

Dear Parents,

The Worship theme this week has centred around our core values of Excellence, Endeavour and Enjoyment. It is easy to use words but not engage with them. I explained to the pupils when I started in September 2009 through until 2012, they were three words I had seen but nothing more; they had no meaning to me. As we move through the summer term, Mr Jenkinson and myself are looking at the school's culture and how to develop 'the Emmanuel way'. This will be a central feature of our April staff training day.

Current research and literature such as Paul Dix excellent book 'When the Adults Change, Everything Changes' demonstrates the importance of visible consistency and visible kindness to pave the way to excellence, endeavour and enjoyment. More to follow!

As mentioned last week we had a mini inspection to check where we are as a school moving forward. I am pleased to be able to share some part of the concluding comments:

The school is now taking the right action to improve with the support of the Trust. It acknowledges that improvement was slow to start immediately after the inspection, but once the teaching school was giving support, and particularly now the full support of the Trust is becoming embedded, leaders are having an impact. There has been the necessary culture shift, and staff are working to improve.

1. Prioritising teaching has been the right choice. The key next step is to ensure consistency so that:
 - objectives, marking, presentation and follow up consistently match to policies
 - maths teaching has a consistent focus on teaching for understanding
 - pupils encounter consistent expectations about behaviour for learning (these need defining).
2. Now that the Assistant Headteacher has returned, progress should be made with establishing the plan, do, review cycle for both disadvantaged pupils and pupils who have SEND.
3. Senior leaders should follow up the few queries we had after some of the short lesson observations - those specific to individuals.

This week we also appointed two new members of staff. One will join immediately, and one after Easter. Both roles are as Cover Supervisors providing greater capacity to cover our staff and support our pupils across the curriculum. They are well qualified, one a qualified teacher and the other an experienced HLTA. I look forward to formally introducing them after Easter.

Thank you to the Maths team who have been in regular contact with parents to review pupils' progress for those who moved set or where there was a concern regarding the progress individuals are making. I would urge all parents to communicate as much as possible with your child's class teacher. This is not limited to parents evenings.

I hope the year 7 parents have been enjoying the daily blogs from the French residential, they certainly look like they have had a fantastic time. A full report of the trip, together with more photographs, will appear in the school's half termly newsletter. During this week, the year 7 pupils who remained at school have been enjoying a range of lessons, including producing balancing clowns in their science lessons and playing The Paper Bag Game in RE. This game focused on showing our pupils how people work so hard, yet earn so little, as many of the world's population work long hours in poor conditions just to earn enough to stay alive. Please see attached pictures.

Thank you to those parents who have been cooperating with our request to avoid parking or dropping off on the double yellow lines immediately in front of school. So many of you have thanked us for reinforcing this issue- it shows how important child safety is to you all.

Our goal is to keep the road immediately in front of school as clear of traffic as possible for pedestrians - certainly no parking or dropping off.

Those of you dropping off just middle school pupils should take the opportunity to give pupils a little more daily exercise and still be totally safe. Looking at the immediate roads there are so many drop off points which will enable your child to walk safely to school from anything between 100m (Howe Lane, Keswick Way etc) and 1km (Dewlands Way, Church Hill) without having to cross a road unsupervised. Plus you won't get snarled in traffic!

If you need to come closer to school then please respect the area around the roundabout and along Margards Lane which has double yellow lines as this ensures safe crossing points for pedestrians.

Walking/cycling/scooting to school is healthy and safe; check out the following websites for more information: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/travel-dorset/walk/cycling-and-walking-to-school>
<https://www.walktoschool.co.uk/> <https://walkit.com/walking-to-school/>
<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/>

Thank you to all those parents who supplied cakes for our rescheduled cake sale. We raised approximately £185.00 which will be shared between Mosaic and the school's PTFA.

Hope you all have a good weekend.

Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES



Balancing Clowns



The Paper Bag Game

