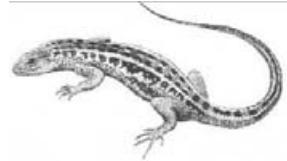


THE LIZARD

Newsletter for West Moors Middle School

2nd Half - Autumn 2010

Name _____ Class _____



Message from Head Teacher

I know it is a cliché but it is difficult to believe that Christmas is almost with us and 2010 is nearly over. This has been a very long term, but I am extremely proud of everything that pupils and staff have achieved. The following news items give a flavour of the many things that go on in school.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to Ferndown Upper School, which has just had a very successful Ofsted obtaining an overall award of 'Good', with students behaviour being especially noted as much improved from their last inspection in 2007.

As always that you very much for your continued support over this term and I wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ms A Bunting



Pupil Success in Yr8 tests

All pupils at Dorset Middle School sit tests at the end of Yr8. As there are only 14 middle schools these results are not published in tables so I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our pupils, who are now in Yr9 achieved.

Our pupils' progress from Yr4 to Yr8 was above the national expectation in both English and mathematics. We are particularly proud of our Gifted and Talented pupils who did extremely well with all of them achieving a Level 6 in maths and 86% of these pupils obtained Level 6 in English. Gifted and Talented pupils at West Moors exceeded the county averages. Well done!

Middle Schools are judged by Ofsted on the progress children make from Year 4 to Year 8. While Year 6 SATs are important we have only had the children for two

years when these tests occur. This is why Ofsted base their judgements on attainment and progress made during the whole time they have been in the school.



Headlice

We have had a number of concerns regarding headlice. Latest guidance does not provide schools with a large role to play, but we want to help however we can. We encourage long hair to be tied back and parents to check hair regularly. However we cannot check hair, exclude pupils with lice or promote certain treatments.

Studies show that 1 - 5 % of a school will be infected at any time. Lice only spread through direct contact so children are most likely to get them from friends. You only need to use treatments if you find live, moving lice. Egg cases will remain for some time after treatment and just need combing out.

How can we combat headlice?

1. Pick up a health authority leaflet from the office. You don't need to spend lots of money on treatment.
2. If you go to a pharmacy that is part of the minor ailments service then you can get FREE treatment for your child on prescription. West Moors Pharmacy is part of this scheme.
3. If you continue to experience problems talk to the school nurse on: 07920 831279



Verwood Buses - Three Legged Cross ("Blue Bus") Safety Issue

The roads on the Joy's Road Estate at Three Legged Cross are not treated in the winter and the roads become very hazardous. It has been decided, therefore, that when roads are icy or there is snow, the bus will pick up pupils outside the Woodcutter's Pub and not risk going on to the estate. Although this means that children have to cross the main road (and parents may wish to escort children across the road), it was decided that it was a lesser danger than reversing buses in the proximity of children waiting. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



Information Regarding School Closure during Bad Weather

Thank you for your understanding and support during the school closures earlier in the month. Earlier this year Dorset County Council implemented a new system for

notifying parents of such an event and headteachers were told that we should no longer telephone radio stations. On Thursday 2nd December it became apparent that the new system was not working. Subsequently Headteachers have received the following statement from the County Council.

"As is often the case when implementing a new system or process, we had some technical issues with the service closure pages on dorsetforyou.com. This is partly why some radio stations did not broadcast updated closed school lists. However, radio stations were also struggling to cope with demand and we have heard from more than one headteacher that they had difficulties in trying to get through when they phoned their local station. Thank you for your patience in implementing this new system. Please pass on our apologies to parents if the website issues meant they did not get the information they needed. "

I am pleased to note that the systems worked very efficiently on the morning of Friday 3rd December so hopefully all the gremlins in County Hall have been removed.



Tests and Holiday Requests

Yr6 SATS in English and Mathematics will be held **9th May to 13th May 2011**.

Yr8 Transfers Tests in English, Mathematics and Science will be held **6th June to 10th June 2011**.

These tests are important for the pupils and for the school, as they allow us to demonstrate how much progress children make during their time at West Moors, therefore we will not consent to any holiday requests for Year 6 and Year 8 pupils during the following periods:-

Year 6 - Wednesday 27th April 2011 to Thursday 12th May 2011

Year 8 - Wednesday 27th April 2011 to Friday June 10th 2011.

Holiday requests for other times of the year are not encouraged and will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Please note that headteachers are not allowed to consent to holiday requests for pupils who have attendance issues, even if the issue was caused by illness.

Years 5 and 7 will be having tests during the week commencing 16th May 2011.



