



THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

Autumn Term October 2014



Message from the Headteacher, Mrs C.Pritchard

As the weather is turning chillier and the falling leaves herald that autumn is really here, we find ourselves at the end of another half term which has been extremely busy and full of activities, events and fantastic learning. On Tuesday night, we had our Halloween Disco and I was particularly impressed with the variety of imaginative, spectacular and truly scary costumes – ranging from a werewolf to a blood-stained surgeon, with many an evil witch in between! Well done to all of the students (and parents!) for making such a fabulous effort.

So, this half term we have had lots going on. This week it has been a pleasure to welcome Year 4 pupils from the First Schools to our WOW days. The pupils have been very enthusiastic about joining in with the different activities that middle school has to offer, including Design Technology, Science, French and PE. They have all been very well-behaved and positive throughout each day and it has been great to have them visit us.

This followed on from our 'Year 5 Bring your parent to school' morning and afternoon last week. It was lovely to see so many parents in school and I'm delighted that you enjoyed the time spent in lessons and, for many, the school lunch! I'm sure that your children also enjoyed having you in school and being able to show you a glimpse into their 'usual' school day.

We have also had an 'English Evening' and 'Maths Evening' this term, talking to parents about how English and maths are delivered and how to support students with their learning. Again, I would like to thank those of you who attended and hope that these sessions were helpful. In a similar vein, we will be running a SATS information evening next half term, and hope that Year 6 parents are able to come along so we can talk to you about how SATS will run this year and what the exam requirements are for our current Year 6 students.

Next half term, there will be lots more exciting events and opportunities for the students to participate in – many of which are detailed in the calendar at the end of the Lizard. I would like to thank the students and staff for their hard work and positive attitude this half term and wish you all a happy half term break.



Battlefields Trip:

In September, I was fortunate enough to go on an incredible trip with two of our Year 8 students to the Battlefields in France and Belgium.

This time last year the government launched an initiative to provide a free trip for one teacher and two students (of secondary age) to visit the battlefields as part of the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. In the summer term, Year 7 were asked to put together a letter (if they wished to be considered for one of the student places), explaining why they should be chosen to go on this trip. The students produced some amazing letters and I would like to congratulate them (again) on the work they did. Choosing between them proved impossible, so we put their names in a hat and pulled out two at random. Chloe Home and Jack Lilley were chosen to go.

From Sunday September 28th to Wednesday 1st October, we had a packed itinerary – visiting many remarkable places including Tyne Cot Cemetery, Langemark - a German cemetery, the Menin Gate, Thiepval and Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park. Chloe and Jack were fantastic representatives of our school and they conducted themselves brilliantly – rising to the challenge, not only of keeping up with the demanding schedule, but also mixing with around 60 other students they had never met before (including sharing ‘dorm’ rooms of up to 10). I was very proud of their maturity in dealing with the subject matter discussed and with their interest and engagement in all of the activities. Well done Chloe and Jack.

Mrs Pritchard



Book Fair



The travelling book fair came to our library during the second week in October. There was much wonder and excitement at all the new books, and crowd control was needed at the new stationary stall!

We raised over £400.00 enabling us to have £225 worth of new books. A big thank you to all who helped during the week and a massive thank you to all who contributed towards the final total.

Ms Ward, Librarian



Year 5 Parents Morning/Afternoon

On Thursday 17th October and Friday 18th October, Year 5 parents were invited in to the school to shadow their child as they moved through lessons. We had lots of positive feedback, including:

"I had an excellent morning."

"Very useful. Good insight into what actually goes on. Thank you."

"All of it was lovely. I would love to do it again."

"Very good. Thank you for the opportunity."

"Enjoyable and informative."

"Great day, thank you all."

"D/T was very interesting and fun to learn."

We really believe that these sessions help our parents with the transition from First to Middle School and it provides a good opportunity to answer any concerns or questions.

Christmas Cards in conjunction with Art project for schools

During the week commencing 29th September, all students spent at least two hours in the art room making Christmas cards. The students had a wide variety of sample ideas to look at and were then given the choice to use one of those ideas or freely create their own design. The students firstly planned their own card before being let loose to experiment with the resources available. Each student's design was then colour photocopied and sent home for you to see and order. Well done to all of the students for their hard work. We had some beautiful cards produced and we look forward to the cards arriving back from the printers after half term.

Remembrance Day

Poppies and wrist bands will be on sale in school for the British Legion after half term. Members of the Student Council will be representing the school at the Remembrance Day Service in West Moors on Sunday 9th November and in Ferndown on Remembrance Sunday.



Halloween Disco

Last night, we had our Halloween Disco, which was a truly spooky affair! The students did themselves proud with their fantastic costumes. There were several scary witches, at last two blood-stained surgeons, vampires, black cats, skeletons and the Grim Reaper himself made an appearance. First prize for costumes went to Mia Rushen (a grizzly bride) and Jack Webster (a horrifying werewolf!) Very well done!





