



**West Moors Middle School**

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7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It's so lovely to welcome all of our children back at the start of a new academic year, after enjoying a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Further to our Covid Phased Recovery Plan for 2021-22 ([click here](#)), we will continue to maintain our processes and procedures for keeping the school as safe as possible, including regular cleaning and making sure that all are able to sanitise their hands regularly. We will also continue to take heed of the latest advice from Public Health England. As we strive to do our best please may we ask that families do all they can to prevent spread of the virus, by abiding by latest government guidance, getting tested if showing symptoms and self-isolating if necessary.

As you are aware, we have been testing all children in KS3, whose parents/ carers have given consent, in school. Following two onsite tests, please can we ask that parents and carers support their child to test twice a week, using home test kits, which we will continue to provide. We suggest every Sunday and Wednesday. Where we have a reported positive case or if we have concerns about a particular group in school we will immediately ask relevant pupils (i.e. class friends or other close contacts) to do a test in school under staff supervision. Potential close contacts will not need to self-isolate, if they continue to test negative, but will instead be asked to take daily home tests before coming to school.

Please continue to keep us posted if your child does test positive. If an LFD test shows a positive result this should be confirmed by a PCR test as soon as possible. If this test proves negative then he/ she may return to school. All pupil absences, should be reported on the [covid@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:covid@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk).

Face coverings are no longer required or recommended in school. However if a child, or member of staff, is particularly anxious they may of course continue to wear a face covering in corridors and other busy spaces. Face coverings should still be worn on school buses and public transport.

### **The use of mobile phones in school by children**

As in 2020/21, the use of mobile phones by children will not be allowed in school from 8.30-3.30. On arrival to Tutor Groups in the morning, children will be asked to switch off their devices and place their mobile phones in the labelled, plastic box for phones in each class. This will then be taken to the office where it will be kept in a locked cabinet before being returned to tutor groups at the end of the school day for children to collect, at home time.

Any child seen with a phone out during the school day will have the phone confiscated. There will be no exceptions to this.

If a pupil is in breach of this policy the phone will be confiscated until the end of the school day on Friday. In such instances, the child's parent/ carer will be informed immediately and he/ she will be offered the choice of collecting



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SCHOOL

**Headteacher: Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH**  
**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs D East BSc (Hons) PGCE SENDCo**



their child's phone in person on the same day or permitting the school to retain the phone in a locked storage facility and return to the child at the end of the school day on Friday.

If a parent or carer needs to get an urgent message to their child during the school day they can contact reception and we will do our best to see that the child receives it. Similarly if a child needs to get an urgent message to parents they should report to reception.

Any child who brings a mobile phone into school does so at their own risk and school will not be held responsible for any loss or damage. To support this policy, please can we seek your support to ensure that smart watches (i.e. watches capable of sending and receiving messages/ accessing the internet) are not brought into school.

We will review this policy at half term and we would be really grateful for your support in upholding this policy.

### **Exciting News:**

After waiting until scans revealed that all was well, we are delighted to announce that Mrs Sarah Burns is expecting her first baby in 2022! This is wonderful news for her family and we all share in the celebration of this special announcement. As a result of this news, we have been planning ahead to ensure that we support all the children in 5SB, from the outset of term. For this reason, we recently appointed an experienced teacher, Miss Emma Eary, who will be working together with Mrs Burns in 5SB, to ensure the transition ahead is seamless.

So, in 5SB we have two qualified teachers supporting the children to ensure that they receive the best education they deserve. The children in 5SB are definitely in for a treat with two fabulous teachers working together. From mid-October Miss Eary will then become the only teacher in there with LSA support whilst Mrs Burns' work is redirected to deliver virtual tuition, in line with the Government's guidance for employees who are pregnant, and she will be starting her maternity leave after Christmas. I'm sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Burns all the very best and we can't wait to meet our new addition to the team!

### **Retirement News:**

Mrs Jill Elsbury, our Office Manager, and Mrs Kathryn Wallis, our Finance Manager celebrated their retirement at the end of last term. They have both been an incredible asset to our school and are so dedicated that they have been into school this term to support the handover process with Miss Nicole Joiner appointed as our Administrative Officer, and Ms Ann-Marie Doherty appointed as our School Business Manager. Furthermore, Mrs Wallis loves our school so much that she will be continuing to offer her knowledge, expertise and support in her new role as our school's new Governor for Finance. We are really grateful for everything that Mrs Elsbury and Mrs Wallis have done to support our school community and cannot thank them enough for all their commitment, hard work and care for everyone in our school community.

### **Staffing Updates**

Last year we supported two LSAs, Mr Sam Askew and Mrs Jody Connolly, on their journey to begin their teacher training. We are delighted that at the end of last term they left us to commence their training on a postgraduate programme, validated by the University of Winchester. Miss Jemima Judge has also left to complete further training and education in Education Psychology. We wish them all every success in their studies over the next year.

In addition, due to a change in personal circumstances, Miss Clark has resigned from her part time role, teaching Art and Design Technology three days a week. We would like to thank her for all that she has done to support our school community and we wish her every success in her new job. For this academic year, we are really lucky that Mrs Anna

Clark who taught our children Art & DT last year, will be joining us again this term. She is an incredible artist so our children will be really fortunate to benefit from her knowledge and expertise.

Lastly, Mrs James, Miss Sibley and Miss McCorkindale, Learning Support Assistants, have taken on new challenges either working with children or adults with complex learning needs this year and we wish them every happiness and success in their new roles.

I am glad to let you know that the following members of staff will be taking up new posts within school:

Mr Anthony Sykes, a highly experienced teacher, who will be the tutor of Year 8AS and subject co-ordinator for ICT.

Miss Emma Early an experienced teacher who will be working with Mrs Burns in 5SB and will be covering her maternity leave.

They both bring with them their commitment, enthusiasm and high aspirations for our children, and have so many wonderful ideas to further benefit our children.

We are also delighted to welcome new colleagues to the school who will be Learning Support Assistants:

Miss Daisy Lowe

Miss Helen Poole

Mrs Jadwiga Wos

Miss Faye Wilder

These colleagues have made a positive impact already, supporting children's learning and delivering interventions and we are delighted that they have joined our team.

### **School Uniform**

Thank you to our parents and carers, supporting our children to get ready for school this term. They look incredibly smart when they arrive in their uniforms and this helps to build their confidence and pride in their appearance whilst simultaneously sets a boundary by placing a pupil in a 'working environment' mindset.

We would like to clarify a few key points:

- The skirt length should be no more than 8 cm above the knee (measured from the middle of the knee). The design of the skirt should not be modified in any way.
- The only jewellery permitted is **one** pair of **plain** ear studs; decorative studs are not allowed.
- Children need to wear sturdy plain black school shoes suitable for outdoor play.
- Girls are not allowed to wear **any** make-up. Nail varnish may not be worn and long hair should be tied back. Hair styles and colours should not be extreme and hairbands, if worn, should be either dark green or black.

We want to make a really positive start to the new school year and need your support in ensuring your child conforms to our dress code. Year Tutors will carry out uniform checks during tutor time and we will work together to support our children to conform to the dress code.

This week, we will be carrying out some baseline assessments to enable us to tailor provision to meet children's needs. We do not want any child to worry about these in any way so they are introduced as 'quizzes' or short tasks to

enable us to identify their next steps in learning, and we encourage all children to just do their very best. These will be staggered over the course of the first few weeks so again, these are nothing for any child to worry about.

Finally, during the school week, we upload updates and photos on our school's Twitter feed, celebrating what our children are doing during the day. We want to encourage everyone to follow us (@west\_moors), so that you do not miss out on key updates and celebrations throughout the year!

We look forward very much to the year ahead and seeing your child/ren grow and develop, not only academically but also personally and socially, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,



Dr Deborah Craddock

Headteacher