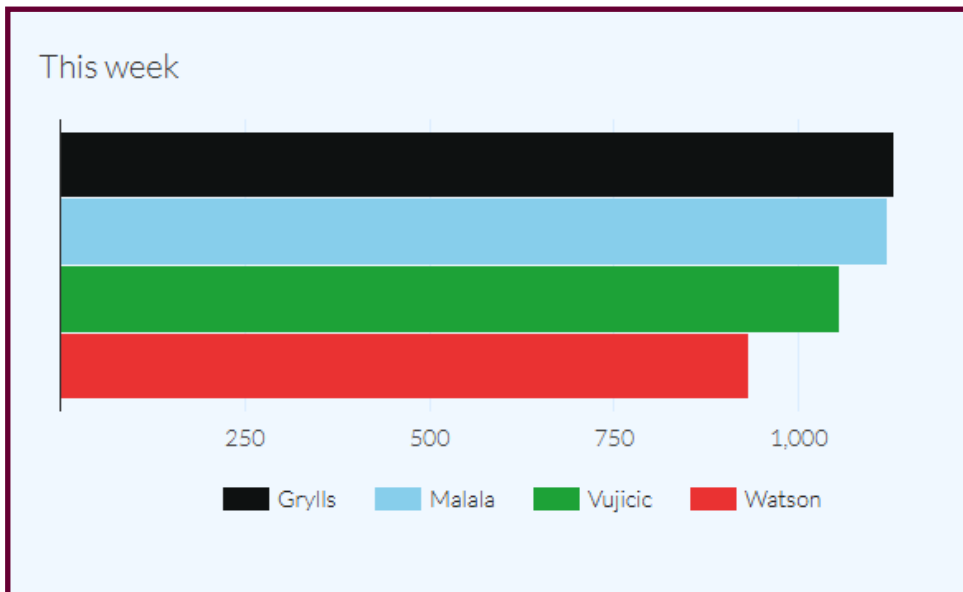


Dear Parents/Carers,

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

## House News



Very tight at the top this week with only 10 candle credits separating Grylls and Malala at the top of the weekly totals. Grylls have very slightly stretched their lead at the top of the year long table.

Our monthly House competition for January was the quiz. Well done to everyone who took part - the final scores are now in.

Malala: 141  
Grylls: 129  
Vujicic: 118  
Watson: 105

Everyone who took part received candle credits and then Malala were awarded the most bonus candle credits for winning overall.

## Homework - AI

While tools like ChatGPT and Google Lens can be incredible for brainstorming or explaining complex concepts, we've noticed a rising trend of these tools being used to complete homework. We want to take a moment to talk about why this matters and how we can work together to keep your child's education authentic.

When a student asks an AI to complete homework, they aren't just "saving time" they are missing out on the vital cognitive "heavy lifting" that shapes learning and builds memory. The key messages are:

**The struggle is the point:** Learning happens in the moments of frustration and problem-solving. Removing the struggle removes the growth.

**Inaccuracy of data:** Using AI prevents teachers from seeing where a student actually needs help.

**Sparx adapts:** Sparx adapts how difficult the questions are depending on the students answers and speed of responses. Using AI makes Sparx think that the questions are too easy and ups the difficulty level.

## Year 5

In English this week, Year 5 has been focusing on writing dialogue that has an action to advance the story on. They have written some great examples between Queen Jadis (the evil witch of Narnia) and Uncle Andrew (the mad magician). We are really enjoying the class text *The Magician's Nephew* and aim to finish it next week. Next week will have a focus on writing a monologue from Queen Jadis's perspective. We look forward to seeing what they come up with!

