

Dear Parents/Carers,

I start by extending a warm welcome to our first parent bulletin of the 2026 / 27 academic year - both to our returning families after the summer break and in particular to our new families who are joining the Emmanuel Middle School community for the first time. The pupils have been brilliant - those returning have slotted into their routines and our new pupils have embraced the challenges of learning a new place.

I hope you have all had a great summer - we certainly were lucky with the weather. The long warm days has enabled large amounts of fresh air and the chance to return refreshed and ready for another huge year.

For my team, we returned on Tuesday for two days of training where we focussed on:

- Ensuring our curriculum continues to develop to create the best impact for our pupils
- Teaching techniques that ensure all pupils are engaged
- Foundational literacy and reading
- SEND needs

As a school we continue to work on these areas as they provide the best chances for success for our pupils and after a great 2025 / 26 where we achieved significantly stronger than the National and Dorset averages in Year 6 SATs, we are now preparing to push on further.

To this end we have made some changes to further prioritise opportunities for reading in school. We have created a slot at the start of the day for our class read - giving premium learning time to this while also creating three additional slots each week for personal reading. Most children already have a book from the school library which matches their reading ability - all will be by lunchtime on Tuesday. I am very appreciative of how many children have returned to school with reading books from home - this is fantastic. In school, if a home reading book sits outside the level of difficulty appropriate for the child we will ask them to have a reading book from our school library that does match. By Tuesday every pupil will have their reading level (in the form of a ZPD number) in their school diary. If you ever would like to check home books against this there is a website which does this - please use this link:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/default.aspx>

We will also ask the pupils to note in their homework diary the pages read during our reading sessions at school. It would be helpful if this were done for home reading too.

With regards to our formalised homework information will be shared with children over the coming week with the first work being set on Friday 11th September for a Friday 18th September deadline. In KS2 this continues to use the [maths.co.uk](https://www.maths.co.uk) and [SPAG.com](https://www.spag.com) platforms and in KS3 Reading, Maths and Science will use SPARX.

Homework plays a huge part in our curriculum. Where pupils revisit learning it interrupts the forgetting curve, ensures knowledge is retained and means pupils are able to complete the curriculum at the correct pace. It is important that it is viewed as such and not as an add on. Pupils who are supported in organising and completing their homework have the best chance of success.

We have been made aware that Bartlett's do not currently have stock of some of our new uniform items but are expecting a delivery later this month. In the meantime pupils can wear their previous PE tops for PE. Bartlett's also off a delivery of uniform to the school on a Thursday. Items can then be collected by parents from the school office.

All new parents should have received a login for our Arbor system. Please can we ask that you check your contact and other details as they appear on Arbor. If any details need to be changed this can be done via your Arbor account.

I finish by wishing you all a great weekend - the children and staff are grateful for the weekend now as they get match fit again after the holiday! I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher

Please also see information on following pages

EMS WEEKLY BULLETIN

4th September 2026

Key dates (subject to change):

DATE	EVENT
Friday 2nd October	Individual School Photographs
Tuesday 13th October	Year 5 Greek Day with Treehouse Theatre
Wednesday 21st October	Year 6 Viking Day with Treehouse Theatre
Monday 26th—Friday 30th October	Half Term
Monday 2nd November	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 3rd November	Pupils return to school



September Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Facing Defiance	1 Sep 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	1 Sep 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	7 Sep 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	7 Sep 7pm
Introduction to OCD	8 Sep 10am
Decreasing Depression	8 Sep 7pm
What is ACT?	14 Sep 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Sep 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	15 Sep 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	15 Sep 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 Sep 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Sep 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	22 Sep 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	22 Sep 7pm
FREE - Masking Awareness	24 Sep 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	28 Sep 10am
School Anxiety	28 Sep 7pm



ADHD and so much more!
the new app from FACE



FREE to download and SMARTphone talk is completely FREE
No subscription needed

Available NOW in the Apple Store and the Google Play store
ADHD and so much more!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Visit the PARENTS page of the FACE website (<https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk>) to view the 16 regular talks for parents.

Click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you.

Click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you.

At the payment stage of booking, enter the code **EV180225** where it says **ADD PROMO CODE** to get access for FREE

****Note:**** Links to recordings of the talks are available for 48 hours after the session. If you cannot make a live session, book on and then email to request the recording link.

Please avoid booking the FREE sessions for parents, as these are for parents from schools that have not purchased the discount code. The code can only be used for Parent Talks and cannot be shared with parents from different schools. Improper use can result in immediate code cancellation for the whole school.

Verwood 2nd Scout Group

Family Funday Sunday inc BBQ & AGM

Sunday 6th September 12pm to 4pm
At the Manor Road Scout Hut Verwood

FREE ENTRY

Includes 1 free burger* each,
 free teas, coffees and squash, 1 entry into
 the free raffle, all available activities.

Giant Jenga

Giant Connect 4

Fun Table Games

Higher or Lower?

Pin the Country on the Map

Pack a Rucksack

Prizes to be won

*Paid extras - additional burgers - ice cream. *Vegetarian alternatives available

"Come and join the fun"