

Dear Parent/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's parent bulletin.

Food Allergies - Important

As you know Emmanuel operates a "no nuts and no sesame policy" which means that children must not bring products that contain whole or part nuts or sesame into school. We must also now operate a "no kiwi policy" which means that children must not bring in any kiwi or products containing kiwi. We appreciate that this may well impact pupils' normal routines, however I am sure you can understand the need for your support in adhering to this very important medical need. Please note that hummus contains sesame and that it is vital this is not brought to school.

Community relationships

Space outside on the road is tight and I ask parents to be considerate to neighbours and the safe travel of children. It will always be a point of tension, but I ask these two items to be prioritised when leaving or parking your vehicle. Thank you for your support.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of middle school - it supports and reinforces current learning as well as building skills in organisation and independence. The expectation is that all pupils complete their homework. Your child will be asked to write their homework in their school diary and please check this and see the completed homework to support.

Key Stage 3 Homework Club

The Key Stage 3 (**Year 7 & 8 Homework Club**) will recommence on **Thursday 19th September - from 3:20 pm until 4:15 pm**. Our older pupils will **not need to sign a consent form to attend this club and can leave before 4:15 pm if they choose to do so**. The aim of the club will be to provide the children with access to our newly refurbished computer suite and support them with their homework tasks. This will be predominantly the completion of SPARX homework tasks.

Mr Rangdale will be in attendance to help to support the pupils and encourage them to efficiently complete their homework. If your child has previously struggled to complete homework, or may find accessing computers at home problematic - it's certainly worth considering their attendance at this club.

Please ensure that you have made clear collection / 'getting home' plans with your son, or daughter if they intend to attend the Homework Club.

Year 5: what a great start!

Year 5 have had a fantastic first full week of middle school. The year 5 team have been so impressed with the maturity and respect the year group have shown already. We have also really enjoyed seeing how eager they are to go to their lessons! They have produced some great work so far and we can't wait to see what extracurricular activities they choose to get involved in. Well done year 5!

Food Technology

The plan for the Autumn term is now on the website. Your child will be given a recipe sheet in advance of every cooking session. In addition to this, Year 5 have been issued with a booklet to take home - this contains notes for practical lessons, recipes and dates for your diary. It is important to remind every student that long hair must be tied up for all Technology classes (Textiles and Product Design included) and any containers and little pots should be labelled. There is plenty of lost property of this sort!

KS3 Sparx Reader

We're excited to let you know that we've partnered with Sparx Learning to start using their new reading homework platform, Sparx Reader. This will be used throughout KS3 at Emmanuel Middle School this year.

It's really important to us that young people are able to practise careful, silent reading for a decent amount of time, without distraction. Sparx Reader reassures us as teachers and parents that focused reading is happening, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated.

From Friday 13th September your child will be using Sparx Reader to complete weekly homework. Your child's homework will be set on Fridays and due on Fridays every week.

Students can choose from an appropriate range of ebooks at their reading level and, as they read, they'll answer questions to check they're reading carefully. Careful readers earn points, meaning they can prove they've been focusing and ultimately climb the league table!

Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can unlock Gold Reader. This means they can read any paper book from the library at school or from home, by scanning in its barcode.

Additional Information

- Students log in at sparxreader.com. They will need to find their school and log in using their Google password for both Sparx Maths and Sparx Reader.
- Your child can access Sparx Reader on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.
- Sparx Reader adapts to each student's reading level, so it's important that you don't help by answering questions for them. If you help them, Sparx Reader might think they're a very strong reader and show them books that are too difficult.
- You can help by providing a quiet space and a set amount of time for your child to focus on their reading homework each week.
- The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book they're reading; which aspects they're enjoying, which characters and events they've recently read about or what they think could happen next.
- You are able to keep track of your child's reading by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly homework email.
- On the Parent Portal, you can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx Learning system your child is using. For Sparx Reader, you can see progress with the current and previous homeworks, and browse books that your child has been reading as part of their current homework.
- When your child finishes their book, we will send you an email celebrating their achievement!
- Homework drop-ins are available at school including supported after school clubs for invited pupils.
- Bonus ePraise points will be awarded to pupils who exceed their targets and regularly complete their homework on time.
- English teachers will keep parents informed if pupils are falling behind in their homework.
- If you have any questions, please contact your child's English teacher.

Careers Fair

QE Upper school is holding a careers fair on Wednesday 16th October and they have invited our year 8 pupils to attend. The invitation is from 5-7.30pm. Pupils can attend with parents. It is a fantastic opportunity to be shown the wide range of jobs and apprenticeships available in Dorset. See the attached flyer for more information. If your child would like to attend and you are not able to take them, Mrs Robertson will be taking a minibus. Please contact her through the school office.

Food Bank Vouchers

For a lot of our families, the summer holidays have been a financial strain and we understand that new uniforms, bags and pencil cases as well as the cost of living have made it a difficult month for many. We can offer support from the Verwood Food Bank, who can provide up to three vouchers for essential items. Please contact the office for more information.

Targeted Youth Support, Dorset Council

We are pleased to announce that we now have some additional support and resources to offer our pupils here at Emmanuel Middle School. Sonia Atkins and AJ Fewtrell are the Targeted Youth Support Workers for Dorset Council within the East and Purbeck Team. Part of Sonia and AJ's role, and offer to our school, is to support young people through informal youth work, group workshops and one to one youth sessions.

Sonia and AJ will be liaising with our inclusion team and forms part of our commitment to quality safeguarding. One to ones are held at the school on a fortnightly basis and are utilised to support safeguarding and the wellbeing of our students. Group workshops are arranged on an ad hoc basis, as common themes emerge. Referrals to these sessions can be made by our Heads of Year and/or via our inclusion team. This is very valued support for young people and is a much needed resource to support our pupils to thrive both inside and outside our school.



Year 4 Art

To support with transition from first to middle school, Year 4 at Verwood First School are completing their Art and Computing lessons at EMS each Wednesday. It was an exciting first session with Art being focussed on a drawing session looking at CONTOUR and CONTINUOUS LINE drawing inspired by natural forms.



Peripatetic Music Lessons

Just a reminder to parents that it is the children's responsibility to attend their peripatetic music lessons at the scheduled time. Timetables are provided by the peripatetic music teachers to parents and are displayed at school. Piano, guitar and flute lessons take place in the room between the school hall and the IT suite and drum lessons take place in the room opposite the music room above the sports hall. Please can we ask that parents ensure their children know their lesson times as staff are unable to remind them.

Athletics Achievements

Last Sunday, Mollie Dicker, Savanna Hastings and Toby Smith all competed at the Bournemouth Open Athletics event. Toby and Molly have been training with Wimborne Athletics Club throughout the summer and this was their last meet of the season. For Savanna, it was her very first athletics meeting. Toby was really pleased to break the Wimborne u11 boys Vortex Howler record with a throw of 38.23m as well as PBs in the Long Jump and 600m which put him in 3rd place overall.



EMS Parent, Teacher and Friends Association

Emmanuel is fortunate to have an active PTFA fundraising charity that runs events and activities throughout the year, providing fun for the children and raising vital funds that enrich their school experience. Events include summer and Christmas fairs, termly discos, sponsored activities, cake sales and dress-down/up days. Over the last few years this money has been used to fund special topic days, visitors, new class reading sets, playground improvements, epraise rewards and much more. They also help by providing refreshments at school events, managing used uniform sales and stocking the stationery shop for example.

We are always in need of new volunteers to join the team, either as occasional helpers at events who can be contacted as needed, or people willing to join the PTFA committee and take on a more active role, contributing to planning and agreeing spends, etc. If you would like to be more involved with your child's school and help make a difference please contact the PTFA on ptfa.ems@gmail.com

The first meeting of the year will be taking place in school next Wednesday, 18th September from 6pm. Any adult with a connection to the school is welcome to come along - please let us know to expect you on the email above, or text our current Chair on 07789 656556. If you cannot attend next week but are keen to be involved please do still get in touch and we can arrange a time to meet up for a chat.

Annual General Meeting

As an official charity we are required to hold and give notice of an Annual General Meeting where we re-elect our committee roles and trustees and confirm any amendments to our constitution or policies. This year's AGM will be held in school on Wednesday 16th October, 6pm and is open to anyone that would like to attend.

Our current elected roles are held as follows:

Chair Sarah Queenan

Treasurer Sharon Curtis

Secretary VACANT

Vice Chair Sharon Savage

If you would like to be considered for any of the above roles, a vice role, or as an ordinary committee member please inform us in writing by Wednesday 9th October.

Used Uniform

We are always in need of good quality logoed/maroon uniform to use as spares in school and to sell onto parents as low-cost uniform solution. This especially includes sweatshirts, ties, PE hoodies, skorts, and EMS leggings. If you have any that your children have outgrown please hand it in (washed) to the school office. Thank you!

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 18th September, 6pm PTFA Committee Meeting

Wednesday 16th October, 6pm PTFA Annual General Meeting

Friday 18th October Disco (information to follow)

Monday 21st October Bag2School Textiles Collection

Friday 13th December Christmas Fair

We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker