EMS WEEKLY BULLETIN

16th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's parent bulletin.

It would be difficult to not start by mentioning our visit from Ofsted on Tuesday and Wednesday! Improvement is at the core of all schools and as such we have enjoyed the challenge and rigour of the inspection. As is statutory, we are not able to provide any information about the visit until the evidence has been quality assured by Ofsted and we should be able to share the report with you by mid-November. What I can share is that the Inspectors held the pupils in the highest regard. Numerous feedback meetings included anecdotes of the high standards the pupils kept and the mature way in which they communicated. Well done to everyone for this and we are looking forward to sharing our report with you.

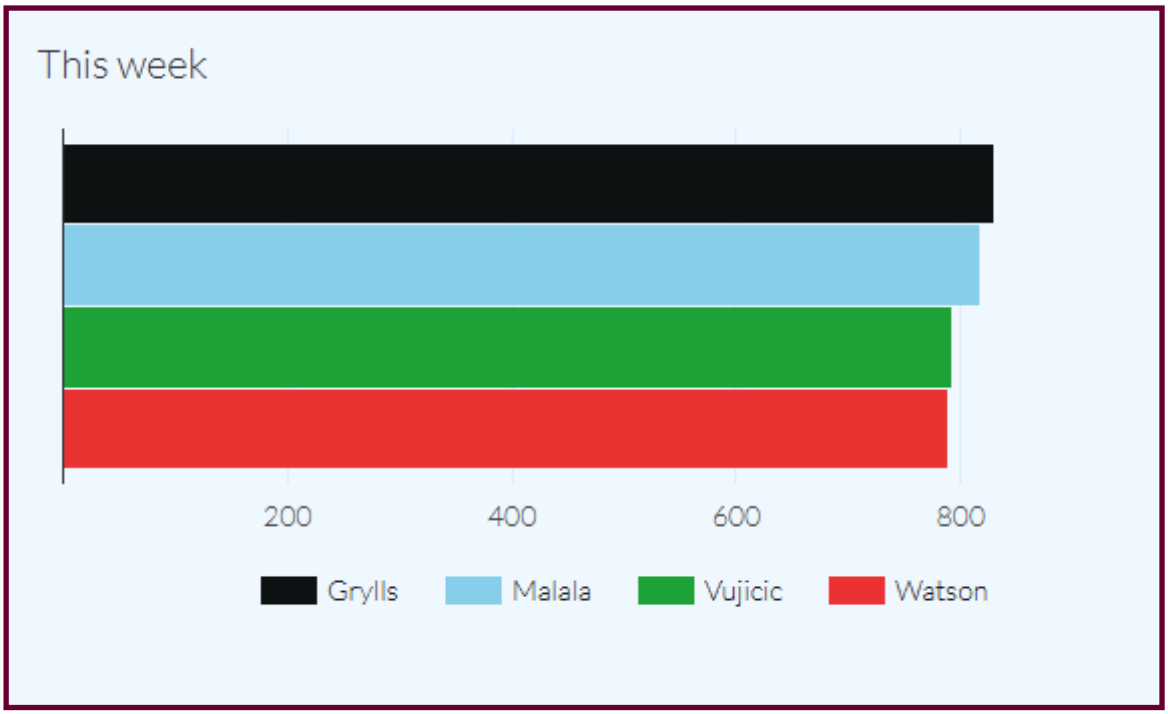
With the inspection meaning that our Meet the Tutor evening had to be postponed, please be reminded that this now takes place on this coming Tuesday - 20th October - and is in person at school.

In worship today, I spoke to the pupils about social times and how to have fun at playtimes whilst still maintaining awareness of the other people around. I further promoted our quiet / no running areas for those who prefer to sit and chat, and the semi-structured activities we have in place, such as the table tennis tables.

PTFA Annual General Meeting

Our PTFA will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 10th November, at 6pm in the school library. This is open to all parents and you are encouraged to come along and get involved to help ensure the continued success of the school's fundraising charity. For more information please contact the PTFA on ptfa.ems@gmail.com

House News



Well done to Grylls who are starting to look like the consistent front runners for this season's House cup. They have won the week by 13 candle credits from the ever-competitive Malala.

