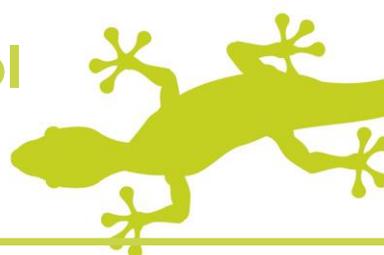


THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

Autumn Term October 2017



Messages from the Headteacher, Mr J Rielly

Our values

This week sees us mark World Values Day (19th October 2017). Fittingly, the values we have been thinking about this first half term are friendship and kindness. I have asked pupils to nominate pupils who demonstrate these values and I have been inundated with suggestions. Here are some examples:

A nomination for **Jack** – *he always helps me to cross the road*

A nomination for **Baylee** – *she has stuck by me and accepted all my friends*

A nomination for **Jessica** – *she always makes me smile*

A nomination for **Frankie** – *he holds the door open for people*

A nomination for **Tyler** – *he holds my crutches for me*



The school has more pupils (209) on roll than in recent years and there have been around 60 new pupils who joined us in September. I have been very impressed with all of these pupils, but particularly those that have joined from non-catchment schools; they seem to have settled, establishing new routines and making friends. Well done.

New ways of working for the office team

I recently met with my admin team to discuss how we can work more efficiently whilst still ensuring that we offer the very best levels of support, care and guidance for pupils and parents. Please take note of the following changes:

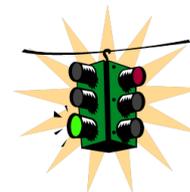
Area of changes	Detail
Use of planner for messages	Please could parents use their child's planners to inform the school of permission to attend clubs? We will no longer make phone calls home to ask for permission.
Copies of letters	Please be sure to check the website regularly to see copies of letters which will be uploaded there. We will no longer provide 2 nd printed copies of any letter. NB some letters are also sent via parent mail. Please contact the office if you would like to be included in the parent mail system.
Cancellation of clubs	Please ensure that if your child attends a club, we have a mobile phone number which will be regularly checked, so that we can quickly

	notify you of any last minute changes.
Daily absence contacts	We have a statutory responsibility to make phone contact with parents on each new day of absence, unless information had already been received.
Reports	We will no longer post termly reports home. However, we are exploring sending more reports via email. Please make sure that you provide the school with a regularly checked email address. All pupils will be given a copy of their report in a sealed envelope and a sticker will be placed in their planner on the day the reports are issued.
Missing homework and equipment	We will no longer phone home for pupils if they have not remembered homework or equipment for lessons. We will phone home for forgotten lunches.

Attendance

I have also been emphasising the importance of attendance. Our whole school target is 96% attendance, but we are also using this helpful diagram to help everyone to understand our ambitions:

Red	Attendance is 90% or less
Amber	Attendance is 90% - 95%
Green	Attendance is 96+



However, it is important to recognise improvements and a most improved attendance certificate has been awarded this term to: **Helen Cash**. For commitment to his attendance this term, a certificate has been awarded to **Cameron Whitley**.

Persistent Absence

School-age pupils are persistent absentees if they miss more than 10% of their possible sessions in a school year. Parents are advised that penalty notices can be issued if your child does not attend school regularly or punctually.

"If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly at a school at which they are registered, or at a place where alternative provision is provided for them, the parents may be guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted by the local authority." DfE 2015

Term Time Holiday – Penalty Notices

Holidays during term time will not be authorised by the school. If your child is removed from school for the purpose of a holiday, a penalty notice will be considered.

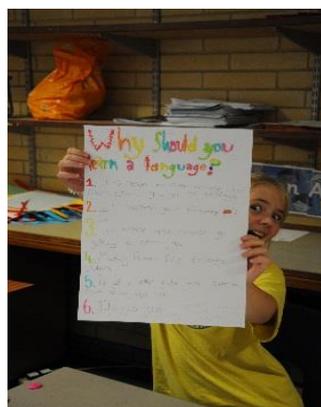
Parents are advised that, in accordance with The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, as amended, a Penalty Notice can be issued in certain circumstances, for example where a parent takes a child on holiday during term time without the school authorising the absence.

'The authorised person may issue a Penalty Notice without first issuing a formal warning to the parent as would otherwise be required. Any Penalty notice issued will be addressed to one parent but a Penalty Notice may be issued to each parent liable for the offence or offences.'



