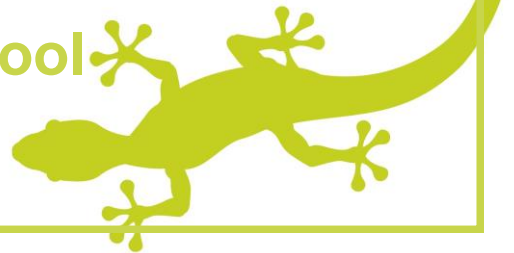


THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

May, 2015



Message from the Head Teacher, Mrs C. Pritchard

We have reached the end of another jam-packed half term and time, as always, has flown by. This half term, however, was particularly busy, with visitors from our link school in France, a visit from Ofsted and exams in all year groups.

As you are aware, we had our Ofsted inspection on 23rd and 24th April. Since then, we have been waiting for our final report to arrive so that we can share the result with you. Unfortunately, we are still not in a position to do so as, despite me chasing (!), we have been informed that Ofsted are very busy at present and are working through a back-log of reports which need 'quality assurance.' So, we will continue to wait patiently for the report to be returned, but will publish as soon as we receive it. I can only say that we are very keen for parents and students to see what Ofsted thought of our school.

Speaking of the inspection, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff, who have worked incredibly hard over the past two years to ensure that our students have attained great results and are happy in school – which was borne out during the two days that the inspectors were with us. I would also like to say an enormous, "Thank you and well done!" to the students who made us extremely proud, as always. I have included below some of the verbal comments made by the inspectors about the students of West Moors Middle:

"We have seen consistently positive attitudes. The students respond quickly to staff instructions and requests. They are happy and well mannered. They get on well together and are extremely positive about the school."

"There are very strong relationships between staff and pupils. Pupils feel safe to take risks in lessons and be wrong. We have seen no low level disruption."

“Students are clear about actions to prevent bullying and individuals have spoken about how the school has supported them in times of difficulty. The children are clear that bullying gets dealt with. The children could talk about what they can do to prevent bullying and keep themselves safe. Any student spoken to about bullying said that the school does something about it. They said that the school looks at why it happens and tries to prevent it.”

“The conduct and behaviour and behaviour for learning is very positive. The students have very good routines. They are delightful – they have excellent manners and I wish I could take some of them with me!”

“The attitude of the students in the whole school is very good. They are very well drilled in routines, getting on and doing stuff. They are very compliant with expectations and have high expectations of themselves. Behaviour is seamless. The students are very positive in their attitudes. They don't misbehave. They are not shy and not afraid to start a conversation.”

“The Year 8 students say they are one big family.”

As you can see, the inspectors were, quite rightly, very complimentary about our students. Again, I am looking forward to publishing the written report, so that parents and students are able to see what the team thought of the whole school!

September:

As stated in the letter sent by the Chair of Governors a couple of weeks ago, I have been offered the headship at Allenbourn Middle School from September this year. While I am choosing to face a new challenge, I am extremely sad to be leaving West Moors, which has been such a huge part of my life for the past five years. I could not have wished for a more fantastic group of students, staff and parents to work with as you all have been.

However, I am absolutely delighted to be able to confirm that we have been successful in securing Mr James Reilly to take over as Headteacher of West Moors Middle School from September 2015. Mr Reilly is currently Acting Headteacher of Allenbourn Middle School and is an extremely capable and experienced leader. Over the past two years, West Moors has worked closely with Allenbourn in terms of staff training and support. Thus, Mr Reilly is already very familiar with our school and has been over to work with staff several times.



I am equally pleased to confirm that Mr Dover will remain at West Moors next year, continuing his work in developing excellence in teaching and learning. I am certain that, working alongside the rest of the staff, Mr Reilly, Mrs Gould and Mr Dover will continue to take the school from strength to strength.

In this newsletter we must also say goodbye and thank you to Mr Witton. Before Easter, Mr Witton secured a job in banking, with J.P. Morgan. This is a sad loss to the teaching profession, but I wish Mr Witton the best of luck in his new career and am sure he will be extremely successful. I also hope that this change of path enables him to spend quality time with his family, especially the new addition when s/he arrives.

After half term, Mrs Hanwell, who currently teaches music in KS3, will be taking Year 7, 8 and 6MW for French. I am very pleased that Mrs Hanwell has recently become available to teach more days and so will be with us for three days a week. She is well qualified to teach languages and so, after an unsettled period in this subject, I'm sure students will enjoy their lessons and make good progress. Mrs Cook will also remain with us after half term, taking some of Mr Witton's classes and accompanying the students to their swimming lessons. I am also hopeful that Mr Malone, following his recent operation, will return after the holidays and wish him a speedy recovery.

Finally, I hope you all have a fantastic half term break and look forward to seeing you in June!

Swimming:

Please note, due to changes in the timetable, we have had to alter the days on which the students go swimming. After half term this will be as follows:

Tuesday – 6CW

Wednesday – Year 5

Friday – 6MW

Please ensure your son/daughter has appropriate kit, towel, etc and that, if they need an inhaler, this is available for them to take with them. Many thanks.

Marble Run Challenge

Our Year 7's have recently been involved with a Design and Make Challenge which involved designing and making a 'roller coaster' for marbles. Students spent the whole day working in small teams in order to produce the best run. Points were awarded for innovative designs, the number of twists and loops and the construction and overall success of their structure. The day was a great success, I was so pleased to see that all of our students were fully involved and having fun. Miss Clark



Marie Curie

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped us raise money for this worthwhile charity. We have all managed to raise the amazing sum of **£341.50**.



Thank you!

The Governing Body are looking for an enthusiastic, committed volunteer to join us as a Parent Governor. If you would like to help shape the future of your child's school, and can attend regular half-termly meetings, we would love to hear from you.

No previous experience necessary as training and support will be given, but an interest in education and the 'business side' of school would be an advantage.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact the School Office for details.

French Visit

On Tuesday 14th April, West Moors Middle played host to our school's French pen pals, who arrived in the morning to meet and chat with their partners, before being given a tour of the school, followed by games in the hall and a picnic lunch. After this, they were challenged to a football match to compete for the Coupe de l'Amitié, which West Moors succeeded in retaining for the fourth year running. On the Thursday evening, the year 7s and 8s, as well as the French students, were all invited back to school for an extremely enjoyable disco.



'Phil' the Bag



Thank you to everyone who supported us with 'Phil' the Bag' campaign, we collected 485kg of unwanted textiles and raised £194.00 for our school!

We are now collecting again any clean, dry, unwanted clothing, textiles, bedding etc. Please send your items into school. 'Phil' the Bag bags can be collected from the front office or ask your child to collect one from Mrs Phillips in the Science department. Alternatively you can send items into school in a black bin bag. Thank you for your support, we are hoping to beat our previous record!

African Day

Tuesday 5th May was Africa day for the Year 5s. In the morning, the Year 5s were learning about Ghana and how clothes, school, home life and the environment differ from our own country. After breaktime the pupils were introduced to Cheikh, the African drumming teacher, who taught 5CB and 5BM loud and catchy rhythms on the drums. An outside dance teacher, Lucy Hayter, also included an African dancing activity where the pupils were allowed to dance to the drumming half of the class made.

Comments:

Tyler said 'We went to the hall to learn African drumming. We learnt base, tone and slap sounds on the djembe drums. This was my favourite part of Africa day'.

Melek said: 'We learnt to play the djembe drum. Cheikh taught us how to play really good rhythms. The dance teacher then taught us African dancing. It was really fun'.

Malachi said: 'We practised main rhythms with Cheikh the drumming teacher. We learned rhythms with the slap and base sound. It was fun and we all enjoyed it'.

On Thursday 7th May, we continued our Africa day where pupils learnt about the traditional cloth of Ghana, which is called an Adinkra cloth. The pupils were then asked to design their own symbol which represented something personal to them. All pupils then created their own stamp to make one big year 5 Adinkra cloth. This will be on display soon in the school.

Megan said 'On Thursday we made stamps for the Adinkra cloths. I enjoyed stamping my symbol onto the fabric'.

Montanna said 'My favourite part of Africa day was putting the stamps on cloths because we made our own symbol to put on the Year 5 Adinkra cloth, which will go on display'.

Harrison said 'The designing of the stamps was my favourite part because I like drawing. My second favourite part was stamping my design on to the fabric'.

Mia said 'I had so much fun on both the Africa days'.



Ferndown Upper School



The current Headteacher, Mr Alex Wills, has decided to retire this summer after twelve successful years in charge at Ferndown Upper School.

The post was recently advertised and attracted a strong field of candidates from around the country who were interested in this prestigious position. After an extensive assessment and selection process involving students, staff and parents the governors reached the unanimous decision that the outstanding candidate was Mr Philip Jones. Governors were particularly impressed with Philip's clear vision for the future of Ferndown Upper School and his engaging and enthusiastic manner.

Philip, who is aged 44, is currently the Senior Deputy Headteacher at the Sponne School in Towcester, Northamptonshire where he has a very successful track record in securing excellent outcomes for students. He was educated at the Napier University of Edinburgh and Herriot Watt University and has extensive teaching experience in business, economics and ICT as well as experience in school leadership.

Philip is delighted to have secured the post at Ferndown Upper School and will be moving to Dorset with his wife Sara and their three young children who are aged 5, 6 and 8 – Jack, Harry and Olivia. Philip is a rugby enthusiast and coach and still plays the occasional game himself. Having spent several days at Ferndown Upper School, Philip is convinced that it is a very good school with outstanding prospects for the future. He is looking forward to the move and we look forward to welcoming him to Ferndown. He will be taking up his new post at the start of the next academic year - 1st September 2015.

David Moss
Chair of Governors Ferndown Upper School

Science

We have been extremely busy in Science doing lots of different practical experiments linked to the topics we have been learning. Here are just a few of the things we have been up to:



Forces – Timing how long different sized parachutes took to fall to the ground.



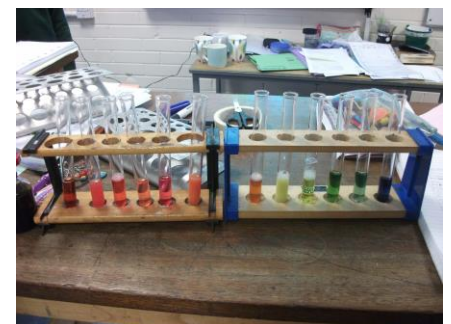
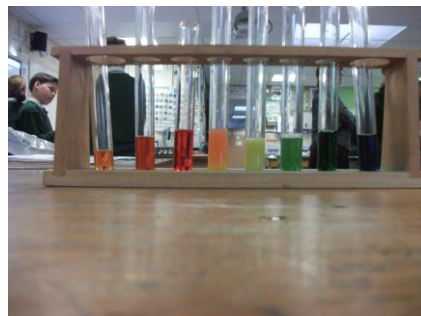
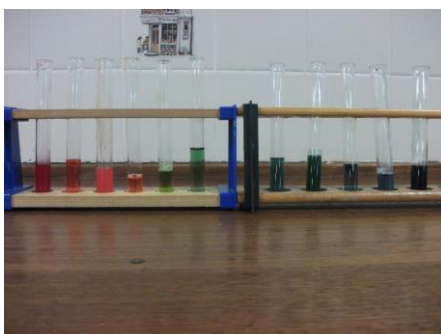
Electricity – The challenge was to build a model lighthouse with a working light & fog horn using our electricity circuit boards, bulbs, buzzers & switches.



Acids & Alkalis – Making Sherbet. Some pupils made theirs a little bit too sour!



Acids & Alkalis – Making Rainbows. By testing different solutions to see what strength acid or alkali they were, pupils were challenged to recreate a pH scale from strong acid through neutral to a strong alkali, creating a rainbow in test tubes!



School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2015/16

Autumn Term:

Term starts for students on Thursday 3rd September
Term ends on Thursday 22nd October

Term starts for students on Monday 2nd November
Term ends on Friday 18th December

Inset Days – 1st and 2nd September and Friday 23rd October

Spring Term

Term starts for students on Tuesday 5th January
Term ends on Friday 12th February

Term starts for students on Monday 22nd February
Term ends on Thursday 24th March

Inset Days – 4th January

Summer Term*

Term starts for students on Monday 11th April
Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May. School closed
Term ends on Friday 27th May

Term starts for students on Tuesday 7th June
Term ends on Wednesday 20th July

Inset Days Monday 6th June

*Please note: SATS exams for Year 6 will take place the week commencing Monday 9th May 2016.

Crash My Kitchen Format

Crash my Kitchen is a new and exciting online mini-series that will change the way families eat and give them the chance to taste and learn about food from across the world from the comfort of their own home. We are looking for 8 – 13 year olds and their families to take part. A mystery chef heads to their home to crash their kitchen for the day!

Anyone who wants to apply should head to:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/cbbc-dish-up-be-on-a-show>

Many thanks in advance! **Amy Hargreaves**
Producer/Director - CBBC Interactive

Individual Certificates for Lizard Points (Silver 50 Points, Gold 100 Points)

Silver:

Gabrielle Caballero	Megan Collins	Marc Collins
Tyler Mawson	Louise Lacey	Kirsty Zeinah
Sophie Bryant	Emily Collins	Lucy Marsh
Amelie Gastaldi	Amy Cole	Holly Fulker
Katy Terry	Ashleigh Chew	Jamie Hosking
Evie Marshall	Aiden Hover	Kirsty Pollington
Hollie Thompson		

Gold:

Aimie Lomax	Owen Edmonds
Isabella Ashcroft	Abi Wingate
Abigail Williams	Jack Watson
Marshall Smith	Charlie Kelly
Danielle Teed	Owen Hopwood

24 Pupils were also given Headteacher Certificates in recognition of their help with Senior Lunches.

Dates to remember

Date	Event
Monday 1 st June	Students return to school
Tuesday 2 nd June – Friday 5 th June	Year 5 and 7 exams all week
Tuesday 9 th and 10 th June	Year 6 Blashford Lakes Trip
Friday 12 th June	SUMMER FAYRE from 6pm
Thursday 18 th June	Year 7 trip to Tower of London
Tuesday 30 th June – 3 rd July	Year 8 French Trip
Wednesday 1 st - 3 rd July	Year 8 Residential Trip to Fairthorne Manor
Monday 6 th July	Summer Concert 6pm
Tuesday 7 th July	Sports Day
Wednesday 8 th July	Reserve Sports Day
Thursday 9 th July	Year 5 trip to Longleat
Friday 10 th July	Ferndown Upper School Year 8 Transfer Day
Monday 13 th July	Year 4 Parents Induction Evening 7 – 8pm
Thursday 16 th July	Year 8 Presentation Afternoon
Friday 17 th July	Term Ends – students in 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.