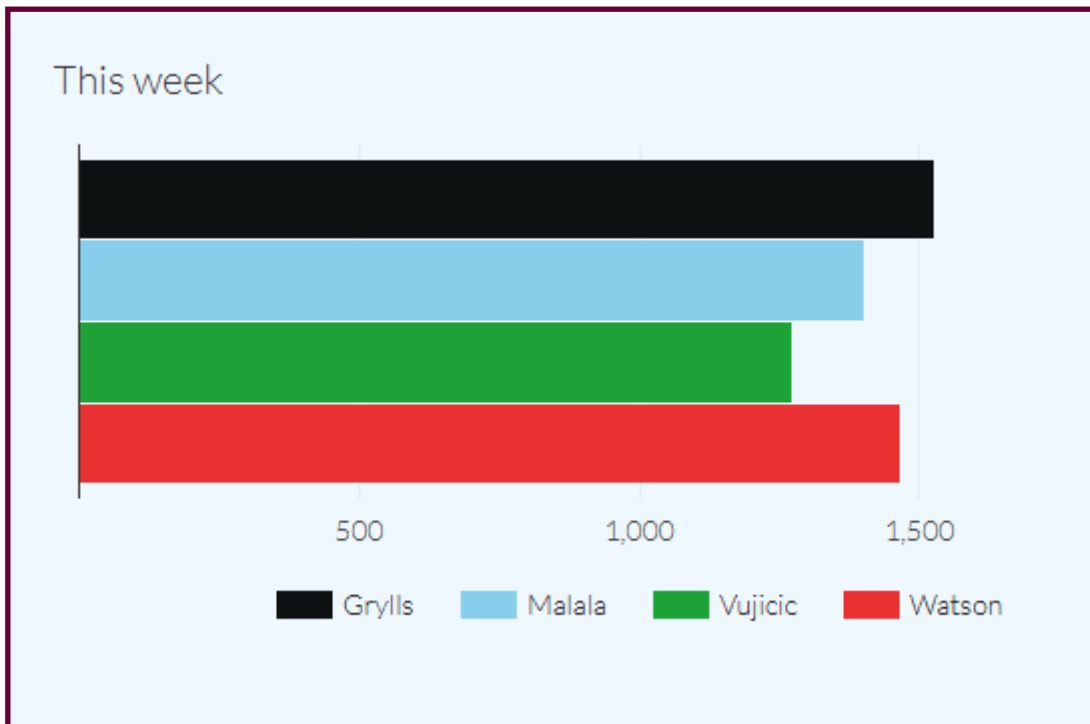


Dear Parents/Carers,

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

House News



Well done to Grylls for being the top candle credit earners this week. They are also the highest points scorers this term. On Tuesday will be the final session of the current house challenge - the quiz. It is Year 8's turn this week - candle credits available for participation along with bonuses for the winning house.

Attendance

Thank you for continuing to make contact with the school office regarding your child's absences. We understand that children are off school for many different reasons and would ask that you give us as much detail as possible as to why they cannot come into school.

If it is a medical reason for absence, please use this NHS link as it can be helpful to refer to when deciding to keep your child off school or not. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#). If it is in relation to an existing medical condition, please explain that in your reason for absence.

If it is an emotional reason, we understand that some days will be harder than others to come into school. We are here to help. If your child has any worries about anything, please bring them when you can during the day and we will do our very best to listen and support them.

Please contact the office on 01202 828100 or office@emmanuelmiddle.org if you wish to speak to your child's tutor regarding your child's attendance.

Please also click onto our webpage [Emmanuel Middle School - Attendance](#) which has some useful information and guidance on school attendance.

