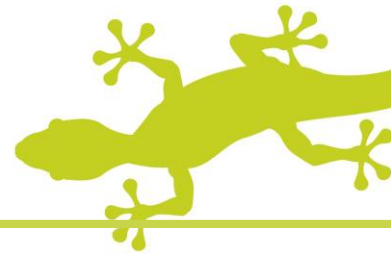


THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

February, 2012



Message from the Head Teacher, Ms A. Bunting

This half term has only been six weeks but we have still managed to fit in many events. At the beginning of term, staff, members of the parents' focus group and pupils from the school council attended the launch of our mission to become a Rights Respecting School. We hope to achieve Level 1 by July 2013. Many of the articles below are real indicators of how we are helping the pupils to think about others and how our pupils can 'make a difference'.

During this half term we were delighted to have Year 4 pupils from St Ives and Three-Legged Cross First Schools visit for a 'Wow' day. (Oakhurst and St Marys joined us last term). We greatly enjoyed these days and it is clear that so did many children. We also hosted the Pupil Voice Conference which enabled pupils from all four feeder first schools and West Moors to meet together. Events such as this really give West Moors pupils opportunities to extend their leadership skills as they work with the younger children.

This newsletter gives a real illustration of how hard staff have been working in order to make West Moors a really dynamic place with many varied opportunities for our pupils. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to achieve this - pupils, staff, parents and governors - and I wish you all a very restful half term.



Spring Concert



Ahoy there me hearties! Come and join us on a swashbuckling adventure when we will be performing 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. The fun will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 27th March (2pm) and the evening of Wednesday 28th March (7pm). Pupils auditioned to a very high standard and are currently rehearsing and learning scripts. So come set sail with us over the ocean blue, to the island of Lumbago and share in the mystery and adventure of our sailors and pirates. See you there.



Voiceworks

On Tuesday 17th January, all Year 5 and 6 pupils participated in 'Voiceworks! Concert in a day'. The children took part in vocal workshops throughout the day, led by two visiting music specialist teachers. Parents enjoyed watching the end performance where all Key Stage 2 could showcase their vocal skills. A range of songs from all over the World was performed and pupils learnt to sing in different languages as well as in rounds and adding some tricky harmonies too! Well done to all involved in this event.

Mrs K. Willmott

LEPRA

On Wednesday 1st February we held a fundraising event for the charity 'LEPRA'. All pupils took part in a "Street Dance" workshop run by a professional instructor.

"There was a dance teacher and she showed us what to do and we all copied her moves. We danced for about 55 minutes and it was great fun. I had a very good day even though I spun my leg right round and it hurt but I kept dancing because I wanted to raise lots of money. I got lots of my family and friends to sponsor me and I raised £33."
Archie Edmonds. 5HW.



So far a massive £1248.10 has been raised and this figure will go up when all the money has been collected. A special mention must go to one of our Year 5 pupils who raised £128.65. Well done to everyone who took part. This money will make a real difference to the lives of leprosy victims and their families.



Year 5 'Go on Safari'



Year 5 children are currently studying Kenya in Humanities and on Wednesday 8th February they went 'on safari' during assembly, dressing in safari style clothes.

Linking with this topic, we have an exciting opportunity to become involved in the Global School Partnerships project with Manuel Alexander School in Diani Beach, on the coast of Kenya. Children will be sending letters to the school and we would also like to send photographs. In addition, it is hoped to arrange a Skype link sometime in the future so that the children can talk to

each other. More information about Manuel Alexander School can be found on their website:-

<http://mekaela.co.ke>

Mrs Morrison

Rewards and recognition from London 2012!

I am delighted to inform you that West Moors Middle School has successfully been accepted as a member of London 2012's UK-wide reward and recognition scheme, the Get Set network. Through the programme, we have been doing work linked to London 2012 and the Olympic and Paralympic Values such as the Team Dorset Challenge and School Games Competitions.



