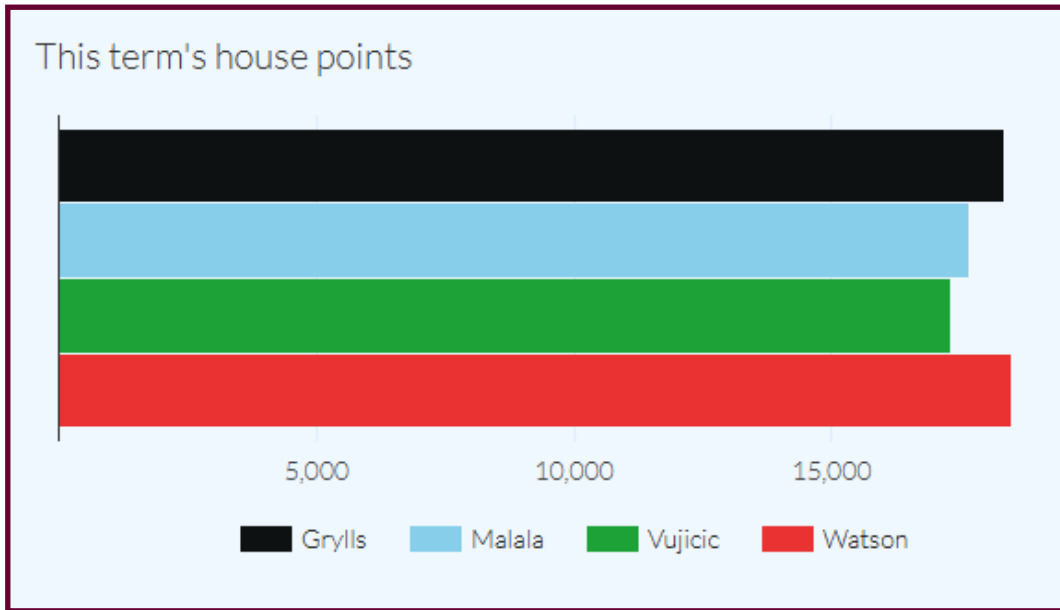


Dear Parents/Carers,

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

House News



This week we are looking at the House points earned this term. Well done to Watson who currently are edging the contest by just 141 candle credits from Grylls.

April House Competition

A big reminder from the School Council that our recycling project has started. We will be collecting on Mondays and Fridays. Pupils will be given counters when they donate recycling which they can exchange for candle credits with their class tutors.

We have eight weeks to provide enough recycling to fill eight bins of 70kg. If we reach our target, we will receive a plastic bench made by Circular 11. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of replacing our wooden benches on the playground.



Year 5

In Humanities, Year 5 are coming to the end of their Ancient Maya topic. They have been looking at the possible theories as to why the Maya Empire collapsed around the year 900 AD and have completed an extended writing piece on this. Next up will be a geography topic on South America.

Year 5 RE has been focused on different creation stories. These have included Genesis (the Christian creation story), the Big Bang Theory, the Hindu creation story and the Aboriginal Dreamtime story of the Rainbow Serpent. The children have been comparing the similarities and differences between the stories and forming an opinion on the statement 'creation stories have nothing in common'.

Year 6

Here is an example of the double diary entry from this week's Year 6 English writing – from two different points of view. The young boy is Cligg and the lighthouse keeper is called Ephraim. We have also been using our editing skills to improve grammar and punctuation. As you can see, we have also been practising the use of dashes as part of our grammar focus:

Cligg
February 11th 1941

Dear Diary,

I think today was the cats bananas! Me and Olive are now living in the lighthouse - but ^{earlier} Esther hit me on the lip. She also and Olive had a massive fight and she pulled ~~Est~~ Esther's hair - she served her right: I nearly fell off the ladder to the lighthouse! But luckily Ephraim caught me. He is the lighthouse keeper and he has the ~~cute~~ cutest dog - Pixie - she licked my knee. The good thing is, me and Olive now have a massive room - like the size of Buckingham Palace - but it's weird that we're not allowed to do anything, but ~~you~~ there is no work for us! He ~~also~~ ^{knits} also Knitting abt - which is weird.

I'll be here tomorrow for more exciting adventures!
Cligg is out!

Monday 2nd March
Lo: Continued.

Ephraim
February 11th 1941

Good morning,
Today was an unusual day. In the morning, I was taking Pixie for a walk - to go and check the quicksands ~~but~~ when I got back I saw my ^{angry} nextdoor neighbour - Queenie - with two unfortunate children striding towards me. When they got to me, Queenie slapped two ration books in my hand. I stared at her amazed. She said angrily, "This is a war effort you know. The children definitely do not like the ladder especially the young boy, Cligg - he nearly fell off - but I caught him. Pixie has taken a liking to ^{Cligg} Cligg - she usually growls at everyone she does not know. I don't want them to find my secret, so I told them not to open any cupboards or drawers. I am very anxious and irritated because I think they know I have a secret - well especially the older one, Olive. She is a bit suspicious of me and my knitting. I will be relieved when this war is all over and the children have gone back to London. This is all alot for me.

