

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

## House News

The last 7 days has been another very closely fought battle in the house candle credits. Well done to Vujicic who top the list with 2405 points with Grylls hot on their heels with 2400. Malala (2292) have then just pipped Watson by 8 points (2284).

**Well done to everyone for the 9381 points earned this week!**

## Epraise

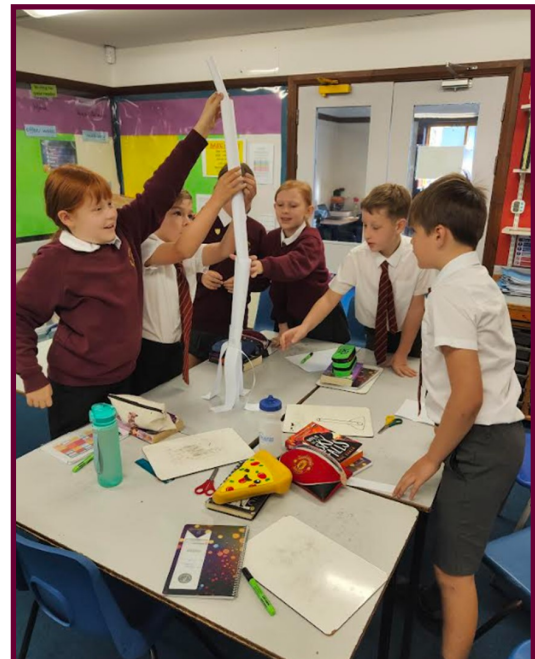
Epraise have successfully synchronised data which has allowed us to get clubs up and running. We are still talking to support about getting candle credits to come across. At the moment pupils are being awarded these on Arbor - we are expecting these to begin showing up in ePraise. As soon as they have resolved this we will let you know.

## Uniform Guidance

A copy of our local uniform guidance policy is available on the school website via this [link](#).

## Skillsbuilder

Our first skillsbuilder session of the year took place on Wednesday morning. These are lessons in tutor groups designed to develop core employability skills. Last year we focussed on speaking and our first session this year looked closely at teamwork - in particular effective communication and achieving balanced contributions. Everyone enjoyed the games used to rehearse these skills!



## Extra Curricular Activities

There was an amazing response to our extra curricular activities last week and unfortunately we know that not everyone was able to secure the places they wanted. To ensure that clubs are being utilised fully we will be operating a non-attendance procedure as follows:

If a child does not attend a club for two consecutive weeks they will be removed from the club to free the space for another child who may wish to attend. Please note that staff are unable to operate waiting lists for clubs, but spaces may appear on Epraise if pupils are removed.

Our offer on a Thursday saw nearly 150 children commit to some form of club. The atmosphere was superb and we are so pleased to finally get our enrichment programme up and running.

## **Cross Country**

On the running theme, our cross-country team competed in its first race of the season. Firstly, the attitude, effort, and joy they showed were fantastic. Erin P won the Year 5 / 6 girls' race, and the team came second. Due to transport issues, our Year 5 / 6 boys had to race in the age group up. However, three of that team were placed in the top 20. Looking at the results of the Year 5 / 6 boys' race, they would have finished second. Therefore, FSM, we are after you! Well done to our Key Stage 3 boys and girls who ran competitively and know how fast the race is run!

## **Year 5**

Year 5 have worked really hard this week on their Reading, Grammar and Spelling tests and all put in 100% effort! We look forward to returning to our unit on the Real Story of the Three Little Pigs next week.

We have been impressed with the enthusiasm shown by classes in their PE lessons. Currently, we are teaching netball and rugby. Hopefully, you are taking the chance to support the Red Roses!

The lessons are demanding, and we find ourselves talking to the children about bringing their whole selves to lessons. The children's biggest challenge is cognitive load rather than physical. They are adapting well, and we have some budding talent among a hard-working year group.

As we progress into the winter months, please consider an additional pair of socks and footwear to use for PE. This will avoid day-long wet feet.

## **Year 5 Heatree Residential Trip**

Just a friendly reminder that deposits for the Heatree trip need to be made by Wednesday 1st October. All payments can be via ParentMail. Please email the office or ask to speak to Mrs Dibben if you have any questions.

## Year 6

This October, Emmanuel Middle School will be re-entering the BBC's 500 Words Competition for aspiring writers in Year 6.

We have had a history of pupils making it through to the second round but nobody has yet reached the finals – our next goal. Next week, we will be launching the competition in English lessons and setting a planning homework. But don't wait until then! We can start developing some of our ideas now.

50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final at **Windsor Castle** in February 2026, which will once again be hosted by **Her Majesty The Queen**. If that's not enough, each winner will also see their story be read aloud by a superstar celebrity on TV, which will be shown as part of a special 500 Words programme with **The One Show** in early March.



Our official panel of celebrity judges, **Sir Lenny Henry**, **Malorie Blackman**, **Francesca Simon**, **Charlie Higson** and **Frank Cottrell-Boyce** will return to crown our next winners.

Please visit the website for more details:

[BBC – 500 Words](#)

In Food technology, Year 6 took advantage of their extra lesson in Food Tech this week by practicing their sharp knife skills and stretching their imaginations with fruit and vegetables. The results speak for themselves!



## Year 7

In Maths in Year 7 we have now completed our unit on sequences and moved on to algebra. We started by looking at representations of algebra before moving on to algebraic notation.

In Computing the pupils have begun learning Binary and Hexadecimal as we begin to understand how computers convert text, images, videos and sound into numbers. This week pupils have been playing 'Flippy Bit', a space invaders style game where they have to convert Hexadecimal into binary in order to shoot rockets at the invading hexadecimal characters.

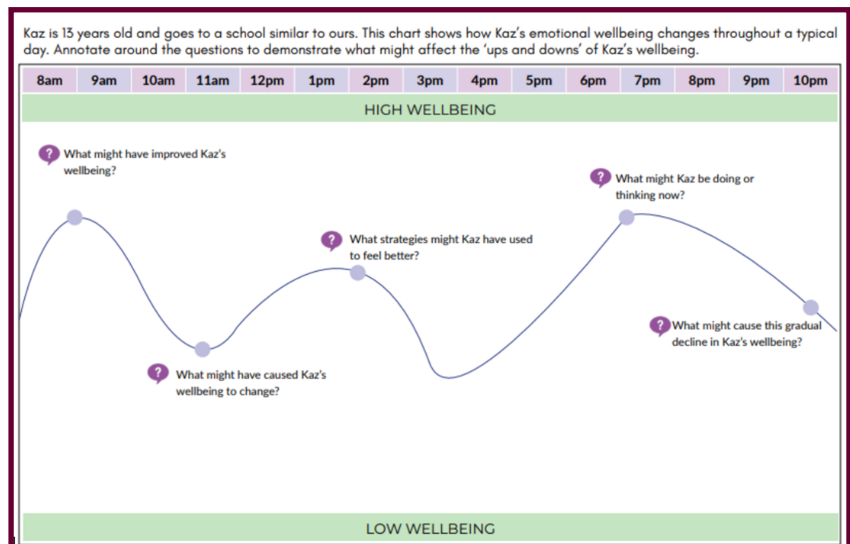
In Science, Year 7 have been investigating freezing this week, finding out why rock salt is used on icy roads. They experimented with putting different substances on ice cubes to see which was the best at melting ice.



## Year 8

In Year 8 Maths this week we have completed our Ratio unit - with the relevant assessment to follow. The children have done a great job exploring how to solve ratio problems identifying the correct model to match the problem. We are then moving onto proportion and scale.

In Wellbeing, Year 8 are exploring their own resilience and coping strategies for low self-esteem. We have looked at the school day and how we rely on our friends, social times, exercise, fresh air and food to give us a lift and help us to cope with the challenges of learning and school routines. Pupils analysed a graph to try to begin to understand that it is normal to have highs and lows in our day and that will continue into adulthood.



## Open Day

All schools in the area are hosting their Open Day / Evening events. We welcome QE and Ferndown Upper at our open evening on Tuesday. We want all families to see the full key stage 2 to key stage 5 journey. Furthermore, we strongly encourage year 6 families to book onto open morning tours that both QE and Ferndown host, particularly if you are thinking about a transition at the end of year 6. It is brilliant to have different options within our locality, and we know the four years at EMS and a transition to one of the Upper schools will allow all children to flourish.

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

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker