

Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to the new term. The start of term is a great time in year 5 watching pupils settle into new routines, form new relationships whilst maintaining old acquaintances. In particular I enjoy the game of 'whose brother/sister do you think I am?' - I have to say I have not been anywhere near as accurate this year! Must work on that.

Also a warm welcome to the new members of the teaching team. Miss Stinson into year 5 and Mr Humphries into year 6. Both have settled well into life at EMS. I know how much time they spent during the summer break getting themselves ready.

A new academic year brings new opportunities to re-set and take on new challenges. As a school we covered a lot of ground last year. It was fantastic to share with you our SIAMS report that provided the perfect external test. Part of the re-set for our school community is what we expect from each other. Our three core values: excellence, endeavour and enjoyment are at the centre of what we do. These are further supported by our EMS way expectations and candle credits. Both of these expand and make explicit how we want our pupils to go about their learning and we take every opportunity to celebrate that. On the flip side, we take seriously the impact of poor routines on learning and will hold pupils to account. As a team: parents, pupils and staff, we can support pupils to make the most of their learning at EMS.

In the classroom, I have seen pupils working hard, engaging in lessons through conversation and answering questions. I have seen pupils produce high quality writing and re-drafting to improve their work, which are all aspects of excellence and endeavour. During worship this week we have focused on our core values. I hope you have had some great reflections at home about your child's school day.

In year 5 the class teacher delivers the English and Maths curriculum to their tutor group which provides consistency and flexibility to the timetable. In Year 6 pupils are taught Maths and English by the same teacher where possible. The four Year 6 Maths groups are split into two ability groups, showing how well the pupils achieved last year. All pupils are taught in mixed ability classes across the whole English curriculum. In year 7, we have additional teaching and support staff to help pupils who didn't make the expected standard in English and a small additional Maths set that Miss Howe is teaching. This is repeated in Year 8, with Mr Rangdale teaching a small Maths support set.

Please can I remind you to continue to support us with transport to and from school. We have nearly daily reports of pupils not travelling safely. We speak with our pupils about the dangers of traffic and the consequences of not remaining safe. If you send your child to school on a scooter or bike please keep reminding them about the need to be safe and courteous of other road users. The area outside the chip shop is also becoming busy. If you know your child meets friends there or you use this as a drop-off point, please remind them of how they should conduct themselves. This week I have removed the right of child to come to school on their bike due to several occurrences of poor road safety, which potentially has an impact for parents. It is vitally important you support us in keeping everyone safe. Similarly, if you are using your car, please keep the drop curbs outside the school gate clear for safe crossing. This has improved hugely and I thank you for this.

Finally, we have new House Crests on the wall in the School Hall. These were very kindly provided by Jason Lockyer from Sign Trek and look amazing. See the photos overleaf.

We have also been asked by the PTFA to let you know their first school disco will be held on Friday 4th October. Further details will be sent out to parents the week before the disco.

The weather is set to be good this weekend. Make the most of it!

Have a great weekend,

Mr Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES

