

Dear Parents,

Another week flies by and, as always, we have managed to pack in so much. We finished the week by thinking of others and supporting their needs. Sport Relief always brings in the colourful and interesting kit choices and I love seeing a school full of look-a-like PE teachers! I have to say Mr Cotton passed with flying colours. The activity of choice was touch and go depending on the field condition following our recent snow, but I am pleased to say the whole school taking part in the mile trundle was great. There were also alternative sporting activities led by Mrs Stocks in the sports hall at lunchtime. Thank you to everyone who supported, it makes a huge difference and we raised an impressive £374.40.

Next week we look forward to Mrs Weir and Mr Brennan visiting as we continue transition and planning for next year. We also have Mrs Williams joining the team as a Cover Supervisor from Monday and I am grateful to Mr Parsons at Verwood First for allowing an early start. Also starting in the Summer Term is a Pastoral Support Worker. This is an exciting new role to EMS. The job role includes supporting our pupils and assisting the work of our Heads of Year and supporting transition from First school and to Upper school. Plans are in place for this to include work in the First school setting.

Mr Jones who has been covering Maths for the past term and a half has decided to finish at the end of this term. I am pleased to be able to tell you he is being replaced from within the Trust by a Maths specialist from St. Michael's Middle School. Mr Clark knows the concept of Maths No Problem and the working practice of the trackers we use. The transition will be seamless and supported by Mrs Jeffs. I would like to thank Mr Jones for his commitment and hard work in his KS3 Maths groups and the intervention groups he has led. We also say thank you and good luck to Mr Hall as he embarks on his new journey as Assistant Head at Fontmell Magna and most importantly as a Dad - I must say he was looking a little tired this morning.

Mr Jenkinson and myself are working hard behind the scenes on the timetable for next year and identifying where recruitment will take place. We have the advantage of appointing staff from within the Trust as well as making external appointments.

On Wednesday we host a year 6 parent drop in session to support and answer questions you may have about the SATs that take place during the second full week in May. The year 6 team and senior leaders in school will be on hand to answer any questions. Mrs Whiteman will hold her drop-in session on Monday. We look forward to seeing you.

Further painting and decorating takes place over the Easter period, fully funded by the Trust. The final two year 8 class rooms will be decorated to complete the year 8 area. We will also see the start of the Year 7 area and textiles corridor. The school is looking a lot fresher and cleaner which supports the higher standards we are demanding from ourselves.

Today we completed a Learning Walk with Mrs West visiting Year 7 and 8 foundation lessons. The key reflection point is seeing how the accurate use of WALTs and Success Criteria set the tone for the learning and enables the pupils to be very clear about what they are learning during the lesson. This consistency is a key part of our school improvement journey. Another strength of the observations was how staff are using questioning more effectively which has a profound positive impact on the learning. Very pleasing signs and something we continue to embed and develop. All these aspects are central to our training day in April.

I will sign off by asking for there to be no pupils on site at 7.30am on Monday having forgotten to change their clocks! I am personally very excited with the prospect of longer daylight hours. I hope nobody misses any activities on Sunday by an hour!

Have a great weekend,

Rob Christopher

## A WEEK IN PICTURES



Sport Relief One Mile Run and  
Lunchtime Activities

