Message from the Head, Mrs C. Pritchard

The time has flown by this term and I can’t believe we are approaching the Christmas holidays already. As usual, there have been many events and exciting opportunities for the students this half term, which you can read about below. However, I would like to focus on the comments and feedback we have had about our school and our students since September. Throughout the term we have had a range of visitors - parents, governors, colleagues from other schools, our School Evaluation Partner (Mr Brooks, the Headteacher of Allenbourn) and an independent consultant (who is Ofsted trained), who I invited into the school last week. Without fail, all of the adults we have had visiting the school have given us positive feedback about our students. Below, I have detailed just a few of their comments.

Pupils’ behaviour was exemplary as they were interested and willing to be involved in their learning.
Mr Brooks, School Evaluation Partner.

The children were confident to talk about their work. The behaviour for learning was very good. There was a lovely ethos in the school and the teachers and children were very welcoming. There was a very calm atmosphere. The pupils were polite – they held open the doors and were happy to talk about what they were doing.
Mrs Davy, Mrs Crossley and Mr Sewell, First School Headteachers – feedback from a learning walk.

All the pupils I spoke to were polite and helpful, and pupils in corridors were respectful, moving aside and opening doors.
Mrs Woodall, Governor.

One of the lecturers commented to me on the good behaviour of our students. At all times our students were attentive, good mannered and polite to everybody they came into contact with.
Mr Long (Governor) – commenting on student behaviour on a school trip to Bournemouth and Poole College.
These are a fraction of the positive comments we have had, but I wanted to share them with you because I am immensely proud of our students, of their positive attitude, their good manners and their excellent attitude to learning. As in any job, there are times when things are challenging, when people are tired or when we deal with situations that are sad or worrying, but the thing that sustains all teachers and makes the job such a rewarding one, is the fantastic young people that we work with on a daily basis.

And so, as we near the end of another term, I want to say a huge thank you to all of the students of West Moors Middle School (even those who have got things a bit wrong this term!) because you are an amazing group of people to work with and you are to be congratulated on your positivity, your engaging personalities, your good manners and your contribution to our school community. Very well done.

And finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff for their continued hard work and commitment and to all the parents of West Moors Middle School for your support. I wish all of you a very happy Christmas and an excellent New Year. I hope you have a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2015.
Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Sunday, representatives from the School Council accompanied myself & Mr Long (Governor) to the service in West Moors Village. I was very proud of how the students conducted themselves and of their desire to represent the school at this important occasion.

Some students also accompanied Miss Smith to the Remembrance Day service in Ferndown on 11th November and, again, they represented the school fantastically.

Well done to all of those who took part. Mrs Pritchard

Building Motivation and Attainment in Mathematics

Year 4 Maths Day at WMMS

On Friday 21st November we held an amazing maths day in the school hall. We welcomed nearly 100 Year 4 children from Oakhurst, Three Legged Cross, St Ives and St Marys First Schools and all of their Year 4 staff. The day was run by Angela Gould from BMAM (Building Motivation and Attainment in Mathematics) and was action packed with paper folding, bingo and team quizzes. It culminated with each school making and taking home a triangular based pyramid big enough for a pupil to sit in!

Our Year 8 students were a real credit to the school, helping all day as chaperones, furniture removers and of course as mathematics advisors.

We are already looking forward to organising a similar event next year as the feedback from pupils, staff and parents was fantastic. This day is part of our whole school initiative to build motivation for maths and thus increase attainment.

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Mrs S Gould, Assistant Head
Year 7 London Trip

Earlier this term our year 7 pupils went to London to the Science museum and the Natural History museum. This is what some of the pupils said about their experiences:

‘In the Science museum I enjoyed doing the practical experiments in the launch pad. Then, we went to the Natural History museum and saw the T-Rex skeleton. After that, we went ice skating and got lots of bruises!’ Eddie Clifford

‘In the Science museum I enjoyed many things like the machine that could see through walls. That was the best.’ Brad Smith

‘I really enjoyed the trip to the museums, as we got to do fun experiments. I especially liked the ice skating because we got to have a laugh.’ Teagan Braithwaite

‘I enjoyed the trip to the Natural History museum, the Science museum and going ice skating because I learnt a lot, such as, if you get some black magnetic ink and a magnet you can pick it up. I also enjoyed the Natural History museum because I saw the skeleton of a dinosaur. I really enjoyed ice skating because it was really difficult and everyone who was doing it was having fun.’ Harry Howard

‘In the Science museum we went to the launch pad, which was great fun!’ Liam Hughes