This means that we:

- will receive a plaque and certificate to show we are part of the London 2012 family;
- we'll be in with the chance of winning visits from athletes and the London 2012 mascots!

Over the coming months, we at West Moors Middle School, will be getting ready for London 2012 by linking more work to the Games and ensuring that our pupils feel that they are a part of this once-in-a-lifetime event. I look forward to updating you on this exciting work.

Mr M. Malone.

Team Dorset Challenge

Team Dorset Challenge is a community orientated project based on the upcoming London Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, encouraging and motivating others to start a new healthy lifestyle, tackling five major areas: Healthy Lifestyle, Physical Activity, Community, Environmental and Culture and Learning.

At West Moors Middle School children and staff were visited by Vikki Harman who is the 2012 challenge officer who spoke about the initiative and encouraged us all to take part. Signing up to take part was easy, all that we had to do was register at www.teamdorsetchallenge.org. Consequently, children, as well as staff, have been setting themselves personal challenges to complete and, once a challenge has been reached, they receive a coloured wristband, relating to the colour of the Olympic rings. Furthermore, it encourages in all the pupils the Olympic and Paralympic values, such as fair play and determination to succeed. Examples of some challenges include baking cakes for the elderly or infirm in the community, completing a dance workshop to raise money for LEPROA, drinking five glasses of tap water a day, learning how to greet people in six different languages or taking part in a new sport.

Mr Malone, Head of PE in the school, said: "It's fantastic to see so many children setting and completing challenges and getting so involved in the initiative. Children have also been asking parents or carers to support them and join in."

Vikki Harman will return to the school later in the year for a presentation ceremony to celebrate our success.

Written by Michaela Sibsey, Year 8

Staff Note:

Thank you very much to everyone who has made cakes and given them to the staff room as part of their community challenge. They have all been delicious. Could we respectfully request that from after half-term no more are donated as Mr Malone has said he does not want to have to go on 'The Biggest Loser'!!

P.E.

It has been a great start to the New Year with many pupils getting involved in new sports clubs and teams. We have had some good team and individual results in two cross country events at Bryanston and Kings Park. We took the Year 7 boys and girls five-a-side teams to represent the school at the East Dorset football competition at Canford, with both teams improving throughout the tournament and demonstrating outstanding sporting behaviour. Also at Canford we had the Year 5/6 swimming gala with some strong team and individual races, which should see two pupils qualifying to the finals event later in the year. Our girls' football teams have demonstrated a remarkable improvement in their skills through hard work and training as they won all but one of their matches against Twynham school in a friendly fixture. We also took a Year 6 team to represent the school at the indoor athletics qualifying event where the team had some fantastic results coming 4th overall. Finally we had a Year 7 Netball tournament at Allenbourn, where the girls played exceptionally well against some good teams, leaving on a high with a win. Well done for all your efforts!

Mr Malone



And now for some staff achievements! Last summer Miss Wigs completed in the RS Games at the Olympic sailing venue in Weymouth. After ten days of competition in two different types of RS Dinghies, Miss Wigs came away as National Ladies RS600 champion and First Probationer (Amateur) in class.



Not to be outdone, Mr Malone claimed victory recently in the School Teacher's Golf Society opening round at Ashley Wood Golf Club. He finished with 50 points which places him at the top of the 2012 Order of Merit.

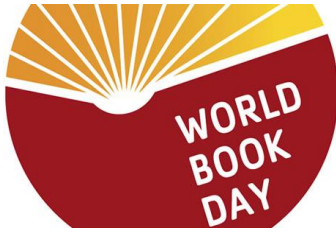
Congratulations to both of you!

Cookery Competition - Menu fit for a Queen

Entries are invited from pupils to design three canapés eg. a starter, main course and a dessert, using local, seasonal ingredients. The organisers at 'British Food Fortnight' suggest smaller versions of traditional meals such as toad in the hole, apple dumplings etc. Soup could also be served in espresso cups.

