

West Moors Middle School

Lizard Newsletter—July 2020



@west_moors



Message from the Head Teacher

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well and that life is beginning to resume some form of normality. It has been wonderful to see more children in school for transition weeks! Since the 1st June 2020, in addition to Year 6 children, keyworkers and other identified children, we are proud to have been the only middle school in the locality, which has provided a one-week period of transition for Years 5 and 7, and a two-week period of transition for our Year 8 children. We also welcomed our new Year 5 children over the course of two afternoons and they impressed us with their enthusiasm, smiles and contributions! Now, we are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back, after the summer, in September.

For our Year 8 children, we are incredibly proud of the young adults they are becoming. They have all had a lovely time during their transition afternoons and are looking forward to the next stage of their academic journey. We will miss each one of them and we know that they will continue to thrive and flourish in the years ahead. We hope that they like their special Year Book and hoodies!

Looking ahead, as staffs' ICT knowledge and skills have really developed during this period, having delivered 'live' lessons daily via Microsoft Teams. We will continue to build on this during the next academic term so from September, we will be launching the school's new Virtual Learning Platform (VLE). This will provide wonderful blended learning opportunities for our children and exciting collaborative, virtual group-work opportunities! More information will follow at the start of term and all children will be trained in how to access this VLE.

We have shared our plans for September that we hope will work well but we really need your support and co-operation if we are to continue to keep school safe and minimise any risk of closure or partial closure due to COVID-19 outbreaks. I appreciate that there is a lot of important information to take in so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 7th September 2020 and hope you all have a great Summer.

Dr D Craddock.

Science

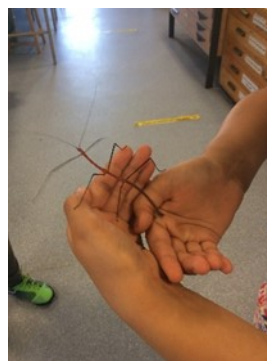
Congratulations to all the students who took part in our online live Science lessons. All students have been awarded a printable certificate. Well done for your outstanding commitment during challenging circumstances.



Crazy creatures

In one of our bubbles the children have been looking after our amazing stick insects that are now 7-8 months old. They couldn't believe that each insect is laying up to 50 eggs a week.

The children are currently creating an insect hotel especially for them. So watch this space!



Certificates awarded to: Amara, Amelia, Cassie, Connor, Evie, Isabelle, Lacie, Lily, Mia, Oscar, Summer, Robert, Tyler, Ryan, Jessica, Jenna, Arun Daniel, James, Isla, Edward, Kate, William, Luke, Amy, Emily, Isabel, George, Kian, Bailey, Leon, Cayden, Thomas, Katie, Frankie Jack, Daniel, Peter, Leo, Josh, Matt, Daisy, Caitlin, Olivia, Andrej, Tia, Alfie, Alex, Jack, Charlotte, Gizem, Hanna, Krystal, Leah Sienna, Tarnie, Eleanor, Caitlin.

Thriving to achieve our best – Together.

Changes for next year

Ben Davies has been successfully appointed as a teacher working in larger specialist provision within a MAT he knows well. We will be sad to lose him from our team as he has such wonderful relationships with our children, staff and parents/ carers in the base but we wish him every success and happiness in his new role.

Cerys Payne and Megan George, our TA's in the CCN base will both be moving across counties to start new career adventures and live closer to loved ones.

They will be greatly missed and we wish them all the very best in the future.

New Appointments 2020/21

Sarah Sparks has been appointed as Assistant Head teacher with responsibility for strategically leading Chameleon HQ with a cross school role linked to Pupil Premium who has been employed at West Moors Middle School since November 2019 and has been working closely with staff and children in the base this term meeting with parents and evaluating the provision in 2019/20 to inform the action plan, looking ahead.

Three new LSAs have been appointed to support children's learning in KS2 and KS3. These include Jody Connolly, Brenda Stone and Amanda Hill and we are really looking forward to them joining and contributing to our team.

We are also delighted to share that Sarah Crichton, an experienced LSA who has worked here for many years, and supported Charlotte Watkins in Year 6, has decided to stay in the UK rather than returning to live in New Zealand. We were delighted that she has agreed to continue to work at our school on a full time basis from September 2020. Sarah's vast experience will continue to benefit our children immensely so this is wonderful news.

Attendance matters...

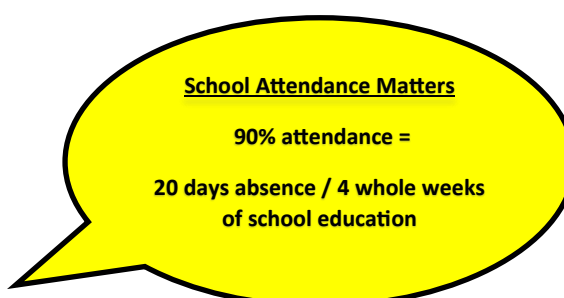
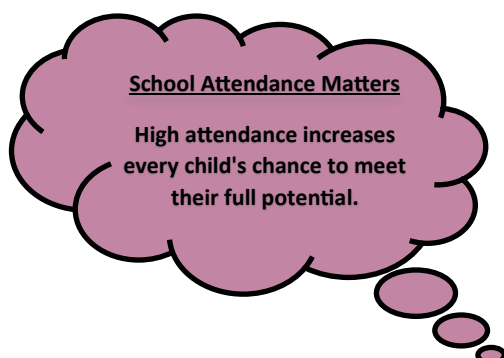
'Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all students can fulfil their potential is that students need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Students with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school' – DFE 2014

For a student to reach their full educational achievement, a high level of school attendance is essential. It is our duty to consistently strive to achieve a goal of 100% attendance for all students. Every opportunity will be used to convey to students and parents/carers the importance of regular and punctual attendance. For our students to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered, it is really important that your child is at school, on time, every day the school is open, unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable. The routines children develop around attendance and punctuality at school are the same as the expectations of any future employer in the world of work. High attainment, confidence with peers and staff, and future aspirations depend on good attendance.

