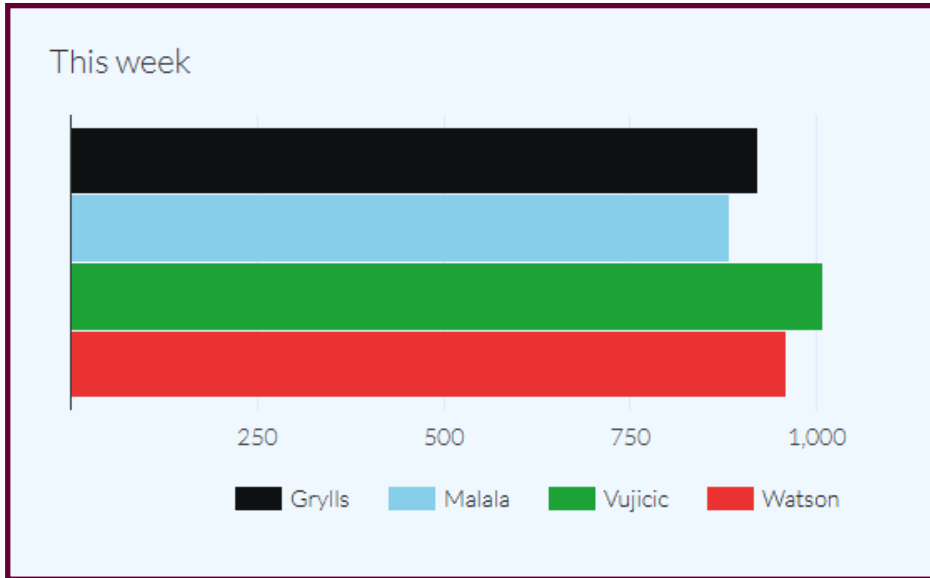


Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and we must start with wishing everyone a Happy New Year. It has been a hugely positive start to term with the pupils quickly returning to their fantastic learning habits and enjoying a productive week.

## House News



Talk about hitting the ground running! Vujicic have returned in overdrive and had a huge week - well done to everyone who has earned candle credits.

Next week sees the start of the next monthly House challenge: quizzing! Malala have great form in these monthly challenges so the chance is there to claw back that lead.

## Extra Curricular Clubs

A reminder that bookings for clubs go live at 7pm this evening. We are lucky to be able to provide just an array of extra curricular opportunities for no extra cost. Please ensure that your child knows their going home arrangement before coming to school in the morning. It is also important to note that spaces in our clubs are often highly sought after and as a result signing up for them is a commitment. To ensure there is fair access we will give a place to another child if attendance is not high.

## Year 5

This term, in English the children start a new learning journey which is guided by the C.S Lewis book *The Magician's Nephew*, known as the first book in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The children this week have been exploring some of the key vocabulary found within the opening chapters and have been practising their skimming techniques in reading in order to gather general ideas about the text read so far. Comprehension questions have allowed the them to further demonstrate their scanning techniques and close reading procedures to accurately answer a selection of retrieval, inference and author's choice style questions. As the week has progressed the children have been building up their sentence level work, by engaging the reader with well chosen adjectives to form expanded noun phrases in order to write an engaging description of Uncle Andrew, who is physically distinctive and an extremely complex character who is introduced early in the book.

In Maths, the children will be finishing up the first part of the fractions unit before moving back to complete the second part of multiplication and division. The children have been working very hard this week despite being off for two weeks! Please make sure times tables practice is still being done at home as the fluency with this is a big part of what we are doing in lessons.

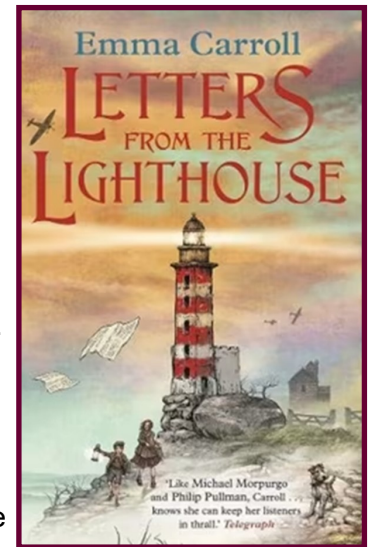
## Year 6

Just before Christmas, Year 6 began a new class text – ‘**Letters From The Lighthouse**’ by Emma Carroll. She is a best-selling author and the ‘Queen of Historical Fiction’ (*BookTrust*). She has been nominated for – and the winner of – numerous national, regional and schools’ awards. We have a collection of her books available to read in the school library.

The children have already produced a missing person’s report after the protagonist’s sister goes missing, in a bombing raid, during wartime London. Our next piece of work will be a letter home to Olive’s mum after being evacuated to South Devon.

In Maths the groups continue to move through the curriculum in readiness for May testing. There has been a significant focus on fractions in recent weeks with equivalent and recognising fractions as a number preceding the use of the four operations in fractions. This is then applied through problem solving involving fractions. In addition the children continue to rehearse the wide range of arithmetic skills they have developed with regular arithmetic tests.

New Year, new term, new projects started in the Art Department this week. Year 6 have revisited their knowledge of the Formal Elements of Art producing a variety of pencil sketches of mini beasts using line, shape, tone and texture.



## Year 7

This term, in English, students are stepping into the roles of both detectives and orators as we dive into the fascinating world of rhetoric. From the marble forums of Ancient Greece to the digital stages of today, rhetoric has remained the "art of persuasion." Our study goes beyond *what* is said, focusing instead on *how* language is crafted to move audiences, challenge laws, and inspire nations. By analyzing the landmark speeches of figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Greta Thunberg, and Emma Watson, students will begin to uncover the secrets of influential communication. They will then apply these powerful techniques to their own writing, learning to debate with confidence and persuade with purpose.

In Maths, the pupils have applied their arithmetic skills to calculating a variety of different averages and solving problems in this context. Once secure, the pupils will move on to working on estimation and use significant figures for the first time.

## Year 8

In English, this half-term we are taking the next step in investigating our Year 8 topic: Dystopian Worlds. We will learn about how, as authors, we physically create a piece of writing. We will consider how writing is structured through using a variety of punctuation; a variety of sentences; and the choices that we make in our vocabulary. We will consider the effects of the vocabulary and punctuation that we choose, and endeavour to use different authorial techniques in our next written text.

In Year 8 Maths we have been focusing on multiplying and dividing fractions, by both integer and unit fractions.

## Courtroom Drama

On Thursday, Year 8 had a visit from Kate from the Dorset Heath Partnership education team. They learnt about the special wildlife found on our Dorset heathland and the terrible consequences of wild fires. Heathlands can take years to recover and many species of reptiles are endangered because of this. In the courtroom drama, the pupils were taught an interactive lesson, based on a real case, taking part as the accused, judge, defence lawyer, witnesses or the jury. They were shown film footage of real Dorset wildfires and the drama was based on a real case of fire caused by arson. The message we hope the pupils took home was that if they are on the heath when a fire starts, they must evacuate immediately as fire can move faster than a human can run. It is also important that the pupils got the message that arson is against the law and that anyone over the age of 10 years could be prosecuted and face a criminal record if they start a fire.

## AFC Bournemouth Breakfast Club Session

Today, a selected group of pupils started a programme of six weekly sessions with coaches from AFC Bournemouth. The pupils had breakfast together first, then a warm up session followed by a mini tournament.

The coaches were Sofia Bravo from the Community Sports Trust and Abby Jones who is currently captain of the AFC Bournemouth Women's team.

All of the pupils enjoyed their first session and are looking forward to next week!



We will finish by saying well done to everyone for the high levels of homework completion this week. This sets the tone for attitudes to learning at school and also recognises that the learning taken from homework is a crucial part of the curriculum, rather than an add on.

We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker

**FREE ACCESS WITH SCHOOL CODE:  
EV180225**



## 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](http://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
<b>FREE Responding to Angry Behaviour</b>	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

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Visit the PARENTS page of the FACE website ([facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)) to view the 16 regular talks for parents.

Click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you.

Click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you.

At the payment stage of booking, enter the code **EV180225** where it says **ADD PROMO CODE** to get access for FREE

**\*\*Note:\*\*** Links to recordings of the talks are available for 48 hours after the session. If you cannot make a live session, book on and then email to request the recording link.

Please avoid booking the FREE sessions for parents, as these are for parents from schools that have not purchased the discount code. The code can only be used for Parent Talks and cannot be shared with parents from different schools.

Improper use can result in immediate code cancellation for the whole school.