

Good afternoon and welcome to the first parent bulletin of the 2025 / 26 academic year.

We warmly welcome everyone back and hope the summer break has been an enjoyable and restful time. It has been lovely to hear the pupils excitedly talking about their trips, holidays and experiences. A particularly warm welcome to all our new starters for whom Monday was their first day at Emmanuel - all our Year 5 but also several pupils across our year groups. It has been noted just how capably and maturely everyone has settled in.

House News

A very keenly contested first week in the candle credits battle:

1st - Grylls - 1584
2nd - Watson - 1564
3rd - Vujcic - 1471
4th - Malala - 1458

Our house communities are very important to our pupils and staff alike. Today staff wore their house colours as part of their work attire to support pupils in knowing which staff were in their house:

Grylls - black
Vujcic - green
Malala - blue
Watson - red

Next Friday (19th) it is the turn of the pupils to come to school in their house colours. Please note this is not a mufti day - pupils are required to wear their normal shoes and trousers or skirts with a coloured t-shirt / jumper / hoodie representing their house. As with any change of school attire, strappy or cropped tops are not acceptable. Football shirts are also not appropriate for this event.

Year 5

In Year 5 English, the children have looked at their new class text, 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs', which tells the classic Three Little Pigs story from the Wolf's perspective. Alongside this, we have been looking at grammar concepts such as homophones, main clauses and subject, verb and object.

In Maths, we have started on our brand new scheme, White Rose, and we started by doing some Y4 retrieval on Place Value before moving on to look at numbers up to 100,000.

Year 6

In Y6 English, children have started their new class text, 'Once.' Grammar wise, we are focussing on expanded noun phrases, and how different words and phrases can affect meaning. This book is based around WW2, and links to their current History topic.

Maths has started at a good pace, with lots of Y5 retrieval work, including times tables and arithmetic skills. Their opening topic is on Place Value.

Year 7

In Y7 History this week, pupils have begun their exploration of the events of 1066. This is building on their prior learning about Anglo-Saxons in Y5 and the Vikings in Y6. 1066 is a year of huge significance in our national history and the consequences of these key events changed our country, culture and language forever!

In Geography, Y7 have begun to explore our home - the British Isles - building on the key geographical skills they began to develop in KS2. They are beginning to investigate what it means to be a Geographer and how this vital subject helps us to understand the world around us, each other and how we all interact.

Year 8

Pupils are starting to look at encryption this term in computing. We will be solving puzzles, decrypting secret codes and learning about cracking the Enigma code at Bletchley park during World War 2. We will learn how computers use encryption to keep information safe and secure - especially on the internet.

Homework: is set each Friday for a deadline of the following Friday

In KS2 this consists weekly of Maths learning using the [maths.co.uk](https://www.maths.co.uk) platform and grammar learning using the [spag.co.uk](https://www.spag.co.uk) platform. The pupils will have had their first Maths homework set today and will have come home with their log in details for this.

In KS3 the pupils will have weekly Maths, Reading and Science homework set through the Sparx platform. To access this, pupils need to be logged in to their EMS google account - then click on the [Sparx link](#) on the learning links page of the school website.

Once logged in pupils can switch between the Maths, Reader and Science parts of the site. It is crucial that all pupils complete their homework - it is a vital part of their learning, reinforcing taught content and also it is necessary to develop the study skills of pupils and they ready themselves for upper school and adult life. Please support your child in ensuring all homework is completed each week - having sight of the work.

Attendance

A brilliant start, our whole-school attendance is 98% since the beginning of the term. Current research indicates that the first two weeks of the school year exhibit a significant correlation with attendance throughout the year. Thank you and keep up the good work.

We talk to the children about becoming 'match-fit' during the first few weeks. I am sure the children have come home shattered and will pick up bugs as the school community comes back together. Thank you for remaining positive and getting your children up and going in the morning!

Clubs

Apologies for the delay. A more detailed Parentmail has been sent regarding this, in short, there have been technical issues between Arbor and Epraise which have prevented our booking system being available in time. Please bear with us. We are confident that clubs will begin from Monday, 22nd September.

PTFA

We have our AGM on Thursday, 13th November, followed by a committee meeting. Their work is invaluable. We've been blessed with a stable team for three years. However, three members have stepped away, with their children leaving Emmanuel. We thank them for their hard work, and I know we will see them at events. Two other members have new jobs, and this change makes commitment difficult. Therefore, we are looking for new members to step forward. It would be great to see you.

All that is left is to wish you all a great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher & Mr Alister Barker.