

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

House News

The past 7 days has seen another very tight battle in the house points race:

Watson 1959
Malala 2045
Grylls 2106
Vujicic 2127

Well done to everyone who has worked so hard for their house this week.

ePraise Points

We are pleased to tell you that ePraise is now synchronising properly with Arbor and that pupils' points are now showing up in both the parent and pupil ePraise apps / website. These update overnight so points earned will show up at the start of the next day. We have a strong rewards offer to help motivate pupils - we look forward to being able to reward pupils for their hard work in school.

October House Challenge

Harvest collection. Following on from September's House challenge - European Day of Languages which is ongoing until half term, we have now launched the October Harvest collection challenge. Bring in donations from the list shared in the ParentMail to support this cause and also your House! The winning House wins a mufti day.

Autumn Weather

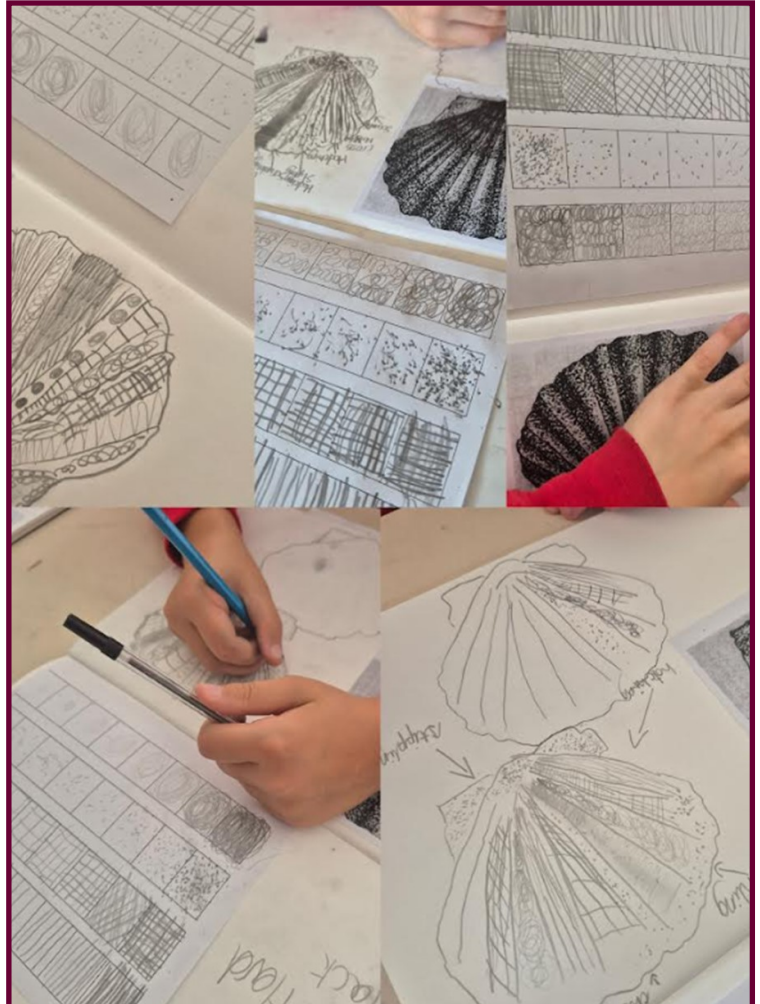
After months of settled weather we are now experiencing far more variable days. Please ensure your child comes to school with a coat - we will go outside at break and lunchtime unless the weather is extreme.

Meet the Tutor

We very much look forward to meeting all our families at our Meet the Tutor event next Tuesday - 7th October. This takes place in the school hall with booked time slots required through the School Cloud portal.

Year 4

Each Tuesday afternoon Year 4 from Verwood First School come and join us for Art and Computing lessons. This week we were looking at mark making to create Tone and Texture inspired by Natural Forms.



Year 5

In Maths we are coming to the end of our first unit on Place Value which the children have done exceedingly well at. Next we will be moving onto addition and subtraction where we will spend a few weeks looking at different methods to add and subtract numbers. We are also still practicing timetables weekly at school and would appreciate the support for the practice to carry on at home too.

In French, the Year 5s have been practising how to make friends with French people by asking and answering key questions and have also learned how to say their birthdays in French.

Year 6

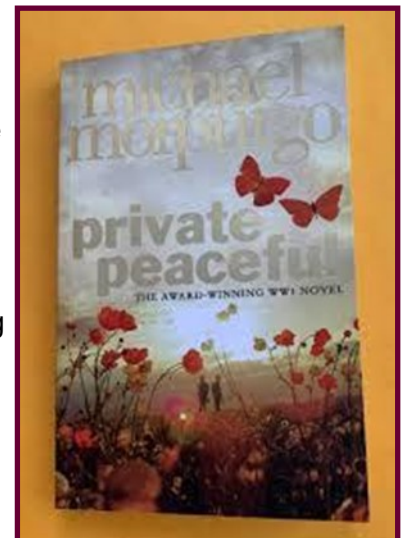
In Maths we have completed our place value unit by working on rounding and negative numbers before moving on to our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division unit. A reminder that [maths.co.uk](https://www.maths.co.uk) will be set each Friday to Friday to reinforce this learning and that Mrs Whiteman runs a Monday and Wednesday drop in in the ICT suite to support anyone who finds it challenging to complete this at home.

