

Dear Parents,

Pride! That's the overwhelming feeling of this week. I am proud to lead this fantastic school. You will be aware that we held our first Open Day and annual Open Evening on Tuesday. We had over 130 visitors during the morning session. Our two lead ambassadors, Steph and Rowan, addressed the audience with confidence and clarity beyond their years as part of a short presentation in the hall. Following this our year 8 Ambassadors embarked on a thorough tour of the school. The pupils were only primed with 'this is your school and answer any questions based on your experience' and a route card! Mr Jenkinson and myself were largely redundant during this time; each interaction with visitors signed off with 'your year 8 pupils are wonderful and provide fantastic detail about the school'.

During the evening it was remarkable how many pupils were in school supporting staff and subject areas. Again, it was notable how proud the children were at showing off their school, subject and personal skills and experiences. There were many tired bodies on Wednesday but high spirits from a positive evening.

The staff team all shared stories of interactions and activities laid on. I received a lovely email from one of the team sharing her day and evening on Tuesday and Wednesday lessons. In the recount there were numerous examples of staff supporting each other in preparation and pupils supporting and problem solving in their lessons. This is the ethos and culture we are cultivating at Emmanuel. I hope you are familiar with the term 'the EMS Way'. We use a set of expectations of ourselves and pupils focused on routines, behaviours and learning expectations. The consistency across school is remarkable given our start point a year ago.

Parental feedback, those new to EMS and others returning was hugely positive. The recurring theme being:

- * the confidence and nature of the pupils.
- * enthusiastic staff and engagement with pupils in the classroom.
- * the freshly decorated corridors and displays giving a fresh and vibrant environment.
- * learning walls and displays in the classrooms.
- * the 'feel' of the school - the atmosphere around school and in classrooms

Over the past two weeks we have hosted Educational Specialists with a focus on our improvement journey. They too have seen the above areas as strengths of the school. It is really exciting times - walking around the school, into lessons and during break times - to see how happy and excited the pupils are.

A key driver for this is the work we have put into celebrating the pupils efforts through the candle credit system. Our core values of Excellence, Endeavour and Enjoyment at the heart of the recognition. As a staff body we are always on the look-out to 'catch 'em being good' and celebrate it. The pupils are responding to the praise and you can see their aspirations grow!

Your child should now be receiving regular homework. Please check their diary for this. If you have any concerns, please contact their Form Tutor for information.

Well done to Grylls House who currently have the most items in the Harvest trolleys at the front of school. It would be fab to support others less fortunate by filling all four.

The weather is much better for this weekend, I hope you all find the sun and enjoy the great outdoors as a family. Once again, well done to our pupils for being such great ambassadors for the school.

Best wishes,

Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES - ACTIVITIES ON OPEN EVENING



Bread tasting in Food Technology



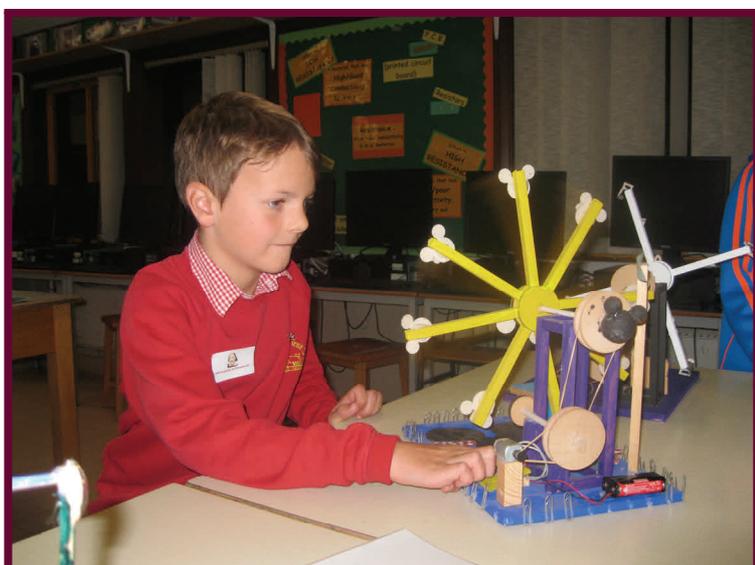
Getting to grips with a guitar in music



It's a Bugs' Life in Art



Experiments with our Science Ambassadors



Fairground Rides in Design Technology



Keyboards in Music