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Buddies

Yesterday saw the buddy system in full swing. Groups of Year 5s & 8s were paired together to take part in 'getting to know you' activities giving the Year 8 pupils opportunities to develop their leadership and sense of responsibility and giving Year 5s links to experienced pupils they know and can look to for support. The pupils took part in their roles brilliantly and look forward to the next step in this initiative.



Year 5

On Tuesday, Year 5 immersed themselves in Greek day - A Play in a Day. Every class had their own scene that they worked on and performed to each other. When they weren't practicing in the hall, they were completing multiple Greek themed activities ranging from reading Theseus and the Minotaur to running a Greek Tavern and having to work out the daily profit. They all worked really hard trying to remember their lines and put on a great performance at the end of the day!



In Wellbeing, Year 5 have been discussing what conflict is and how we can try to resolve it. We have also been looking at the different types of bullying, what these might look like and how they can impact someone. Cyberbullying was one of our key focuses as it is very important that the children understand how to use technology safely and appropriately.

Year 6

This week in Art, Year 6 have been transforming their figures in action pencil drawings into pen and ink pieces, giving the illusion that their lay figures are moving across their sketchbook pages.



In Food, the Year 6s made vegetarian sausage rolls - 'Not a sausage roll' - promoting the reduction of food wastage and exploring meat alternatives.

In PE, we have been working on our invasion skills through netball and rugby. We have revisited the different ways of passing the ball and making decisions about when to use them best in small sided games.

Year 7

Maths has seen pupils studying algebraic notation and substitution, using function machines to calculate outputs from given inputs through specific mathematical operations. This foundational work provides a clear visual link between simple calculations and working directly with algebraic expressions.

What is The MARS Trust?

The acronym **MARS** stands for **Modelling Active Relationship Skills**. The charity works with secondary schools across Poole, East Dorset, Bournemouth, and Purbeck to equip young people with the essential life skills needed to build healthy, safe relationships and develop workplace soft skills.

MARS
Your life. Your choice.
Training young people to thrive in the ever changing, complex world of relationships

We are delighted to continue our partnership with The MARS Trust, a local Christian charity dedicated to Modelling Active Relationship Skills. Year 7 pupils have completed interactive workshops focusing on Friendships and Self-Esteem, helping them explore personal values in a supportive environment. Year 8 pupils are progressing with their workshops covering Communication and Conflict Management. The sessions were supported by school staff, MARS team members, and dedicated community volunteers. We extend our sincere thanks to all volunteers who gave their time to enrich our pupils' personal development and wellbeing journey.

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Year 8

Computing - we've begun this term looking at encryption. We have cracked codes - investigated how the enigma machine worked and how the team at Bletchley Park cracked this code. We have learned about asymmetric encryption and how this enables communication to remain secure on the internet. We are continuing our work from Year 7 in Binary to understand how computers calculate numbers.

In RE, Year 8 are coming to the end of their unit on Islam in the media. This is a crucial unit of work that is designed to help pupils to use their knowledge of this religion to spot the misinformation that exists online. Over the next two weeks they will be completing their end of unit assessments.

In French, Year 8 have been learning about free time activities and things we like to do in French. We have also been learning new vocabulary and translating from French to English.

Brockenhurst College Visit

We were delighted to welcome Hilary Pether from Brockenhurst College who came to talk to Year 8 about post-16 education opportunities and options. This was a great experience for KS3 to watch a presentation from a sixth form college and it gave us all an insight into the courses offered and beautiful grounds that the college is situated in.

Hilary talked about vocational courses such as beautician and engineering as well as A level and BTech courses. She also told us about the new T and V Levels.

She showed a film on the extra enrichment clubs that pupils can join and shared that there is a bus from Verwood to Brockenhurst for their students.

As she left, Hilary commented on how attentive, polite and engaged the year 7 and 8 pupils were. Please talk at home to your children about their career aspirations - KS3 have access to their Unifrog accounts from home, please ask them to show you.