In Music, we have been improving our Ukulele skills, building on the work done in Year 5. We have introduced some new chords and are starting to play along to songs. We have played Stay with Me by Sam Smith and are moving onto a bit of Greased lightning!

Year 7

In Year 7 English, pupils are currently reading 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo. This is a deeply moving novel, portraying camaraderie and courage, innocence and brutality, during the First World War. This week, pupils have been writing a different perspective of one of the main protagonists – Grandma Wolf. They have been peer assessing the accuracy of their work.

In Science this week, Year 7 continued their Particle topic by investigating gas pressure. They all got to see the power of air pressure by crushing cans!



In History this week, Year 7 have been learning about the turning point events of 1066 and how, as a country, England starts the year with an Anglo-Saxon King and ends the year with a Norman one. Along the way they have learnt some fascinating facts about each of the main contenders for the throne and have even written and performed some very convincing speeches regarding who the Witan should choose as the next King. This event shaped the course of British History for the next 400 years so is a crucial one for pupils to explore in depth.

Year 8

In Computing Year 8 have been learning about encryption - starting with some simple ciphers moving on to looking at the Enigma machine and how that was cracked in Bletchley Park during the second world war. We have revisited some of the Year 7 work on binary and developed skills in binary addition and subtraction. We have begun to learn how computers use encryption to keep our information safe.

In Science the pupils revisited prior learning on forces before starting a physics unit on 'speed'. During this unit they calculate speed based on a time and distance equation which will be necessary preparation for their upcoming Upper school Science lessons.

Moors Valley Bike Ride Reward

We managed a whopping 22km during the morning. A testament to the excellent cyclists we had in the group. We added a new loop, this led to some interesting navigation challenges! Well done to all.



We've noticed a trend of trading ducks. Please can you keep an eye on things brought into school and then traded. It eventually leads to conflict among peers and becomes quite a distraction. If you are asked to purchase random items, please inquire why. Thank you for your support.

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

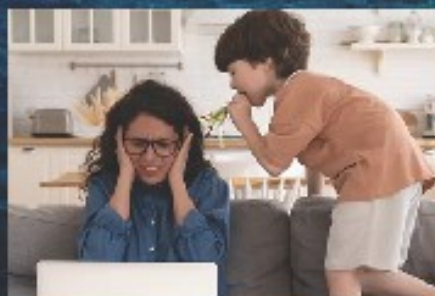
Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker

Please see following pages giving details of free services available to parents.



Face Family Advice was set up to help parents like you. With the stresses and strains of modern life, our children and young adults have never been under more pressure. We aim to offer advice, tips and support to parents who want to get the best out of their family relationships and need new tools to do that.

To make this resource available to all families and staff in our schools, the Emmanuel Middle School PTFA and Friends of Verwood First School fund a membership that allows you to access all FACE online parent talks for FREE (usually £24 per talk). Go to <https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk/supportforparents> to select a talk, then at checkout enter **EV180225** where it says "Add promo code" to reduce the cost to zero. Please note this applies to FACE live talks only, not their online courses





Supporting your child with symptoms of anxiety for parents with children in Year 6 and under

Wednesday 22nd October 12:30-13:30

Thursday 23rd October 18:30-19:30

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools for North and East Dorset will be running an online webinar for parents.

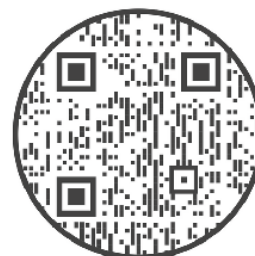
This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support your child with symptoms of anxiety. The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support your child with managing worries.

We will also provide information of more detailed support sessions the MHST provide for parents.

To sign up for Wednesday
22nd October at 12.30,
please go here:



To sign up for Thursday
23rd October at 18:30,
please go here:





Supporting Challenging Behaviour for parents/carers of children in Year 6 and under

Wednesday 5th November 12:30-13:30

Thursday 6th November 18:30-19:30

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools for North and East Dorset will be running an online webinar for parents.

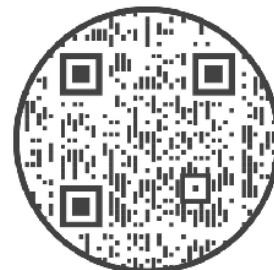
This session provides information on how to respond to children when their behaviour becomes challenging. The sessions covers the theory of behaviour as communication, the importance of play, and the power of positive praise to encourage behaviours parents would like to see more of. It includes practical tools that parents can use to support children when they are dysregulated.

We will also provide information of more detailed support sessions the MHST provide for parents.

To sign up for Wednesday
5th November at 12.30,
please go here:



To sign up for Thursday
6th November at 18:30,
please go here:





Supporting your child with symptoms of anxiety for parents with children in Year 7 and over

Wednesday 15th of October 12:30-13:30

Thursday 16th of October 18:30-19:30

The Mental Health Support Team in Schools for North and East Dorset will be running an online webinar for parents.

This session is available for parents/carers who are looking to understand and support your child with symptoms of anxiety. The session covers theory around anxiety in young people, potential triggers and maintenance factors, and key strategies to support your child with managing worries.

We will also provide information of more detailed support sessions the MHST provide for parents.

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To sign up for Thursday the 16th of October at 18:30, please go here:

