

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

School drop off and collection

As the weather takes hold for winter and more families choose to use the car for school runs it is timely to talk about staying safe and considerate when driving and parking in our local roads. It is crucial that road markings are followed and adhered to, to allow pupils to cross the roads safely with clear visibility. The strong recommendation is that pupils are dropped in the roads 5 to 10 minutes walk from school to disperse traffic congestion. To this end, please prioritise safety over convenience.

A reminder also that pupils need a coat and, when particularly cold, a hat and gloves as we will always go outside at break and lunchtime unless the weather is extreme or dangerous.

Christmas Fair

A last minute reminder about this evening's Christmas Fair. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our evening of food, drinks, games and stalls from 18.00 - 20.00.

Carol Service



Invitation for the Carol Service



Join Us for Our Christmas Carol Service!

Get into the festive spirit with our school's **Annual Carol Service!**

The children have been working incredibly hard preparing a selection of music and readings, and we would love for you to be there to support them and share in the joy of the season.

When: Tuesday, 16th December

Time: 7:00 PM

Where: St Michael's Church

Please feel free to bring along other family members to enjoy the service. We hope to see you there for an evening of music, celebration, and festive cheer!

House News

Today saw the end of our **November House challenge: Litter picking.**

The response has been fantastic from the school community with a large number of pupils contributing their time to support this challenge. Every child who took part received 5 candle credits for each session they did and additionally the houses received a bonus based on how many people took part. The winning house will be announced next week when the totals have been counted up. Well done to everyone who took part.

The **December House challenge: baubles** is now approaching its completion too with a deadline of 13th December to submit entries. Again, anyone who takes part receives candle credits with additional prizes for the best creative work!

Accelerated Reader

Please see AR highlights below with data correct up to 30/11/2025.

Mr Brenton will be announcing the winners of the MUFTI prize early next week, so it's the last chance for a big push!

Year 5

5DG have managed to squeeze a slight lead over 5BH. Can they maintain this nail-biting finish until the end of term?

Year 6

6JB have increased their advantage over 6FW. Can this lead be beaten before next week?

Year 5

In Year 5 English we are continuing to read 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. The children wrote some fantastic adventure narratives based on a plane crash in a remote location, using dialogue and expanded noun phrases. We are now working towards writing an explanation text on how to survive in the Amazon Jungle!

The current topic in Year 5 Humanities is Longitude and Latitude. The children have been using their knowledge of coordinates to locate places on maps and even play a game of battleships! They have also been learning about climate zones and have recently written a postcard to a chosen friend or family member describing the climate and weather in a country with a tropical climate.

Year 6

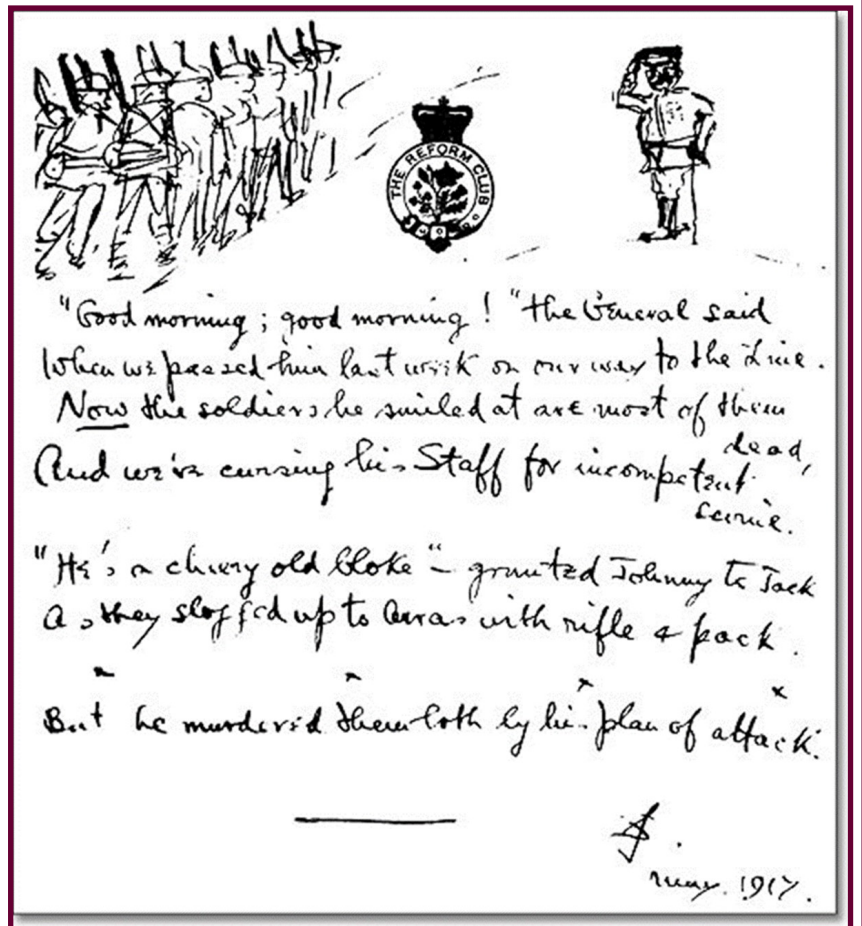
In PE, the students have been developing their table tennis skills by working on rallies, focusing on control, accuracy, footwork, and keeping the ball in play for longer. In trampolining, they have been refining their routines by focusing on body tension, balance, safe landings, and smoothly linking skills such as straight jumps, tucks, and seat landings. As we near assessment, the children are working on their 6 bounce routine.

