

Dear Parents,

What a lovely warm start to the Summer Term! I am sure many of you are hoping this is not the summer been and gone.

Staff training on Monday was hugely productive reviewing many of the systems in school. Central to this is our rewards system and how we celebrate this with pupils when they display the values and characteristics focused around our three core values of Excellence, Endeavour and Enjoyment. I have written previously about the aim for every pupil in school to be recognised for their efforts and for pupils to have the motivation to work as hard as they can.

As a staff we looked at what we consider to be 'the Emmanuel Way'. Part of this is defining what we expect from our pupils and ourselves in all areas of the school. I have enjoyed hearing from many of you about the increased expectations we have of our pupils, this work ensures we continue to develop these standards.

The school House system is coming together, class tutors are in the process sorting their classes into four groups - with siblings being together and next week the school council will decide on the names of the Houses. We have famous people, famous locations in Dorset and ideas from within Verwood itself. Thank you to parents who have emailed in suggestions and I welcome your input.

On Monday we welcome you to the first of two parent consultation evenings. I hope you found the process of online booking easy to manage. You have now received your child's report and this will help focus the conversation on celebrating strengths, areas to work on and how you can support at home. Apologies for the delay in reports coming home and now the technical issues have been resolved this should not happen again.

Mr Brennan will be present at both evenings, please come along and introduce yourself. Whilst he will not know your child in great detail at this early stage he will have their books and spent at least a week in class with them. Having been in class several times this week I can see the pupils are being challenged to meet his high expectations.

Mrs Jeffs will be available to speak to parents for whom Mr Jones has taught for Maths. Please email the school office to organise. She has taught the class, has the Maths tracker available and pupils learning journals to look through.

On another staffing matter I wish to share with you that it is with deep regret that Mrs Addison finds that she is still not well enough to resume her duties at Emmanuel. She has therefore made the difficult decision to leave the school so she can have more time to recuperate and the children will benefit by having a new permanent science teacher to inspire them moving forwards.

I was lucky enough to spend time at the Year 4 Tag Rugby festival held on site here at EMS on Thursday. With the original date cancelled due to the field being underwater, we experienced polar opposite conditions. I enjoyed catching up with parents and familiarising myself with some of the pupils. The games were held in a great spirit and there were very talented youngsters from all schools. I was also pleased to see the role our Year 8 Sports Leaders took with officiating. Many of them commenting on the demand for concentration and communication with the referees. A great learning experience for them.

Our annual Sustrans event of the Big Pedal and Dr Bike session takes place from Monday. If you have bikes at home you have pulled from winter hibernation bring them along for a service on Monday. Some bits can be fixed and altered and a report provided. The Big Pedal week involves encouraging as many pupils (and parents) to come on bikes and scooters as possible. In amongst the enthusiasm I would ask that our pupils are safe on the roads, mindful of pedestrians and other pavement users during travel.

Long may this weather last, in the meantime enjoy the weekend and hopefully time in the garden with your families.

Rob Christopher

## A WEEK IN PICTURES

### Year 6 Science Lesson - Van der Graaf Generator Experiments

