

Dear Parents,

As the week closes on yet another half-term it gives me the chance to reflect. The thought of writing a weekly newsletter filled me with dread! Would I have enough to say? Would I be able to keep up with the demand? Would I sound like a broken record? Would it get boring? Thankfully the 'yes' and 'no' were in the correct order. For purely selfish reasons the task itself is a fantastic mindfulness exercise. It reminds me of all the great things that go on during the week irrespective of the daily reactivity that comes with the job. It reminds me, and hopefully fellow readers, of how exciting it is to be a child and how precious school years are. The opportunities presented, the relationships that develop and a sense of achievement.

For the past few weeks I have used this platform to celebrate achievement after achievement. It is fantastic how, once celebrated, others have come forward to share their success. At pretty much every corner turned in school there are pupils who want to share stories of success and personal bests. This is not done in a 'hey look at how great I am' way, but in a humble 'guess what I did'. To me this is as important as the success itself: the culture of celebrating others' achievements, rather than focusing on our own personal gains.

The feature this week is the inexhaustible Miss Fagge. Quietly working her way through various selection trials to be selected for the Ladies Veteran South-West England Hockey squad. She represented the West of England Over 45s Hockey Team at a Regional Tournament in Cannock, Staffordshire. The team played 4 matches in a tournament against the Midlands, North, East & South over two days, finishing runners-up.

This week we welcomed three sets of visitors to school. Ferndown Upper School conducted a Year 8 Maths test for the 32 pupils who will be joining them in September. The pupils sat the test impeccably and have created a fantastic first impression on the Head of Maths. Well done!

A Maths review took place on Tuesday conducted by two external leaders of the Maths No Problem concept. Lesson observations, book scrutiny, staff interviews and a data check has provided plenty of information around the effectiveness of the model and recommendations moving forward. Personally, it is these types of 'health checks' and collaboration that make being part of Wimborne Academy Trust so beneficial to the school and support whole school improvement. I look forward to the full report this afternoon. I will update you after half term.

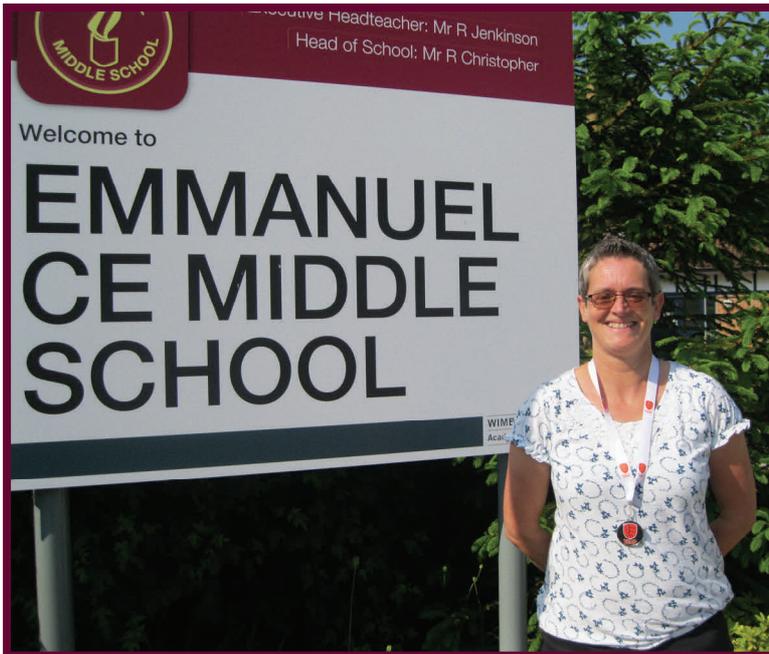
Finally, Mrs West, Mr Jenkinson and myself had the pleasure of visiting many lessons on Wednesday morning. The scientific language and range of questioning in science was impressive. The energy and level of expectation in Mr Brennan's Year 5 maths class as they went about presenting their work using three different methods, to the confidence and quality of explanation in Mrs Prestage's lesson. The deep thinking Year 8 Wellbeing lesson with Mrs Robertson discussing love using the Royal Wedding and the now famous Bishop Curry! As we moved around school, in and out of lessons, it was another opportunity to reflect on our journey. It really is exciting times.

Over the half-term break more decorating will take place and we have new displays popping up on a weekly basis. This week each class selected their favourite quotes that will also feature in the corridors. A mixture of motivational and deep thinking.

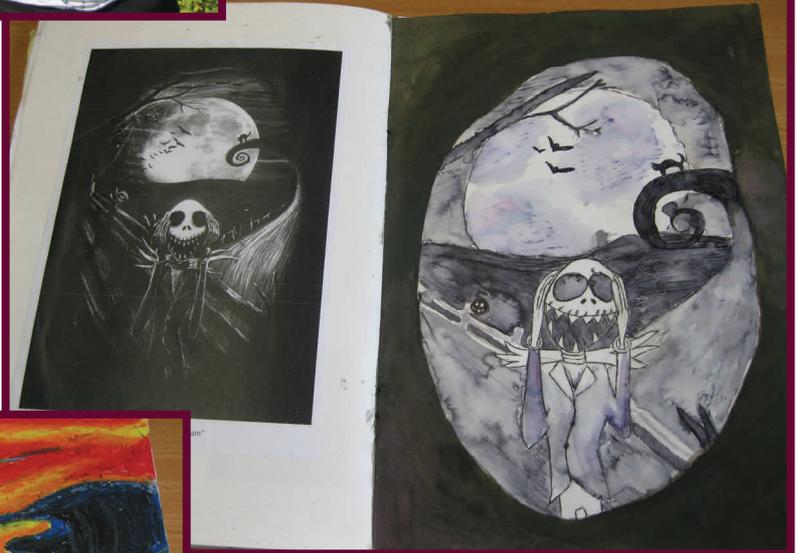
In typical fashion the weatherman has decided to whet our appetite with some fine, warm weather only to change the forecast as next week draws closer. The Christophers are looking forward to a trip to Cornwall with lots of family time, golf and paddle-boarding on the agenda. I hope you and your family have a great week and some rest ready for the final half-term.

Rob Christopher

## A WEEK IN PICTURES



Miss Fagge and her Regional Runners-Up Medal



Some of our pupils' outstanding Art work

If you would like to see more of our pupils' art work please see the section under Learning on the school website

