

Dear Parents,

Year 8 Sports Leaders shone in the sun this week supporting Verwood First School Potted Sports Day. I know Mr Jenkinson enjoyed his experience across the campus. It is always a pleasure to receive positive feedback from our community. Mr Parsons gave a glowing report to the attentive and focused work of the 25 pupils who supported the event. Well done all involved.

In Abigale Middleton, 7SA, Emmanuel Middle School holds the title in the whole of the UK of 7th place (top 7th School) under 14s for Tumbling in Gymnastics. Abigale was competing at 12 years old in her category where most of the girls were 13-14 years old. This was the Finals held in Stoke on Trent by the British Schools Gymnastics Association BSGA. Abigale previously was selected at Sherborne for the South West Schools where they take the top two gymnasts through to Finals, where she achieved first place. Scotland, Wales, Ireland, North East, North West, and London, South East, South West, Jersey, Guernsey and Midlands Schools also put through 2 gymnasts to Finals. Abigale trains 3 times a week at Tumbling and loves this sport at Splits Gymnastics in Ringwood with Karen Perryman. A huge achievement and she should be rightly proud of her efforts, well done Abigale.

For food lovers Christchurch is the place to be this weekend. The Christopher household enjoy a family cycle ride into town to enjoy the food and drink available to consume. This year we have the added interest of our food teacher Mrs Stewart once again running some sessions in the Kids' Kitchen marque at Christchurch Quay. Mrs Stewart joins various chefs, including Lesley Waters, over both days to encourage children to enjoy cooking. She has said that there might even be some sessions available on the day if you decide to go there last minute. It's always busy and there is plenty to do, see and eat!

The Art department continues to push curriculum boundaries. A new installation has popped up in the science corridor to go with the topical sea-plastic installation by the library. The giant-sized confectionary looks fantastic and the quality and care of the finish shows how engaging the work has been. Having been at EMS since 2009 it is the first time I have seen pupils working and fire their clay models. The photos show work in progress linked to the Gargoyle topic that is in our reception area.

Further work on improving our teaching and learning in school took place with a whole staff Book Scrutiny led by Mrs Boyes. It is great to hear the team challenging and celebrating with each other the quality of the work our pupils produce, and the way in which we use their work to plan further learning. It is hard to put into words the improvement in the standard of pupils books. I know that many of you who had the opportunity look at books during recent Parent Evenings were impressed by the presentation, care and quality of work produced.

We welcomed Mrs Turtle back this week and she will be back in the classroom from Tuesday. Her two days this week focused on getting up to speed with our new practices in planning, marking, feedback and assessment.

Finally, I would like to wish our year 6 pupils the best on Monday when they begin their SATs. They have worked so hard and with such focus. I am not wishing them luck, they have worked too hard to need luck but I do subscribe to 'the harder you work, the luckier you become'. Go smash it! The pupils and staff in year 6 will complete next week by celebrating in Potterne Park and Moors Valley. I know everyone is looking forward to it.

Mrs Ponchaud has asked me to remind parents that she is holding a SEN drop-in coffee afternoon on Monday 14th May from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. If you would like to attend, please let the school office know on 01202 828100.

Have a great weekend and hopefully see many of you in Christchurch!

Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES



Abigail arriving at her tumbling competition



Confectionary Display



Plastic Ocean Display



Gargoyle Clay Works