

Dear Parents,

It has been great to see so many of you over the course of the two parents' evenings. Thank you for taking the time to give feedback on the reports, the feedback you received during your meetings with staff and many of the things I write to you about. It is absolutely crucial that you know where your child is in their learning, what they have to do next and how you can help support at home. I also encourage you at any time to make contact to talk about your child's progress, this does not have to wait until formal parent evenings.

Well done to all those pupils who have achieved something this week either in school or pursuing their hobbies out of school. Many of you have shared your success and should be rightly proud of your achievements.

Mrs Stewart has been singing the praises of her year 8 food students. Last week they excelled in their first practical this year (new class from Easter break on rotation with Product Design and Textiles) by creating a layered salad in a jar that contained all sections of the Eatwell Guide. Looking at the photo I think you will agree the results look amazing; really colourful and fresh. They also tasted great too and were very healthy. Well done Year 8! Watch this space for more amazing dishes to come.

In Science I am looking forward to judging the year 6 Island project. I have enjoyed popping into lessons to see the pupils developing their ideas with careful guidance. The photos attached show the work in progress and I will update you another time.

The school continues to move forward. The updated Single School Action Plan is on the website. More important is the challenge and dialogue at our Priority School Group meeting held on Tuesday evening. Mr Brennan and Mr Brenton gave good curriculum updates that included networking with our pyramid First, Middle and Upper schools. The work with Mrs Jeffs and Mrs Boyes, on behalf of Wimborne Academy Trust, is reaching out beyond our school and is a real feature in our Verwood community. Pupils across all year groups are making good progress and where it is slower in areas these are challenged and intervention in place to bridge the gap. We are confident our Key Stage 2 results will be much improved and our pupils are working incredibly hard as they prepare for SATs week beginning 14th May.

Transfer liaison has begun with both First and Upper schools. Some of our Year 8 pupils visited QE this week and numerous meetings in school have taken place. Mrs Binning has now spent time in each of the First schools getting to know year 4 pupils transferring in September. This will benefit all of the pupils involved in transfer.

We would be grateful if any year 6 parents who are not planning on taking a place in year 7 could confirm this as soon as possible. We are almost full in year 7 next year and it would be helpful for us to know if we have any places available for families moving into the area.

I have written before about my love for new fads! Please can I ask that you check your child is not bringing 'squiggie' toys into school. Like fidget spinners before this, they disrupt the learning in class and can create conflict when they are damaged or misplaced. We do have children in school who have used these over a longer period of time to help their focus and address sensory and anxiety needs. This is controlled through our Pastoral system, if you are unsure about permission please put a note in your child's diary for their Form Tutor to respond. Thank you for your support.

It looks increasingly like the good weather is going to be more frequent and therefore we ask that you apply suncream in the mornings before school on days where we know the sun will be out. There is nothing more uncomfortable than early season sunburn, having forgotten how quickly it can burn. It is also important, now the weather is warming up, for pupils to bring their refillable water bottles into school.

I hope you have a great Bank Holiday and enjoy the sun! (safely..)

Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES

'Year 6 have just started an exciting new project in Science, where they have been shipwrecked on a desert Island....But never fear! They are actually all Scientists and were travelling to the Island to carry out research as it has only just been discovered on recent satellite images.

In the coming weeks they will be working in teams to carry out a number of life saving and investigative tasks, such as constructing a shelter, producing clean water and even lighting a fire!

So far we have only mapped our Island and began to think about our shelter design ... but lots more fun is soon to be had.'



Year 8 Healthy Salads

