



EMMANUEL CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr R Christopher

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2020 (1)



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

As we come to the end of our first half term I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole community for all of their support and hard work during this time. We have encountered many challenges over the last few months as staff, pupils and parents, and I believe we have all faced these head on.

Thank you to those parents who completed the online survey about the provision of a scaled down lunch service. We will let you know the outcome of our discussions with Caterlink after the half term.

Thank you also to those pupils (and no doubt parents) for returning the school library books that were borrowed before lockdown. Please can I ask that you have a good look over half term for any books you may have and return them to school as soon as possible.

Yesterday evening we held our virtual open evening for prospective parents. If you want to take a look our video presentation is available on the school website. Clearly the stars of the evening were our pupils. They are, and always will be, our best advocates and promotion of our wonderful school.

The time it takes to put together this type of presentation is considerable. It is also a great reminder of how fortunate we are to be part of this community.

Thank you for your support and encouragement this half term.

Enjoy the break.

Kind regards,

Rob Christopher



Year 8 Pupils Application for Upper School

Year 8 parents should have received a letter from Dorset County Council explaining the procedure for applying for their child's upper school place. Please note that the closing date for applications is **31st October 2020**.



Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mr Rob Christopher, Headteacher and Mrs Elaine Robertson, Head of Wellbeing and is our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. If you have any concerns related to child protection issues please contact them through the school office.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION Administration of Medicines

If you wish school staff to administer medication to your child, parents **must** complete the consent form which can be obtained from the school office or on the school website (Parents/School Forms). Staff will be unable to administer **any** medication (this includes Strepsils and similar throat lozenges) without the required form - **a note in the diary or a letter will not be acceptable.**

Staff are unable to administer aspirin or medicines containing ibuprofen unless they are prescribed by a doctor.

All medicines must be in their original box or container.

All prescribed medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the instructions for administration.

Library Book Returns

Do you have any school library books at home? Please can these be returned as soon as possible via your child's tutor.

School Photographer



The School Photographer will be in school on Friday 6th November to take individual photographs.

LOST PROPERTY - NAMING SCHOOL UNIFORM

We are already collecting a large quantity of lost property in school. Unfortunately most items are not named and therefore we are unable to reunite them with their owners.

Please can you ensure that all items of clothing and kit are named - it makes the job of returning them a lot easier!

Absence Reporting

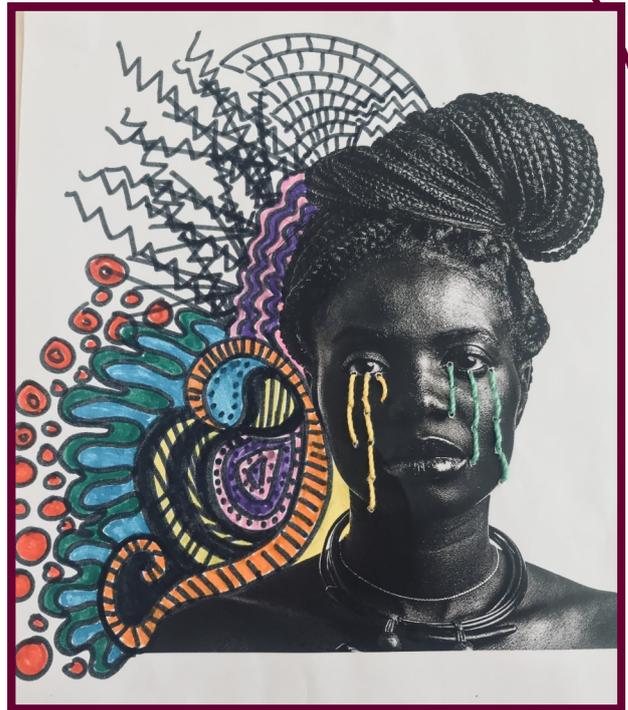
If your child is absent for any reason please telephone the school on 01202 828100 by 9.00am or email office@emmanuel.dorset.sch.uk and identify the name of your child, class and reason for absence. Please note if your child is absent for more than one day, their absence must be reported daily.



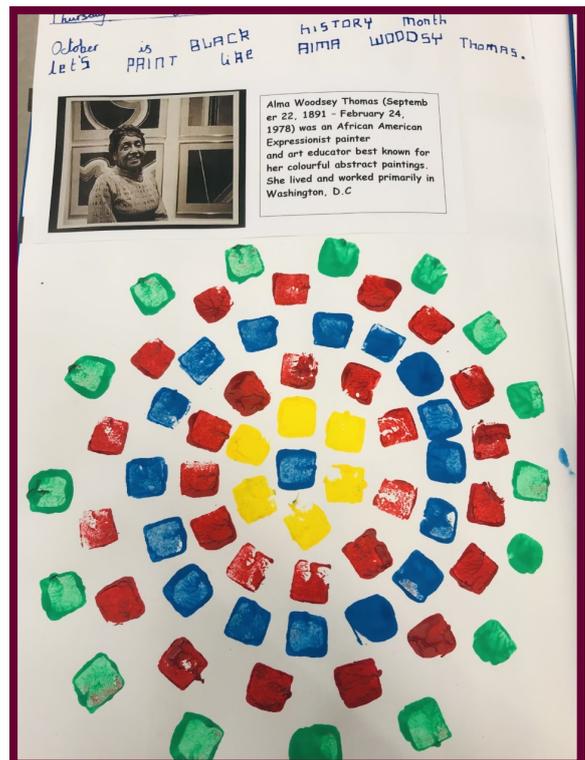
Black History Month

In art this week year 8 have been learning about a black British artist, Chris Ofili. His artwork carries a powerful message, particularly his piece "No Woman, No Cry", which we have been studying. The piece allows us to recognise the importance of Black History Month, when we celebrate the significance of black people in the shaping of our history, and emphasises equality for everyone. In our lesson, we looked at Ofili's work and drew in his style using a technique called Zentangle or "yoga for the brain".

