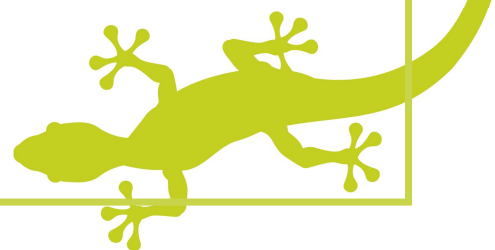


THE LIZARD

West Moors Middle School

Welcome Letter, Autumn 2011



Message from Head Teacher Ms A Bunting

It was lovely to see all the pupils on Tuesday morning and I congratulate everyone on the fantastic start to the new school year despite the terrible weather. All the pupils are looking very smart and we very much hope this will continue throughout the year. Yr5 have done particularly well, it is as if they have been with us for months instead of just four days.

I hope you have had the chance to see your child's new planner and that you are able to read the new school handbook. The new planners are to enable children to record their homework and other relevant information. We ask that they are not used as link books to pass messages between school and home. Further on in this newsletter I have explained how to contact the school, and this information is also contained in the handbook. The handbook also contains information on many other school matters and is designed to be a helpful tool for parents and staff.

Over the summer the government announced the national Key Stage 2 SATs data and I was delighted to discover that West Moors had beaten the national averages in English for both reading and writing.

	English Overall	Reading	Writing
At West Moors Middle	35%	43.5%	27%
Across England (provisional figure)	29%	42%	20%

% = percentage of pupils who gained Level 5

This is excellent news. Well done and thank you to everyone, including parents, who helped us to achieve this success.

We were also very pleased to hear of exam success at Ferndown Upper School, especially to discover that ALL (100%) of our A-level students passed in every subject this year!! Attached to this newsletter is a leaflet from Ferndown Upper School giving more information about their successes.

Welcome/ New staff and new roles

We welcome Mr Ward as our DT teacher and joint class teacher, with Mr Malone, for 8WM, Mrs Colvin as Cover Supervisor on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Pell who will be working in the front office in the afternoons.

New website

Over the summer holidays the school's new website went live. Please take a look at www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk . The new website will allow us to quickly place short messages on the front page. There is also a letters page where we aim to place downloadable copies of all letters sent to more than five parents.

After School Clubs

Towards the end of next week a letter will be sent out to all parents giving information on all of our After School Clubs and lunchtime clubs.

Tests

Over the next week most pupils will be taking tests in reading, writing and maths. Pupils in Yr5 and Yr7 will also take CATS tests. CATs tests enable us to gain a reasonably accurate prediction of the grade a child should receive in the national KS2 SATs (for Year6 pupils) and the Year8 tests that are taken by all pupils in Dorset Middle Schools. All the tests are very important as they give a 'beginning of the year' baseline for each child and enable us to set realistic targets for each pupil in all subjects. Over the year you will receive reports which will inform you whether your child is in line to meet their targets. For the majority of pupils this will be the case but it is important that interventions are put in place as quickly as possible when required.

Attendance

The government and local authority are taking a much stronger stand on poor levels of attendance, including holidays in term time. They are doing this because regular attendees:

- make better progress both socially and academically
- find school routines and school work easier to cope with
- find learning more enjoyable
- have an easier time on transfer to the next school

As a parent you can help us by ringing on the first morning of all absences with the reason, arranging dental appointments out of school time where possible and keeping us updated by telephone or letter if your child has an extended period of absence.

Unfortunately we are not able to send you text messages. This is because the cost of subscribing to a messaging service is prohibitive for a school of this size. It also means that you have to call the school and if several parents call at the same time, as often happens, the switchboard would become engaged.

Some absences are allowed by law and are known as 'authorised absences'. It is important to understand that as a school we are not suggesting you send your child to school if they are ill, in fact we positively encourage you to keep your child at home until they are well again.

There are times when children are absent for reasons which are not permitted by law. These are known as unauthorised absences and include going for a family day out, sleeping in after a late night, because it is the child's birthday, missing the bus and where there is no explanation or where the explanation is considered unsatisfactory.

Parents should also avoid holidays in term time and Headteachers have been advised, by the government, that **"Schools can only agree to absence for a family holiday if they believe there are special circumstances that warrant it"**. We have been clearly told that the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term time can not be considered as a "special circumstance".

Unauthorised absences have to be reported to the local authority. The Education Welfare Officer may contact you and consider taking legal action against you if your child has unauthorised absences.

Important Dates

- KS2 tests for Year 6 pupils will take place during the week beginning 14th May 2012. For the first time there will be some additional papers, for more able pupils, in the week after SATs i.e week beginning 21st May
- Year 8 tests will take place during the week beginning 28th May 2012

All of these tests will be externally marked and Government/Dorset regulations mean that pupils are not able to officially sit these tests on alternative dates. It is also vital that pupils attend all sessions in the weeks before the testing, as vital revision and test techniques are taught. **Therefore, Year 6 and Year 8 pupils will not be permitted holidays during the Spring Term until the tests are over.**

Uniform

We are really grateful for the support you show us in maintaining high basic standards. The uniform rules are in the handbook but some key points are:

Shirts

Big enough to tuck in (unless box-cut for girls) and worn comfortably with done-up collars.

Tie

Pupils should have at least six stripes showing on the front of their tie.

Trousers

Must be plain loose-fitting tailored school trousers with no visible buttons, buckles, zips, motifs etc.

Shoes

Must be plain, black, durable and leather style.

Socks

Must be black or white

Jumpers

School sweatshirt available from the school office

Jewellery and Nail Varnish

Pupils are not allowed to wear nail varnish to school and the only jewellery permitted is a watch and one small stud in each ear. These have to be removed for PE, or if that is not possible covered with tape.

Reminders

As always at this time of year we have several reminders:-

Please could we remind you that for the benefit of your children's security, all visitors (including parents) to the school building must report to the school office and enter the building via this entrance.

In line with government regulations we do not allow pupils to bring crisps or sweets to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch.

Please could you ensure that your child does not arrive before 8:35am. This is because the teaching staff are not employed before this time and it is not possible to supervise the children.

Please could parents ensure that they, and their children, stay safe by walking on the pavements and not cutting across the car park or the front driveway. Our car park/drive serve both the school and the children's centre and are often extremely busy.

Parent Focus Group

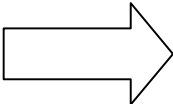
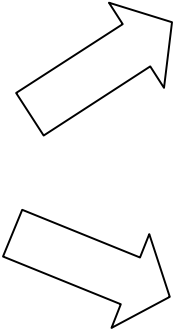
The Senior Leadership Team and Governors are interested in your views and suggestions and we will be launching a series of Focus Groups to explore topics which are of interest to parents in all year groups, such as home/school communication and homework.

Details on meeting dates and times will follow shortly and we do hope that you will be able to join us.

Parents' Guide to Contacting West Moors Middle School

If the matter is urgent, parents are welcome to come into school, or telephone, and we will do our best to help, however, it will be necessary to consult with whoever is available at that time.

If the matter is not urgent please follow this step by step guide:

<p>Step 1</p>	<p>Decide who is the best person to contact.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you wish to discuss an issue about your child you need to speak with your child's form tutor (class teacher). ▪ If you wish to discuss a piece of work or homework you need to speak with the teacher who set the work.
<p>Step 2</p>	<p>Arranging to speak with the teacher.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Telephone the School Office on 01202 872474. <p><i>If you call before 8 am or after 4:15pm an answer phone will take the call. Please note it takes at least one minute for this service to operate.</i></p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Email: office@westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk <p>Please ask for an appointment to speak with the relevant teacher. Please specify whether you would prefer a telephone appointment or a meeting.</p>
<p>Step 3</p>	<p>A member of the office staff will contact the teacher and contact you within 24 hours to tell you the time of your appointment. The school aims for the appointment to be within 3 workings days of the request.</p>	

What should I do if the issue is still not resolved?