8-2-6 Club

It is with real sadness that I have to tell you that the 8-2-6 club will be closing on 8th April 2011. Staff have worked very hard to make this club a really excellent child-care/extended school facility, however it has not proved possible to run the club as a viable concern. As I am sure you have heard in the media, government agencies are going to experience cut-backs and this means that the subsidy for the 8-2-6 club has been stopped and therefore the governors had no choice but to reluctantly close this facility.



Uniform Costs

Unfortunately our suppliers have increased the cost of uniform. We have managed to absorb these increases for the last two years but now we are having to put some of our prices up. We have kept any increase to a minimum and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

If you would like an updated price list then please contact the school office.

Many thanks.



Library News

Booked Up: Our Year 7 pupils are now "Booked Up". Booked Up is run by Booktrust, a national independent charity that encourages people to read. Booked Up has given every Year 7 pupil in England a free book chosen from a list of 13 titles. We were delighted to receive our pupil's books recently. This caused great excitement within the year group and we hope that this encourages them to continue to read and explore different types for literature further.



Stock Take: Reminder that I am planning to make a complete stock take of the Library straight after the Christmas break. Pupils will need to bring in a book from home to read at school. Thank you - Mrs Gibbons, Librarian.



Safeguarding and Child Protection at WMMS

"Our school has a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children. We follow Child Protection Procedures in line with other local agencies" We have recently reviewed our Safeguarding/Child Protection policy and procedures. The updated policy and procedures can be found on the school's website. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs S Gould, through the school office, if you require a paper copy or further information about this important area. Mrs S Gould - Assistant Head Teacher (Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection)



Police Message - Bikes!

Your local Safer Neighbourhood Team has launched a campaign called "Think Bright, Think Lights" this is aimed at educating people in cycle safety to have lights on their bikes. During the months of October to March they will be stopping bikes with no lights and issuing cycle defect notices, giving the rider an opportunity to purchase lights rather than pay a fine. The person that is issued the defect notice has 14 days to purchase lights and present them fixed to their bike and a receipt to Ferndown Police Station.



Switch off Fortnight! 15th to 29th November 2010

School council invited parents, carers, children and staff in West Moors Middle School to take part in this year's Switch-Off Fortnight and save money whilst helping the environment by:

1. Switching off electrical items at the socket rather than leaving them on standby
2. Switching off lights when they were not in use
3. Turning off taps when they had finished with them
4. Ensure they were not unnecessarily heating rooms which are not in use



Eco Christmas!

This year WMMS pupils sent greetings using stickers placed onto a large festive poster displayed in the school hall instead of writing individual Christmas cards. This counted towards our Green Flag (gold) Eco Award as it saves trees being cut down and generates less waste. Money saved was donated to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital via the School Council.



Mini enterprise / STEM opportunity

The DT department are running Mini-enterprise activities in the summer term for Key Stage 3 pupils where they will have the opportunity to run a small business. We are looking for people in the community who have any business experience that they could share with the pupils. The STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) organisation can offer free training and insurance to anyone willing to work in a school, and employers are often keen to promote links with local schools. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Simpson via the school office.



The Annual Rotary Cooking Competition

The annual Rotary Cooking Competition, sponsored by Bertroli Oil, was held on Saturday 13th November 2010 at Ferndown Upper School. Although there were only three entrants this year the standard of cooking was excellent.

***** from FUS came first, second was *****, and third place went to West Moors Middle School pupil *****. There was only one point between second and third place!

All the girls that took part were existing or ex pupils of West Moors Middle School! ***** made Moroccan Spicy Chickpea Soup, Stuffed chicken breasts with cream cheese and parma ham served with new potatoes and green beans, her dessert was chocolate mouse with honeycomb smash.

All the girls were presented with a certificate and a prize. ***** and ***** are through automatically to the next round on the 15th January 2011 at FUS, and there is a possibility that ***** may go through too as a high score runner up, but we will know definitely in the next couple of week.





Congratulations to...

***** (5HM) who came runner up in the design Christmas lights for our village competition run by West Moors Parish Council. ***** was awarded a prize at the Christmas Carol Concert held at the Petwyn last week.



Gods and Goddesses

Year 5 have recently been studying the Ancient Greeks. During the final week some of the children dressed up. They took part in a question and answer session, taking on the different characters they'd been learning about and telling the rest of the year group about life as an Ancient Greek.

The outfits were brilliant, and everyone had a great time.



'In West Moors Middle School, Year 5 had a Greek Day and the children did a little catwalk show. They were all Greek Gods and Goddesses, from Zeus to Athena, and Hera to Helena. There were bright colours everywhere.

This was the final lesson of our topic on the Ancient Greeks.'

Report by *****.



WMMS has been busy raising money for Children in Need.

