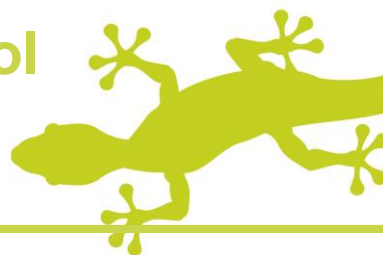


# THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

February, 2014



## Message from the Head Teacher, Mrs C. Pritchard

Another half term has flown by with students and staff being incredibly busy, filling the weeks with events, activities and, of course, hard work! Despite the appalling weather, which has led to many wet breaks and lunchtimes, the children have been fantastically behaved. Indeed, visitors to the school, including staff from our first schools and seniors attending our Seniors' Lunches, have commented on how lovely, polite and helpful our pupils are. So, I would like to say a huge thank you to the children for being so patient and tolerant even though the weather has been dismal.

This term has, so far, seen the introduction of our Year 6 maths booster sessions and I have been lucky enough to join in with the cooking sessions, baking all sorts of delicious goodies. The pupils who have attended have been absolutely lovely and a real pleasure to work with. Well done Year 6 pupils for coming along to improve your maths and also hone your football, table tennis or cooking skills – and thank you parents for making this possible by collecting your young people at the end of the sessions. Please note, we will be having a SATs Information Evening on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March when we will be giving some advice on how to support Year 6 in the lead up to and during their SATs exams – so if you are a Year 6 parent, please come along.

I have also been fortunate enough to accompany the Year 7 pupils to Fawley Power Station – an incredible place – and attend the Holocaust Memorial Event with some Year 8 students. The presentations were extremely thought provoking and to listen to a survivor of the Holocaust was, indeed, humbling. Our students listened attentively and asked thoughtful questions, demonstrating maturity and empathy.

Next half term promises to be just as jam-packed. Year 7 and 8 students will be off to see the theatre production of 'War Horse' (with some lucky Year 6's too) and this, I'm sure, will be an absolutely amazing experience. Year 5 will be off to Bovington Tank Museum and Year 7 will also be orienteering – although we will clearly be hoping for better weather for that. So, I hope you all have an enjoyable half term and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

And finally, I'm sure many of you will have heard that Mrs Giller will be leaving us at Easter. While this is a loss for us, as she will be missed, I am absolutely delighted for her as she has secured a promotion to be 'Head of Inclusion' at Wildern School in Hampshire. We are sad to see Mrs Giller leave, but it is great to see good teachers progress in their careers and so we wish her every success.

# West Moors Middle School PTFA



Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7pm in the school hall.  
£1 entry – tickets available to buy soon (children free)

Children's bingo – Licensed bar – Bring your own nibbles

No unaccompanied children

***Did you know... just registering your child for  
Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?***

***Register now to make sure we don't miss out!***

The Government gives money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. At West Moors Middle, we use this money to employ additional staff to target the learning needs of our students. We also use this money to supplement school trips and clubs or other enrichment opportunities for children who are eligible for free school meals.

If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals but they prefer to bring in a packed lunch from home, please still register to claim. Just registering means that the school can get this extra funding. Furthermore, if you are entitled, you could also get a clothing grant and help with the cost of residential trips.

To find out if you are eligible, please have a look at the information on the Dorsetforyou website:

<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/freeschoolmeals>

## Year 6 Numeracy Club

We have started an after school club every Wednesday for Year 6 students who are currently working at level 3 in maths and are working towards achieving level 4 (although all Year 6 students are welcome). These sessions are led by Mr Witton, Mrs Gould, Mrs Giller and Mrs Pritchard.

During these sessions we spend 45 minutes developing key numeracy skills before the students then take part in a 45 minute activity; playing football, cooking, or playing table tennis. We continue to develop their numeracy skills within the context of the activity they are doing, eg. measuring out ingredients or working out league tables and goal differences.



We have been really impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the pupils so far and we are excited about the progress they are making (we're even happier when they share their flapjacks with us!)

*Mr M. Witton  
Head of Maths*

## Holocaust Memorial Event

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, twelve Year 8 pupils attended Bryanstone School with Mrs Pritchard and Mr Knight, one of our parent helpers, to remember the Holocaust.

