



Parents' Weekly Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the Government's final review of data next week, legal restrictions are scheduled to end on Monday 19th July 2021. Following on from Monday's announcement the DfE will then issue updated guidance to all schools, outlining the implications of these changes for us from the start of the new academic year. The Senior Leadership Team are already drafting our own 'West Moors Middle roadmap', to ensure a smooth and safe transition out of lockdown for everyone in our school community in September. Once finalised, this plan will be shared with parents and carers in order that you can begin to prepare your child for the changes ahead. However, please note that all current bubble arrangements, including staggered start and finish times, will remain in place for the last days of term in order to minimise the risk of families needing to self-isolate at the start of the summer break.

Today was transition time across the school and there was a lovely hum of activity everywhere. On Monday, the 6th September 2021 there will be a further whole school transition day so children can meet with their new, year group tutor in preparation for the next academic year. As a gentle reminder, the PTFA will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 23rd July 2021 to support our fund raising efforts towards building an outdoor amphitheatre. Children will be able to wear their own clothes to school for the day and make a voluntary contribution of £1.00 to help support the PTFA's efforts. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already expressed an interest in using the new wraparound provision here in school from September. We are proud to be able to deliver this provision, so please can you ensure that all booking forms are returned to the office before the 22nd July 2021.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend enjoying the glorious sunshine.

Take care, stay safe and be kind,

Dr Deborah Craddock



Exciting Rights Respecting News

On Thursday, we had our Virtual Silver Rights Respecting accreditation, and we are so proud to announce that we were awarded our Silver: Rights Aware award!



A huge thank you to our wonderful children who participated. A special mention to Angel, Kai, Eveyln (Year 5), Cassidy, Bailey, Robert (Year 6), Kian, Caitlyn, Ryan, Kirsty (Year 7) and Natasha and Cayden (Year 8). You were all absolutely amazing, and did yourselves and our school proud, well done! Thank you also to our staff who took part and also to our school community, who have supported our journey on becoming a Rights Respecting School.

We have achieved so much in the past two years, and we can't wait to continue our journey towards the third stage of the Rights Respecting Schools Award, which is, Gold: Rights Respecting.



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Article of the week



This week's article of the week is article 16, which is the right to privacy. Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation. During our weekly assembly, we asked the question, 'What do you need so your right to privacy is respected?'. The children came up with lots of ideas in their tutor groups. Some of the things that children need in order for their right to privacy to be respected are:

- For parents and carers to respect my private space and belongings.
- For newspapers not to use my name or photo without my consent.
- For my friends and family to understand that at times I need to be alone.
- For the internet to be safer place.
- For people to respect that some aspects of my life are private.
- For parents not to use my photo on social media without my consent.
- To have access to clear information about what it is safe to share online so that I feel informed and empowered to protect my personal data.

Reminders

International Day of Friendship - Date: 30 July

What is it: International Youth Day (IYD) was established by the United Nations in 2000 as a means of raising awareness of issues affecting young people around the world.

Rights Link: Article 31: Leisure, play and culture

Forest School at WMMS

Year 7 – Lots of busy children today, from making Forest School crowns, weaving thread and challenging peers to a Tug-of-War rematch!



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Fun in the Sun at Forest School



Year 6 – Great focus today, using their whittling skills to create stick-people. They also had to master the square lashing knot to secure the arms of their person.



Year 5 – Working as a team they helped to construct a rope bridge and then embraced the challenge of moving across without falling off!



Guide to managing children's screen time

internet
matters.org

Effect on behaviour

Constant use of a device and features like auto-play on platforms can be habit forming and encourage children to spend longer on screens



Effect on sleep

Blue light from phones can trick the brain into thinking it's still daylight making it difficult to sleep



Effect on the brain

Screens can have a drug-like effect on the children's brains which can make them more anxious

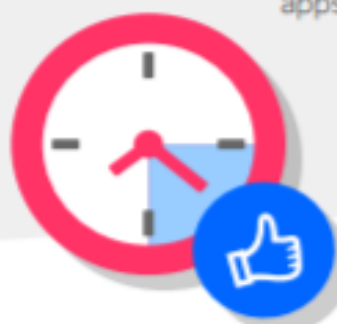
It can make children more forgetful as they rely on things like Google, GPS and calendar alerts to look up information

What are the benefits?



- Gives children access to a **wealth of information** to build their knowledge
- Technology **takes away physical barriers** to social connections to make children less isolated
- Exposure to tech has proven to **improve children's learning** and development
- Online games and activities **enhance teamwork and creativity**

10 tips to get in control with your child's screen time



1. Set a good example with your own device use
2. Have discussions about the risks that they may face based on their online activities
3. Put in place a family agreement and agree an appropriate length of time they can use their device
4. Help them build critical thinking to understand that some features on platforms are design to keep you watching or playing
5. Encourage them to switch off auto-play on platform to remove the temptation to binge on programmes
6. Use tech tools and parental control to manage the time they spend online and the apps they use
7. Get the **whole family to unplug** and create 'screen free' zones at home
8. Together find apps, site and games that will help children **explore their passions** and make screen time active
9. For younger children find ways to **combine touch screen use** with creative and active play
10. Encourage children to **self-regulate** the time they spend online and the activity they do to ensure they are having a positive impact on their wellbeing



In Year 5—Children creating marble runs in DT lessons using teamwork and resourcefulness and then testing the final products.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

FINAL DAY OF THE SUMMER TERM

Dear parents/carers,

In preparation for the final day of term, Friday 23rd July, PTFA have organised a mufti day in return for a donation of £1.00 to benefit our children. Children can hand this to their tutor on arrival to class.

Children will have lunch at school before leaving slightly earlier to accommodate our early finish times. The school community will be forming a leavers' arch for our year 8s at 1.00pm as we celebrate with them their last day at West Moors Middle School.

The rest of the children in school will then return to their tutor groups in preparation to leave at 1.30pm and the school bus has been rescheduled accordingly to leave at this time.

We hope that this information is helpful and if you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact us.



REMINDERS & NOTICES

School Year: Term Dates & Holidays

Summer Term 2021:

Term ends on Friday 23rd July 2021

Summer Holidays Monday 26th July -
Monday 6th September 2021

Autumn Term 2021:

September Inset Days Thursday 2nd &
Friday 3rd September 2021

First day of Term Monday 6th September

October half term Monday 25th - 29th
October 2021



Finally.....For the latest news and updates and to see more photos of our children learning, please follow us on twitter at: [@westmoors](https://twitter.com/@westmoors)



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