In Music, we have been learning about musical theatre. We have sung numbers from Matilda and Oliver and have learned about different types of songs used in musicals; watched an orchestra in a pit band; and are going on to play some musical songs on keyboards.

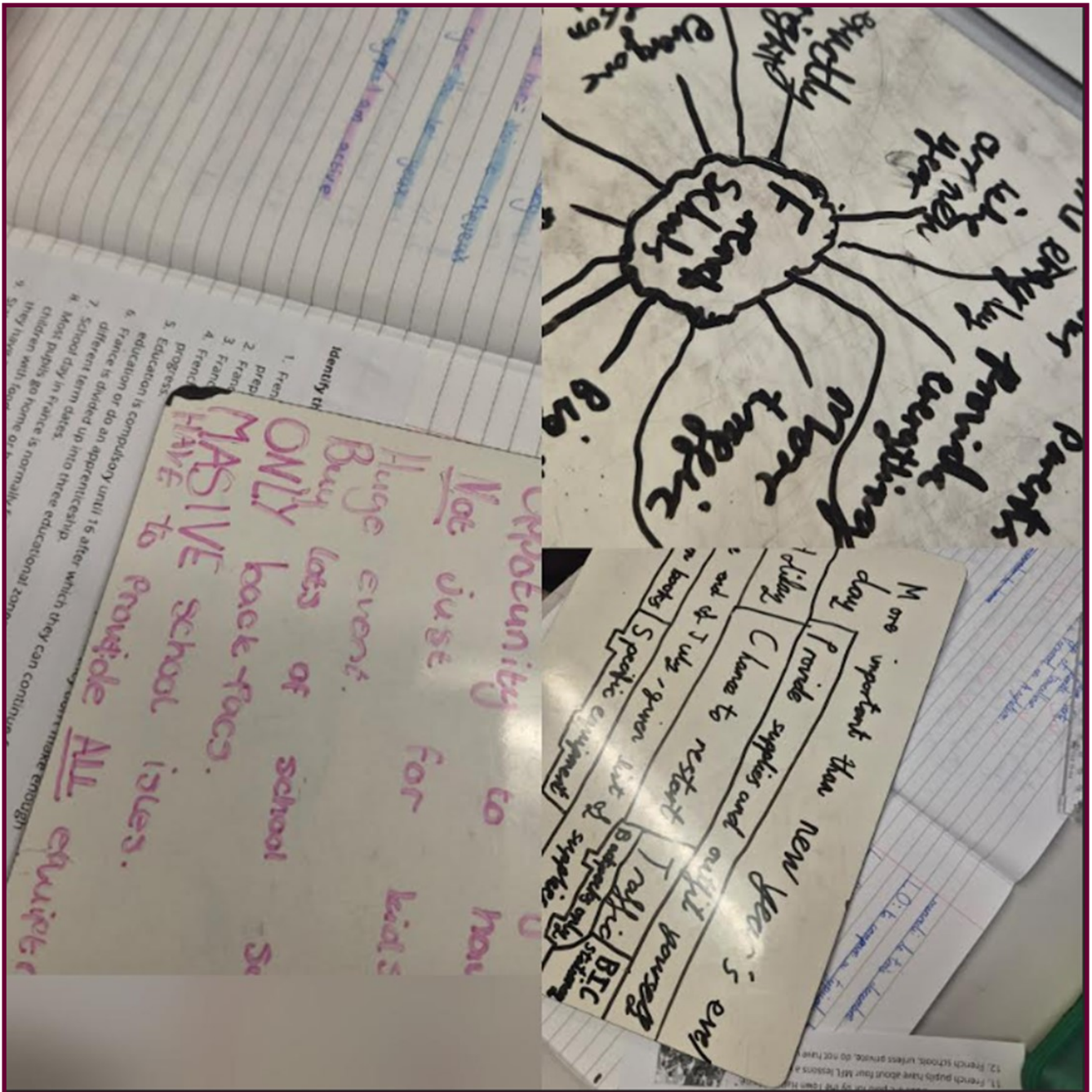
Year 7

We are currently finishing Private Peaceful and pupils will be completing a Reading Assessment based on an extract from the text. Pupils will be honing their analytical skills, including quotes from the book that show the author's intent. We have also included a recent unit on WW1 poetry that linked closely to Remembrance Day last month.

This is Siegfried Sassoon's original copy of 'The General'.



In French, Year 7 have started their new unit looking at La Rentrée. They have watched subtitled interviews with pupils at a French School and compared their school life experiences.



Year 8

This term the students have been immersing themselves in dystopian texts. They have investigated a variety of authors and have been able to draw out the conventions within the genre, culminating in some awesome texts being written. Curiosity has informed imagination, with many students choosing to write using figurative language techniques and therefore creating both exciting and unfamiliar backgrounds for their stories.

Here are just a few first opening lines:

'Everything was fine until it wasn't.'; 'Fourteen-year old William Delte awoke with a sudden jolt, like a car crash, to see a sleep-deprived Harry Garwand standing over him with a nervous expression.'; 'The world is torn apart by war.';

'Dawn seeped into the city like a bruise spreading under the skin - faint, grey and tired.'

These are just a snapshot of the amazing dystopian writing this week. Well done, Year 8.

In Art, Year 8 are continuing their 'Artists inspired by Still Life' research; producing mixed media interpretations in watercolour of Italian Artist Giorgio Morandi paintings.



Sporting New

