

Dear Parents,

I started writing this on the 'Blue' bus on the way to Leeson House with the Year 8 pupils who have been enjoying their activity week trips. Yesterday's trip to Tower Park was an absolute pleasure, not because of the activities, although they were great, but because of the pupils. It began with the bus ride, before leaving Verwood the pupils were in full swing, singing, a sign of my age that many of the songs I had not heard before. It created a fab atmosphere that didn't abate throughout the day. When on school trips, as leaders, we are all too aware of the impression we leave on those we come into contact with. They were an absolute credit to the school, themselves and parents. At every point they were respectful to other users of facilities and cleared up after themselves, leaving each area as we found it. The highlight at Leeson House was their awareness of teamwork, the need to communicate effectively and accuracy in the work they completed.

The pupils have enjoyed the activities and the weather has been kind. I am sure Paultons Park will be no different. I have lined up who I need to remain close to in the ice-cream queue. I am staggered at the amount of food consumed in a day!

Moving into the last half-term focuses everyone on the future and next steps. I am keen for the year 8s to remain 'in the moment' and enjoy the last weeks of their time as a Middle School pupil. Last week they had a visit from QE as part of transition and it was lovely to see former pupils come back as part of the process. I was hugely impressed with the dance and music performances, all part of encouraging our current year 8s to get involved in school life.

On Monday we held our Year 4 Information Evening. Our musicians, Ambassadors and three Year 5 pupils involved in filming were a credit to us. It was also incredibly exciting to see our new Year 5 team together and in action. We have a very strong staff team next year and we will hit the ground running in September, I hope the pupils are ready for us!

The school is also taking shape with Mrs Thompson and Mrs Bray creating lovely displays to celebrate the excellent work our pupils produce. The combination of high quality displays, freshly painted walls and motivational quotes has transformed the corridors. I have posted various bits on our twitter feed, @emmanuelmiddle. I have set myself the challenge of a couple of tweets a week after a spell away.

Year 5 pupils enjoyed their Swanage trips last week. They looked absolutely shattered arriving back to school and all enjoyed the walk, train ride and ice-cream! I am sure somewhere in there is learning and they will be using the experience as part of a writing assessment and covering the geography and history curriculum. Thank you to the many parents who supported this trip, and others during the year, without this support it makes it very difficult to staff these important off site educational visits.

Congratulations to our Year 6 cricket team who, through winning the tournament last Friday, will represent EMS and Dorset at the regional finals in Bristol on 12th July. That will be an early start for Mr Foord and his team.

Sports Day, next Thursday is the first opportunity to fully implement the House system. During the week the House groups have gathered for event selection. Well done to Mr Foord who has put a huge amount of time into planning this whole school event. The Key Stage 2 potted sports will remain, having proved popular and I believe the PTFA will be in attendance offering refreshments. Fingers crossed for the weather.

Year 6 continue their assessments that will be completed by the end of next week. All year groups will be sitting GL assessments as end of year tests in English, Maths and Science. Good luck to all.

Year 7 pupils are starting to turn their attention to applying to become Ambassadors for the new academic year. This is a great exercise for them to reflect on how they have made the most of opportunities offered in school and how they show their consistent excellence throughout the year. Three large pre-requisites are attendance, attitude to learning and conduct in school. There are two waves of selection, those who don't make the first spend the Autumn Term focusing on targets set for them. I am pleased to say many of them make it, which shows their endeavour and resilience pays off.

Time to sign off as we arrive at Leeson House. I hope you have a great weekend and the sun continues to shine. I am sure the roads will be quiet Sunday around lunch time!

Rob Christopher

To all who attended the information session about anxiety and to those who are interested, the slides and a strategies sheet is now on our website under the Parents tab.

A WEEK IN PICTURES



Year 8 enjoying
Leeson House and
Marwell Zoo

