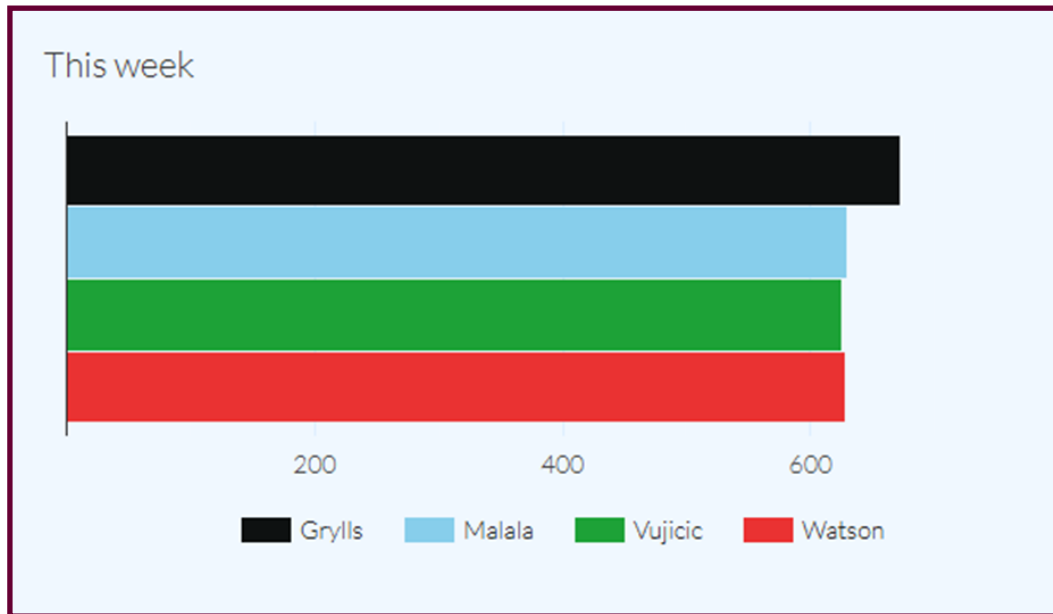


Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's parent bulletin. I must start with saying a warm welcome back to our school community - Tuesday morning the cage was a buzz of pupils catching up with their friends after two weeks out of school.

House News



Well done to Grylls for hitting the ground running this term with a strong lead built in the week. In next week's house worships the pupils will review how to maximise their candle credits and which rewards are available for them to 'purchase'.

Extra Curricular Activities

A list of this term's extra curricular activities was shared with you earlier this week. Just a reminder that booking for clubs goes live at 7pm this evening. During worship today the list was shared with pupils and they have been reminded that this is a commitment - signing up for a club needs them to consistently attend to avoid taking the place away from other pupils who want to join. Please can we also ask parents to take note of the start and finish dates of the clubs, for example the after school Athletics clubs does not start until Thursday 14th May 2026.

Year 5

In English we have been focusing on the key features of a biography and have spent a few lessons this week gathering facts about Katherine Johnson-the human computer! The children have really enjoyed learning about her journey working for NASA and will write their own biography about her over the next few lessons.

In Maths we have been showing incredible focus as we enter the final stretch of our decimals topic. It's been a busy few weeks, and their hard work is truly paying off! We have been sharpening our skills in adding and subtracting decimals, mastering the art of lining up the decimal point to ensure accuracy. As well as multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100, and 1,000.

Year 6

This week in English, we have completed 'Judith's Journey', about the arrival of the Jewish refugees in Letters from the Lighthouse. This extract is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate how to integrate dialogue in narratives to convey character and advance the action.

Next week, we will finish reading the book and will be writing a formal letter of complaint to exercise an assured and conscious control over levels of formality, particularly through manipulating grammar and vocabulary to achieve this.

Judith's Journey16.4.26

The storm raged, waves as tall as mountains smashing against the boat like boulders. Howling like a wolf, the wind was so strong, it threatened to tear apart the wood. The hail slapped against Judith's face, as the boat fought its way through the waves.

"I'm going inside," said baby Reuben's mum, standing up, "The hail is hurting Reuben."

"Ok," replied Judith, as a colossal wave smashed against the deck, throwing everyone sideways.

"Help! Help!" Judith cried suddenly, "My suitcase has fallen over the side!" She started sobbing uncontrollably.

"Where? Where did it go?" asked Dr. Wirth, running up from the cabin.

"It went over the side," Judith cried, "All my books, and my dresses, and my blouses."

"Don't worry," replied Dr. Wirth, as he walked across the deck, trying to console her, "We'll all give you some essentials."