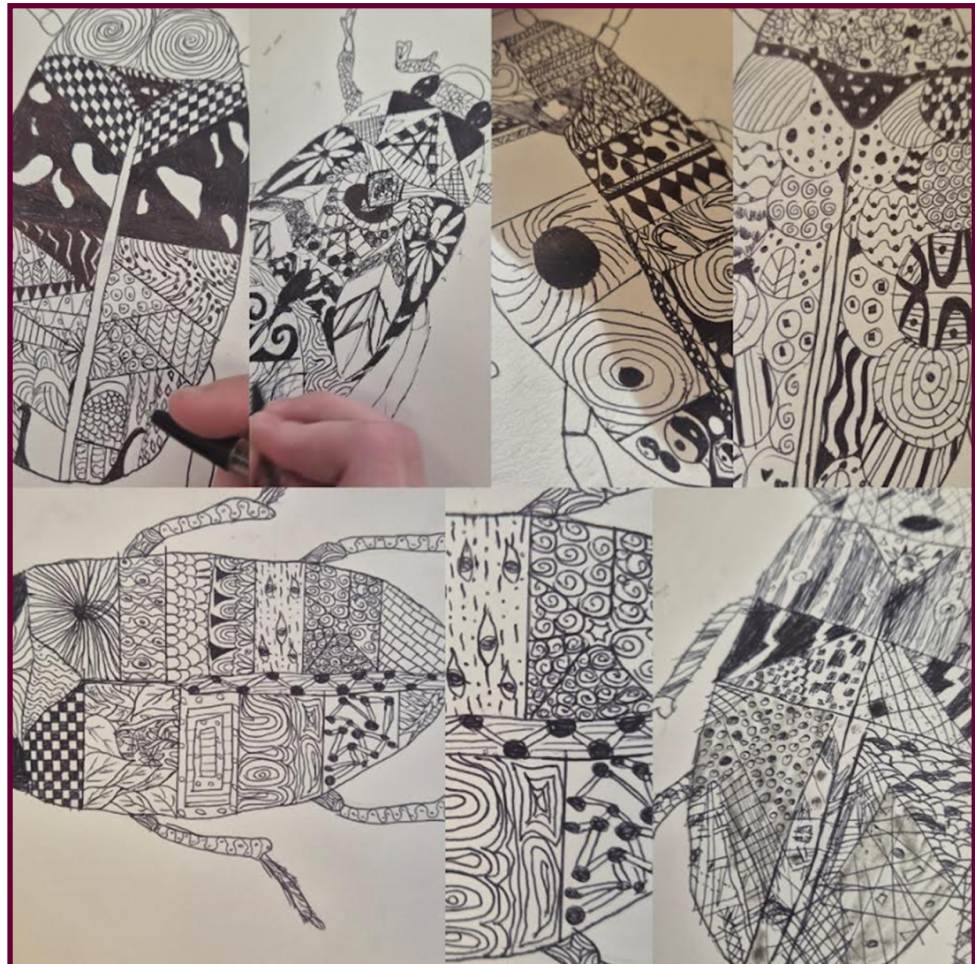
In Maths, Year 5 sat their mid-year assessments this week. They worked really hard to complete an arithmetic paper and two reasoning papers. After doing some marking this week, we have noticed some common mistakes made across the year group. The most common being doing the incorrect operation (adding when they should have subtracted and vice versa). We also noticed that children rushed through questions and made silly mistakes like missing out decimal points in answers and not regrouping / carrying over numbers correctly. We would greatly appreciate your help and support with reminding the children to slow down and take their time when they are completing their homework at home. Please try and allow them to do as much of it as possible on their own and assist when needed.

## Year 6

In French we have been learning how to describe what we do each day of the week. We have been learning new verbs, reminding ourselves of the days of the week and have also included the time. We have then been reading, translating and writing short sentences as well as practising our listening and speaking skills.

In Wellbeing, our topic at the moment is Health and Wellbeing where we are learning about understanding the importance of our physical and mental health, how we support ourselves and others and how we seek support. The lessons are a mixture of discussions, looking at case studies and self-reflecting on how we manage our wellbeing with the inevitable pressures around us as we get older.

This week in Art, Year 6 have been inspired by the illustrations of Russian Artist Alex Konahin. They have created insects and bugs using fine lines and patterns.



## Year 7

Year 7 English students have been learning about the art of persuasion. They have investigated different techniques that authors, politicians, and people in their lives can use to make those around them feel, think and act in certain ways. Students have been able to make strong links to their reading of *Private Peaceful*, and can identify many ways in which propaganda satisfies persuasive rhetoric. They have planned and are working on short speeches, and have chosen specific elements of persuasion to make their speeches effective, with many students using direct address and emotive language as powerful tools to put their ideas across.