Ephraim.

* Then she just left me with the children two children - that I didn't know what to do with.

Year 6 children were asked to bring their reading books into the hall for a worship on World Book Day. Afterwards, we took a picture of the books that they are reading – for artistic effect!

This half term, Year 6 students have shown incredible determination and versatility as they rotated through a diverse range of sports. In Gymnastics, they've been mastering balance and core strength, focusing on transitioning smoothly between floor sequences and apparatus work. On the Badminton courts, the focus shifted to agility and hand-eye coordination as they learned to control the shuttlecock with precise serves and overhead clears. Finally, they took on the unique challenge of Korfbal, a fast-paced, cooperative game similar to netball and basketball that requires constant movement and strategic teamwork.



Year 7

The MARS Trust Year 7 Workshops on Self- Esteem

We were delighted to welcome the MARS Trust team in again to support our year 7 pupils in a pacey and interactive workshop last week. The pupils were quite excited when they heard that they would be getting part 2 to the workshop they had in January on Friendships. The MARS Trust is a relationship skills charity, which is passionate about young people being able to build healthy, safe relationships in every area of their lives. Their work is founded on Christian principles and uses a bank of volunteers from local church communities to support their workshops. The pupils were challenged to think about themselves for a whole lesson and to write their reflections in a workbook. The activities were fun and well organised. We look forward to seeing the MARS team in school next autumn to continue their work with Emmanuel.

In Computing, Year 7 have started to learn about databases and how databases are used to store information. We have begun by working on a database for HMV - after an explanation of what a record store was! We have added album information and then used the database to find out about which formats were popular etc. We will be going on to creating a database for storing information about films and tv shows. We will use the justwatch website as an example and then build our own database for some of our favourite (age appropriate) films.

Year 8

In RE this week, pupils have begun to draw together their study of the Holocaust and are in the midst of producing an assessed piece of writing that addresses the question 'Was God to blame for the Holocaust?' As our Year 8s move towards becoming upper school ready, the RE curriculum develops in order to prepare them for some of the more challenging philosophical and moral debates that they will encounter at GCSE level. In this particular piece of work, pupils consider the omnipotent and omniscient nature of God in comparison to the concept of free will. Is God to blame for not stepping in or is humanity accountable for their own choices and actions? Pupils have responded to the challenging nature of this topic in a truly impressive and respectful manner, I am really looking forward to reading their final pieces of work.

In French we have been producing independent written work on the theme of holidays and our future plans.

Key Stage 3 Youth Parliament Elections

Pupils in years 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to vote for their Dorset Youth member of Parliament. There were 17 candidates to choose from and it took most of the week to listen to their speeches and to rank them in order of preference. The polling station was set up with a real ballot box. Pupils now have first hand knowledge of how an election works. This is so important as some of our year 8 pupils will be eligible to vote in the next General Election if the bill for 16 year olds to vote is passed!

Sporting News

On Wednesday a group of year 7 girls took part in a Netball event at Parkstone Grammar School. A total of 12 schools were involved in the competition with a very high standard of netball on display throughout. This was a fantastic experience for our pupils who demonstrated a great attitude and resilience over the afternoon and played some great games. Well done!

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

EMS WEEKLY BULLETIN

6th March 2026

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

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th March	School Production
Friday 13th March	Year 8 Chelsea's Story Play at Lockyer's 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 April	Parents' Evenings
Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th May	Year 5 Heatree Residential
Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May	Year 6 SATS
Friday 15th May	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)



Join us at
Verwood United
Reformed Church
for a fun
Easter Event! 🐣
Saturday 28th March
10am to 12noon
Free activities for children
Biscuit decorating 🍪
Easter crafts 🐰
Story corner 📖
Colouring 🖍️
All ages welcome!

Royal Signals Museum Workshop



When: Saturday 14 March, 11AM

Where: Verwood Library

**FREE
EVENT!**

We have a special guest from the Royal Signals Museum Outreach team joining us at Verwood Library.

Learn how to:

- Send and receive morse code messages
- Make a code wheel to write secret messages
- Use military radios to pass messages



Limited spaces!



To book, pop into
Verwood Library or email
verwoodlibrary@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Suitable for ages 8+



HAMBERLEY

Care Homes

Easter Egg Hunt *At Verwood House*

Hop into the Easter spirit with a Easter egg hunt the whole family will love!
Join us for a springtime adventure filled with chocolate, nature, and community cheer.

 Saturday 21st March |  10am - 12pm

Entry is £2 per child, with all proceeds going towards Julia's House.
Every child who finds all the eggs will receive a small Easter treat!

42-44 Ringwood Road, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 7AH
01202 812250 | Verwood.Rec@hamberleycarehomes.co.uk