

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

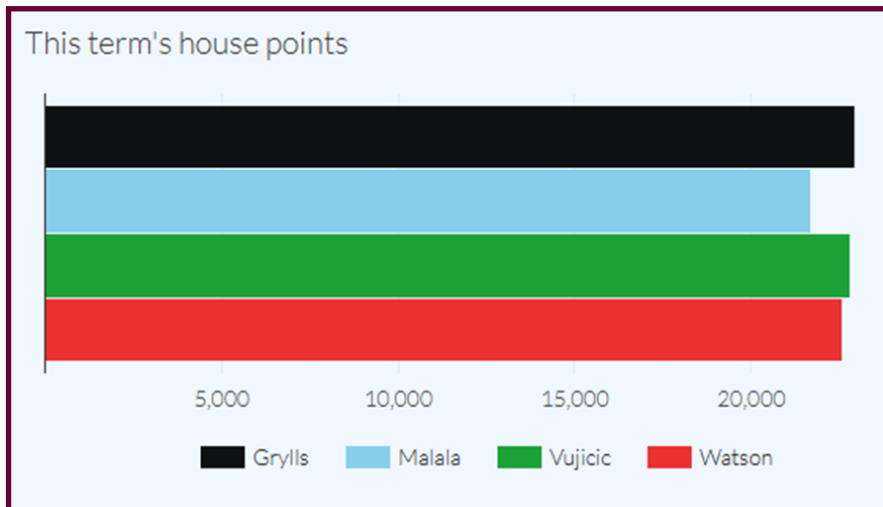
School Disco Tonight (for those who have tickets) - pick up arrangements

We look forward to welcoming everyone who has a ticket for the disco this evening. To ensure the end of the evening runs smoothly please ensure your child knows the pick up arrangements you shared on the form with the office. If you indicated that you were picking your child up from the hall please ensure you do this as your child will stay there until you come to collect them - they will not have sight of you if you stay in the car park.

Firework Safety

During worship today we discussed firework safety as many displays will go on this weekend - we talked about ensuring plenty of space around any fireworks and following adults' instructions.

House News



It is very close at the top in the termly House points battle - fewer than 100 candle credits separate 1st and 2nd. Below are details of the next two monthly House challenges with a large number of candle credits available for participation - there is the opportunity for any House to close the gap or pull a lead simply by having large numbers taking part!

November House competition: Litter Pick

Each week one House takes on the job of litter picking - pickers and bags available from the school office each day at breaktime. Each child who takes part gets 5CC per day they do it. Houses then get bonus CCs based on how many pupils took part.

- w/c 10th Nov - Grylls
- w/c 17th Nov - Malala
- w/c 24th Nov - Vujicic
- w/c 1st Dec - Watson

December House Competition : Art Challenge

INTERHOUSE ART CHALLENGE 2025

To design a Hanging Christmas Tree decoration
IN THE STYLE OF A FAMOUS ARTIST
Or **MASTERPIECE**

Any materials, any shape as long as you can hang it on a Christmas Tree.

Deadline to hand in with your name and House on to Mrs Christopher in the ART ROOM

13/12/25

October House challenge: Foodbank

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the October House challenge - Harvest. We have received this certificate from Ringwood Foodbank confirming how much we collected.

School Production

Thank you to all the children who have auditioned for the school production. We will be posting lists in school next week of which children have secured main parts, will be in the ensemble etc. Please be assured that every child who attended auditions will be included in the production.

We will also be producing a list of rehearsal dates and which groups (main cast, ensemble, dancers, back stage etc) will be required on which dates as we will not require every group each week.

The school production is taking place on 10th, 11th and 12th March 2025 so rehearsals will be taking place right up to this time and, as we get closer to the performance dates, we may require additional rehearsals but will of course keep you posted.

School Uniform Update

Thank you so much to all of you who completed the feedback form on ParentMail about our proposed changes to the school uniform, and to those of you who also emailed in to provide further feedback/ comments.

From the feedback provided we have decided not to proceed with the suggested polo shirts, but the feedback for the new House colour PE top was more positive so this is something we will be introducing from September 2026. We are now looking at alternative ways for pupils to identify with their House within their school uniform and will be meeting with the School Council to discuss this.

We will inform you of our decision as soon as possible.

Year 6 Mock SATS Timetable

Please find below a copy of the Mock SATS timetable for next week for your information.