In Music, we have begun learning how to work together as a band! We've been exploring the "**Big Four Chords**," a specific sequence used in thousands of hit pop songs (typically I, V, vi, and IV). To see this in action, we listened to the band *Axis of Awesome*, who performed a medley of nearly 50 songs in just four minutes—all using this same sequence. The medley includes hits by:

**Journey**  
**Lady Gaga**  
**The Beatles**  
**U2**  
**Black Eyed Peas**

*(Note: If you choose to watch this at home with your child, please ensure you search for the "clean version"!)*

We are now applying what we've learned by practicing these four chords on the bass, keyboard and guitar.

## Year 8

In Year 8 Maths we are currently learning about equations and inequalities. We are looking at how to solve equations with unknowns, form expressions and equations, as well as solving simple inequalities. This will lead us up to our mid-year assessment in Y8, which will look back at aspects of the whole year so far. Good luck!

## Young Carers

On Tuesday of this week, we held our termly Bereavement Cafe facilitated by Cheryl and Chloe from Mosaic. We had 46 pupils attending in total and they enjoyed the sessions. We are now the first school in Dorset to have Grief Ambassadors in school and have two Year 8 pupils who have taken up this role. Through their empathy, energy and influence, we hope they can help make bereavement a topic that is talked about more openly with compassion and understanding. Both Siobhan and Lucas made a great start and spent time talking with pupils from the different year groups and we think they will be very successful in this venture.



## Water Bottles in Lost Property

We have a large quantity of un-named, unclaimed water bottles in lost property. Please encourage your child to check lost property if they are missing a bottle, as any remaining by the end of term will be disposed of.

Please remind your child to name their water bottle so that they can be easily returned to them if left around school. Thank you.

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

Further information is available on following pages.

# EMS WEEKLY BULLETIN

6th February 2026

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

DATE	EVENT
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	Year 8 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)



Bournemouth | Christchurch | Poole



## Harmony through family change

Free six week wellbeing and mindfulness sessions provided by **Universal Mindfulness** for families experiencing separation or divorce.

These sessions offer a safe and supportive space for children to explore emotions, build resilience and self esteem. Learn healthy habits to help their wellbeing through arts, crafts, cooking, yoga, meditation and dinner.



Scan the QR code to book your place

[universalmindfulness.co.uk](http://universalmindfulness.co.uk)



### Dates / times

Wednesdays **25 Feb**  
**4 | 11 | 18 | 25 March**  
**1 April**

Primary aged children **5.30–7pm**

Secondary aged children **7.05–8.35pm**

**Rossmore Family Hub**  
Herbert Ave, Poole BH12 4HR

Saturdays **28 Feb | 28 March**  
Parents' sessions **10am–12.30pm**

**Castlepoint Library**  
Bournemouth BH8 9UW

**FREE ACCESS WITH SCHOOL CODE:  
EV180225**



## FEBRUARY 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	2 Feb 10am
Improving Family Communication	2 Feb 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	3 Feb 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Feb 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Feb 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Feb 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Feb 7pm
What is ACT?	17 Feb 10am
Introduction to OCD	17 Feb 7pm
<b>FREE - Reducing the Harm from Screens</b>	19 Feb 7-8pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	23 Feb 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Feb 7pm
Decreasing Depression	24 Feb 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Feb 7pm
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Visit the PARENTS page of the FACE website ([facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)) to view the 18 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.

# Is Your Child Water Competent?

Did you know?

Only around 4% of seven to eleven year olds in England meet all four core swimming competencies set out by Swim England



Swim  
England

## Competencies

- Tread water for at least 30 seconds
- Perform a star float for at least 60 seconds
- Have experience of swimming in clothing
- Swim at least 100 metres with ease and without stopping

At Swim Academy, we teach all of these and so much more.  
We build stronger, safer, and more confident swimmers.



**SIGN UP NOW**