

Dear Parents,

Where did November go? Does that mean we can listen to Christmas music now?!

The Christmas Fayre last Friday was a huge success, the PTFA raised just over £2,000. A fantastic effort that will benefit all pupils and the money will be invested back into school to support their learning. If you are interested in joining the amazing PTFA Team please contact the school office.

Thank you to everyone who made it to the Parent Information evening on Tuesday. The PowerPoint is now available on the website and hopefully you have accessed / received a follow-up letter. A couple of swift action points are:

- 1) The school homework policy that includes the timetable.
- 2) We will conduct our annual survey, using the Ofsted questionnaires, before the end of term. It would be fantastic to have your views as an important stakeholder.

Having taken note of questions raised, we will be re-visiting these by February half term to provide updates.

In school this week we have completed formal lesson observations as part of the Single School Action Plan. Teaching was judged to be good and better in all of these lessons. This was also backed up by book scrutiny completed over the past two weeks. Our supply staff are supported on a daily basis by providing planning and resources. Regular visits by myself and other staff are frequent to check pupils are focused and learning.

Well done to all the pupils involved in the Christmas Carol Service at St Michael's and All Angels Church. I am sure you will agree that the Choir sang beautifully and with real purpose. Some of the Year 5 pupils at the front have some big voices! Reading to an unfamiliar audience can be difficult and playing live is fraught with the fear of the 'big miss', but all pupils sailed through the afternoon and evening with great poise. These are fantastic life skills for the pupils. A huge well done to Mr Timmins and Ms Hinchliffe. Sadly, the final show for Ms Hinchliffe, a huge thank you to all the work she has done over the years.

At the end of next week, we welcome Beaucroft for their annual Christmas Party. Back in 2009, my first year at Emmanuel, I remember walking around in amazement at the transformation of the school into a Winter Wonderland. It is a truly special day. I look forward to sharing the experience with you next week.

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 have the opportunity to try golf at Crane Valley Golf Club for free. Darrel Ranson, Professional at Crane and parent of former pupils at Emmanuel, has held an assembly and last week I handed out over 40 letters to pupils. It costs nothing to turn up and have a go. There is a twin aim of developing an Emmanuel Golf Team and also to promote golf to young people. I will provide more details next week.

Have a lovely weekend,

Rob Christopher

Year 5 in the news:

The past week the year group has studied the text Boy Overboard. It has allowed the pupils a global awareness of the issues in conflict areas such as Afghanistan. Through their descriptive writing they have shown a real sense of empathy to other children in war-torn parts of the world.

Year 6 in the news:

This week's theme of Impact was centred on the individual and what they bring to their local community and through interaction with each other. The year group assembly was thought provoking and followed up with some excellent discussion in class assembly.

Year 7 in the news:

Visiting Foundation lessons this week as part of the lesson observation cycle provided me the opportunity to see some fantastic Textiles portfolio work. The development of pupil ideas translated into their final product demonstrates a real pride in their work.

Year 8 in the news:

I was introduced to the 'Wonder Wall' in the Food Tech room. Pupils peer assess the dishes they produce and positive comments are then stuck onto the 'Wonder Wall'. Great to see pupils striving to make the Wall!

Diary dates:

Friday 8 December - Year 8 Beaucroft Christmas Party

Friday 15 December - Break up for Christmas

Tuesday 2 January - Staff Training Day

Wednesday 3 January - Pupils Return to School

Friday 12 January - Reports Home

Wednesday 17 January - Parents Evening

Monday 22 January - Parents Evening

A week in pictures:



Our fabulous Year 6 Football Team



Food Technology's Wonder Wall



Orchestra rehearsing in readiness for the Carol Service