

Dear Parents,

Advent is here! I hope you are enjoying the chocolate breakfast.

This week began with my favourite theme of the year. We lit the first candle of advent with the focus on Hope. We have talked to the pupils about the role of Hope in our lives and the importance of belief and trust - both in God and those around us. On Monday we welcomed Revd. Deborah from St Michael's Church for her first Worship at EMS.

Thank you to everyone who have returned their parental questionnaire. I am grateful for the time and effort people have put into making additional comments - context is always important. This will also create a baseline for us to work from. We will repeat the exercise before the end of the academic year. Pupils and staff have also been completing their own during the week.

Mrs Robertson met with the School Council this week to talk about recycling and litter on the campus. The importance of identifying the problem and exploring possible solutions is a life skill and this platform provides a perfect environment to develop this.

As mentioned last week, today we welcomed Beaucroft pupils and staff for our annual Christmas Celebration. The photos show the pupils getting ready yesterday and today we witnessed the enjoyment, care and bond between pupils from both schools. Our pupils showed amazing leadership skills and confidence during the whole day. Well done to Mrs Robertson and all staff and pupils involved for putting on such a great event.

On Thursday we will be raising funds for the charity 'Crisis' that supports homeless people. For every £26.08 raised one person will reserve a place at a centre during the festive period. I am asking for pupils to make a donation of 50p or £1 in return for wearing a Christmas jumper instead of their EMS jumper. This is not a mufti-day, pupils are expected to wear full school uniform in addition to a festive jumper. I am aware we have only just held a mufti day to raise funds, but this will go a long way to help those less fortunate.

Please look out for more information in the Term Newsletter out next week with regard to pencil cases. You will be aware we have invested a huge amount of time and resources to improve the learning environment. I have noticed a rise in the size of pencil cases and the accompanying equipment. I would like to see this significantly reduced in the New Year, a smaller pencil case with only the basics included, the contents list is in the newsletter. Finally, mistakes are part of learning and therefore we ask the children to not use rubbers to erase mistakes. We ask them to put a line through the error and move on. This helps their teachers pick up on misconceptions and support their learning.

All of a sudden the term has whizzed by, I will send another bulletin out next week, but thank you for all of your continued support after a very turbulent term. Please remember my door is always open to talk to me about whole school issues. Your child's form tutor and head of year are always available to talk to you about their learning and pastoral care.

Have a lovely weekend, Rob Christopher

Year 5 in the news:

The year team have been busy planning the Christmas party and events the pupils will take part in on Thursday. I look forward to joining in the festive activities!

Year 6 in the news:

This week in science pupils looked at the heart. Mrs Dale demonstrated dissection and many of the pupils took the opportunity to handle and explore its four chambers, arteries and veins. I even witnessed some year 8's sneaking in at the end of the day to join in.

Year 7 in the news:

I have been super-impressed at the standard of homework coming in from the year group linked to natural disasters. The planet is truly restless and pupils have been discovering the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004. Great home learning to support learning in school.

Year 8 in the news:

Fantastic Christmas party set up for Beaucroft pupils. From the meal, disco, show and meeting Mrs Claus! Well done to all involved. It is great to support others in the community.

Diary dates:

Monday 11 December - Year 8 Reward Trip
Tuesday 12 December - Year 7 Reward Trip
Tuesday 12 December - Year 5 Reward Activities
Thursday 14 December - Year 6 Reward Activity
Thursday 14 December - Year 5 Christmas Activities
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:



Year 8 Pupils preparing for the Beaucroft Christmas Party



Photos provided by the Rotary Club of some of the Shoeboxes being delivered to children in Romania