

1st May 2020



Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week despite the weather. I just wanted to say thank you for all you are doing to support your children at home during this lockdown period. We can only do our best so no-one can ask more of us than that –so, we share our sincere thanks.

This week, we sent all parents/ carers a short online survey to complete to help evaluate our current provision and develop it further in the weeks ahead to ensure that we provide our children with a high quality of education provision. We have also carried out child conferencing at Ferndown Upper School, to capture their views about our online provision to inform changes, moving forwards. From next week, we will be providing children with daily teacher-led 'live' lessons and a structured timetable, including online registration, virtual assemblies/ tutor times, 'live' tutor support in core subjects and 'live' interventions. We understand that it may not be possible for all children to attend these 'live' lessons at times specified. Please be assured that the work taught is the same as work presented in the Home Learning folder for each year group. If your children are sharing resources and need to complete this work at a different time, that's absolutely fine. Remember, if your child needs any support please be assured that your child can always contact his/ her teacher if he/ she needs any support.

I hope that the weekly calls have been supportive and the daily emails to our children have helped to reassure them that we are here and care about them all. We also hope that they enjoyed the special messages we uploaded for them in a short video on our school's Twitter feed (see, Twitter @west_moors). My team are also uploading weekly fun challenges for the children to do at home- Mrs Cope's challenge is one I know they will enjoy having a go at! We have been so proud of the children's hard work and efforts at home- they are an absolute credit to you. We love celebrating their efforts and so we are keen to share photos of their home and/ outdoor learning. So please encourage our children to email any photos, with your permission, to their Year Tutors or myself to share on our Twitter feed and if you have a few minutes, I'd like to encourage you to have a browse on this social media platform at our amazing children's contributions across the year groups!

Childcare Provision at Ferndown Upper School (FUS)

We will continue to provide childcare provision at Ferndown Upper School until 22nd May 2020. After this date, staff will all return 'home' to West Moors Middle School. I want to say a sincere thank you to Phil Jones, Headteacher, and his entire team for making us all feel so welcome and working together. I know that we will miss the delicious bacon rolls each morning!

FUS will be closed on the Bank Holiday next Friday, 8th May 2020, so no childcare provision will be provided and pupils at home will not be expected to attend 'live' lessons or complete Home Learning on that day.

I have also taken the decision to shut the school for the May half term holiday (25th -29th May 2020), so that it is a complete break for staff who, as key workers, have worked throughout this period, including Easter Bank Holidays. We do not know yet when schools will re-open but I am anticipating that schools may re-open with staggered returns in the first instance, from 1st June 2020 unless the Government tell schools that it is not safe for us to do so. However, please be assured that I will let you know when more information is available.

New Coronavirus helpline for parents and carers

A new helpline has been launched to support parents and carers who are worried about how their child is coping during the Coronavirus pandemic. Dorset Council's Educational Psychology Service has set-up the helpline to support those who are worried about their child or teenager during the lockdown.

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

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

The helpline number is 01305 228300. It is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30-minute phone consultation. Read more [here](#).

Uniforms for Uniforms

We would like to launch a fun campaign Uniforms for Uniforms:

Friday 15th May, we will be holding a virtual fundraising event UNIFORMS FOR UNIFORMS for all pupils of West Moors Middle School to unite, from their homes, by wearing their school uniforms to show their gratitude for our frontline workers in uniform. A 'reverse mufti-day' of sorts!

Everyone will be familiar with the obligatory 'back to school' photos that parents take and post on social media of their children proudly posing in their uniforms. We want to recreate this on Friday 15th May with parents emailing pictures of their children in uniforms to office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk. Our goal is to create a virtual school photo from these posts, in order to record this monumental time in their lives. Something they can show with their grandchildren in years to come.

We invite families to donate £1 as you would on a school mufti day. The donation is totally optional and would be per household, not per child so just £1. Money raised will go to the NHS Charities Together - Covid 19 Urgent Appeal, and this can be donated directly via:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=ClapForOurCarers&pageUrl=2>

Useful information available

To support parents/ carers, further information on the Dorset Council website, this includes contact information and ideas for things to do, including for children when they're at home. Here are some of the links:

- Online resources for families <https://mailchi.mp/dorsetcouncil/online-resources>
- Schools and families: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/schools-and-families.aspx>
- Information and landing page: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19.aspx>
- Co-ordinated Community Response: Information about our co-ordinated community response is available [online here](#).

Whether you're working from home with your kids for the first time or supporting children with anxiety due to coronavirus, the NSPCC has also got tips and advice for parents/ carers: see,

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

In addition, CAMHS Resources have created a site for young people, carers and professionals to pool together lots of helpful resources from across the internet that are available to help support mental health and well-being- see,

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>

I hope that you find this information helpful and in the meantime, if you have any queries or just want to talk to me about anything, please do not hesitate to contact me. I know how incredibly hard the lockdown period has been for everybody so please be assured that we are here for each other.

Keep safe and take good care.

Warm Wishes,



Dr Deborah Craddock