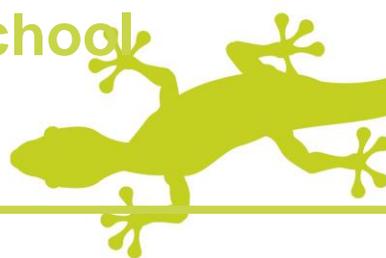


THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

February, 2018



Messages from the Head Teacher, Mr J Rielly

This half term, we have been thinking about our school values of *thoughtfulness* and *understanding* and I am pleased to say that I have had many pupil nominations for demonstrating these attributes around school. For example, many of our pupils have made newly arrived pupils in Year 5 and Year 8 feel welcomed which is exactly what I would expect. Some other examples include:

- *“Thomas Waldeck is a really thoughtful and understanding person.”*
- *“Jessica Lamb is very thoughtful and if I’m upset, she always understands what I am saying.”*
- *“Marc Collins is always kind and chats to me when I’m sad”*
- *“Destiny Cullum cleared up the mess in my lab without being asked.”*

This week sees schools around the country mark internet safety day, which we have focused on during our final assembly of term. However, I would strongly advise that all parents use the excellent resources available on the UK Safer Internet Centre website (<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>)

We have arranged a Parents’ Internet Safety Awareness event on Thursday 8th March between 3:30pm and 4:30pm. Parents are warmly invited to attend and receive up-to-date advice on how to safeguard your child’s online activity.

Preparation for the year 6 national tests is well and truly underway. Our SATs information evening is on Tuesday 20th February at 6pm and all are welcome. You will also find out more information about these important tests by reading a letter sent out in January, available on the letters page of our school website.

Whole school attendance is up by 2% compared with this time last year which is good news. Furthermore, 96 pupils have achieved 100% attendance for this term so far - well done. During these first 6 weeks of the year, 5CB achieved the highest attendance overall at an average of 98%, so they have earned a mufti day after half term. In addition, the following pupils retain their 100% attendance record since the start of the school year – inspirational.

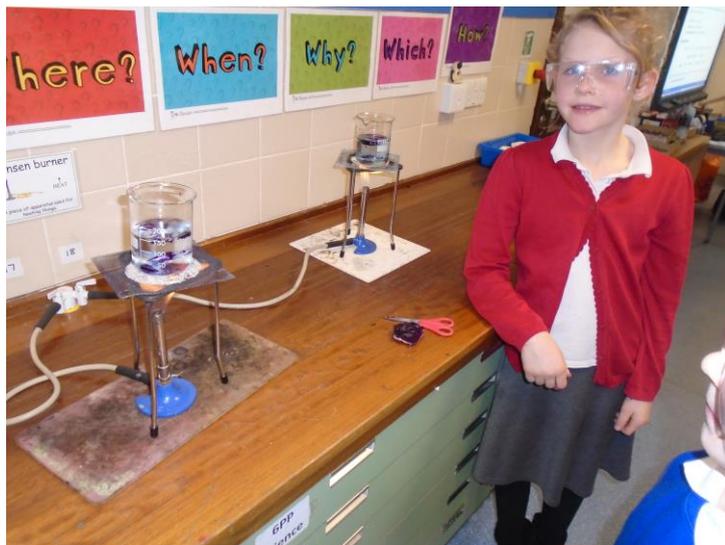
Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Lillie Jackson	Eleanor Bedford	Amy Entwistle	Danielle Teed
Sophia Mawson	Toby Caney	Sophie Cox	Aimie Lomax
Leo Melrose	Harrison Chafik	Rebecca Howard	Jack Webster
Cayden Wareham-Mewse	Lucy Lomax	Mark Hunter	Gabrielle Cabellero
Peter Nash	Ruby Morris	James Nawavuka	Ashleigh Chew
Matthew Thomas	Luke Hodgson		Marc Collins
Alfie Turner	Alyssa Mist		Tiago Rola
Henry Wilks	Rosie Teed		Harvey Sears
	Charlotte Webster		Kieran Tomlin
			Lauren Pigott

Science Wow Day for First Schools

Year 4 solve mysteries during science morning

Year 4 students from Oakhurst, St. Marys and 3 Legged Cross spent the morning with some WMMS year 8 students and together they investigated a range of mysteries which they solved using scientific processes. The students carried out chromatography, made and tested their own indicator as well as changing the flame colour of the Bunsen burner. Thank you to our year 8 helpers for making the morning run smoothly and helping to teach the younger year 4s scientific investigative skills.

Mrs Phillips



Homework club



Would you like some help with your homework? Do you struggle to get yourself organised and forget to do it? Then come along to homework club. The club will run every Thursday after school until 4:30pm. All year groups welcome. *Miss Smith*

Eco club

Haskins Garden Centre invited to give presentation on houseplants at West Moors Middle School's Eco Club

Haskins Garden Centre in Ferndown has partnered with West Moors Middle School to spread awareness of the benefits of houseplants at the school's Eco Club.

