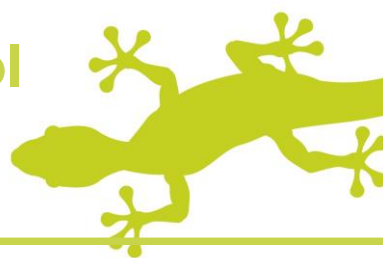


THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

Autumn Term October 2015



Message from the Headteacher, Mr J Rielly

The autumn term is often the busiest and most exciting in any school and these past few weeks have proved no exception. The enthusiastic response to the many clubs now on offer has been a particular highlight.



These pictures show members of Gardening and Eco club preparing our new raised beds which have recently been built in the quadrant area of the school.



Of course, this term is also about getting back into the rhythms and routines of school so that pupils are supported to make the very best academic progress. Last year's results were excellent and a detailed summary of Year 6 and Year 8 test performance is available on the information page of our website.

At our recent open evening, Mrs Gould, Mr Dover and I spoke about our continuing ambitions to develop teaching and learning so that lessons fire pupils' imagination and curiosity. I would encourage all parents to look out for marking in books that encourages pupils to respond and improve upon their first efforts. Pupils maybe prompted to go for an 'extra-hot' response which shows an increased depth of follow-up work.



The school has also been surveying all stake holders about values. We would like to define the 10 most important values which underpin all that West Moors Middle School stands for. Once identified, our school values will help us to ensure that we develop well-rounded young people who are a credit to our local community and beyond.

Finally, as a recent arrival to this special school community, I would like to extend my thanks to the pupils, parents, teachers and governors who have been so welcoming in my first few weeks. It has been a particular pleasure to get to know the pupils and experience their boundless enthusiasm and creativity.

Book Fair



The travelling book fair came to our library during the third week in September.

We raised over £ 460.00 enabling us to have £216.00 worth of new books. A big thank you to all who helped during the week and a massive thank you to all who contributed towards the final total.

Ms Ward, Librarian

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 8th November and in Ferndown on Remembrance Sunday.



The Christmas Production

The cast and chorus for the Christmas Production are working really hard to rehearse their lines and songs and are already sounding excellent.

It's complete pandemonium in Pantoland, where four children hunt for missing magic objects in order to defeat the Wicked Witch! In true panto style, this hilarious show demands plenty of booing, hissing, 'behind you!' etc. There is a wonderful array of traditional and new panto characters and the show makes for great entertainment - for actors and audience alike!

Please keep the dates Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December at 6.00pm free, so that you can come along and watch our talented pupils.



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 Thursday 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.



Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday 17th December 2015. 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 £3.50 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 20 shoe boxes, so this year we are aiming for even more. Leaflets detailing how to join in have been given to the pupils already and we had an assembly earlier 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 18th 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.



Message from the PTFA.

We have had highly successful and well attended events in the past year and are working hard to see this continue. Our next event is our Christmas Fayre on Friday 20th November. 6-8pm. We have Santa's grotto, craft stalls, children's stalls and lots of other things planned, so pop the date in the diary! If you'd like to be involved in the PTFA please contact the school office who will put you in touch with us. Many hands make light work!! Many thanks

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 pupils with special access arrangements or when parents need to visit the school itself.

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

Calendar

Date	Event
Monday 2nd November	Pupils return to school
Friday 13 th November	Non-uniform day for Christmas Fayre
Friday 20 th November	Year 4 Maths Day Christmas Fayre 6pm – 8pm
Tuesday 24 th November	SATs Information Evening 7.00pm
Thurs and Fri 10 th and 11 th December	Christmas Show 'Panto Pandemonium' 6pm
Thursday 10 th December	Autumn Term reports issued
Friday 11 th December	Christmas Show 'Panto Pandemonium' 6pm
Monday 14 th December	Christmas Disco 6.30pm – 8pm
Thursday 17 th December	House Day Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Last day of term (finishing at lunchtime)

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.