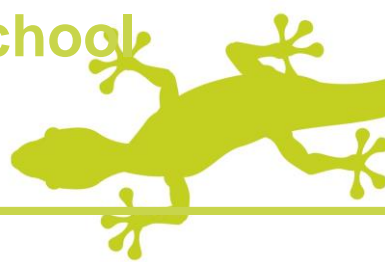


THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

February, 2020



Messages from the Head Teacher, Dr D Craddock

School Improvement Priority 3: To further improve levels of punctuality and attendance

Punctuality

Thank you to everyone who ensures children arrive on time in the morning. As a result, good punctuality is the norm for many of our families. Whilst there are times, due to unavoidable circumstances, when you may be late, if you are one of the very few families who are regularly arriving late in the morning, please can you think carefully about changes you need to make to ensure that your child (children) arrive(s) on time. Please arrive as soon as possible after 8:30am and ensure your child (ren) is / are in class by 8.40am with a free Breakfast Club offered from 08.00-08.30. We know that when children attend school on time, they are taking a key step towards reaching their full potential. If the day begins in an organised and calm manner, children do not worry or panic about things missed at the start of the day. Being on time is an important way to ensure that children make the most of their learning in school. Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that all children arrive on time.

This is a really big issue for us. We are currently below our whole school attendance target of 96%. Our current attendance rate stands at 92.2% so we have some way to go. We can only authorise holiday in term time under the most exceptional of circumstances so please try to support our drive to have more of our children in school for more of the time. All research shows that good attendance leads to massively improved outcomes for children's learning over time. Give your little one the best chance to be their best. Send them to school every day. At the moment our best attenders are 5SB and 5FY. Their attendance overall is 97.8%! BRILLIANT! Well done to both classes. Now, can everyone else catch them? Our overall attendance remains a high priority with current attendance at 92.15%. Our target is 96%. Thank you everyone, for your continued support in ensuring children attend well and on time.

Attendance

Well done to the 43 students who had their reward of a mufti day and sports afternoon for having 100% attendance for Autumn term.



Please note: The school day begins promptly at 8.40am. Any pupils arriving after this time should come into the front of school to sign in and will be marked in as late.

Parking...again

Please, please, please can I appeal to you to park only on Heathfield Way or in the surrounding roads and walk into school. There is an increase in school staff and taxis for our more vulnerable children so in the interest of pupil safety, we are seeking your support. We do not have the capacity for parents to park on site. The only exception to this is if you are a blue badge holder. Please park safely, switch off your engine and take great care when entering or leaving the area as there are children all over the place and an accident could be catastrophic. We need to do all we can to reduce pollution and congestion around our school so where possible please walk or scoot to school. Let's see if we can make our school a safer and healthier place at pick up and at drop off times.



Healthy Packed Lunches:

Please can we remind you that we are a healthy school and that we actively encourage you to send your children to school with a healthy and balanced packed lunch. It has been brought to my attention that there are a lot of lunches containing juice, crisps and chocolate bars. Please try to avoid too much salt, sugar and fat as eating habits are formed at middle school age and it would be fantastic if our children all ate healthy meals and snacks. We do not ban foods as such but would ask that you ensure your child is getting a healthy meal at lunch time and that their bottle is filled with water rather than juice for sipping throughout the day. Finally, we try where possible to be a nut free school so PLEASE no nuts! More advice and inspiration for healthy lunch boxes can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Free School Meals- Are you entitled?