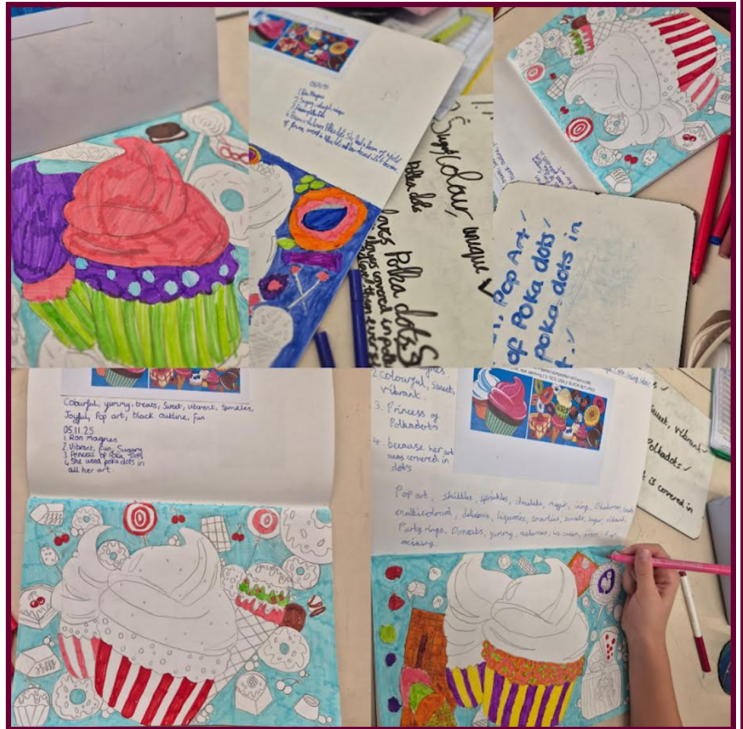
10th - 13 th Nov 2025 SATS				
	Monday 10th	Tuesday 11th	Wednesday 12th	Thursday 13th
Lesson 1	Normal lesson	READING PAPER (1 hour) start by 9:25am 15 minutes extra time	Normal lesson	MATHS PAPER Paper 3 Reasoning (40 minutes) start by 9:30am 10 minutes extra time
Lesson 2	Normal lesson		Normal lesson	
Break	Break - 10:50-11:10	Break - 10:50-11:10	Break - 10:50-11:10	Break - 10:50-11:10
Lesson 3	Normal lesson	Normal lesson	MATHS PAPER Paper 1 Arithmetic (30 minutes) start by 11:20am 7 minutes extra time	Normal lesson
Lesson 4	GPS PAPER Paper 1 (45mins) start by 12:10pm Extra time to complete L5	Normal lesson	MATHS PAPER Paper 2 Reasoning (40 minutes) start by 12:15pm	Normal lesson
Lunch/ pm reg				
Lesson 5	11 minutes extra time - R10 Spelling PAPER Paper 2 (25mins) start by 14:15	Normal lesson	10 minutes extra time for Maths Paper Reasoning 2. ET Pupils return to R10. Remainder of classes go to Eng classes.	Normal lesson
Lesson 6				



Year 5

In Maths this week, the Year 5s have started on our next unit, multiplication and division, and have been focusing on multiples and factors, which will be very important for the children as they will use these skills in many other different contexts in maths. They have made a great start and the times tables practice they did last year has paid off!

