



Lizard Newsletter

'Thriving to achieve our best - together'

23rd October 2020

Message from Dr Craddock

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have really appreciated how the school community have implemented all of the Covid-19 safety protocols this half term to keep everyone safe—thank you! Without wanting to speak too soon, I am really pleased that we have got through half a term with no bubble or year hub closures and my thanks to everyone at school and at home for working together to follow all of our school's procedures.

That said, I appreciate the tenuous nature of the situation and I will keep all parents/ carers informed of any decisions necessary to keep our children and their families safe. Please be assured that if, after half term, if there is any need to close any bubble or year hub, our children will be able to access their learning, following their daily timetable, via our ITS Learning Platform with lessons delivered by teachers 'live' via Microsoft Teams. The links to these lessons will be added into each respective lesson for all courses. As a result, our remote learning plan is robust should school closure affect a tutor group or year group/ hub of children. Furthermore, if any child needs to self-isolate due to a family member having a positive diagnosis, then that child can continue to access the learning being delivered by staff in school that day, uploading work on completion to be assessed and contacting tutors if he/she has any questions.

On a personal note I want to extend my thanks to the whole school community—these are strange and uncertain times and I have really appreciated the warmth and support of the whole school community as we develop a different way of working. I feel fortunate to be able to come into work every day and work with such a committed and amazing team, lovely children and a really supportive parent/ carer and Governing body. Wishing you all a happy and healthy half term break.

Dr Craddock



REMOTE LEARNING

Following the government update, we have been working hard to ensure our remote learning provision is in place and easily accessible to families. The Government and school guidance can be found on our COVID page of the school website. These documents outline the expectations for remote learning during times of self-isolation for children or in the event of a bubble closure. Please take the time to read and familiarise yourself with these documents so that you can engage with remote learning for your child should the circumstance arise.

COVID COMMUNICATION

If your personal circumstances change over the weekend due to symptoms or a positive test, please message the school team via office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk so that immediate action can be taken to ensure that we keep our school community safe. Can we remind again that if your child is displaying symptoms, do not send them into school. This helps to protect everyone and reduces the possible transmission. Thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

HEALTHY SNACKS

As a school, we encourage the children to have healthy snacks at break and lunch time. This is important for all our children as they will need a healthy snack mid-morning to keep them going until lunchtime. In addition, please can children only bring water into school to drink throughout the day, keeping them hydrated. Many nutrients help our children's health but we know that Vitamin D and Vitamin C are especially important for supporting the immune system. Maybe try to include immune boosting foods which contains these nutrients such as eggs, oily fish, dark green leafy vegetables and berries – delicious and healthy!



West Moors Middle School, Heathfield Way, West Moors, Ferndown, Dorset. BH22 0DA

Phone: 01202 872474 Email: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Dr Deborah Craddock Deputy Head Teacher: Deborah East





PTFA AUTUMN FUN DAY -

During these times, it is extremely difficult for our PTFA to run a normal programme of events. However, they have been busy thinking outside of the box and still wish to ensure that the children have some fun experiences within the safety of the risk assessment and COVID guidance in school. On Friday 13th November, they are planning to host an autumn colours mufti day during Artsmark Week, for a small donation to the fund.

Alongside this, the school team will plan in activities that are creative and get the children outdoors having fun. Please help the PTFA in raising funds by supporting this event.

Parents/carers please could you add the date below to your diaries as we will be holding our Covid safe virtual Christmas raffle. It will be held at school on 10th December at 1PM. 1st prize will be a new mobile phone. Other prizes will be Christmas hampers. We are politely putting a 'Call out' for any unwanted gifts or donations to help out with the hampers.

PARKING

Local residents have contacted the school asking for parents to be more mindful when parking near the school. Please can we ask that care is taken to avoid parking on the zig zag lines or across any drives of properties nearby to minimise the risk of causing obstructions when dropping off and collecting children from school. Our caretakers are currently monitoring the situation by local residents.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS IN AUTUMN 2

We are awaiting confirmation of which clubs 'Danny Thomas Coaches' will be running after the half-term break. Please look out for a separate letter and sign up in the first week back via the school office. On Monday Ms Willis will continue to run the eco club for all members. Mrs Tomlinson's Harry Potter Science Club will run on Wednesdays for year 6 and Mr Faulkner's Media Creators Club for Year 5. Mrs Watkins will run the SAT's grammar tuition for Year 6 on Thursdays. All clubs will run from 3-30-4-30pm. Please sign up after half-term.

PARENT VIRTUAL CONSULTATION SLOTS

Today a separate letter detailing the information for this years 'Virtual Parent Consultations' has been sent out. These parent slots will happen via 'Teams' on Tuesday 17th November between 4pm and 6-30pm. If you prefer a telephone consultation please request a slot on Wednesday 18th November between 4pm and 6-30pm. These short ten minute slots will be to discuss how your child has settled back into school with their new tutor.

FOREST SCHOOL FUN CONTINUES



All children have been learning new skills in Forest school, potion making, team work to saw sticks and then whittling to make spears. The children have also practised using fire steals and a racing car for F1.



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CHAMELEON HQ

Over the past few weeks, here in Chameleon HQ we have been developing our artistic skills and talents. Here is an example of some modelling work.

This week we have been composing spooky stories and found out all about Dia de los Muertos - Mexican Day of the Dead. We have also been baking biscuits, cakes and savoury snacks ready for an end of half term celebration and to say thank you to Mrs Gray for all her hard work in the school as she moves on to a new challenge. We will all miss her very much.



THANK YOU!

Thank you once again for your continued support with the COVID guidance. We are all working together on this, following the guidance given, to keep our school community safe. It is appreciated by the whole West Moors Middle School team.



Finally.....For the latest news and updates and to see more photos of our children learning, please follow us on twitter at: [@west_moors](https://twitter.com/@west_moors)

School Year: Term Dates & Holidays 2020/21

Autumn Term 2020:

Term starts for students on Monday 7th September
Term ends on Friday 23rd October

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

Spring Term 2021:

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

Term starts for students on Tuesday 23rd February
Term ends on Thursday 1st April

Summer Term 2021:

Term starts for students on Monday 19th April
Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May school closed
Term ends on Friday 28th May
Term starts for students on Tuesday 8th June
Term ends on Friday 23rd July

Inset Days:

Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021

Monday 7th June 2021



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