



West Moors Middle School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

During this period of national lockdown, my staff team have worked incredibly hard to ensure that our children's learning continues on its intended learning journey to enable all children to make progress.

The Department for Education (DfE) states:

When teaching pupils remotely, we expect schools to:

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects
- set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a minimum:
 - primary: 3 hours a day
 - secondary: 4 hours a day
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos
- have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding

How does this look at West Moors Middle School?

Our aim has been to closely mirror our remote education provision to follow the timetable for each tutor group whilst simultaneously providing a good balance between live lessons, independent project work and online support from staff. We are extremely proud to be one of the very few schools offering this provision which ensures that every school day is structured, helping to keep children in their daily school routines and supporting their mental health and wellbeing.



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



Every morning, children will attend live registration from 08.30 with their Year Tutor before their first live lesson. Mindfulness activities, using Zumos software, are incorporated into tutor times to support children's preparations for the day ahead.

In every year group, all work is posted on the VLE daily based on the children's normal school timetable with links to live lessons in core and many non-core subjects daily as we did during the previous school closure. Teachers who are delivering live lessons are therefore at hand to provide any help or support needed in accessing the work with children's ability to use either the yellow hand signal/ function on Teams during live lessons and/ or using the chat function in each course.

Mr Malone is our school's 'Joe Wicks', delivering live fitness lessons daily- it is wonderful to see so many of our parents/ carers and younger siblings joining in too. It's an exciting new initiative for us and the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive! In order to comply with safeguarding policies, all live lessons are recorded by the Teacher. This recording will be stored securely on Microsoft Teams for 20 days. The recording will not be shared beyond the teacher and the children and will only be accessed by other school staff in the event of a safeguarding concern.

Live tutor group sessions are scheduled daily with live assemblies taking place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon as per your child's timetable. All children's timetables can be accessed on the ITS Learning Platform so each day children can click on daily lessons that will take them straight to the resources they will need, and the Microsoft Teams link to their live lesson, with project based work set for Art, Design Technology.

If any child has any difficulty accessing suitable IT facilities at home please email us (office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk), to let us know and we will do all we can to help. We have already issued devices to children in all year groups and we are supporting families to access free mobile data via the DfE initiative. As well as the daily 8.30 tutor time, our staff team are making weekly contact with children and their families to see how things are going. We are tracking children's attendance on live lessons daily and where a pupil is not engaging with their online learning, this is logged on a tracker document and parents/ carers are contacted to make them aware.

Children's wellbeing

Academic work aside, we are fully committed to supporting our children's wellbeing during this period of lockdown. It is important that children get the opportunity for daily exercise so in addition to Mr Malone's live fitness lessons, it is important that children get outside for a walk, cycle or a run when they can. If your son/ daughter is struggling please do speak to his/ her tutor and we will support him/her as we are able. The school's website also signposts a number of sources of help found [here](#).

Arrangements for Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals

We are currently providing vouchers for all families in receipt of Free School Meals. To check whether you are entitled to Free School Meals please see, <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

In school provision for Critical Worker Children and Vulnerable Children

We will continue to provide in school support for Critical Worker Children and Vulnerable Children on a daily basis for whom at home care is not available. For a list of Critical Workers eligible for this provision please [click here](#). Children on site are based in year group hubs with access to ICT facilities so that they can access the live lessons and work on our VLE. All children should wear school uniform and bring a packed lunch with them. As a

gentle reminder, at the start and end of each day, please can parents/ carers dropping off or collecting their children, remember to socially distance and wear a face covering to continue to help to keep our school community safe.

Mass Testing Programme

We have already started our testing programme on a smaller scale in school initially offering tests to children in KS3, with parental permission, and staff in school. We have been incredibly impressed with how positively our children have engaged in this testing programme- they have been a real credit to our school. A wider testing programme will be necessary when we finally all return to school to help to keep our school community safe. The current position is that mass testing is to be rolled out to include primary aged children however, we are still awaiting further details from the DfE. As soon as more is known, I will share with all parents/ carers.

As always, please continue to take good care and keep safe- and if there is anything that we can do to help, please do not hesitate to contact us. In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy our daily contributions to our school's Twitter feed with some amazing photographs added today following our Year 8's live dissection session in their Science lesson- please remember to follow us on Twitter [@west_moors](https://twitter.com/west_moors) to keep up to date with all the latest news.

Warm wishes to you and your families.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Deborah Craddock

Headteacher