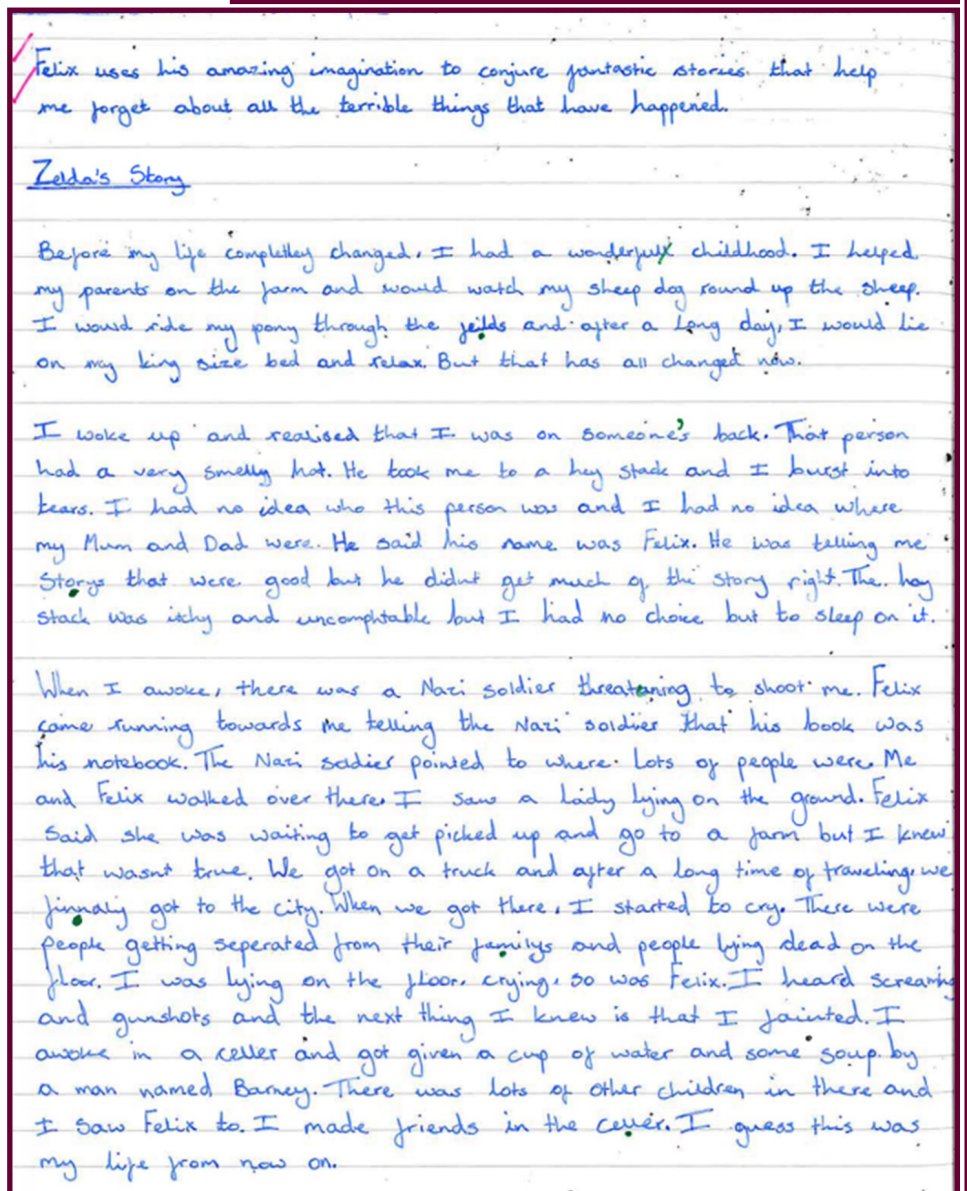
Year 5 Art has been inspired by the American Pop Artist Ron Magnes. They have been creating vibrant Pop Art style sweet treat theme compositions.



Year 6

In Year 6 English, we are finishing the story of 'Once' and writing about the events of The Holocaust from another point of view. Zelda is a young girl who Felix befriends on his way into the city. We have been using opportunities to teach the KS2 grammar concepts to help the children with their composition and write well. For example: synonyms and antonyms and refining and adapting vocabulary. In addition to this we have been practising our skimming, scanning and close reading skills in preparation for the MOCK SATS next week.

Here is an example of Zelda's story:



In Maths we are preparing ourselves as best we can for our first Mock SATs next week (Maths taking place on Wednesday and Thursday). The main focus being on arithmetic. In school we are trying to explain to the children why they don't need to worry, it is an end of Year 6 test that they are doing in November. It is purely to help us as teachers know what our classes need a bit of extra work on. Please reiterate this at home as well, all they can do is their best! If any of you would like to assist at home, times tables, maths HW and arithmetic practice would be fantastic. Thanks for your support.

Year 7

In English in Year 7, we are continuing to read *Private Peaceful* and starting to explore all aspects of WW1. Year 7 have been focusing on the environment of the trenches and how this would make them feel.