On Wednesday January 24, Haskins' in-house plant expert, Alasdair Urquhart, gave a presentation on houseplants at the school's Eco Club. The presentation highlighted that adding houseplants to a room is a simple yet effective way to boost physical and mental wellbeing.

The Eco Club runs weekly, for a mix of all school years, to encourage children to learn more about gardening and eco-friendly initiatives. Children that attend the club are shown how to tend to the school gardens, learn how to plant bulbs and are encouraged to grow fruit or vegetables at home.

The garden centre also donated a range of houseplants to breathe life into West Moors Middle School's library. The houseplants, which include a Boston Fern and a Peace Lily, will help to purify the air and eliminate any volatile organic compounds.

Alasdair Urquhart, in-house plant expert at Haskins, said: "It was a real pleasure to be invited to give a presentation to these children, who had bright, inquisitive minds. We hope the plants we donated will be enjoyed and improve their study environment."

Lucy Smith, inclusion lead at West Moors Middle School, said: "The children love Eco Club and look forward to it each week. Having Haskins there to do a presentation on healthy houseplants really ignited their interest, leading to the most engaging question and answer session we've had in a while!"

Studies show that humans are generally happier and feel less stressed when surrounded by a plant. Schools can be full of airborne pollutants, with carpets, paint and even people harbouring toxins - especially in the winter months, when windows are closed to the cold air outside and central heating is ramped up indoors. As well as cleaning the air, plants have been proven to reduce anxiety and brighten moods.



Sporting Fixtures This Half Term

It's been a busy term for sporting fixtures with lots of opportunities to take part.

Years 5&6 Swimming Gala	Canford Leisure Centre	17 th January
Dorset Schools Cross County Championships	Kings Park	18 th January
Sports hall Athletics Festival	Ferndown Upper School	24 th January
Girls Football		29 th January
Year 6 Netball	Allenbourn Middle School	1 st February
Years 7&8 Rowing	Canford School	2 nd February



Year 7&8 Rowing



Year 6 Netball

Years 5 & 6 Boys Football



Years 5 & 6 GirlsFootball

Friends of West Moors Middle School (formerly PTFA)

Friends of West Moors Middle School goes from strength to strength, organising events such as the Summer Fayre, Christmas Fayre and the Bingo night. All the money raised goes towards enriching our pupils' experiences at school.

If you would like to join this fun and friendly committee or become a helper, please contact the school.

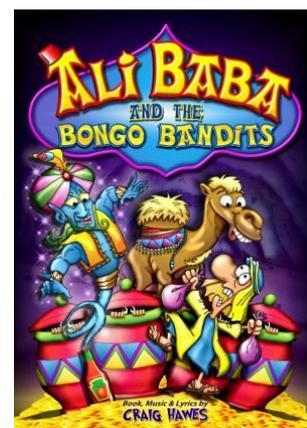
Dates for your diary:

Friday 23 rd March	Bingo night
Friday 15 th June	Summer Fayre
Friday 30 th November	Christmas Fayre

Summer Production

I am pleased to announce that our summer production this year will be 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits'! It will be performed on the evenings of Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th July and promises to be a really fun show! Auditions will be after school on Thursday 15th March and a letter will be sent out about this after half term.

Mrs H Watkins



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our kitchen staff who received the top Food Hygiene Level 5 Rating. Well done!



We held a Christmas Jumper day on 15th December in support of 'Save the Children' and raised £138.60. Thank you for all those that took part and donated.

JET (John Egging Trust)

On Wednesday 7th February we were lucky enough to have the Jon Egging Trust visit us and do an assembly. Kaye Jackson, the Dorset Youth Liaison Officer, spoke to the whole school about some exciting opportunities coming up involving 15 of our Y8 students. In addition to Kaye we had Spike Jepson - 'Red 1', Red Arrow pilot, share with us his journey with the RAF Red Arrows and showed some amazing cockpit footage of them flying in formation. Spike spoke to our students about what skills it takes to 'be the best you can be' and these linked to our school values.



We are very much looking forward to working closely with 'JET' next term.

School Calendar 2017-18

Date	Event
Monday 19 th February	Students return to school
Tuesday 20 th February	SATs Information Evening 6.00pm
Thursday 8 th March	Parents E-Safety afternoon 3.30pm
Thursday 22 nd March	Spring Term reports issued
Thursday 29 th March	Break up for Easter – students in school
Monday 16 th April	Start of term – students in school
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 14 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Friday 25 th May	Break up for half term – students in school
Monday 4 th June	Start of term – students in school. Yr8 Assessments GL Tests
Thursday 7 th June	Whole School Theatre Trip to the Mayflower 'Warhorse'

*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.