Year 5 95.4%

Year 6 95.7%

Year 7 95.6%

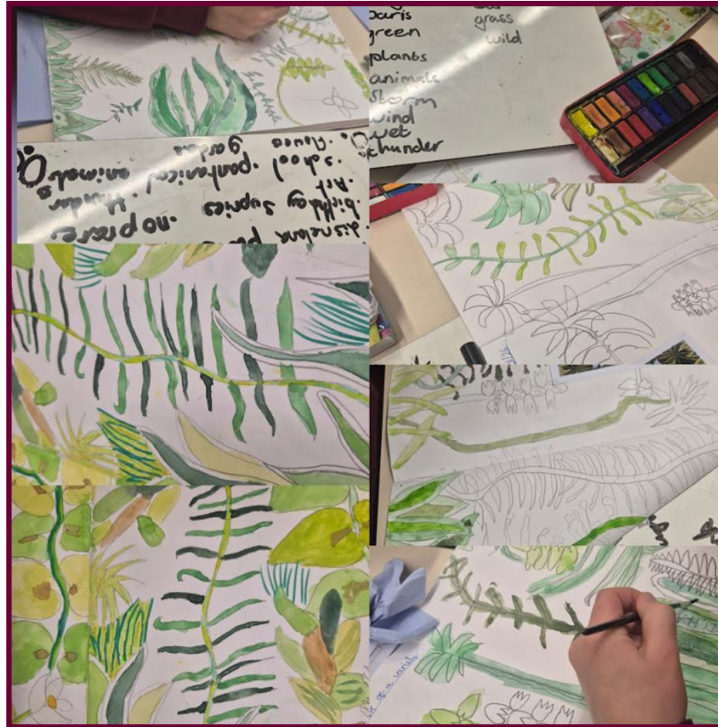
Year 8 94.1%

Year 5

In PE this term, Year 5 have been rotating between Dance, Volleyball, and problem-solving activities. They have shown great enthusiasm across all areas, developing their teamwork, coordination, and creative thinking skills while confidently taking on new challenges.

In Humanities, the children have been learning about the Ancient Maya civilisation. They have been looking at what daily life was like for the Maya people, including their jobs, food they ate and the types of clothes they wore. They have also been learning about the very popular and important ball game of 'Pok-a-tok' which the Maya people used to play using their hips, knees and elbows to keep the ball in the air.

Our Year 5 artists are experimenting with creating their own shades of green using watercolours. We have been looking at the French Artist Henri Rousseau and inspired by his use of green in his jungle paintings.



Year 6 MOCK SATS Feedback

Y6 English mock SATs have gone really well this week and there has been really positive feedback from the initial marking. Children should be expecting marks to be returned during next week.

TOP TIPS:

Encourage your children to read as much as possible at home, including non-fiction texts. Those children who read the most, will perform better in the KS2 SATs. Those children who complete their Accelerated Reader HW and Grammar HW, will make the most progress and also gain more e-Praise points.

We ask the children to read each text at least twice in the tests. This is to ensure that they can answer the questions with more confidence. It sounds counter-intuitive, but spending more time on the reading will actually speed up their response time: we have seen this reflected in the improved results so far.

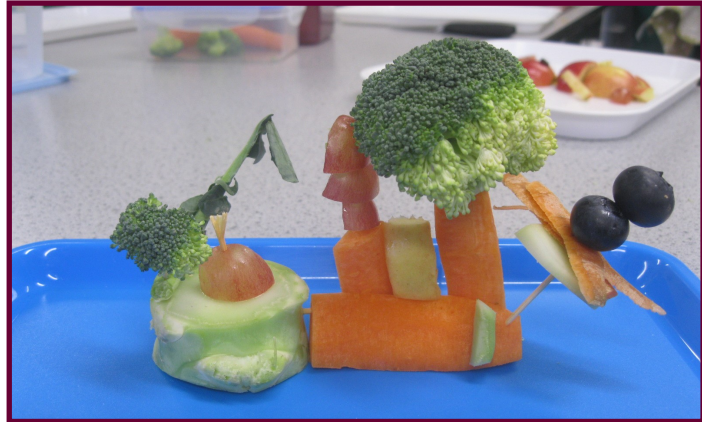
In the grammar paper - when it says to punctuate correctly, a common mistake is to miss a full stop at the end of their answer which forfeits their mark despite the rest being correct.