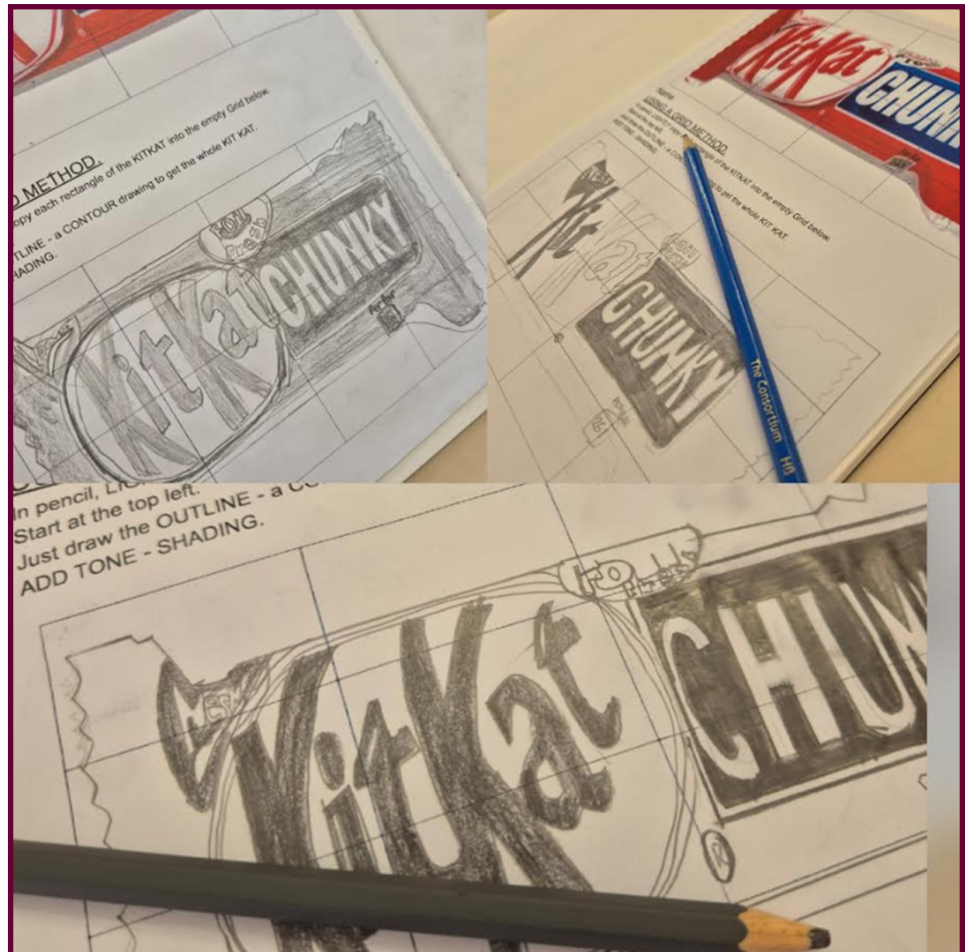
Year 7 pupils will be working in their Wellbeing lessons on competition entries to the national careers competition *Step into the NHS* in March 2026. As part of that programme, we would like to invite any parents who work for the NHS or the health and social care industries to join the year 7 Wellbeing lessons in the week of 9th March to talk about their own career journeys and job roles. Mrs Robertson is happy to provide you with a guide to your talk which would last up to 10 minutes with an opportunity for the pupils to ask questions. Please contact the school office by email if you are interested in participating.

Year 8

This week in RE, 8JP, 8CM and 8FR have completed their end of unit tests on Islam and the way this religion is presented in the media. This has proved to be a fascinating topic with pupils asking some very pertinent questions about all forms of media and how accurate the information they provide is. Pupils have learnt about misconceptions of Islam, developed their understanding of stereotypes and why they exist and have been given the chance to explore some positive examples of British Muslims, like Mo Farah, who have contributed much to our country in a variety of ways. Don't worry, 8MR has not been forgotten - their test is next week!

Our first unit of Geography work in Y8 has focused on developing their knowledge of population, settlements and urbanisation. Pupils have investigated these things at local, national and international levels. With their end of unit tests rapidly approaching, feel free to quiz them at home as to whether they live in a rural or urban area, whether or not Dorset contains any cities or even what the push and pull factors are in explaining why so many people choose to live in towns and cities rather than rural areas.

In Art, the pupils have been working hard on their grid method drawings - with fantastic results as seen here:



Sparx Science

Science was the third subject to join our weekly Sparx commitment in KS3 and this half term we would like to introduce certificates and rewards in celebration of the students achievements in Sparx Science. As the students complete homework tasks they earn XP points. They can also earn extra XP points for any Independent Learning task they complete. Every 1,000 XP, they reach a new level! When they reach specific milestones levels they will receive a certificate, with a candle credit reward linked to each milestone.

The special milestone levels when students will be awarded with certificates:

- **Every 5th level** (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.)
- **Every 25th level** (25, 50, 75, 100, etc.)
- **Every 100th level** (100, 200, 300, etc.)

The candle credits will be awarded for every 5th level gaining 5 candle Credits, every 25th level will be awarded 25 candle credits etc - I look forward to seeing candle credits being awarded! The first certificates will be issued next week.

Sporting News

A special mention is due to Toby Smith who has put in many fantastic sporting performances for EMS and during half-term did so on several occasions for his local clubs. He ran in two Wessex League Cross Country races for Wimborne AC, one at Canford Heath and the other at Bryanston School and won both of them. He also played in an LTA Advantage Tour tennis tournament for his club (St Leonard's and St Ives) last Sunday at East Dorset Tennis Club. Toby was undefeated in all his matches and he and his partner won the tournament! Well done to Toby.



Rotary Club Shoebox Appeal

The Rotary Club of Verwood have been in contact to say they have been able to pass on 131 shoeboxes to the Bournemouth depot as a result of contributions from our families and the local community. They would like us to pass on their thanks.

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

Mr Rob Christopher & Mr Alister Barker