



West Moors Middle School

Heathfield Way, West Moors

Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 0DA

Telephone: 01202 872474

Email: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

2nd September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break with family and friends. Our staff team are all looking forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday, at the start of the new academic year.

We have been working to develop and launch a new school website, which is now active, and from 2022/23, in response to your feedback, we will be using Microsoft Sway to present our weekly Lizard News Bulletins, moving away from the use of Publisher. Whilst viewing a weekly Lizard News Bulletin via Sway, parents and carers will be able to select the Cog icon to change the layout they prefer. Importantly, it also rearranges the content to fit the screen size and orientation of the device the viewer is using and we would value your feedback on this change.

The following information we hope you will find helpful:

School Uniform and Learning Equipment

Children at West Moors Middle School, across both our primary and secondary phases, take pride in their education and this begins each and every day by arriving to school in full uniform and prepared with all equipment.

We are grateful to our parents and carers, supporting our children to get ready for school this term. School uniforms help to build children's confidence and pride in their appearance whilst simultaneously setting a boundary by placing a pupil in a 'working environment' mindset.

I have been made aware that there are unforeseen delays with some orders, and The Stevensons Group have provided me with an update. I have been sent a copy of items still awaiting delivery so please be assured that we understand that this is out of your control. I know that Stevensons are working round the clock to fulfil these orders as quickly as possible so hopefully all orders will be completed soon.

We would like to clarify a few key points:

- Children should wear their school PE kit to school on the days in which PE is timetabled. There is an optional choice to wear either a school jumper or a school hoodie over children's sports kit and in the winter, plain black skins may be worn under PE kit to help keep them warm in outdoor PE. Please be aware that the school hoodie should only be worn on PE days over PE kits.
- 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.



Headteacher: Dr D Craddock PhD MA BSc (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs D East BSc (Hons) PGCE SENDCo

- 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. Being conscious of some delays with uniform orders, 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.

All children are required to bring the **learning equipment** listed below every single day. Their tutor, to ensure that students are prepared and ready to learn, will check this daily. If a student does not have a piece of equipment, then they can purchase it from the school shop before school or in their break time. The following list of equipment is detailed in the children's planners:

- a pencil case with a ruler, rubber, pencils and a pencil sharpener
- a blue handwriting pen (not biro)
- 2 dry-wipe whiteboard pens
- a basic geometry set
- a calculator
- a set of colouring pencils (including orange & purple)
- a calculator
- a glue stick
- purple pen
- yellow highlighter

(*We will provide dry-wipe whiteboard pens for any child who does not have one this term).

We also have a small hardship fund to support any families who need help, and will provide children with learning equipment needed in a pencil case that they will keep in school. If you need support to provide your child with learning equipment needed, please email office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk and we will do all that we can.

Hot School Meals

The School Information Management System (SIMS) rolls over on the first day the children return to school, the 5th September 2022. As a result, for the first week back children will select their hot school meal choice during morning tutor time. Mrs Mein, our school cook, has been busy planning a menu of nutritious school meals so our children are in for a treat!

To check if your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please [click here](#).

Wrap Around Provision

Our Lucky Lizard and Early Bird Booking form for our before and after-school provision will commence from next Monday 5th September 2022. If anyone would like further information about this provision please contact office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk .

School Arrival and Drop off Times

Our KS2 and KS3 school gates will be open daily from 08.20 with children in Years 5 and 7 arriving at 08.25 and children in Years 6 and 8 arriving at 08.30 for registration in tutor groups.

At the respective KS school gate, the collection times at the end of the school day will be 15.25 for children in Years 5 and 7, and 15.30 for children in Years 6 and 8.

Student Timetable

During the transition day back to school today, tutors will spend time with the children talking through their weekly timetable. A copy of this will then be glued into the students' academic planners so each child has his/ her own copy.

Homework

Homework is important because it enables students to:

- **Continue learning** outside of the classroom
- **Consolidate newly-acquired knowledge**, revise prior learning and practise skills
- Develop the **self-discipline**, perseverance and confidence to study independently
- **Involve parents/carers** in their learning.

Parents and carers should provide a well-lit desk in a quiet area for students to complete their homework. As we support our children's development of life long skills, to enable them to be the best that they can be, homework goes beyond just the task itself; **it helps children take control of their workload and increase their time management skills**. Homework is set with a deadline and taking ownership of this deadline helps them think independently and develop problem-solving skills, standing them in good stead for their futures at upper school, university and/ or college, and/ or the workplace.

It is therefore important that children complete their homework tasks set by the given date, maintaining our school's high standards. Please can we ask that parents and carers enquire to **see their child's homework before it is handed in**, as this will provide them with an opportunity to discuss the work with their child, ensure neat presentation and support the child in checking their work for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

The use of mobile phones in school by children

At West Moors Middle School, 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 stored in a secure area 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 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 would be really grateful for your support in upholding this policy.

Finally, during the school week, we upload updates and photos on our school's Twitter feed, which is synced with our school's Facebook page, celebrating what our children are doing during the day. We want to encourage everyone in our school community 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.

Warmest Wishes,



Dr Deborah Craddock

Headteacher