This week some of our Year 6 girls participated in the PEDSSA Under 11 netball tournament at QE School. It was a tough tournament (especially due to the pouring rain) but the girls played really well. They will be playing in the second round of the tournament in February where they can continue to show their skills. Also a special thank you to two of our Year 8 sports leaders who helped with umpiring and general organisation on the day. Well done!



Unfortunately, cross country was cancelled this week. However, two weeks ago saw another strong showing from the team. Notable performances from Erin P and Lily K, finishing 1st and 2nd, respectively. Toby S still managed 4th place despite running an extra couple of hundred meters! What a fabulous group of children to take to these events, all very supportive of each other. Also fab to see parents supporting. Thank you.

Reporting Absences

Please note that there is another way to now report your child's absence on the day using your Arbor app. It's quick and easy to use but please remember to give full details of the reason for the absence. Please do not just state "unwell" or "sickness". Many 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 and Mr Alister Barker

Please find details of the FACE courses available in January on the following pages.

Dates for January courses on following page.



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





January 2026 Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Autism - Improving Communication	5 Jan 10am
Improving Family Communication	5 Jan 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	6 Jan 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	6 Jan 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	12 Jan 10am
Understanding Anger	12 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	13 Jan 10am
Facing Defiance	13 Jan 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	19 Jan 10am
Anxiety Explained	19 Jan 7pm
Introduction to OCD	20 Jan 10am
What Is ACT	20 Jan 7pm
FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour	22 Jan 7-8pm
Raising Self-Esteem	26 Jan 10am
Decreasing Depression	26 Jan 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	27 Jan 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	27 Jan 7pm