In nearly all cases meeting with the form tutor or subject teacher resolves the issue, however if you need further assistance please contact your child's Key Stage Leader.

<p>If your child is in Yr5 or Yr6 (Key Stage 2)</p> <p>Please request an appointment to see Mrs Gould (Key Stage 2 leader/Assistant Headteacher)</p>	<p>If your child is in Yr7 or Yr8 (Key Stage 3)</p> <p>Please request an appointment to see Mrs Pritchard (Key Stage 3 leader/Deputy Headteacher)</p>
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Please note that the Headteacher is kept informed of matters and will become involved as necessary.

Who is teaching my child ?

Yr5 Timetable September 2011

5CM – Mrs C Morrison

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English and Guided Reading	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Morrison Set 3 Ms A Gritt	6 <i>English once a day Guided Reading once per week</i>
Mathematics	Set 1 Mr A Joyce Set 2 Mrs S Gould Set 3 Mrs H Watkins	5 <i>Once a day</i>
Humanities (History and Geography)	Set 1 Mrs H Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Morrison Set 3 Ms A Bunting	2
Science	Miss M Colton	3
ICT	Mrs C Morrison	1
French	Mrs S Gould	1
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs H Watkins	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Mrs C Morrison	1
Physical Education (PE)	Mr M Malone	2
Design Technology DT)	Mr E Ward	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Mrs C Morrison	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

5HW – Mrs H Watkins

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English and Guided Reading	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Morrison Set 3 Ms A Gritt	6 <i>English once a day Guided Reading once per week</i>
Mathematics	Set 1 Mr A Joyce Set 2 Mrs S Gould Set 3 Mrs H Watkins	5 <i>Once a day</i>
Humanities (History and Geography)	Set 1 Mrs H Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Morrison Set 3 Ms A Bunting	2
Science	Miss M Colton	3
ICT	Mr A Joyce	1
French	Mrs S Gould	1
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs H Watkins	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Mrs H Watkins	1
Physical Education (PE)	Mr M Malone	2
Design Technology DT)	Mr E Ward	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Mrs H Watkins	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

For the first week or so pupils will be taught English and Maths as a class. They will be moved into sets once we have got to know the pupils and have obtained relevant test scores.

Yr6 Timetable September 2011

6CW – Mrs C Watkins

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English and Guided Reading	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Ms A Gritt Set 3 Mrs S Giller	6 <i>English once a day Guided Reading once per week</i>
Mathematics	Set 1 Mrs H Watkins Set 2 Mrs S Gould Set 3 Mr A Joyce	5 <i>Once a day</i>
Humanities (History and Geography)	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Morrison Set 3 Miss B Wigley	2
Science	Mrs P Phillips	3
ICT	Mrs P Phillips	1
French	Mrs C Watkins	1
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs K Willmott	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Mrs H Watkins	1
Physical Education (PE)	Mr M Malone	2
Design Technology DT)	Mr E Ward	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Mrs C Watkins	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

6PW – Mrs P Phillips and Mrs K Willmott

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English and Guided Reading	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Ms A Gritt Set 3 Mrs S Giller	65 <i>English once a day Guided Reading once per week</i>
Mathematics	Set 1 Mrs H Watkins Set 2 Mrs S Gould Set 3 Mr A Joyce	5 <i>Once a day</i>
Humanities (History and Geography)	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Morrison Set 3 Miss B Wigley	2
Science	Mrs P Phillips	3
ICT	Mrs P Phillips	1
French	Mrs C Watkins	1
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs K Willmott	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Miss B Wigley	1
Physical Education (PE)	Mr M Malone	2
Design Technology DT)	Mr E Ward	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Mrs P Phillips and Mrs K Willmott	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