European Day of Languages

On Tuesday 26th September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages. Pupils had the opportunity to celebrate the 6000± languages spoken around the world by wearing coloured t-shirts to represent different European countries. We also welcomed Slovakian, Spanish, French, German and Italian students from Ferndown Upper School who showed off their language skills in assembly, giving the pupils an excellent opportunity to practise their listening skills. The students helped out throughout the day and our pupils even learnt a few phrases which are still being used in language lessons now! Throughout the day, students took part in various activities which included a world quiz, persuasive writing task in English and a competition to try and win up to 15 printed t-shirts for their friends and family. Winners will be announced in the New Year.



Book Fair

The travelling book fair will be coming to school w/b 27th November. Books will be on sale from Tuesday 28th November during both breaks and lunchtimes. There will also be some stationary, rubbers, pencils etc. on sale at this time.



Operation Skylarks

Just a reminder that, if you would like to take part in the first Skylarks project, your poems inspired by nature (e.g. particular seasons, weather, animals or birds) should be sent by email to skylarks@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk by the end of November.

Mrs C Watkins

Remembrance Day

Poppies and wrist bands will be on sale in school for the British Legion after half term. The Headteacher and members of the Student Council will be representing the school at the Remembrance Day Service in West Moors on Sunday 12th November.



Senior Lunches

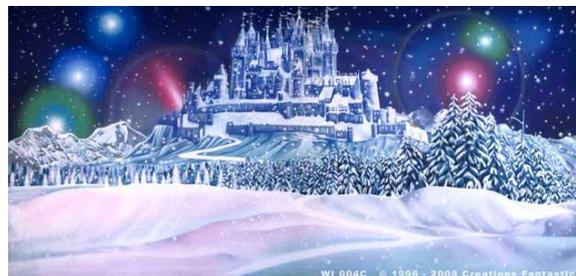
Senior lunches continue to be held on a weekly basis. We are delighted that seniors from our local community join us for lunch each Tuesday and are very proud of our Year 7 and 8 students, who help in meeting and greeting, serving and organising these lunches.

This forms part of their Citizenship curriculum and also allows for the different generations to mix.



The Christmas Concert – ‘Winter Wonderland’

This year our school Christmas concert is themed around songs about snow but will also include more traditional songs and other musical items. The auditions have now taken place so put the date of Friday 8th December in your diary and come along and watch!



Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 12th December 2017. 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 £3.75 and booking forms will be going out nearer the time.

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 25 shoe boxes, so this year we are aiming for even more. Leaflets detailing how to join in have been given to the pupils and we will have an assembly during this term 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 15th 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.



Safety notice

In the interest of pupil safety, we would like to politely remind all parents and carers that pupils being brought to school by car should be dropped off on Heathfield Way rather than within the school grounds. We are getting increasingly concerned by the volume of traffic before and after school. The only exception to this rule should be for parents with parking permits.

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 – Heart FM 102.3fm/Radio Solent 96.1fm
- The council's website – <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>

Calendar

Date	Event
Monday 30 th October	Pupils return to school
Friday 17 th November	Year 4 Maths Day
Friday 24 th November	Yr 5 Parents attending assembly and lesson 1 (by appointment only)
Friday 24 th November	PTFA Christmas Fayre
Tuesday 28 th November- Friday 1 st December	Travelling Book Fayre comes to school
Friday 1 st December	Yr 6 Paulton Park Science Trip
Tuesday 5 th December	Year 7 London Museum Trip
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Concert 'Winter Wonderland' 6pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Last day of term

Please visit our website on www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk for a more detailed calendar.

Office Reminders

- Please can we remind parents that medical appointments for your child should, where possible, be made outside of school hours.
- If your child is absent from school, please don't forget to contact the School Office on 01202 872474 before 9am when the registers close. We would ask you to call us each day that your child is absent. We are having to chase a large number of pupil absences at the moment and if we do not have a valid reason for your child to not be in school, they will be recorded as having an unauthorised absence. Thank you.
- Please note that the school office is open 8.30am – 4.00pm. Messages can be left on the answer machine when the office is closed.



*Christmas
Special
Menu*

12th December 2017

*Roast turkey, with stuffing,
chipolata, roast potatoes,
carrots and peas.*

With

Jelly or mince pie and cream

And

Cup of squash

£3.75

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