

18th December 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

I am glad to report that again this week there have been no confirmed positive COVID cases in our school community, although a small number of pupils are having to self-isolate because family members are either awaiting tests or have tested positive.

Arrangements for reporting any positive cases amongst the school community after the end of term.

If any pupil or member of staff develops symptoms of COVID they should arrange to get a test immediately.

If symptoms emerge within the 48 hours after the end of term i.e. by 3.45pm on Sunday 20th December 2020 **and the pupil or staff member then tests positive**, you should let us know on this email address: covid@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

- You should state the pupil's full name and form
- Date they were last in school
- When did they develop Covid-related symptoms?
- A contact number where we can reach you easily

This email box will no longer be monitored after 4pm on Thursday 24th December 2020. Other school email addresses are not being monitored during the holiday period.

If we receive a report of a confirmed positive case within the school community we will send out an email to all parents/ carers of children in that year/ tutor group (Years 5-8). We must leave it to families to take the action they deem appropriate in the light of this information.

If your child or a member of staff develops symptoms **after** Sunday 20th December 3.45pm and subsequently tests positive then they should use the NHS Track and Trace system to inform possible close contacts.

The new term

You will be aware that the Government announced staggered returns yesterday for secondary school aged children to engage in remote learning, for week commencing Monday 4th January 2021, in preparation to introduce lateral flow testing. It aims to provide a mass roll out of asymptomatic testing in schools, however, more information is needed before taking any decisions in relation to rolling out such testing procedures. **We believe that it is in our children's best interests to be in school, in front of their teachers, learning and so our school will be open school to all year groups, as planned, from Tuesday 5th January 2021 (with Monday 4th January 2021 being an INSET day).** When more detailed, considered and timely information is provided I will write again to keep you informed.

As a plea, extra vigilance, during this time, is incredibly important and so at the start of the new term, do not send your child to school if any member of your household has tested positive or is showing symptoms within the last 10 days. The period of self-isolation for members of a household where a positive case is present **is now 10 days**.

New Staggered Timings for KS2 and KS3 in 2021

As a result of separate school entrances for children in KS2 and KS3, it has been possible to revise the start of day and end of day timings, whilst simultaneously ensuring that children stay in their year hubs. The revised timings are as follows:

Year	Morning Drop off Time	End of Day Pick Up Time
5	08.15	15.15
6	08.25	15.25
7	08.25	15.25
8	08.35	15.35

Our Christmas hampers

A friend of the school, who wishes to remain anonymous, very kindly donated £200 to support some of our families in need. We would like to thank our special friend for showing such generosity as this money has been used to prepare and deliver special Christmas hampers. Together, as a school community, I hope we have really made a difference to families in our community who otherwise might not be able to enjoy a Christmas this year as they might wish to.

Support our School's PTFA

As you will know, our PTFA are currently raising funds for play equipment at break and lunch times. When you hit the online sales don't forget to register on the Easyfundraising website (see, <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westmoorsmidschptfa/>), so that your online shopping can bring in donations without costing them a penny. It really is easy to do.

Virtual Christmas Concert

It was wonderful that so many of our children wanted to take part in our virtual Christmas concert. We were so incredibly impressed by their efforts and confidence. We are proud of them all and Mr Faulkner, who has been filming performances over the past two weeks, will share a link to final edited version shortly.

Uniform

In the New Year we would value your support in ensuring that all children are in correct school uniform. Items can be ordered online from Stevensons- for more information, please see, <https://www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk/school-uniform>.

Energy drinks

Please can you ensure that children only bring water in drinks bottles. Unfortunately, we have seen the appearance of energy drinks in school (Monster, Red Bull etc). These should not be brought to school nor consumed in school.

Keeping safe

Online safety is so important, especially as children are accessing learning resources online more to support their learning. It is really important that parents/ carers know what their children are doing online and who they're talking to. Unfortunately this pandemic is making online forums more vulnerable than ever. Please make sure you talk to your children about being safe online.

For further information please visit: <https://www.dorset.police.uk/help-advice-crime-prevention/scams-fraud-cyber/cybercrime/child-online-safety/>

Information on how we can keep our young people safe is on our website- see, <https://www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk/links-for-parents>. Please take time to look at the updated information.

In relation to parking, please can we also ask parents/ carers to continue to park with care on Heathfield Way, to ensure that residents' driveways are not blocked and the the zig zag lines outside school are kept clear.

Closing remarks

As we come to the end of the autumn term, my thanks go to all staff and children for their support and adherence to our Covid-19 hygiene and social distancing protocols that has enabled us to keep going relatively unscathed in terms of positive cases reported. Thank you to many parents/ carers for your kind messages of support- they have meant the world to us and all have been shared with the team on our 'Wall of Appreciation' in the staff room.

We look forward to the end of these difficult times but on our return we will need to continue to keep the measures in place that we have had to date to keep us all safe as possible. May I wish you and your family all the very best for a peaceful, happy and safe Christmas break and let us look forward to what we all hope will be a better 2021.

With all good wishes



Dr Deborah Craddock
Headteacher