The Christmas Production

The cast and chorus for the Christmas Production are working really hard to rehearse their lines and songs and are already sounding excellent. It promises to be a fantastic production so please keep the dates Thursday 11th and Friday 12th December at 6.30pm free, so that you can come along and watch our talented students.



Senior Lunches

Due to the increased popularity of our Senior Lunches we are now holding them on a weekly basis. We are delighted that seniors from our local community join us for lunch each Thursday and are very proud of our Year 7 and 8 students, who help in meeting and greeting, serving and organising these lunches. This forms part of their Citizenship curriculum and also allows for the different generations to mix.



Year 8 STEM Trip

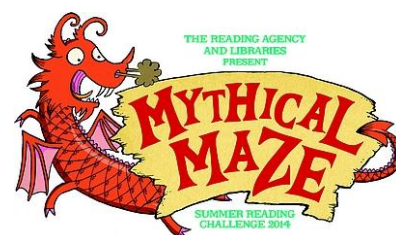


At the end of September a group of year 8 students went to Bournemouth and Poole College to the STEM workshops. They learnt how chemistry is used in the workplace while taking part in lots of different activities such as; making and tasting ice cream, collecting DNA, finger printing and making bath bombs. Everyone had a really enjoyable time. Thank you to our governor, Mr Long, for coming along on the trip with us.

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to the following students who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge this summer, which required them to read and review six books. Their certificates will be presented in assembly after half term:

Hollie Thompson, Becca Rosier, Holly Fulker, Abi Harris, Kirsty Pollington, Megan Collins, Marc Collins, Amelie Gastaldi, Rebecca Goodall, Luke Mitchell, Evie Marshall & Charlie Kelly.





Charity events next half term:

Shoebox Appeal: As in previous years, we will be participating in 'Operation Christmas Child' which is aimed at providing needy children around the world with a gift at Christmas. Last year, we put together over 20 shoe boxes, so this year we are aiming for even more. Leaflets detailing how to join in have been given to the students today and we had an assembly earlier this week to explain what to do. Any donation will be gratefully received – so if you are unable to complete a whole shoe box, please send in something from the items listed in the leaflet and we will put together some school shoe boxes. Thank you.



Christmas Jumper Day

The other charity appeal we have signed up to for next term is Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day. This will take place on Friday 12th December, when we will have a non-uniform day for students. We would like the students to wear Christmas jumpers and donate £1 for this worthy cause.



Message from the PTFA.

We are almost a year in since we were founded and what an amazing year it's been! We have had highly successful and well attended events so far and are working hard to see this continue. Our next event is our Christmas Fayre on Friday 28th Nov 6-8pm. We have Santa's grotto, craft stalls, children's stalls and lots of other things planned, so pop the date in the diary! If you'd like to be involved in the PTFA please contact the school office who will put you in touch with us. Many hands make light work!! Many thanks

Emergency Closures

In the event of snow we will of course endeavour to keep the school open, but should weather conditions force the closure of the school, we will inform parents through:

- The school's website – <http://www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk>
- Parent Portal
- The local radio station – HeartFM 102.3fm/Radio Solent 96.1fm
- The council's website – <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday 18th December 2014. The menu will be as follows:

- Roast turkey, with stuffing, chipolata, roast potatoes, carrots and peas.
- Jelly or mince pie and cream.
- Cup of squash.

The meal will cost £3.50 and booking forms will be going out nearer the time.





Calendar

Date	Event
Monday 3rd November	Students return to school
Monday 10 th November	5CB trip to the Priest House Museum
Tuesday 11 th November	5GR trip to the Priest House Museum
Wednesday 12 th November	Year 6 trip to the London Dungeons
Wednesday 19 th November	Year 6 Anti-Bullying workshops
Friday 21 st November	Year 4 Maths Day
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 7 Science Museum Trip SATs Information Evening 7.00pm
Friday 28 th November	Christmas Fayre
Thurs and Fri 11 th and 12 th December	Christmas Concert Performance 6.30pm
Thursday 11 th December	Autumn Term reports issued
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16 th & Wednesday 17 th December	Year 5 Avon Tyrell trip
Thursday 18 th December	House Day Christmas Lunch Disco – to be confirmed.
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term
Monday 5 th January	Inset Day – no students in school
Tuesday 6 th January	Students return to school
Monday 12th January	Parent's Evening to meet with subject teachers 3.50-6.45pm
Wednesday 14th January	Parent's Evening to meet with subject teachers 3.50-6.45pm
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th January	Mock Exam Week – all year groups
Thursday 12 th February	Disco – to be confirmed
Friday 13 th February	Break up for half term – students in school
Monday 23 rd February	Students return to school
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 6 Intech Trip, Winchester Year 4 Football tournament
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 4 Football tournament (reserve)
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 5 trip to Fishborne Palace
Thursday 26 th March	Disco- to be confirmed
Friday 27 th March	Spring Term reports issued Last day of term.
Monday 13 th April	Students return to school
Monday 11th May to Friday 15th May	YEAR 6 SATS EXAMS