

THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

Christmas, 2015



Message from the Head, Mr J Rielly

The underlying theme of recent weeks has been **increased pupil involvement** in school life. I am pleased that tutor groups have elected members of the school council, who now meet every week. One of their first responsibilities was to lead the school assemblies during Anti-Bullying Week. Two members of the council also attended a Dorset Conference on this important issue. Indeed, this visit inspired the search for Peer Supporters (see below).

The school council were also instrumental in asking for a **revised rewards system**. As a result, we have launched pupil points to run alongside lizard points. Pupil points provide extra acknowledgement for those landmark moments in the progress made during a pupil's time with us. Lizard points reward the day-to-day achievements in all aspects of school life - well over 2500 lizard points have been acquired so far!

I am also delighted that, following a recommendation from the school council, we have introduced **Peer Supporters** to our school. Pupils from all year groups volunteered to do this very worthwhile role and were given training by a specialist teacher. Their main role is to be another point of contact for pupils, so that they can get support when they are experiencing friendship problems. They are a visible presence because of the bright yellow badges that they are wearing. It is only three weeks since their training and our Peer Supporters are already experiencing 'active service'.



Finally, I have been very proud that our pupils have been involved in events in the village of West Moors. As well as honouring Remembrance Day (more later), four pupils were chosen to read bible extracts during the 'Carols on the Petwyn' event. What a courageous thing to do in front of so many people – pupil point worthy indeed! Many year 5 and 6 pupils also made decorations to hang on our school's entry at the Christmas Tree Festival at the United Reformed Church. Each handmade decoration was labelled with one of our newly identified values. Fittingly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a

prosperous New Year.

Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Sunday representatives from the School Council accompanied myself & Mr Long (Governor) to the service in West Moors Village. I was very proud of how the students conducted themselves and of their desire to represent the school at this important occasion.

Well done to all of those who took part.



Year 4 Maths Day at WMMS

On Friday 20th November we held an amazing maths day in the school hall. We welcomed nearly 100 Year 4 children from Oakhurst, Three Legged Cross, St Ives, St Marys First School and some pupils from Hillside First and all of their Year 4 staff. The day was run by Angela Gould from BMAM (Building Motivation and Attainment in Mathematics) and was action packed with paper folding, bingo and team quizzes.



Our Year 8 students were a real credit to the school, helping all day as chaperones, furniture removers and of course as mathematics advisors.

Mrs S Gould, Assistant Head

Christmas Choir

This year several pupils formed a small Christmas Choir to sing at a couple of events. We performed at the School Christmas Fayre and then again at the West Moors Lunch Club where we entertained the seniors who also joined in with the traditional carols. We also then repeated our performance for the lunch club at our school. Well done to all the pupils who joined in and thank you for your hard work rehearsing.



Christmas Production

Our Christmas production of 'Panto Pandemonium' was much enjoyed by both the cast and audience. The pupils did 4 performances to the school, first school children, seniors and parents, who all joined in with much booing and hissing! They worked

extremely hard to learn all their lines and songs and it all came together in a wonderful performance. I am so proud of all the children that took part and am also very grateful to the staff for their help and support.

Mrs H Watkins



PTFA

The PTFA have had another very successful year. We held our Christmas Fayre which was earlier this year but as it happened we had a bigger turnout than last year. We raised in excess of £1000 which is some £200 up on last year.

We have recently purchased goods for departments of the school which had put in a request for the PTFA to help them

We have supplied the English department with new dictionarys/Thesaurus, the Humanities department with new Atlases, and the Maths dept. with folders and colouring pencils. The science department had some new microscopes and we have contributed to the music department who required microphones.

We will be holding the AGM early in the New Year,so if any interested readers would like to join us you will be more than welcome.

Many thanks for all your support over the last year and a very Happy Christmas to you all
Helen Wakeford

Shoebox Appeal



If you have taken part this year we would like to say thank you for participating in this exciting campaign. Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts bring great joy to the children that receive them. Our shoe boxes will be finding their way to children in need in Africa, Central Asia or Eastern Europe.

Mrs Phillips

Emergency Closures

We will of course endeavour to keep the school open but should weather conditions (or other unforeseen circumstances) force the closure of the school, we will inform parents through:

- The school's website – 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>



Calendar

| Date | Event |
|--|---|
| Tuesday 5th January | Students return to school |
| Monday 11th January | Parent's Evening to meet with subject teachers 3.50-6.45pm |
| Wednesday 13th January | Parent's Evening to meet with subject teachers 3.50-6.45pm |
| Tuesday 9th February | Disco |
| Friday 12 th February | Break up for half term – students in school – non uniform |

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:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Sienna Fry | George Grocock | Luke Hewitt | Ruby Nicholson |
| Jake Smith | Jess Stainer | Lani Stothard | Landon-John Webster |
| Skye Wingate | Sophie Burrows | Sophie Cox | Brandon Cronk |
| Felix Doran | Mark Hunter | Rhiannon Hutton | Coral Laws |
| Abbie Miles | Holly Berridge | Megan Collins | Katie Dixon |
| Sasha Ford | Jamie Hosking | Hardee Vermaak | |

Silver:

George Grocock
Skye Wingate

Lizard Trophy Winners

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Year 5: Cariss Doyle | Cameron Yau |
| Year 6: Jasmine Smith | Sebastian Singh |
| Year 7: Abigail Williams | Junior Tamanitoakula |
| Year 8: Bradley Smith | Teagan Braithwaite |



House Points Totals

| Gecko | Iguana | Komodo | Sand |
|-------|--------|--------|------|
| 1341 | 1245 | 1310 | 1229 |



MERRY CHRISTMAS