‘I really enjoyed going on the London trip because then I could spend a lot of time with my friends and also in the museum it was really fun, enjoyable and interesting. I especially enjoyed when we went ice skating because I had never ice skated before, yet I didn't fall over very much. . . . Thank you Mrs Phillips for organising our trip.’ Kane Hewson

‘The trip to London was fabulous! I learnt lots and had lots of fun too! My favourite part of the day was when we went around the Natural History museum.’ Emma Tompkins

‘I really enjoyed the trip to London as we went to two museums which had really cool stuff. The thing I loved most was the ice skating.’ Chloe Cox

‘I enjoyed the science museum lots, as we went in the launch pad, which is an experiment. I absolutely loved the ice skating as we all fell over and had great fun!’ Holly Fulkner

As you can see from the comments above everyone had a brilliant time. Our pupils were all well behaved and it was a pleasure to take them on this trip. Many thanks to the staff who attended the trip and special thanks to our governor Mr Roger Long.

Mrs Phillips
Marie Curie – Pots of Care
Next term we are supporting the charity Marie Curie. Every pupil in the school has planted their own daffodil in a pot and decorated a label for their pot. Next term, once the daffodils have grown, the pupils will take their pots home with an information pack and donation envelope. The idea is for everyone to bring their donations back into school, where we will pass the monies collected onto the Marie Curie charity. We hope that you will be able to help us support this worthy cause.

During one of our senior lunches, Zak and Brandon from year 6 helped the seniors plant their own pots of care.

Mrs Phillips

Easy Fundraising
Are you doing your Christmas shopping online? Did you know that every time you buy a gift you could also be raising money for the school?

Over 2,700 well known retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco will donate a percentage of what you spend this Christmas to West Moors Middle to say thank you for shopping with them.

It’s a really simple process, all you have to do is:
- Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- When you are asked to choose your cause, select West Moors Middle School
- Get shopping - it couldn’t be easier!

Easyfundraising has already raised over £5 million for over 50,000 good causes across the UK. So what are you waiting for? Head to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to fundraise for us now.

Already registered? Spread the word to family and friends this Christmas to let them know just how easy it is!

P.S. When you register, you’ll be asked if you want to install the Find & Remind toolbar - make sure you do this so that you receive a handy reminder each time a donation is available when you shop online!
Music Lessons
The school offers drum, guitar, bass guitar, and piano lessons, charged at £40 per term. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument, please contact Mr Mein through the school office.

Christmas Jumper Day
On Friday our pupils had a ‘Christmas Jumper Day’ in support of ‘Save The Children’ and raised £158.10! Pupils could come into school in their own clothes, wearing Christmas jumpers if they wanted, in return for a small donation. During the day, pupils who weren’t involved in the Christmas concert had fun designing their own Christmas jumpers.
Christmas Choir
This year several members of years 5 and 6 formed a small Christmas Choir to sing at a couple of events. We performed at the School Christmas Fayre and then again at the West Moors Lunch Club where we entertained the seniors who also joined in with the traditional carols. We also then repeated our performance for the lunch club at our school. Well done to all the pupils who joined in and thank you for your hard work rehearsing.

Christmas Production
This year our Christmas production of ‘Five Gold Rings’ was an adventure in the twelve days of Christmas. The cast and chorus worked hard all term to learn their lines and songs. I think everyone who came to see it would agree that their hard work paid off as the show was a great success. Particular thanks must go to Teagan Braithwaite and Stasia Smith who were brilliant in the lead roles. Thank you too to all the staff who helped to put the show on.

London Dungeons Trip
Year 6 combined a trip to the London Dungeons with a one off visit to the poppies at the Tower of London. This was an amazing opportunity to view this artwork of poppies prior to their removal. The pupils then walked from the Tower of London to the London Dungeons along the river Thames embankment. They enjoyed their lunch while looking at the London Eye, excitement and trepidation building before their visit.

‘The London Dungeons were amazing, the actors were fabulous. I loved every second of it, especially the demon barber and Jack the Ripper. I also enjoyed seeing the river of poppies and the many sites like Big Ben, the Shard, London Eye, the Gherkin and the Cheese Grater.’
Emily Collins

‘The London Dungeons were very fun and exciting. The best part was Jack the Ripper. Also the poppies were amazing. On the way there, we saw Big Ben, Cheese Grater, the Shard and we saw the Gherkin. Another good part was Sweeney Todd the demon barber.’
Marshall Smith
Greek Day
This term our Year 5 pupils have been studying Ancient Greece in Integrated Learning and, to support this, we held a Greek Day on 25th November. The Children and staff arrived at school dressed as Ancient Greeks with some fantastic costumes.
We started the day with a parade, awarding prizes to the best dressed boy and girl in each class, followed by Greek dancing to the tunes of Zorba the Greek and other traditional music. Children competed for medals in a mini-Olympics; taking part in relay races, jumps and throwing competitions. They then had a food tasting session with pupils trying feta cheese, watermelon, olives, hummus and other Greek dishes. Children were taught about Archimedes and his ‘Eureka’ science experiment explaining water displacement and then started to design their Greek pottery. It was a fantastic day!

Priest’s House Museum
On the 10th and 11th November the Year 5s went to the Priest House Museum in Wimborne, particularly focusing on the Romans which they will be studying in Integrated Learning in the New Year. The Children took part in an Archaeology Dig; unearthing the layers, analysing the evidence and putting together a story of the past. They also practised making Roman mosaics and their own Roman pottery. And to finish… pupils were able to taste typical Roman food.

Megan in Year 5:
‘Today we went to the Priest House museum and it was so much fun. I really enjoyed the day’.
Ethan P in Year 5:
‘When we did the cooking, it was really fun, it was my favourite activity.’
Callum in Year 5:
The first thing we did was the Archaeology Dig and I found a coin. Next, we made the Roman pottery, this was my favourite activity. After that, we made Roman apple juice, but it tasted different. I enjoyed everything.

After School Sports Clubs
Pupils will have received a letter informing them of the after school sports clubs we will be running in the Spring term. These will run from 3.30pm-4.30pm and will cost £1 per session, which is being hugely discounted using our school sports funding.

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<tr>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Multi-sports</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Dodgeball</td>
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<td>£10 10 weeks</td>
<td>£9 9 weeks</td>
<td>£10 10 weeks</td>
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Year 5 Avon Tyrrell Residential Trip
We have just come back from our trip to Avon Tyrell where we met Father Christmas. We were all kept very busy with lots of exciting activities to do such as; archery, high rope & low rope climbing, a night walk and the orienteering treasure hunt. In the evenings there were lots of games and challenges to play too. On the second day, everyone was very excited as we had a very special visitor join us. You’ve guessed it – Father Christmas, who gave all the pupils a special chocolate treat! Thank you to all the staff at Avon Tyrrell, who worked so hard to give us such a fantastic, fun filled time.

This is what some of our pupils had to say about their trip.

‘I enjoyed cooking the marshmallows on the camp fire.’
Amelie Gastaldi

‘I liked the egg drop challenge. We had to decorate and wrap up our egg then drop it without breaking it. I managed not to break my egg!’
Ben Williams

‘I enjoyed all of the activities at Avon Tyrrell. I had a really good time!’
Jack Webster
PTFA

Well, what a fantastic launch year!
In January we come to the end of our first year as a newly formed PTFA.
We have held 4 events, one per term, and we are very thankful of the support we have received to make then as successful as they have been.

We started the year with a quiz/bingo night, then a summer fayre, a fashion show and finally the Christmas fayre where we were fortunate to have a visitor from Father Christmas himself!

In total we have raised in excess of £2,500 !

If you would like to join us on committee or as a helper then please contact the school office.

Many thanks from The PTFA.

Shoebox Appeal
If you have taken part this year we would like to say thank you for participating in this exciting campaign. Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts bring great joy to the children that receive them. Our shoe boxes will be finding their way to children in need in Africa, Central Asia or Eastern Europe.

Mrs Phillips

Spelldrome
All pupils in KS2 now have the opportunity to use Spelldrome, which is an exciting, new resource that allows children to practise their spellings through a range of fun, interactive activities. To access Spelldrome from home, pupils can log into Mathletics (using their usual username and password) and click on the Spelldrome link.

Mrs C Watkins

Local Events
We will now be featuring a ‘Local Events’ section in the school newsletter. If you running a charity event that would be appropriate to promote, email the school and let us know all the details.

Emergency Closures
We will of course endeavour to keep the school open but should weather conditions (or other unforeseen circumstances) force the closure of the school, we will inform parents through:

- The school’s website – www.westmoorsmid.dorset.sch.uk
- Parent Portal
- The local radio station – HeartFM 102.3fm/Radio Solent 96.1fm
- The council’s website – http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices
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:
Frazer Hayes         Emily Collins         Owen Edmonds
Hollie Thompson      Ashleigh Chew        Marc Collins
Danielle Teed        Isabela Ashcroft      Amelie Gastaldi
Gemma Lilley         Ben Williams          Katy Terry
Gabrielle Caballero  Megan Collins         Louise Lacey
Aimee Lomax          Evie Marshall         Harvey Sears
Marshall Smith       Abi Williams          Ed Salter
Sonia Mecia          Owen Hopwood          Jack Quinton
Kirsty Pollington    Melek Urel