In Maths - arithmetic, circle the operation and make sure that this is actually done. Losing a mark because you added rather than subtracted is easily done. Also show workings - not just using mental methods wherever relevant and line up the digits - the squared paper on the test papers help with this.

In reasoning - highlighting and underlining key points is helpful.

Year 6 Food Tech

Take a look at these veggie/fruity creations from Year 6. In Food tech this week we thought we'd take the pressure off a little this week and ask our students to use their sharp knife skills to make some fun creatures and scenes. Most were eaten, some found their way to guinea pigs and rabbits and the rest was recycled. Washing up complete, you can rest up for a few days Year 6 until next weeks' challenges.



Year 7

We have started looking at programming in Python in Computing. This is the first of three units on Python we study throughout Key Stage 3. We have begun learning how to debug code and have started to use conditionals to build simple programs that change what they do depending on user input.

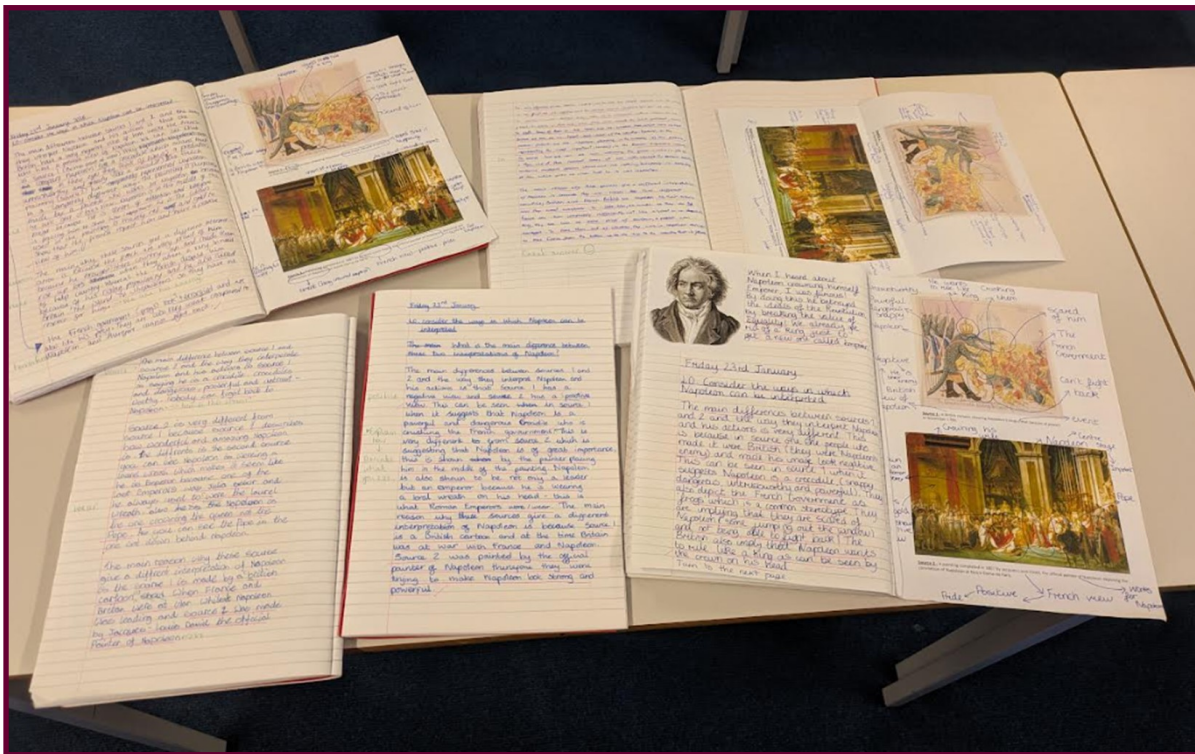
In Maths, Year 7 continue their work on graphing data. They have looked at dual and compound bar graphs and then moved on to solving problems involving coordinates and then scatter graphs.