The entries will be judged in School and the winning pupil will have the opportunity of making their dishes. Furthermore, four of the winning schools of the National Competition will be invited to see their menus prepared by the Queen's staff, under the watchful eye of the Palace's Head Chef.

Pupils should submit their ideas, with recipes, to Mrs Wright by Friday 9th March 2012.



World Book Day takes place on 1st March and WMMS will be celebrating this with the WHOLE school getting involved, including members of staff!

We would love everyone to come in dressed as a character from a book they have enjoyed reading. Costumes can be as elaborate as school life will allow or as simple as a pair of Harry Potter glasses.

P.E. kits must be worn underneath and the normal school time table will continue throughout the day.

We will be collecting the normal non-uniform donation of £1.00 with which we hope to get the latest top ten titles for the library. There will be a 'literary' house team Quiz during lunchtime involving all year groups and a maximum of 150 points going to the winning team. Finally, there will be a prize for the best costume in each year group.

I'm really looking forward to seeing all the wonderful characters.

Ms D. Ward. aka Elizabeth Bennet, Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen.

Design and Technology



Year 6 pupils have been busy making wooden, mechanical toys, some of which can be seen here. They used cams and followers to turn rotary motion (round and round) into reciprocating motion (up and down). Everyone worked really hard and thoroughly enjoyed the project.

Mr E. Ward

Requests

Does anyone have a large screen television they would like to donate to the school? Perhaps you were thinking of upgrading your existing TV and wondering what to do with the old one? We have a few classrooms that do not yet have ICT installed, and a low cost solution to this would be to take a large screen TV and use it as a monitor linked to the teachers' laptops for the display of information for the class. If you think you can help, please contact Mr E. Ward, Head of ICT.

Thank-you.



Parent Focus Group

The next meeting is due to be held on 6th March 2012, 6.30-7.30pm. The topic for discussion is 'Communication'.

Individual Certificates

Pupils gain a Bronze Certificate when they achieve 50 Lizard Points, a Silver Certificate for 100 Lizard Points and a Gold Certificate when they reach 150 Lizard Points.

This term we have presented certificates to the following children:

Bronze:	Lauren Ashcroft	Daniel Bedford	Laura Bedford
	Lisa Berridge	Emma Cheetham	Cody Cowan
	Charlotte Griffiths	Jasmine Hall	Abigail Hallam
	Alisha Kershaw	Zoe Knight	Jessica Lamb
	Ayla Palphreyman	Samuel Shipp	Imogen Watkins
Silver:	Rachel Mecia	Kathy Parry	
Gold:	Brooklyn Boswell		

Well done to you all.

House Points Totals

Gecko	Iguana	Komodo	Sand
2015	2140	1977	2093

Reminders

- **Coats** - Please could you make sure that your child comes to school with a coat. We appreciate that some children do not want to wear them if they are going to play football/run around at lunchtime, however we do sometimes take the children outside for part of a lesson and they can not concentrate if they are cold.
- **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>
 - The local radio station – HeartFM 102.3fm/Radio Solent 96.1fm
 - The council's website – <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>

Many thanks.

The E-Lizard

We have a scheme where parents can have the choice to receive the half termly newsletter electronically rather than a paper copy sent home via your child.

We are currently able to e-mail some letters as well using this service, however all our letters are always available on our website: www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk.

If you would like to participate then please contact the school office with your details or alternatively, please send an e-mail confirming that you wish to receive the newsletter electronically (lizard@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk).

Please note that all e-mail addresses will be confidential and never passed to third parties.

***** STOP PRESS*****

Correction to an Error in the October half-term Newsletter:

Sincere apologies for an error in announcing that 20th July 2012 would be an extra day of holiday this year. It seems that this school (and several others) was given the wrong advice. **Friday 20th July 2012 is a school day and pupils are expected in school until 3:25pm on that day.**

REMINDER OF TERM DATES:

Spring Term 2012

Half-term commences Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2012.

School resumes Monday 20th February 2012.

Term Ends Thursday 29th March 2012.

Easter Monday 2nd April – Friday 13th April 2012.

Summer Term 2012

School resumes Monday 16th April 2012.

Bank Holiday Monday 7th May 2012.

Half-term commences Monday 4th June – Friday 8th June 2012.

School resumes Monday 11th June 2012.

Term ends Friday 20th July 2012.

School Calendar 2012

Date	Event
Monday 20 th February	Half term begins - students back to school
Thurs 23 rd February	Parents Information session about Child Line 3.30pm
Wed 29 th February	GRIP workshops with Year 7 - delivered by community police regarding safer communities.
Thurs 1 st March	World Book Day - non uniform, children are invited to dress as a character from a book!
Thurs 8 th March	Year 6 English workshops (am)
Monday 12 th March	Year 6 Maths workshops (am)
Tuesday 13 th March	SATs Information Evening for Year 6 parents
Thursday 15 th March	Year 6 Puberty talk - School Nurse
Tuesday 27 th March	Spring Concert - afternoon performance Spring Term Reports issued
Wed 28 th March	Spring Concert - evening performance
Thursday 29 th March	End of term assembly House Day Disco 6.30pm-8.00pm
Friday 30 th March	End of Term - INSET DAY - no students in school
Monday 16 th April	Summer Term begins - students in school
Wed 25 th April	Year 6: World War II re-enactment day.
Monday 30 th April	Parents Evenings - by appointment for students who are underachieving.
Tuesday 1 st May	Parents Evenings - by appointment for students who are underachieving.
Monday 7 th May	BANK HOLIDAY - school closed
Tuesday 8 th May	Year 6 English day Year 5, 7 and 8 off timetable - numeracy through the curriculum, research skills, thinking skills.
Wednesday 9 th May	Year 6 Maths day Year 5, 7 and 8 off timetable - literacy through the curriculum, research skills, thinking skills.
Monday 14 th May to Friday 18 th May	SATs week - Year 6: detailed timetable to follow once exam dates are published.
Monday 21 st May	Optional Level 6 SATs exams
Monday 21 st May to Friday 25 th May	Year 5 and 7 exam week

Date	Event
Monday 28 th May to Friday 1 st June	Year 8 exam week
Tuesday 29 th May	HPV Vaccines Year 8 girls
Friday 1 st June	End of half term.
Monday 11 th June	Start of half term - students return to school
Monday 25 th June to Friday 29 th June	Community Week French trip
Wednesday 11 th July	Transfer Day - Year 4 at WMMS, Year 8 at Upper Schools
Thursday 12 th July	MAD day for Year 8 students at FUS Induction Evening for Year 4 parents
Friday 13 th July	MAD day for Year 8 students at FUS
Monday 16 th July	Summer term reports issued
Tuesday 17 th July	Sports day
Wed 18 th July	Sports day (reserve) Year 8 Presentation Evening
Thursday 19 th July	Celebration Day (Year group activities)
Friday 20 th July	End of term Final assembly and farewell to Year 8

*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.

WEST MOORS MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL TERMS, HOLIDAYS, INSET DAYS 2012- 2013

AUTUMN TERM 2012

Staff INSET Day	Tuesday 4th September
School commences	Wednesday 5 th September
Half Term commences	Monday 29 th October
School resumes	Monday 5 th November
Term ends	Friday 21 st December

SPRING TERM 2013

Staff INSET Day	Monday 7th January
School commences	Tuesday 8th January
Half Term commences	Monday 18 th February
School resumes	Monday 25 th February
Term ends	Thursday 28th March

SUMMER TERM 2013

Staff INSET Day	Monday 15 th April
School commences	Tuesday 16 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May
Staff INSET Day	Friday 24 th May
Half Term commences	Monday 27 th May
School resumes	Monday 3 rd June
Last day for pupils	Tuesday 23 rd July
Staff INSET Day	Wednesday 24 th July