*We sat in the front seats of the theatre (which was huge), from where we had a great view of the stage. The first thing that happened was the lighting of the seven candles, which represented the Jewish people that had suffered and been discriminated against through the second world war.*



*Then we heard from a speaker called Harry Granville who had travelled on the Kindertransport to England. He was supposed to meet his family in America but he never saw them again. His mother was due to go to a concentration camp and his father and grandmother volunteered to go too so that she wouldn't be alone. It is incredibly sad that he lost his family but now he has a wife and children and grandchildren that all love him.*

*The other man that was supposed to speak (Ludwik Simonsohn) could not make it due to his wife being taken ill. It would have been inspirational to meet him because he was actually in a concentration camp and was identified as the boy in the photo on the right.*



*It was an honour to have listened and learnt about such a huge part of history.  
Zoe Knight and Stacey Stevens, 8EW*

## Year 7 Fawley Trip

Year 7 pupils are learning about energy and electricity in Science. To fit in with their topic, last week they went on a trip to Fawley Power Station to find out how electricity was made there. Unfortunately this is the last time we will be able to visit the power station as it is scheduled to be closed and is no longer producing electricity. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Jason Milsom, and everyone at Fawley Power Station, for making it possible, over the past few years, for our pupils to be shown around the massive machinery and learn how the power station worked. This is what some of our current Year 7 pupils had to say:



'I really liked it at the power station because we got to look in all the cogs and I also liked it because the chimney was massive, the biggest I've ever seen!'  
*Caitlin*

'We had an amazing tour, we all learnt loads and it was really fun.'  
*Cody*

'I really enjoyed Fawley, the best part was going into the generator, I also liked the unit with the boiler.'  
*Katie*

'I really enjoyed climbing into the generator. I really enjoyed the tour of the power station.'  
*Keony*

'It was very fun going into the generator.'  
*Ben*

'It was really interesting.'  
*Mollie*



Thank you once again for giving us all really fun and interesting tours of Fawley Power Station these last few years!  
*Mrs R. Young and Mrs P. Phillips*  
*Science Department*

## Year 8 After-school Ski Club



Skiing is really good and we have all learnt a great deal. We have learnt how to stop, brake, turn and use the ski lift, but some of us are better than others. We have enjoyed it so much we have given each other nicknames like Jacob and Ben are called Bambi Junior and Bambi Senior, because they keep falling over!

In week 1 we were on the small slope, learning how to position ourselves and stop. In week 2 we were up on to a slope twice as high and, as you can imagine, the Bambis fell over! We learnt how to turn (which was eventful) and how to use the ski lift. In week 3 we went on to an even bigger slope and learnt how to turn on that. It was scary for everyone. In week 4 we all went to the same slope to start, but as it went on, some got higher and higher - up to two thirds of the way up!!

I really look forward to going to the top of the big slope and progressing more and I hope other people will get this opportunity. It is **AMAZING!!!!**

*Josh Harrop, 8MM*

## Pupil Voice

The school council have been helping the first schools by doing Pupil Voice events. These are creative days where the younger children visit WMMS to learn about leadership skills, playground games and much more.

Our most recent one was on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February when the children spent the day making up their own games and playing them as a group. We led a couple of 'ice breaking' games such as the human knot (where you must untangle yourself from the others and end up in a circle), and the hoop challenge. Afterwards some of the children took part in workshops with the Year 5 and 6 school council members, deciding what makes a good leader. The remaining children invented some very creative and unusual games with our Year 7 and 8s. Finally they made A3 posters to explain what they had learnt through the day.



The event was fun and exciting and many of the children took ideas back to their own schools to develop further.

*Jasmine Milsom, 7MM*

## Year 3 Carnival workshops at WMMS

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February we welcomed Year 3 pupils from Oakhurst, St Ives, Three Legged Cross and St Marys First Schools to our Carnival Celebration Events. This was part of the First Schools' Enrichment week and the children had a fantastic time, as you can see from the photos below.



Activities included dancing in a carnival procession to authentic Caribbean music with a specialist dance teacher, and cooking in the Food Technology area where they made smoothies, cooked bananas and honey and tasted coconut and pineapple cake. The First School

children (and teachers) joined in extremely enthusiastically and received certificates after they had "limboed" under the ever lowering bar!

