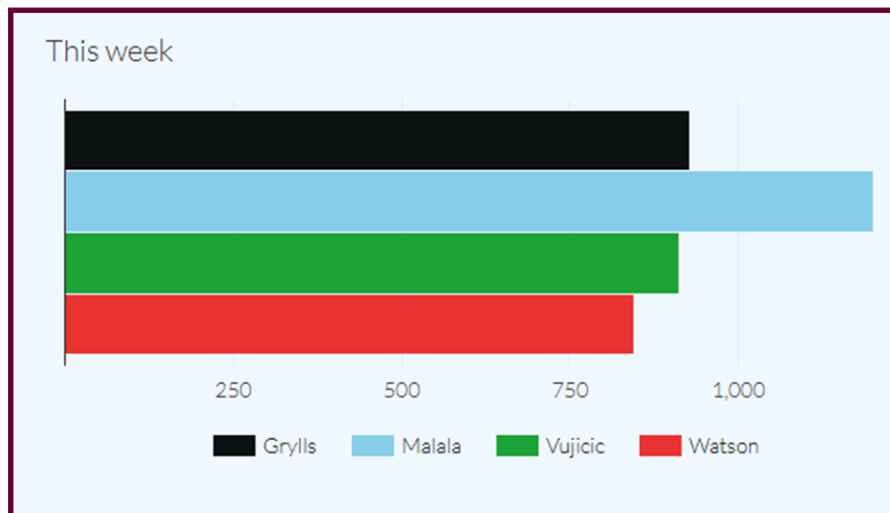


Dear Parents/Carers,

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

## House News



Well done to Malala for a huge week following their wonderful team efforts in the litter pick last week. They put in a huge amount of effort and have reaped the rewards in candle credits.

## Christmas Tree Festival

Some of our school council decorated our entry in the Eco Christmas Tree Festival organised by local group Verwoodians on Waste, taking place at St Michael's Church. Local community groups have decorated trees with eco decorations (reused or made with recycled materials) and awards for best tree will be presented by our MP Simon Hoare at 3pm on Sunday. Please go and vote for our tree! You will also get lots of ideas about how to be more eco with your gift-giving this Christmas as well as enjoying refreshments and entertainment organised by St Michael's Church. Open Friday 10-4pm, Saturday 10-4pm and Sunday 11.30-3pm.



## Christmas Lunch

Further to messages sent home, please remember to order your child's Christmas Lunch, if they would like to have one, on the Google Form link sent via email by 10.00am on Monday 1st December. Christmas lunch is taking place on Wednesday 10th December and will cost £3.25. If your child is entitled to free school meals you must still order a lunch, but do not require the £3.25 to be added to the Meals account on Arbor. All pupils will be allowed to wear a Christmas jumper to school on 10th December. This will replace the shirt, tie and sweatshirt - the rest of the school uniform must be worn.

## PTFA Christmas Fair - Friday 5th December (6pm - 8pm)

Thank you for the tombola donations today for the Christmas Fair. Please remember to hand in any raffle tickets and/or token request forms to the school office by Wednesday 3rd December. We are also asking for cake donations for the cake stall to be handed into the office on the morning of the Fair. For any homemade items please ensure that the containers are labelled with your child's name and class and include a note with a list of ingredients. Please remember no nuts, sesame or kiwi.

## Year 5

In PE this term, students have had the amazing opportunity to take part in trampolining, which has helped them improve whole-body coordination and strengthen their core stability. They have also been developing their skills in table tennis, enhancing their hand-eye coordination while building confidence and control. Their attitude throughout has been commendable, showing determination, enthusiasm, and resilience when tackling such challenging sports.

In Maths, Year 5 have finished part A of the multiplication and division unit. We will pick part B up after Christmas. This week they have done the key skills assessment for part A of the fractions unit. Fractions will come up a lot in the homework over the next few weeks. Please make sure times tables are still being practiced at home as these will play a huge part in the work we do with fractions this side of Christmas!

## Year 6

To complete our reading of *Once*, by Morris Gleitzman, we are writing a book review to summarise the text. Children are choosing quotes and extracts from the text to encourage other readers, using formal sentence constructions and adapting and refining their vocabulary:

'This heart-wrenching story really plays on your emotions to create a picture of what life was like for people being persecuted at this time in history.'

'Felix was a curious and naive boy, who searched relentlessly for his parents.'

'Once, by Morris Gleitzman, is themed around the Jewish Holocaust at the time of the Second World War.'

'On his journey, Felix comes to realise that Nazi-occupied Poland - in 1942 - is not a safe place for a Jewish boy.'

*A message from Mrs McGraw, "Year 6 have been crying their eyes out over onions this week. I've told them it's just a root vegetable and to get a grip but, alas, the tears have been flowing! In all seriousness, we thought having the opportunity to dice an onion professionally and safely before the students make Ragu Sauce next week would be a good shout. The quality of work has been exceptional. Some perfectly chopped onions have made their home for family dinners but most are quietly sitting in the freezer ready for any School BBQ's on the horizon."*

## Year 7

In History, Year 7 have begun their next topic this week. Having learnt all about the significance of 1066 in our national story, they have now broadened their focus and are looking in more depth at the medieval era. Our new focus is on kingship. What does it mean to be a good king? Who was the best? Who was the worst? And who matters the most? This week pupils have learnt about King John and have decided whether or not he deserves his terrible reputation. Next week, they will move onto one of the most significant documents in our national story: Magna Carta. They will discover how sometimes, terrible kings like John can have the biggest impact!

In RE Year 7, like the other year groups, have begun their study of Jesus. At this time of year, as we prepare for the festive season, we reflect on the role and importance of Jesus as a man, historical figure and religious leader. The focus for Year 7 is incarnation, why do Christians believe that Jesus is God in human form? This unit builds on the Year 5 units on God and Gospel as well as the Year 6 unit where pupils consider whether or not Jesus was the Messiah.

## Year 8

Year 8 have been investigating Pressure, they started by investigating the effect of changing surface area by busting balloons! They are now practicing calculating pressure, learning the skill of answering calculation questions.

In French year 8 have been learning about the weather and the activities they would plan to do if it rains.

## KS2 Art club:

KS2 Art Club has finished their Keith Haring inspired Christmas scenes ready to be sent out to Homeinstead for their annual Community Christmas card competition. Last year we had 4 finalists and their images were printed for the Homeinstead Charity Christmas cards.

The school art Instagram account has more images of the pupils work on [@emmanuelmiddleschoolart](#)



Please can we ensure any coats, gloves, scarves etc are named if they are being brought into school now the weather is colder. Additionally, we already have a large accumulation of unnamed uniform, PE kit and water bottles in lost property. If items are clearly named they can easily be re-united with students.

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

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker