

Dear Parents,

We finished last week on a high with Christmas jumper day and the Beaucroft Christmas party. This week was matched equally by the superb Christmas Carol Service. There were many bleary eyed pupils and staff yesterday morning, but there was also the satisfaction of three excellent performances. Personally, what resonated most for me was the pride and enjoyment shown by all involved. These types of events add the wow factor to the day to day classroom learning. The courage to stand and perform in front of a large audience is a feat in itself. The addition of Mrs Richardson, Mrs Binning and Mrs Williams to the production team, working alongside Mr Timmins, allowed for greater participation and preparation. A huge thanks to them and well done to all involved.

This week we chose four pupils from each year and undertook a close scrutiny of work from every subject. We had two lines of enquiry: 1) Are the standards of work, presentation and progress matched across all subjects? 2) Is there a gap in the quality of work from pupils across the different ability groups and backgrounds? It was my opinion, having spent a large amount of time in lessons this term, that standards across subjects were in line, and the gap between different groups of pupils was closing. This proved to be the case. This work will continue throughout the year. At this stage it is further evidence that we are addressing the points raised in our Ofsted report.

On Wednesday, Mrs Stocks took a group of year 8 pupils to Bryanston for a Junior Sports Leader training event. As always, they were fantastic ambassadors for the school and have come back to school buzzing with ideas. I have been summoned to a meeting with the two senior Sports Leaders and Mrs Stocks, to discuss their proposals for EMS. I will keep you updated.

There have been various sporting fixtures played this week. Sadly, two defeats for the boys' and girls' football teams, but a victory for the year 6 netball team - a 7-5 win against Hamworthy Junior. The boys' football was a keenly contested match for our year 8s who conceded a goal in the closing minutes of their National Cup competition. Mr Brenton's girls' team lost 5-3 but remained competitive throughout the game.

Finally, on Thursday it was fantastic to seat 106 pupils for Christmas lunch. Some pupils wore their party hats home which was great to see. Thank you to the kitchen staff who fed almost double our usual sitting. There was a lovely atmosphere in the hall and it would be good to see more pupils opting for hot meals throughout the year.

A reminder that we finish at 1.45pm next Friday. Pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard this term, all the way through to the end. Everyone deserves their holiday and to enjoy quality family time at a more moderate pace. I can't wait to spend time with my girls in France!

I hope you enjoy reading the end of term newsletter, which will be sent out next week, with more detailed accounts of what we have been up to this half-term.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES



FOOD HYGIENE RATING

0 1 2 3 4 5

VERY GOOD

Pupils really enjoyed their Christmas lunch on Thursday.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Brunning and Mrs Tomkins, our wonderful kitchen staff, for their Food Hygiene Rating of 5 which was awarded to them earlier this month - well done ladies.