Yr7 Timetable September 2011

7AJ – Mr A Joyce

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English	Set 1 Mrs C Pritchard Set 2 Ms A Gritt Set 3 Mrs C Morrison	4
Mathematics	Set 1 Mr A Joyce Set 2 Mrs H Watkins Set 3 Miss B Wigley	4
History	Mr M Malone	2
Geography	Mrs C Morrison	2
Science	Miss M Colton	3
ICT	Mr A Joyce	1
French	Mrs S Giller	2
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs K Willmott	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Mrs H Watkins	1
Physical Education (PE)	Mr M Malone	2
Design Technology DT)	Miss B Wigley	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Mr A Joyce	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

7BW – Miss R Wigley

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English	Set 1 Mrs C Pritchard Set 2 Ms A Gritt Set 3 Mrs C Morrison	4
Mathematics	Set 1 Mr A Joyce Set 2 Mrs H Watkins Set 3 Miss B Wigley	4
History	Mrs C Morrison	2
Geography	Miss M Colton	2
Science	Miss M Colton	3
ICT	Mrs P Phillips	1
French	Mrs S Giller	2
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs K Willmott	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Miss B Wigley	1
Physical Education (PE)	Miss B Wigley	2
Design Technology DT)	Miss B Wigley	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Miss B Wigley	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

Yr7 Timetable September 2011

7MC – Miss M Colton

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English and Guided Reading	Set 1 Mrs C Pritchard Set 2 Ms A Gritt Set 3 Mrs C Morrison	4
Mathematics	Set 1 Mr A Joyce Set 2 Mrs H Watkins Set 3 Miss B Wigley	4
History	Mr M Malone	2
Geography	Miss M Colton	2
Science	Miss M Colton	3
ICT	Mrs P Phillips	1
French	Mrs C Watkins	2
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs K Willmott	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Mrs H Watkins	1
Physical Education (PE)	Mr M Malone	2
Design Technology (DT)	Mr E Ward	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Miss M Colton	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

Yr8 Timetable September 2011

8AG – Ms A Gritt

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Pritchard Set 3 Ms A Gritt	4
Mathematics	Set 1 Mr E Ward Set 2 Mr A Joyce Set 3 Miss B Wigley	4
History	Mrs C Pritchard	2
Geography	Mrs P Phillips	2
Science	Mrs P Phillips	3
ICT	Mr A Joyce	1
French	Mrs S Giller	2
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs K Willmott	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Miss B Wigley	1
Physical Education (PE)	Miss B Wigley	2
Design Technology DT)	Mr E Ward	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Ms A Gritt	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

8WM – Mr E Ward and Mr M Malone

Subject	Teacher(s)	Number of lessons (lessons last 55 minutes)
English	Set 1 Mrs C Watkins Set 2 Mrs C Pritchard Set 3 Ms A Gritt	4
Mathematics	Set 1 Mr E Ward Set 2 Mr A Joyce Set 3 Miss B Wigley	4
History	Mrs C Morrison	2
Geography	Mrs P Phillips	2
Science	Miss M Colton	3
ICT	Mr A Joyce	1
French	Miss A Gritt	2
Art	Mrs K Willmott	1
Music	Mrs K Willmott	1
Beliefs and Values (B&V)	Miss B Wigley	1
Physical Education (PE)	Mr M Malone	2
Design Technology DT)	Mr E Ward	2
Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE)	Mr E Ward and Mr M Malone	50 minutes per week – taught assembly time

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Monday 10 th October 2011	Parents' Evening 3.45 - 7pm
Wednesday 12 th October 2011	Parents' Evening 3.45 - 7pm
Tuesday 18 th October 2011	HPV vaccines for Year 8 girls
Thursday 20 th October 2011	Halloween Disco 6.30 - 8pm (run by the Iguana Year 8 pupils)
Tuesday 8 th November	Open Evening for Year 3 and 4 7.15pm - 8.45pm

Please note that there is a staff inset day on Friday 21st October and pupils' last day will be Thursday 20th October and returning to school on Monday 31st October.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE LIZARD: Thursday 20th October 2011.