

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the second half of the spring term. It makes such a difference with the lighter mornings and drawn out evenings; not to mention the sunshine we have had for a week and a half! Talking to the pupils, I know many of you made the most of the time, either here in Verwood, or other parts of the country.

Thank you for your prompt communication concerning internet safety on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. I hope the ParentMail and information sent have supported you at home.

This week has been focused on settling back into school routine and maintaining our high standards in class and on campus. Whole school development is focused on reviewing our curriculum over the coming months. Looking at opportunities for purposeful cross-curricular links and what we choose to study.

On Thursday, we hosted two teachers from Lockyer's Middle School. This visit included lesson observations in years 5 and 6 and joint planning facilitated by Mrs Freir. This work is linked to the SIFF Maths project run across the Trust.

This is a great opportunity to share some sporting success of our talented pupils. I have mentioned before the importance of pupils using their hobbies and pursuits to develop themselves as people, in addition to academic excellence in the classroom.

We wish Abi Middleton luck at the weekend representing EMS at the Dorset Schools gymnastics competition, she will be competing against 20 other individuals. I hope to bring you good news next week! Last weekend, Abi competed for her club at the Gryphon school and gained 11th place from 28 competitors narrowly missing out on qualification to the next round.

Erin Lush continues her improvement in the pool with three Personal Bests. Knocking a second off her previous best across three different disciplines - 50m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle relay and 25m Freestyle relay.

In year 5 we have a tennis star in the making. Verity juggles her academic studies with her pursuit of excellence on the court. During the half-term break she attended a training camp at Sanchez-Casal, Florida. Training mostly consisted of 12 hours days and included the guidance from the coach of the great Steffi Graf. She also held her own amongst 12-15 year olds. It was great to see her back in school with her usual big grin and happy stories to share.

Kitty-Jay, in 6JH, recently competed in the English Alpine Ski Championships held in Italy. With perfect snow conditions she spent 9 days training - her day starting at 8.30am and finishing at 4pm. This included one rest day when a trip to the thermal spa was arranged to ease the muscles!

Following her training she competed on three days in the following races:

Giant Slalom - Kitty's favourite! - 21st out of 36, 9th in year of birth

Kombi (incls. Jumps) - Kitty's least favourite! - 15th out of 36, 5th in year of birth

Dual Slalom - a new type of race which Kitty hasn't competed in before - 18th out of 36, 8th in year of birth

Well done Kitty-Jay, good luck with the dry-slope season.

Yesterday, our Year 6 netball team attended a tournament at Allenbourn. The team played 6 matches, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 2. They played some great netball and came 4th overall.

A new club offered after school on a Tuesday was a huge success. Futsal was an instant hit with the pupils and I know they didn't want the first session to end. The session is run by external coaches and has attracted a bit of interest on Twitter. We encourage all our pupils to be involved in some form of extra-curricular opportunity to enrich their education at EMS.

Finally, please take the opportunity to purchase tickets for the upcoming Emmanuel's Got Talent finals event, held here on Wednesday 20th March. The pupils have worked so hard on their acts, the evening will be a fantastic way to celebrate their hard work.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES

