videos can also asily downhoades, so it is important that your chul

odules on creating a YouTube channe Id encourage them not to use their re

### **DIGITAL WELLBEING**

YouTube has launched a tool called 'Time Watched' that allows you to see how long has been spent on the platform. Once you have discovered how much time has been spent on the app, here is the option to set a time limit. Once the limit is reached, ' a reminder will pop up on the screen. You can also disable sounds and vibrations to help resist the urge to check for notifications.

OPT FOR A FAMILY PREMIUM PLAN A YouTube family Premium plan may be a cost-effective option if you have more than one child. For £17.99 a month, it allows you to share a YouTube paid membership with up to five other family members - aged 13 and older - living in the same household. As the account holder, or family manager, you must create a Google family account.

### **MANAGING IN-APP MESSAGES**

If your child is accessing YouTube via your account, bear in mind that they may be contacted by Google contacts who are complete strangers to them. You can remove someone from the suggested contacts list by pressing and holding the person's name and tapping on the red 'x.'

# YOUTUBE GAMING

YouTube has created its highlights the top gam tions, including live stre accounts which d james. These abource be a great resource is a good idea for pa uTuber's are postin rents to . Off

Stampy
Yogscast Lewis & Si
PewDiePie

Markiplie

ch?v=x-frgntP96M, https://www.youtube.com/

ten, the games th e and violence. A f s for you to have a • PopularMMOs • Captainsparkl • Jacksepticeye • LtCorbis • Dan DM LtCorbis
 Dan TDM

ch?v=L2xuy7hc-hc .youtube.com/watch?v=4yek0Jb0sBg omeone-voutube

### © National Online Safety Ltd ease always check with the app's support information to see if cems are addressed.

# www.nationalonlinesafety.com