The children came to school in non-uniform and wore something 'spotty'. They each paid a £1 to be in non-uniform, with 50p going towards Children in Need and 50p going towards the School Council Projects.

The canteen made Pudsey Cakes and sold them at break time, with 10p per cake being donated to the cause.

Mrs Simpson, the DT Subject Leader, made a wonderful Pudsey shaped cake, which was raffled in the afternoon and won by Mirsha Hobbs in Year 6.

We had a wonderful day A HUGE thank you to everyone who took part! We raised £292.40 of which £120.95 is going towards school council fundraising activities and the rest to Children in Need.





***** Trip with Dreamflight to Florida



West Moors Middle School pupil ***** recently returned from a once-in-lifetime holiday to Florida with Dreamflight. ***** , who's in Year 8, is dual-registered and attends Victoria Education Centre in Poole once a week. It was through Victoria that *****was chosen as one of 192 children to join this year's trip.

The holiday was organised by Dreamflight, a UK charity that changes young lives through taking seriously ill and disabled children, without their parents, on the holiday to Orlando.

The children visited Universal Studios, where they went to the new 'Wizards World of Harry Potter', met Shrek and danced with the Blues Brothers.

***** and his new friends also went to Sea World, where he fed some dolphins and got to meet a two week old Killer Whale. Before the children left for the UK, they watched a Police and Fire display. The picture is of ***** meeting one of the police dogs. ***** said:-'Dreamflight was the best holiday I've ever been on! The coolest bit was flying with Harry on a broomstick. If I had all the money in the world I would love to go on Dreamflight again!'

Dreamflight information - <http://www.dreamflight.org>

Victoria Education College <http://www.livability.org.uk/colleges>



Power Strike



On Friday 15th October we took part in a Power Strike event run by AFC Bournemouth. All the pupils got an opportunity to take part and see how fast they could kick a ball, even the teachers joined in.

All the children who took part received a certificate. The pupils who worked hard to raise sponsorship money for the school and charity received prizes.

On Tuesday the 31st November Mark Moseley (Midfield) and Jayden Stockley (Striker) came into assembly to present these prizes, including signed footballs and match tickets. Well done to everyone who raised some money, a good day was had by all.



Cartridge Recycle Scheme

Mr Joyce is running a cartridge recycling scheme. Please send any used printer cartridges into school, as we will be happy to recycle them appropriately. Many thanks.



The Peace Posters Competition

Lion's Club International Achievement Award - *****

Lion's Club Certificate of Appreciations - *****

Other Peace Poster Winners - *****



Lizard Trophy Winners for Autumn Term

Year 5: *****

Year 6: *****

Year 7: *****

Year 8: *****



Reminder of Term Dates

Term finishes today, and children are expected back in school on *Wednesday 5th January 2011*. We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

!!!!!!STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS!!!!!!
Change to Summer Term Dates

West Moors will now be closed to pupils on Tuesday 26th April 2011. All staff will be involved in an INSET DAY. Pupils will return to school on Wednesday 27th April. On Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th all pupils will be taking part in an English Day and a Mathematics Day - this will be very beneficial for all pupils taking tests. We will be working with pupils and teachers from Cranborne Middle School for this activity and will send out further details nearer the time.

On Friday 29th April the school will be closed as it is a Public Holiday to celebrate the Royal wedding.

All other dates remain as previously published.



Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Thursday 17 th February	Disco
Monday May 9 th to Friday May 13 th	KS2 SATs Tests
Monday 6 th June to Friday 10 th June	Year 8 Tests

Dorset Fire & Rescue called to WMMS!



Above: The children got a good chance explore the Fire Engine and ask lots of questions!



'It was really fun and active. We were split into two teams and played games and activities with the hoses. It would be great if the fire engine service could come again!'

On Wednesday 10th November, Dorset Fire and Rescue were called to West Moors Middle School - but luckily not for an emergency!

The crew stayed for an hour and a half, showing the children all the equipment on the fire engine. They also organised a race between two teams, where the children had to assemble a hose reel and attach it to a hydrant.

The children all had a fantastic time!

'It was awesome - I hope they come again. I even got to wear the fire jacket and visor.'

Coming up...

On 2nd February we have another special visit. St John Ambulance will be coming to 8-2-6! The children will get the chance to learn some basic first aid skills and put them into practice.



The 8-2-6 club is designed to meet the childcare needs of parents who are working or want to take up training opportunities. The club is based at WMMS but it is also open to children from the feeder schools in Years 3 and 4. In addition to help with homework and supervised play, a wide range of well planned activities are on offer.

For further information about the 8-2-6 club, please contact the school office on 01202 872474.

