

THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School



Dear Parents/ Carers

Well, we have started another fantastic year of learning and progress for our children at West Moors Middle School. We have been so impressed by how mature and independent the children are becoming, being responsible for their belongings in lockers; following their timetables; signing up for leadership roles; and being wonderful ambassadors for our school. To their credit, all of our new Year 5 pupils have settled in really well and are getting used to their new routines, as are all of the other new pupils who joined us this term. Welcome to you all! We start this newsletter by saying a huge thank you to the many parents and people in our village who continue to support our school family so well. Whether you come in to help, have donated resources and funding or have offered kind words of support, all that you do is really, really appreciated and valued.

Our vision is for all children to thrive in order to be the best they can be- together. This half term our assemblies have therefore focussed on respect, the importance of celebrating differences and being kind to others using both words and actions- our golden thread weaved through each year is that *'If you do not have something nice to say then do not say anything at all.'* This extends to the use of social media and in assemblies we have reinforced the importance of internet safety and being aware of cyber-bullying with an emphasis on how to keep themselves safe. Next half term, we will also be delivering a parents' workshop on 06.11.19 at 18.00 on e-safety, ensuring that we work in partnership together.

With some lovely weather we have been able to make the most of our grounds. This has meant that the children have been able to play sporting activities on the field during outdoor PE lessons and their lunch breaks for longer. However, in preparation for winter, we have been working with the School Council to collate children's ideas on what play equipment we could provide to further improve their break and lunch time experiences, in all weathers. Next half term, I will be asking whether any parents could volunteer their skills, time and/ or donated items to transform the pond and wooded area in the school's grounds- It is an extremely challenging time for all schools and in light of limited funding I hope that I can encourage a group of us to get together over a weekend in November and transform these areas so that we can provide our children with the best outdoor learning opportunities possible... we'll provide you with refreshments and bacon butties to keep us going!

This month, the Leadership Team have also been carrying out a range of monitoring activities. We have been scrutinising planning, looking at children's books, dipping in and out of a range of lessons as well as conferencing children. Our focus is on ensuring that the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school is increasingly consistent, with a greater emphasis on the teaching of higher order reading skills and deeper reasoning across the curriculum. Furthermore, next half term, I am delighted to share that our Link Governors will actively be involved in this process (02.12.19-5.12.19), to support the monitoring of our education provision linked to the School Development Plan.

Every year we are grateful to everyone who makes our school a wonderful place to learn and grow, including the teachers, support staff, administrators, caretakers, cook, parents/ carers, governors and fabulous children who come to school every day and strive to do their best, look after each other, learn and grow before our very eyes. It is a genuine joy to be around them all. Thank you to everyone for the part you play in making our school truly amazing!

Dr Deborah Craddock (Headteacher)

Way to go, Chameleon HQ!

We are so very proud of our students in Chameleon HQ for challenging themselves, showing wonderful resilience and having such a fantastic first half term of this year.

This half term has involved getting to know each other better, thinking about how we learn best, developing our own strategies for emotional regulation and making progress in our learning in all areas.

We have enjoyed a whole range of learning opportunities together but of particular note has been the woodwork opportunities supported by Mrs Izzard, the ICT capabilities of our students when making iMovies, the musical enthusiasm, accessing one-to-one online maths interventions and just this week we've enjoyed a very impressive demonstration of farrier skills with Mr Thorne (parent) bringing his mobile forge to school and showing us how he adjusts shoes to fit horses and he made a 'pineapple twist' decorative rod. Such a great experience for us all! We are looking forward to next half term with more fantastic learning opportunities, a new Occupational Therapist joining the team, fundraising plans afoot and inviting our friends to Chameleon café each week.

Mrs Small
HQ



Macmillan Coffee Morning

This month we held a Macmillan Coffee morning. All pupils took part by bringing in cakes. The coffee and cakes were served to our visitors by our Year 8 prefects who did a fantastic job! There was a real party atmosphere in the hall and best of all we managed to raise in excess of £180.00 pounds. The cake was kindly made and donated by our very talented Mrs Izzard.



Baking

Mrs Beavan and some students made some biscuits as a kitchen trial before undertaking baking sessions next term.

You see students cooking, but we see..... ART. CONFIDENCE. COLLABORATION. COMMUNICATION. FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS. GEOGRAPHY. HISTORY. LEADERSHIP. LISTENING SKILLS. LITERACY. MEASURING. MATHEMATICS. MFL. ORGANISATION. PROBLEM SOLVING. SCIENCE AND TIME MANAGEMENT.



Year 5 Greek Day 24th October

To immerse Year 5 into their Greek topic, Year 5 enjoyed a Greek morning on our last day before half term. To start the day off, 5FY made laurel wreaths with Mrs Burns and 5SB experienced some Greek foods with Mrs Utley. After break, it was time for the Greek Olympics and some dancing in the hall. To finish the morning, both classes swapped back and 5FY enjoyed the food tasting and 5SB made laurel wreaths. A great morning was had by all!



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 Tuesday and we 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.



Book Fair

The travelling book fair will be coming to school w/b 18th November 2019. Books will be on sale during both breaks and lunchtimes. In addition, there will also be some stationary, rubbers, pencils etc. on sale at this time.



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 10th November 2019 so please come along and join us.



Christmas Lunch



Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 10th December 2019
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 £4.00 and booking forms will be going out nearer the time.

Christmas Jumper Day

We will be holding a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' which will take place on Tuesday 10th December along with Christmas lunch. We would like the students to wear Christmas jumpers and donate £1 for this worthy cause.



The Christmas Concert

This year, our special concert will feature a number of different musical items, including Christmas songs sung by a choir and some instrumental performances. Rev. Muckle will also be present to say a few special words at the end. Please come and join us on Wednesday 18th December 17.00-18.00, followed by mince pies and refreshments.



Friends of West Moors Middle School (FOWMMS) – Our PTFA

FOWMMS recently ran a successful movie night and look forward to running another one in the future. We will also be holding a school disco on the 22nd November 18.00 -19.30 and more information will follow nearer the time. All money raised goes into the PTFA school fund.

The Christmas Fair will be held on 13th Dec 6 till 8. Mulled wine, spiced apple drink, minced pies, raffles, stalls will be available and much more. This year we are lucky to have a visit from Santa. However, instead of him giving out presents, he has asked whether you could wrap a gift with a label saying who it is aimed at girl/ boy/ age. We are then going to give these gifts to a local charity that will distribute them to disadvantaged children in our local area. As always, we are very grateful for any donations of unwanted gifts for the tombola and raffle! This year, we are also asking that if you have any old decorations or Christmas trees to spare we would be really grateful to help us to decorate our school.

So far FOWMMS has paid for fifty new dictionaries/thesauruses and new crockery. Looking ahead, we are hoping to purchase a new sound system and play equipment for the children to use at break and lunch. There is a long list but we are determined to get to it all so that our children have the best opportunities in school! Without your help and support we would not be able to do this or purchase items to help enrich the children's experiences in school, so thank you.

Look out for future events, including St Patrick's Day quiz and Bingo/Fish and chips night in the New Year! As always if you have any amazing ideas or are interested in joining or helping out, please contact kchew@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk

Important Safety Notice

We place the safety of all of our children first and on a number of occasions concerns have been raised regarding the volume of cars in the school's carpark, dropping off or picking up children. In the interest of all pupils' 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. If you have a disability or extenuating circumstances as to why you need to use the school's carpark, please can you complete an application for a parking permit which will be available at Reception. We are getting increasingly concerned by the volume of traffic before and after school so we need to ensure that all of our children, walking in the school's grounds are safe. This will also mean that the school bus will be able to access our carpark with ease to drop off and collect children, ensuring the bus service runs smoothly and on time. Thank you for all your support with this from next half term.

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

Calendar

Date	Event
Tuesday 5 th November 2019	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 6 th November 2019	Parents' Workshop on Internet Safety 1 (Assembly Hall) - 18.00-19.00
Friday 15 th November 2019	Year 4 Maths Day
Monday 18 th November-Friday 22 nd November	Travelling Book Fayre comes to school
Tuesday 3 rd December 2019	Author's visit- Maz Evans - 09.00-12.00
Friday 6 th December 2019	Carols at the Petwyn in West Moors at 18.00
Friday 13 th December 2019	PTFA Christmas Fayre - 18.00-20.00
Tuesday 10 th December 2019	Christmas Lunch /Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 18 th December 2019	Christmas Concert - 17.00
Friday 20 th December 2019	Last day of term

Office Reminders

- Please can we remind parents that medical appointments for your child should, where possible, be made outside of school hours. In addition to informing the office a note should also be written in your child's planner to show to their teacher.
- 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 spend time, following up some pupil absences 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.

New times of the day from 5th November 2019

Following discussions with staff and a sample of children in each group, a trial of revised timings for lessons during the school day has been agreed for Autumn 2. This was in light of learning behaviours observed throughout the day (with children getting tired after lunch), to enable children to have a shorter afternoon with an assembly at the end of the day.

The staff team will ensure that no children will go without a snack and they will be encouraged to bring in a healthy snack for break time. A number of schools have adopted a similar timetable and this has been shown to have a positive effect on learning. However, children and staff will be involved in evaluating whether these changes have indeed helped their learning, comparing their timetable in Autumn 1 and Autumn 2. If the former is the preferred model then we will go back to that in Spring 1 but it is important for us to trial and evaluate initiatives in light of feedback. In addition, a further trial is being introduced in Spring 1, after Christmas, with a free breakfast club delivered between 08.00-08.40 for which we are seeking sponsorship from Tesco's, Waitrose and Sainsbury's.

In Autumn 2, the new times for lessons, during the school day, are as follows:

08.30	Children in school for quiet reading
08.40	Morning registration in tutor groups
08.50	Lesson 1
09.50	Lesson 2
10.50 – 11.10	Break time
11.10 – 12.10	Lesson 3
12.10 – 13.10	Lesson 4
13.10 – 13.55	Lunch
13.55 – 14.05	Afternoon registration in tutor groups
14.05 – 15.05	Lesson 5
15.05 – 15.25	Tutor time/Assembly Mon, Wednesday, Friday.



Christmas as Special Menu 10th December 2019