

Dear Parents,

The sun will shine for us at the Summer Fayre! Thank you to the PTFA for organising the event that raises funds to come straight back into school. One project we are looking at is to install an outside classroom / picnic area to re-generate the Millennium garden. More information to follow in the new academic year.

As you will be aware, yesterday was a huge day for EMS with our SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). We are very happy with the report, which will come out in September. It will highlight our rapid journey across the 18 months we have been in the Trust. Our pupils were central to the inspection: showing their books and discussing RE lessons, a lunch group focused on spirituality and biblical texts and an afternoon group that shared the opportunities they had taken to enrich their education and experience at school. Staff and parents also met with the inspector to share their experience of life at EMS. Central to all the discussions was our vision: being inspired to go beyond our limits and our three core values of excellence, endeavour and enjoyment.

Year 6 pupils have brought their SATs results home today. We are immensely proud of their achievements. Thoroughly deserved for their hard work and determination, or their excellence through endeavour and the enjoyment of opening their results! These are the best results we have achieved, as predicted. We also know, now that our Testbase AQA year 5 tests have been internally marked, that our year 5 pupils are well placed to go beyond these results.

Lovely to hear so many great stories had by all year 6 pupils last week. Those on the Isle of Wight experienced awesome weather and the range of activities didn't fail. A brief summary from Miss Howe: We had so many laughs and funny moments! One was Oliver going backwards on the sensory trail because he was blindfolded; he got a little lost in the maze and ended up exiting through the entrance! I had to rescue him and re-direct him to the rest of the group! There were also many bumps and crashes on the quad bikes; some didn't quite pass their 'driving tests!' There was a great deal of fun at the disco; Zachary and Tyler in particular had some excellent dance moves and were impressing other schools. The teachers enjoyed a boogie too, especially the Macarena and cha cha slide; some even joined in the conga line!

Those who remained also enjoyed a range of curriculum experiences that we can't deliver in the normal timetable. I am sure Mrs Stewart had a quiet weekend after cooking non-stop throughout the week. Thank you to parents who found the time to write in their appreciation.

With the year 6 pupils away it created a two-staged transfer day process. Last Friday, we hosted our new year 5 pupils and the current year 7 pupils spent the day in their year 8 classes. Lovely to see familiar faces in the hall for drop-off and collection. We also look forward to forging new relationships with families new to the school. There was an air of assuredness about the new cohort. They settled quickly and were very engaged in their activities. It is no coincidence that the transfer process run by Mrs Weir and Mrs Binning supports this. Time invested in the First school settings and working alongside the pupils has had such a huge impact.

Year 5 were fantastic at being Year 6 for the morning of their transfer day; they found out some really interesting facts about each other. Reuben is related to Frank Lampard, Jack is the Junior Champion at Crane Valley and Ellis has travelled around the world...twice! They all wrote a mature letter to their future Year 6 selves with lots of advice on how to have a really successful Year 6. We finished the morning with a competitive game of rounders, with a real focus on team work. Their throwing, catching and running was on top form and the encouragement for others was great to see. Mr Humphries enjoyed his first experience as a Year 6 tutor at Emmanuel and said that he would return in September!

Before the end of term we will have hosted Year 3 pupils from Verwood, Hillside and Trinity First Schools. Huge thanks to staff for their energy summoned to provide a fantastic learning opportunity for future pupils. Mrs Thompson's groups have used Bees and Fish to create collage pictures. Mr Cotton's group have been busy making self-propelled boats made from recycled bottles, the tests have yielded great results. Mrs Etheridge has explored kinetic energy through Peke-cups. That was a busy experiment. I know the pupils have enjoyed all the activities and made other comments about facilities and the size of the field!

It was a lovely evening at St. Michael and All Angels Church last night for the Year 8 Leavers' Service. Great to see so many pupils and families attend. It's these type of events I hope pupils will remember for a long time. The singing, thoughtful readings and being together for one of the last occasions. Huge thanks to the many people who have worked so hard behind the scenes - in particular Dan Desmond and his band. Dan is so giving of his time and holds genuine connections with our pupils. Thank you to Rev. Deborah for hosting us. Next week we hold our ROA, BBQ and disco. They will go out on a real high.

We warmly welcome you to join us for our inaugural Art Celebration evening, Thursday 18th 3.30-4.30 please. Planned straight after school to enable you and your family a chance to look at the work produced by our pupils. It's also a good chance for any pupils who are thinking about the doing the Arts award next year to see examples of the work and chat to Mrs Thompson and pupils from this year's group. For those of you who follow us on twitter, you will be aware of the amazing pieces of work pupils create in Art.

Sports Day returns on Wednesday next week. Please see timetable attached. You are very welcome to come and watch your child represent their House. The forecast looks fine, so fingers crossed! We will run the morning events with pupils coming out of lessons to compete. We were pleased to be able to find a space in the busy end of term to accommodate this.

Lots to read this week, but goes to show how much is packed into the final weeks. I hope you are equally proud of our pupils, your children, for their achievements. I know I am a very proud Head of School, it's a privilege to work alongside and lead such fabulous people!

Have a great weekend, and enjoy the Summer Fayre!

Rob Christopher

Some year 3 pupils from our feeder schools enjoying their enrichment activities.