Legal Action: As a school we closely monitor the attendance of all students. The government has stated that from September 2020 legal measures will be taken to tackle persistent absence of 10 or more unauthorised sessions and parents are complicit in the child's absence. Legal measures will also be taken for unauthorised holiday absence of 10 or more sessions (5 days). We work closely with Dorset Council and follow their advice and guidance in line with Government legislation with all legal proceedings.

We ask you to work with us for your child to reach their full potential.

Please contact Mrs Beavan via the office if you have any questions or require more information.



Rights Respecting Schools

We celebrated our journey on becoming a Rights Respecting School on the 3rd of July by having a Virtual Rights Respecting Day. Each tutor group was allocated an article:

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
5KW	6CC	7NF	8GC
Article 28 - You have the right to education.	Article 12 - You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.	Article 23 - If you are disabled, either mentally or physically, you have the right to special care and education to help you develop and lead a full life.	Article 30 - If you come from a minority group, because of your race, religion or language, you have the right to enjoy your own culture, practise your own religion, and use your own language.
5SB	6CW	7MM	8CT
Article 15 - You have the right to be with friends and join or set up clubs, unless this breaks the rights of others.	Article 27 - You have the right to a good enough standard of living. This means you should have food, clothes and a place to live.	Article 17 - You have the right to collect information from the media – radios, newspapers, television, etc – from all around the world. You should also be protected from information that could harm you.	Article 29 - You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.

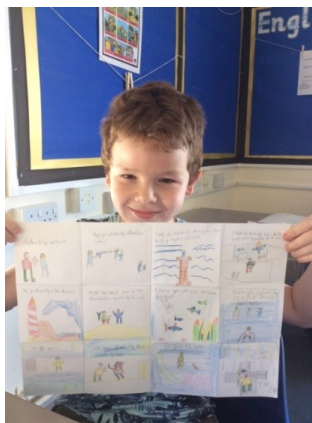


With the article, the children created videos, posters, leaflets and poems. We also observed World Population Day, to highlight the importance of creating a sustainable future. It was fantastic to see all of the excellent work the children produced on this day.

Mrs Burns
Year 5 Tutor

English: Year 6CC

It has been an absolute pleasure working with the Year 6s over this lockdown period. They have been so positive and resilient, considering these uncertain times and need for adaptation. We have enjoyed reading some fantastic books together, discussing the relevance to our lives and what we can learn from the experiences of various characters. We have spent much time engaging in many creative literary activities and enjoying this time spent focused on our literary works. As a result our love for books has grown dramatically throughout this time.



Thriving to achieve our best – Together.

After school Clubs Autumn 2020

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AS PER GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE.

DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL 3.30PM – 4.30PM
Monday	Athletics Bananagrams	Eco Club Chess Dance
Tuesday	Athletics	Outdoor Choir
Wednesday	Athletics Maths Homework	Homework Club Media Creators Harry Potter Potions
Thursday	Athletics Sewing/crochet	Art Club Football SATS/Grammar Tuition
Friday	Athletics	Tennis

Parents should put a short, signed note in the pupil planner should their child wish to attend. Alternatively, for sports clubs there may be a specific permission letter sent out in September.



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Office Reminders:

Office opening hours: 8.00am –4.00pm Please note the school will be closed for the summer holidays with children returning to school on Monday 7th September.

Use of school carpark

Children are encouraged to walk or cycle to school each day wherever possible. We do understand that this isn't always possible for everyone so ask parents to park in the surrounding roads and walk their child to the pupil gate in the mornings and again collect from there in the afternoons.

If your child has a disability or an additional need that requires him/ her to be dropped off each morning on site to facilitate transition, Mrs Wallis has prepared some parking permits for parents/ carers to collect from Reception. If you feel that you need a car parking permit to facilitate drop offs and collections from school please can you email

office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

Stationery: Each child should bring in their own stationery, comprising blue pen, purple pen, two pencils, ruler, rubber, sharpener and Pritt stick in a named pencil case.

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:

Thursday 3rd September 2020

Friday 4th September 2020

Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021

Monday 7th June 2021

Key dates:

3 rd September 2020	Inset Day
4 th September 2020	Inset Day
7 th September 2020	Beginning of Autumn Term for Pupils
8 th September 2020	KS2 Year 6 Meet the Year Group Tutors 3.30 – 4.15pm
9 th September 2020	KS3 Year 7 and 8 Meet the Year Group Tutors 3.30 - 4.15pm
14 th September 2020	School photographs
15 th September 2020	Year 5 Welcome Morning for Parents 9am -10am
21 st -25 th September 2020	Open Morning school tours for Year 4s (dependent upon Government guidance)
29 th September 2020	Open Evening for pupil admissions 2021/2022
6 th and 13 th October 2020	Open Morning school tours for Year 4s (dependent upon Government guidance)

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