"But what about my books?" she said, suddenly standing up.

"We'll get you some new ones when we get to England, ok?" he said.

Suddenly Judith jumped up and reached over the side, "I'm going to get it back!" she replied determinedly.

"NO JUDITH!" Dr. Wirth shouted, "You'll drown!"

It has been full steam ahead in Maths with just over three weeks until SATs. As each group is in various places within the curriculum, our main priority is covering the curriculum, as well as ensuring arithmetic is a breeze for them! In most classes we are now on: measuring and classifying angles, before moving onto position and direction, then ratio and algebra. Thanks for your continued support with their HW, which is vital for their success.

Year 7

In Year 7 English, we are currently diving into the world of film reviews to understand how professional critics use the **P.A.L.L.** (Purpose, Audience, Layout, and Language) framework to shape their opinions. By analysing these four areas, students are learning how to decode the "behind-the-scenes" choices like why a reviewer uses a specific star rating or persuasive vocabulary to influence whether we choose to watch a movie or read a certain text type.

In Maths the groups continue to build on the mid year assessments they completed. While they have revisited distance time graphs they have moved forward through completing inverse fractions problems, calculating with negative numbers before moving on to the perimeter and area unit.

Year 8

Year 8 are deeply immersed in their investigation into Gothic Literature. They have investigated different conventions and writer's techniques that allow the reader to both create and clarify author's stories in their own minds. A greater focus has been placed on the use of figurative language, built on knowledge gained in KS2, to effectively bring ideas to life and create greater impact within their texts. Here are just a few:

'The empty abyss-like eyes stared out at the trees, waiting.'

'Sinister-looking cobbled stairs led up to the icy attic...'

'...a million jagged teeth biting into the gums of a bruised, purple sky.'

...' an old worn-out sofa begging for mercy...'

'The gates cried in pain, creaking with the icy wind as the gargoyles seemed to laugh rudely at its suffering.' Well done, year 8.

In Year 8 Art we are working on their Still Life Cubist mixed media final piece. They are combining 3 Artists; Morandi, Picasso and Lichtenstein.



In Maths the children have been solving a range of problems involving percentages. They started with revisiting percentages of amounts using non calculator methods before understanding that with a calculator, percentage of amounts are quicker when using a multiplier to solve such questions. The learning has progressed onto percentage increase and decrease problems, before finally exploring percentage change and original price problems.

All that is left is to wish everyone a great weekend and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker

EMS WEEKLY BULLETIN

17th April 2026

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

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 16th and Tuesday 21st April	Parents' Evenings
Wednesday 22nd April	Year 5 Heatree Info Evening (5.30-6.30pm)
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) PTFA Dress for your Dream Job Mufti Day
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)



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools



Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT/CARER WEBINAR

HELPING YOUR CHILD MANAGE BIG EMOTIONS

Is your child finding big feelings hard to manage? Are they becoming upset, angry or worried, or finding it hard to calm down after things go wrong? The MHST might be able to help. This pre-recorded webinar is suitable for parent/carers of children up to 12.

In this 1 hour session we will:

- Explore emotional regulation
- Understand triggers and early warning signs
- Share ways to support your child to calm and cope
- Offer practical strategies you can try at home

WATCH NOW



to watch now: <https://forms.office.com/e/TxhWjE7tzg>



Dorset
Mental
Health
Support
Team in
Schools



Dorset HealthCare
University
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT/CARER WEBINAR

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

NO DIAGNOSIS NEEDED - EVERYONE'S WELCOME

Are you supporting a child or young person who is autistic or may be autistic? Join our friendly webinar to better understand their needs and explore practical ways to support them at home.

In this 1 hour live session we will:

- Explore sensory needs and overwhelm
- Explore communication differences
- Support emotional regulation
- Consider anxiety and wellbeing
- Share practical strategies for home

📅 Thursday 23 April

🕒 4pm-5pm

💻 Online event



📌 For more information and to sign up: <https://bit.ly/4rKSObv>

FREE!



Saturday 9th May
@ Thomas Hardy School
10am – 3pm

**A day of music, drama and dance performances
and workshops for all the family.**

Performances by orchestras, jazz bands, rock bands, choirs and individual young musicians from across the local schools.

Drama, musical theatre and dance performances by students from The Thomas Hardy School.

Workshops for all to take part in (sign-up in advance!)

"Come and Try" instrument sessions and music tech sessions

Ceilidh dance, Dance workshop, Big-sing workshop, Pre-school music, Samba workshop, Folk music workshop, Street band workshop, BBQ, refreshments and more!

music.wessex.ac



Dorset
Council



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND