



## West Moors Middle School

September 2019

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

A warm welcome back to you and your children as we start a new and exciting school year. A particular welcome to all Year 5s joining us who have met with their Year 7 Buddy, who will help support their transition. We do hope that their time with us will be a happy and fulfilling one. We will aim to keep parents as up to date as possible via regular communications, including a half termly newsletter, our website ([www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk)) which will be replaced in this term by a new, fully responsive, bespoke website design, and also our brand new Twitter feed @west\_moors.

I am delighted to welcome the following new appointments:

Mrs Jones	Acting Deputy Headteacher
Mr Williams	Inclusion Lead and SENCO
Ms Dunn	Maths Lead/ KS3 Tutor
Mrs Ahmed	Science Teacher/ KS3 Tutor
Mrs Cope	English Teacher/ KS2 Tutor
Mrs Collins	Music Teacher/ KS3 Tutor
Mrs Small	CCN Base Specialist Teacher
Mr Treasure Mrs Bycroft Mrs Gray Mr Roberts Miss Judge Mrs Michalski Miss Gregory	Learning Support Assistants

However, sadly we have to say goodbye to two members from our team. Mrs Anca Lloyd, our LSA, will be completing a Return to Practice (nursing) programme in Bournemouth, and Mrs Samantha Ward who worked as our ELSA. We would like to thank them for their invaluable contribution to the children in our school and we wish them all the very best for the future.

### School Uniform

For the most part, pupils are all looking very smart in their uniforms. We do rely though on parental support in maintaining these high standards. We will be having a uniform check on Monday of next week. Where children are not correctly dressed they will be asked to put this right. If you need to buy your child an item of school clothing or school shoes please could you do so this week-end. Canvas type shoes are not acceptable in school and school skirts should be worn just above the knees. In addition, children may not wear make-up or have polished acrylic nails at school. Thank you for your support.

All pupils need a scientific calculator for their Maths.

### **Mobile Phones**

I know that many schools are now banning the use of mobile phones at school. Whilst they can certainly be useful in the case of emergency on the way to or from school, there is little doubt that if there are any disputes or unkindness, social media and phones are often involved somewhere along the way. This is therefore a reminder that mobile phones should be switched off and kept in lockers whilst on the school's premises. If a child's phone should be out and it disturbs learning or transitions it will be confiscated on the spot and parents/ guardians will be informed. This phone will then be kept at Reception for collection by the child at the end of the school week at 15.30. (\* Parents will be provided with an option to collect the phone in person at an earlier date if they consider it necessary.)

We also have a rule that phones should not be in use in the corridors, between lessons. May I ask parents not to encourage or expect texting or messaging with home during the day. Most things will wait until the end of the day.

I genuinely hope that we will not need to implement a ban on phones at school and so I am, in the first instance, relying on children's good sense and parents' support to ensure that is not necessary.

### **School Photographs**

Pupils in Year 5 are having their photographs taken on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and parents will be able to purchase copies if they wish. Please can you help your child to come into school, looking extra smart for this occasion.

### **Travel to and from school**

It is good to see so many children cycling and/ or riding their scooters to school. They can lock their bicycles/ scooters securely in the cycle shed area however it is important that bikes and scooters are checked regularly. In addition, please ensure that all children wear a cycle helmet and reflective clothing when commuting.

For all parents who take their children to school by car, this is a gentle reminder not to stop on the zig zag lines at the entrances, even for a moment, to help ensure that all of our children are kept safe.

### **Activities Fair**

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 we will be holding our Activities Fair at lunchtime when children can find out more what clubs and societies there are for them to get involved in. After school clubs will run from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and more details will follow.

### **Do you know someone wishing to join West Moors Middle School?**

If you know of any families considering West Moors Middle School for their children next year, please let them know that our Open Evening will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 18.00-20.00. There will be a lot of exciting changes ahead so we are keen to show-case what we have to offer!

### **Join Friends of West Moors Middle School (FOWMMS), our school's PTA!**

All parents are members of FOWMMS and we would encourage you to get involved in this aspect of the life of the school as a great way of meeting other parents and supporting your child's education. FOWMMS meets two or three times a term on a Wednesday evening. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 19.30-20.30. Do come along and see what great work the FOWMMS does for the school- we would love for more parents to become involved!

### **Parental Concerns**

If you have any worries or concerns please speak to us. In the first instance, please contact your child's tutor by phone, email or letter. I will also have a 'surgery' for any urgent or serious matters from Tuesday to Friday from 8.00 until 08.15 (no appointment is necessary). It is always our wish to sort out any concerns at an early stage before they escalate as your child is our top priority.

For pupils in Years 5-8 we will be publishing a curriculum overview at the beginning of each term, outlining the work that they will be covering this year.

**Advance notice of events this term**

Further information will be sent prior to these events but please make a note now in your diaries!

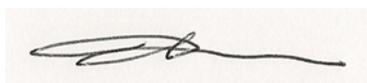
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date / Time</b>
FOWMMS (PTA) Meeting	Wednesday 11.09.19 - 19.30-20.30
Informal coffee meeting with the Headteacher	Monday 16.09.19 - 09.30-10.30
New Headteacher's Welcome Meeting to all parents- ' <i>New vision and direction- An exciting journey ahead</i> '	Tuesday 17.09.19 – 18.00-19.00
Informal coffee/ drop in meeting with the Headteacher	Thursday 19.09.19 – 09.30-10.30
Parents' Consultation Evenings	01.10.19 (15.40-18.40) 02.10.19 (15.40-18.40)
Open Evening for children starting in September 2020	Wednesday 09.10.19 – 18.00-20.00
FOWMMS: WMMS's Awesome Film Night	Friday 18.10.19 – 17.30-19.30
INSET DAY	Friday 25.10.19
<i>Half Term</i>	<i>28.10.19 – 01.11.19</i>
INSET DAY	Monday 04.11.19
FOWMMS: WMMS's Themed Disco Night	Friday 22.11.19 – 18.00 – 19.30
FOWMMS: Children's Christmas Fair	Friday 13.12.19 – 15.40-17.40

In addition to these events, Year Tutors will be holding 'Meet the Tutor' meetings with parents to share information, relating to the school routines, expectations, curriculum, library books, home learning and much more- dates to follow.

We look forward to the new school year and doing our best, with your support, for your children to enable them to thrive at our school and be the best that they can be.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Deborah Craddock