Year 8

In French, Year 8 pupils have been learning how to describe holiday plans using the future tense. Pupils have also been learning about modal verbs and how to use a bi-lingual dictionary.

We have been looking at song writing in Music. Pupils have explored and chosen a chord sequence for their song - they have begun writing lyrics and we have explored how melodies are created. I look forward to hearing their completed songs!

In History this week, Y8 has been focusing on the historical skill of interpretation - understanding that people view the past through different lenses and this view will affect the opinions we form of people and events from history. Mrs Richardson has been blown away by the quality of work produced by the Year 8 students when comparing visual representations of Napoleon. Their skills of analysis and evaluation are really well developed, as is the strength of their extended writing skills. Brilliant work Y8 - well done!



Indoor Athletics

A massive congratulations to the Year 5 boys and girls who stepped up to compete in the **Year 6 Indoor Athletics** event this week! With Year 6 busy focusing on their mock SATs, our Year 5s rose to the challenge with incredible energy.

The team was remarkably competitive, showing great spirit and determination. They are already buzzing for next year! Special thanks to **Mr. Osborne** for coaching and taking the team.

We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday. To all those past and present EMS staff and students taking part in the community panto this weekend we wish you the best of luck!

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker

Please see important dates and further information on following pages.

EMS WEEKLY BULLETIN

30th January 2026

Key dates: February - July 2026 (subject to change):

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 4th February	Year 7 Trip to QE for Production
Friday 13th February	Break up for half term (finish at 3.20pm)
Monday 23rd February	INSET Day
Thursday 26th February	Year 6 Parents Evening
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th March	School Production
Friday 13th March	Chelsea's Story Play at Lockyers Middle
Monday 16th - Friday 20th March	Year 7 French Residential
Friday 27th March	Break up for Easter (finish at 3.20pm) PTFA Mufti and Cake Sale
Monday 13th April	INSET Day
Thursday 16th and Tuesday 21st May	Parents' Evenings
Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th May	Year 5 Heatree Residential
Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATS
Friday 15th June	PTFA Disco
Tuesday 19th May	Class Group and Year 8 Photographs
Thursday 21st May	Year 5 Treehouse Theatre - Ancient Greeks
Friday 22nd May	Break up for half term (finish at 3.20pm)
Thursday 4th June	Year 5 & 6 Parents in to view work (2.45-3.15pm)
Tuesday 9th June	KS3 Sports Day Heats (AM)
Thursday 11th June	KS2 Sports Day Heats and Potted Sports (AM)
Wednesday 17th June	Sports Day Finals (AM)
Friday 26th June	Transfer Day
Tuesday 30th June - 3rd July	Year 6 Activities Week
Tuesday 7th July	Year 8 Bournemouth University Visit
Friday 10th July	PTFA Summer Fair
Monday 13th - Friday 17th July	Year 8 Activities Week
Monday 20th July	Year 6 and 8 Awards Evening - Verwood Hub
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of term (finish at 3.20pm)

FEBRUARY

Half Term Activities

Unicorn Live

14th February

Magical Dance Workshop

17th February 9am - 1pm

Arts & Craft workshop

17th February 1.15 - 2.45pm

Bouncy Castle & Soft Play

18th & 19th February 1 - 2.30pm / 2.30 - 4pm

The Spongebob Movie Search for the Squarepants

20th February 2pm & 21st February 1pm



VERWOOD HUB
COMMUNITY & LEISURE

contact us 01202 828740

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/verwoodhub



Community Haircuts

NEW LOCATION
THE HIVE VERWOOD
EVERY 4TH MONDAY OF
THE MONTH
JOIN US 23/2/26
2PM-4.30PM

**NO APPOINTMENT
NECESSARY**
THIS IS A FREE SERVICE

REFERRALS AVAILABLE
FROM
JOB CENTRE &
CITIZEN ADVICE
CENTRE.
DROP IN'S ALWAYS
WELCOME



**The HIVE
Howe Lane
Verwood**