There have been changes to the criteria for eligibility for Free School Meals. You may be eligible if you or your partner receive:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If your child is eligible for and getting free school meals at any time before 31 March 2022, they'll remain eligible until this date. There are so many benefits—not just a free meal:

- Free after school clubs
- Free membership to the Children's University
- Free school sweater/cardigan bi-annually
- Free P.E Kit Top bi-annually

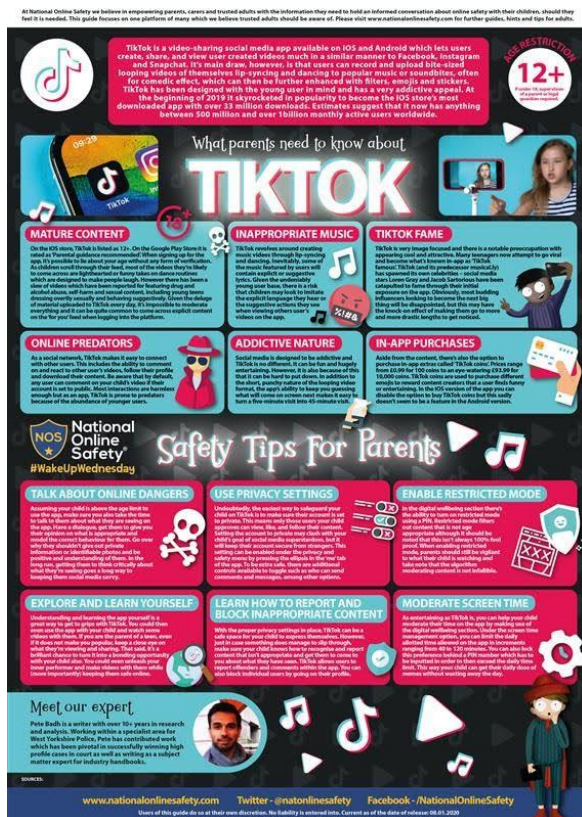
If you think your child/ren maybe eligible, why don't you check by clicking [HERE](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx)- or visit: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/education-and-training/schools-and-learning/at-school/free-school-meals.aspx>

Internet Awareness Day

On Wednesday we celebrated Internet Safety Day. The children worked in their tutor groups to reinforce awareness of keeping safe whilst online. Below are some links to support you at home.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2020/safer-internet-day-2020-top-tips/safer-internet-day-2>

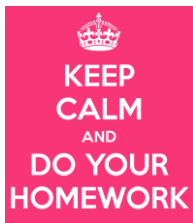
Widely popular with students at the moment is Tik Tok. The app is best used by those who understand its capabilities and some of its options should be used with discretion. Below are some safety tips for parents.



Clubs timetable

	What	Time	Lead by
Mondays	Football Y5&6	Lunchtime	Danny Thomas Sports Coaching
	Eco Club	3:30 – 4:30pm	Mrs Burns
Tuesdays	Football Y7&8	Lunchtime	Danny Thomas Sports Coaching
	Choir	3:30 – 4:30pm	Mrs Miller
Wednesdays	Football Y5&6	Lunchtime	Danny Thomas Sports Coaching
Thursdays	Football Y7&8	Lunchtime	Danny Thomas Sports Coaching
	Football all year groups	3:30 – 4:30pm	Danny Thomas Sports Coaching
	Art Club	3:30 – 4:30pm	Miss Clark
	Homework	3:30 – 4:30pm	Teaching staff
Fridays	Dodgeball	3:30 – 4:30pm	Danny Thomas Sports Coaching

We are looking to expand our clubs so do let us know if you have any suggestions, thank you. Here's a glimpse at some of the things we do.

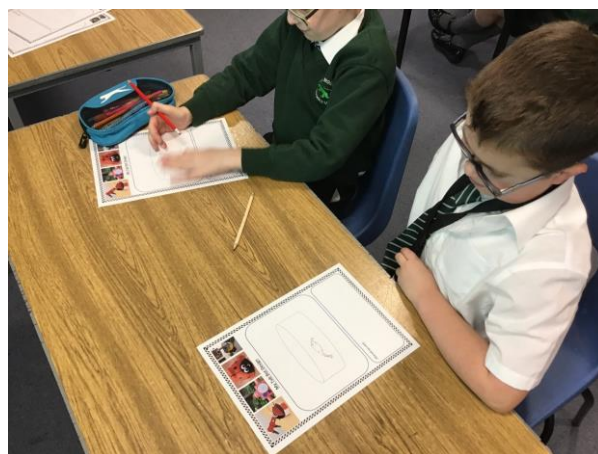


Would you like some help with your homework? Do you struggle to get yourself organised and forget to do it? Then come along to homework club. The club will run every Thursday after school until 4:30pm. All year groups welcome.