Silver:
Jack Watson
Abi Wingate

Lizard Trophy Winners
Year 5: Rebecca Goodall and Jack Watson
Year 6: Lizzie Hunter and Edward Salter
Year 7: Stasia Smith and Harry Howard
Year 8: Mollie Buczak and Charley Metcalf Brown

House Points Totals

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<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Gecko</th>
<th>Iguana</th>
<th>Komodo</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1275</td>
<td>1379</td>
<td>1654</td>
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Term Dates – Spring & Summer 2014/2015

Spring Term 2015

- School Commences: Tuesday 6th January
- Half Term commences: Monday 16th February
- School Resumes: Monday 23rd February
- Term ends: Friday 27th March

Summer Term 2015

- School Commences: Monday 13th April
- Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May
- Half Term commences: Monday 25th May
- School Resumes: Monday 1st June
- Term ends: Friday 17th July

E-Mail office@westmoorshmid.dorset.sch.uk
Tel 01202 872474
Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6th January</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 12th January</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parent’s Evening to meet with subject teachers 3.50-6.45pm</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 14th January</strong></td>
<td><strong>Parent’s Evening to meet with subject teachers 3.50-6.45pm</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 26th – Friday 30th January</td>
<td>Mock Exam week – All Years</td>
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<td>Thursday 12th February</td>
<td>Disco</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 13th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Break up for half term – students in school</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd February</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th March</td>
<td>Year 6 trip – Intech Winchester</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th March</td>
<td>Year 4 Football tournament 1pm-3pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18th March</td>
<td>Year 4 Football tournament (reserve) 1pm-3pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
<td>Year 7 Red – Moors Valley Park – orienteering</td>
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<td>Monday 23rd March</td>
<td>Winter school Games Event</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>Fishbourne Roman Palace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>Winter school Games Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>Disco</td>
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<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>House Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
<td>Spring Term reports issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td><strong>Break up for Easter – students in school</strong></td>
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*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.

Polite Reminder
If your child is absent from school please ring and leave a message on the school answerphone for the front office to pick up. This needs to be repeated for every day of absence as unless the school is notified, your child will be shown as having an unauthorised absence.

Uniform
If you are buying your child new uniform over Christmas, please can you ensure that this complies with the uniform code. We have noticed an increasing number of students wearing boots instead of school schools and that some ‘school trousers’ are, in fact, very much like jeans. These do not meet the uniform requirements, so please bear this in mind if purchasing new items of uniform. Many thanks.
Dear Parents/Carers

Exciting New Fundraising Opportunity for West Moors Middle School

As you are aware, school budgets are always under pressure and along with the magnificent support of our new PTFA, we are always looking for new sources of funding to top up our statutory income.

I am delighted to say that the West Moors Governing Body has recently approved the adoption of a credible and unique new source of funding which we are pleased to introduce to you now.

Business 4 Schools (B4S) is a recently established local business, which will help to raise additional funds for our school via our web site.

By simply clicking the B4S button which is now on our web site, you will be able to visit an ‘online market place’ which has been set up to advertise local businesses to our local community of parents, friends and supporters.

This ‘online market place’ will contain adverts and offers from local businesses wishing to market their products and services to you. A generous percentage of the money from the adverts placed, comes directly to our school…...it’s as simple as that!

The beauty of this scheme - for you as a parent - is that you will not be bombarded with adverts or spam mail, which is so prevalent nowadays. You can choose to look at the ‘on-line market place’ as few, or as many times as you wish, (via the clickable link), as our income is not dependent upon the number of visits to the B4S site, nor the number of ‘clicks’ we receive. However, by regularly visiting the site, you will be made aware of special offers that our advertisers will be promoting.

This is a wonderful way to support our school and promote community cohesion - with no catch, minimal school resource input, and most importantly, with no risk to the school nor our students.

This is where you can help......

1. Visit the website, click on the link and have a look at the companies supporting our school. You may find a useful tradesman or business more local to home who can supply what you need. Remember to keep a regular eye out for offers and promotions!

2. Do you know any business owners who would like to support our school by promoting their business? Although B4S have a sales team who will be contacting local businesses on our behalf, there is an opportunity for the school to earn an extra 10% (of the cost of each advert), if we can find a few of those business advertisers ourselves! Please make the school aware of any businesses who would like to support us!

3. Do you own, or work for a business and would like to benefit from advertising via our school web site?.....being happy in the knowledge that your advert was helping to provide extra funds for us - please let the school know so they can forward your business details to B4S.

If you would like any further information about B4S, you can call their office on Tel: 023 8081 3335, or contact them via team@business4schools.co.uk. Alternatively, you can visit the B4S web site, found at www.business4schools.co.uk

We do hope that you will support this new scheme and share in our excitement!

Kind regards,

Mrs C Pritchard
Headteacher