We would like to thank all four schools for participating with such joy and also DEED



(Dorset's Global Education Centre, currently based at WMMS) for providing costumes, an amazing display of Carnival headdresses and outfits and for leading the cooking with staff from WMMS.  
*Mrs S. Gould*  
*Assistant Headteacher*



## East Dorset School Rowing Final at Ferndown Upper School

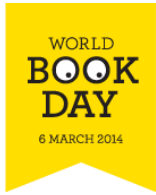
Mr Malone took four girls and boys from Year 7 to represent West Moors Middle at the East Dorset School Rowing Finals at Ferndown Upper School on Tuesday 11th February 2014.



The boy's team rowed first and all did brilliantly coming third overall in the competition. The girls then set out to beat the boys target and did so with the help of Sam Stainer, who won the girls gold medal with a total distance of 482 meters in two minutes. All 4 girls rowed their best, achieving an amazing first place, and they will now go on to represent East Dorset at the School Games Finals. Sam will go on further to row at the National Indoor Rowing Championships in London.

A big well done to all that took part.  
*Mr M. Malone*  
*Head of PE*

## World Book Day



West Moors Middle will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March this year. The WHOLE school will be involved, including members of staff!

We would love everyone to come in dressed as a literary hero or villain. Here are some ideas to inspire you:

**Heroes** - Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, Percy Jackson, Sherlock Holmes, Katniss Everdeen (*The Hunger Games*), Matilda, Peter Pan, Bilbo Baggins (*The Hobbit*), Robin Hood, Aslan (*Narnia series*).

**Villains** - Lord Voldemort (*Harry Potter*), Captain Hook (*Peter Pan*), Count Olaf (*A Series of Unfortunate Events*), Professor Moriarty (*Sherlock Homes*), Sauron (*Lord of the Rings*), Wicked Witch of the West (*Wizard of Oz*), Severus Snape (*Harry Potter*), Cruella de Vil, White Witch (*Narnia series*), Joker (*Batman*), Agatha Trunchbull (*Matilda*).

Costumes can be as elaborate as school life will allow or as simple as having your face painted. Please note that P.E. kits must be worn underneath and the normal school time table will continue throughout the day.

We will be collecting a non-uniform donation of £1.00 from each pupil who dresses up, with which we hope to get the latest top ten titles for the library.

*Ms Ward*

*School Librarian*

### Individual Certificates

Pupils gain a Bronze Certificate when they achieve 50 Lizard Points, a Silver Certificate for 100 Lizard Points and a Gold Certificate when they reach 150 Lizard Points.

This term we have presented certificates to the following children:

#### **Bronze:**

Teagan Braithwaite

Olivia Caballero

Finlay Gerchen

Nathan Parry

Abigail Williams

Courtney Brewer

Aaron Coombes

Harriet James

Casie Shrubb

Cameron Wright

Sophie Bryant

Holly Fulker

Matthew Metcalf-Brown

Hollie Thompson

Kirsty Zeineh

#### **Silver:**

Emily Collins

Well done to you all.

## House Points Totals

<b>Gecko</b>	<b>Iguana</b>	<b>Komodo</b>	<b>Sand</b>
<b>1606</b>	<b>1466</b>	<b>1340</b>	<b>1475</b>

## Reminders

Please note that the second instalment for payment of trips will be due on **24<sup>th</sup> February**. If you have not yet paid your first instalment, please contact the school office on 01202 872474 as soon as possible. If you have any queries about the amount due or payment options, please speak to Mrs Elsbury in the finance department.

## School Calendar 2013

Date	Event
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Students return to school
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 7 and 8 – War Horse Theatre trip
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	SATS Information Evening – Year 6 parents
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 trip – Intech Winchester
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Football tournament
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Football tournament (reserve)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 5 trip – Bovington Tank Museum
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7 Red – Moors Valley Park – orienteering
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7 Blue – Moors Valley Park – orienteering.
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Disco – date to be confirmed
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	House Day (pupils to wear t-shirts in their house colour)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Term reports issued
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for Easter – students in school
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Students return to school
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 8 exam week
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term – students in school
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Students return to school

\*Please note: there are times when we are offered opportunities at the 'last minute' which means we are unable to give parents a lot of notice. There may, therefore, be additional events that take place which are not detailed above.