Eco Club

In EcoClub this term, we have been lucky enough to take part in the 'Recyclebots Wars' project. We are currently in phase 1 of the project and we are looking forward to making our robots and competing against the other four schools in a few months!

Mrs Burns
Year 5 Teacher



Year 5 Winchester Museum Trip

As part of the Year 5 science topic, 'Earth and Space', Year 5 went to the Winchester Science Museum, they looked at the exhibits, took part in a workshop and went inside the planetarium. A fantastic day was had by all!

Mrs Burns
Year 5 Teacher



Year 8 Theatre Trip – Wednesday 12th February

On Wednesday afternoon, we all travelled by coach to watch the play of 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. As soon as we arrived, we were led to our seats, which had incredible views of the stage and the actors. Once the performance had started, there was absolute silence throughout the audience as the first scene began. During the play, we noticed that the majority of the actors played multiple roles – an ingenious idea, we thought. As well as this, the performance included many eye-catching props and scenery along with spectacular puppets of the menacing creatures from the story, including rattlesnakes, tarantulas and the deadly yellow-spotted lizard. All in all, it was a phenomenal trip – enjoyed by every single one of us.

Daniella, Ruby, Rosie, Reece, Lara and Alex 8MA



@westr
Tel 01262 612111

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 including buying new resources and equipment.

Next PTFA meeting to be held at school 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th February. All welcome to come along. If you would like to join this fun and friendly committee or become a helper, please contact the school.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 6 th March	Fish and Chips/Bingo night
Friday 15 th May	Quiz Night
Friday 19 th June	Summer Fayre

WORLD BOOK DAY is Thursday 5th March. Theme- Roald Dahl or Marvel characters.



Please come dressed as your favourite character from any Roald Dahl book or Marvel character. There will be prizes for the best in school and members of staff throughout the school join in. We will also be holding a book quiz in the library and points will be awarded to the winning house team.

Costumes can be as elaborate as school life will allow or as simple as having your face painted. Please note that P.E. kits must be worn underneath and the normal school time table will continue throughout the day.

We will be collecting a non-uniform donation of £1.00 from each pupil who dresses up, with which we hope to get the latest top ten titles for the library.

Ms Ward, School Librarian

School Calendar 2019-20

Date	Event
Monday 24 th February	Students return to school
Date to be confirmed	Spring Term reports issued
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day- Theme is Characters from Roald Dahl Books are Marvell Comics.
Friday 6 th March	Years 7&8 Trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard- Mary Rose
Friday 6 th March	PTFA Bingo and Fish and Chips Night
Friday 13 th March	Year 5 Planetarium Trip – Ferndown Upper School
Tuesday 17 th March – Friday 20 th March	Travelling Book Fayre in school
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 8 Science Fair at Bovington
Wednesday 1 st April	Music Concert for Parents of pupils taking music lessons 5pm
Friday 3 rd April	Break up for Easter – students in school
Monday 20 th April	Start of term – students in school
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday – VE day
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 National Tests Week – English and Maths
Thursday 14 th & Friday 15 th May	Year 5 Residential Trip Avon Tyrell
Friday 15 th May	HPV vaccinations Year 8 Girls and Boys
Friday 22 nd May	Break up for half term – students in school
Monday 1 st June	Start of term – students in school.
Monday 8 th June	GL Assessments week KS2
Monday 15 th June	GL Assessments week KS3
Friday 10 th July	Year 5 to Ferndown Upper School – Bug day
Friday 17 th July	Last day of Summer Term - 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.