Moors Valley KS3 Work Experience Trip

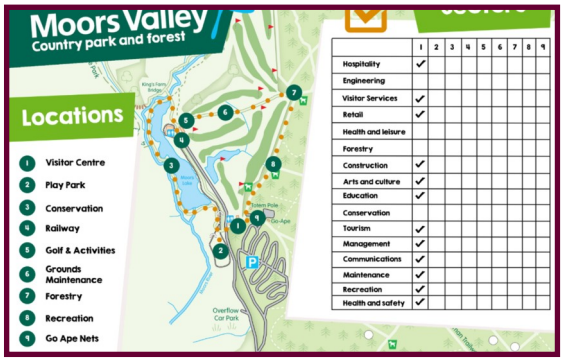
Last week, Year 8 pupils visited Moors Valley Country Park and Forest for an engaging careers trail experience. This followed a pre-lesson focusing on the industries employed there.

During the trip, students explored the various employment sectors operating within the park—including tourism, conservation, and recreation. The pupils learned about the 120+ roles required to run the facility. Staff accompanied the groups to help facilitate ongoing discussions around future career paths.



Furthermore, pupils will participate in follow-up activities in class, including using Unifrog to research job descriptions and salaries.

We are grateful to the rangers at Moors Valley, who took time to share their career paths with the pupils, as well as giving them a comprehensive picture of how the park is run on a daily basis.







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Sporting News

Last Thursday some of our students represented EMS at Ferndown Upper School in cross country. It was a tough course, but everyone battled hard to complete the course achieving great positions.

Congratulations to all who participated and represented our school so brilliantly!

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

Mr Rob Christopher & Mr Alister Barker

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Key dates (subject to change):

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 20th October	Meet the Tutor Evening
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
Friday 6th November	PTFA Disco
Monday 9th - Thursday 12th November	Year 6 Mock SATS
Wednesday 18th November	Parents in to look at Year 5 and 6 Work (Drop in between 1435 and 1520)
Thursday 26th November	Subject Parents' Evening
Tuesday 1st December	Subject Parents' Evening
Friday 11th December	PTFA Christmas Fair
Wednesday 16th December	School Christmas Lunch (details to follow)
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Term



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The Royal Air Force Air Cadets Open Evening and Intake Night

The Royal Air Force Air Cadets provides young people with opportunities to develop confidence, leadership, teamwork and life skills, alongside activities such as flying, gliding, shooting, sports, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, camps and adventure training.

Open Evening & Intake Night
Date: Friday 16th October
Time: 19:30 - 21:30
Location: 2358 (Ferndown) Squadron Air Cadets, adj. Ferndown Leisure Centre, Cherry Tree Grove, BH22 9EZ
Eligibility: Young people aged 12 years old and in Year 8, up to 17 years old

Prospective cadets should attend with a parent or guardian. The evening will begin with a short presentation for parents and guardians outlining what the Air Cadets offers, expectations of membership, and opportunities available. Following this, parents are welcome to head off to enjoy their evening whilst prospective cadets will have the opportunity to get involved in a variety of activities and meet current cadets and staff.

We would be extremely grateful if you could share this information through your usual communication channels, whether that be newsletters, noticeboards, parent communications or student bulletins.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Sgt J Shefford

FACE

October 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

Raising Self-Esteem	5 Oct 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	5 Oct 7pm
Decreasing Depression	6 Oct 10am
Introduction to OCD	6 Oct 7pm
Improving Family Communication	12 Oct 10am
What is ACT?	12 Oct 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	13 Oct 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	13 Oct 7pm
Understanding Anger	19 Oct 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	19 Oct 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	20 Oct 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	20 Oct 7pm
FREE - ADHD and Homework	22 Oct 7-8pm
Facing Defiance	26 Oct 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	26 Oct 7pm
School Anxiety	27 Oct 10am
Anxiety Explained	27 Oct 7pm

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.
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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.

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FREE ACCESS WITH SCHOOL CODE: EV180225

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November Timetable

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Introduction to OCD	2 Nov 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	2 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	9 Nov 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 Nov 7pm
What is ACT?	10 Nov 10am
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	16 Nov 10am
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FREE talk for parents

22 October 7-8pm

If you don't have time to listen

Just book online and receive a link to the recording available for 48 hours



ADHD & Homework

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

FAMILY ADVICE · COMMUNICATION · EDUCATION

british certified trainer