

27th April 2020



Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

You have done a great job adjusting to home schooling and virtual learning. Currently, we provide weekly home learning, Google doc folders that are available for each year group; the use of video modelling to demonstrate examples; the provision of 'live' online tutorials with staff to deliver targeted support; the completion of assessments in core subjects; and weekly telephone/ electronic and/ or letter communication. This way of working is new to us all at both ends so I would like to thank you for your patience. I would also like to say thank you to the teachers for working hard to get to grips with this new way of working. Hopefully, it is beginning to feel easier and more manageable now.

This week, we will be sending you a short online questionnaire to complete to evaluate our online provision, resources shared and support given as we look towards the further development of our online education. If you have not completed any online learning with your child, we are duty bound to ask if you are OK, if you are coping, if we can help and why no learning has been possible so we can provide you with support. Even though children are not in school, we are still responsible for their progress and well-being so please do not feel offended if we ask as we are just trying to help.

Tomorrow we are disseminating an online assembly to all of our children with a focus on well-being led by our PSHCE Lead, Mrs Burns and our new Year 5 teacher, Mrs Amabile. In addition, my staff team have put together a short clip with special, individual messages for all the children that will be added to our school's website and Twitter feed on Wednesday. All Year group tutors are also working closely together, checking how our children are getting on and helping all those who need support.

Presently, we are at the start of our fourth week of virtual learning, excluding the children's two week Easter break, and in addition to current online provision, we will shortly be using Microsoft Teams to provide each year group with register time and 'live' learning slots daily, starting next Monday- see, attached Microsoft Teams guide:

You can either go to the appstore on your phone and download "Microsoft teams" or click on this link using your computer:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-US/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>

It should take you to where you need to go. Once there you need to sign in and download it on to any device of your choosing. To log on you will need to use your child's email address and associated password. This is usually their first initial and last name @westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk - the first two letters are capitalized:

For example, if their name was Bob Smith it would be BSmith@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk
The general password given was L1zard2020

For security reasons, please reset your email password, keeping a record of this password somewhere safe. We hope that this guidance is helpful but if you need any help please just let us know.

As we strive to build on how we are using digital education platforms in a range of different ways to keep children and teachers connected, our goal is to support children to learn at home. These ways will continue to evolve and we will support parents/ carers to adapt the timetable and keep it flexible. These additional ways are aimed to provide children with further support and help parents/ carers at home. When the children return to school, it will be our job to get them all back on track and I am currently working on our return to school strategy to support their learning and progress. For now, we just need you to share your calm, share your strength, share your positivity and share your laughter with your children. No children are ahead. No children are behind. Your children are exactly where they need to be and we will work together in the forthcoming months to do the best we can, and be there to support each other.

Warmest wishes,



D Craddock
Head teacher