By Katy 8AE



Year 5 - Alma Woodsey Thomas inspired paintings - this augmented the learning in Autumn 1 Colour Theory



European Day of Languages

Well done to all pupils who took the time and effort to enter the recent European Day of Languages House Competition.

There was a huge variety of entries which showed creativity and an appreciation of learning in different ways.

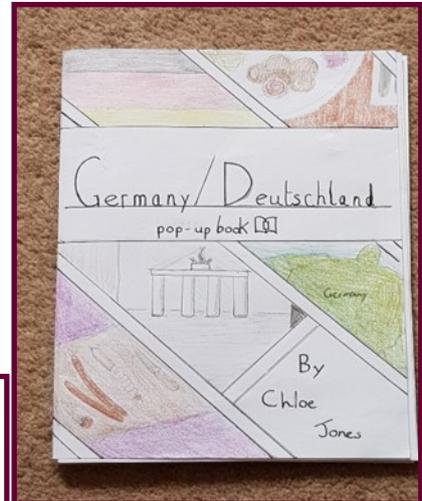
The winners were announced in last week's Friday e-bulletin but it was a delight to see so many children being awarded Candle Credits for their efforts and it certainly wasn't just about the winners. Everyone deserves praise for taking part and we thought it would be nice to include a selection of entries here.



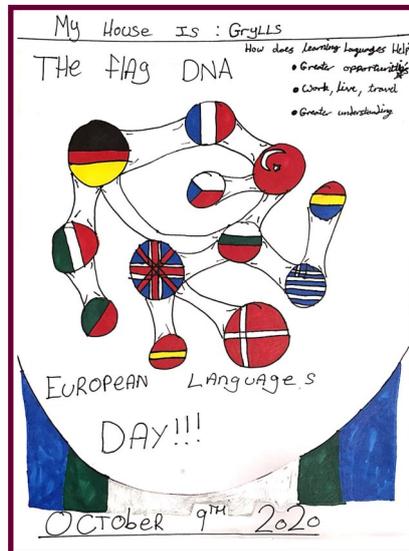
The overall winner was Ciaran W in 5FW - his flags were amazing - it looks like he's been able to use them in a board game!



Other pupils chose to be creative in the kitchen. There were pizza and pasta dishes, paella and crepes and this fantastic-looking Kjötsúpa (Icelandic Lamb Soup) from Keira. Others used their artistic skills to produce posters and factfiles - like this intricate pop up book on Germany from Chloe J!



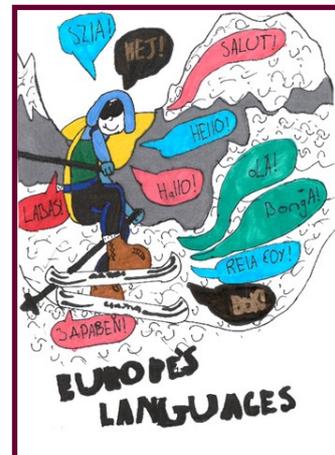
Particularly impressive was the array of powerpoint presentations used to showcase information and research. Pupils at EMS are certainly excellent researchers and great at using their IT skills to best effect!



It's been brilliant to see pupils supporting this House Competition and celebrating the opportunities that learning languages and appreciating other cultures brings.

Well done everyone who entered!

These two fantastic posters from Joshua A and Ryan M would be brilliant to promote next year's European Day of Languages!



As we will sadly be unable to sell Poppies in school this year, we have been asked by the British Legion to provide parents with the following information should you still wish to make a donation to this important and worthy charity.



Cornelius, Second World War Veteran. Supported by The Royal British Legion.



DONATE TO THE POPPY APPEAL

The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal supports the Armed Forces community, past and present.

If you don't have cash, there are other ways to donate:

Scan to donate



To donate **£2** text **POPPY2** to **70545** *

To donate **£5** text **POPPY5** to **70545** *

To donate **£10** text **POPPY10** to **70545** *

EVERY **POPPY** COUNTS



Registered charity number: 219279

*You will be charged £2, £5, or £10 plus one message at your standard network rate. The Royal British Legion will receive 97%. We will contact you by text on the mobile number you used to give you the opportunity to let us know how you would like to be contacted in the future and to find out whether you would like to add Gift Aid to your donation.



The Light Trail!

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

4:30pm - 6:30pm
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH,
VERWOOD



**JOIN US FOR OUR FUN, OUTDOOR,
LIGHT TRAIL.**

Booking essential please contact the
Parish Office: 01202 813256 or via email
stmichaels.youth@outlook.com



Year 5 News

A Very Warm Welcome to Year 5 everyone!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Year 5 at Emmanuel. The children have made an incredible start to the year and should be so proud of how they have begun their middle school journey. We could not be prouder of them.

They continue to impress us every day with their enthusiasm, determination, resilience and talents and it is wonderful to see so many of them taking risks in their learning to achieve their very best, no matter how challenging tasks can feel. It was also very pleasing to see how many children entered their first House competition to earn Candle Credits for their teams. All the Year 5 entries for *European Day of Languages* were amazing. Long may these passions and zest for school life continue.

Curriculum highlights in English include, reaching the end of our compelling fairytale, *The Iron Man*, by Ted Hughes, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. In addition to writing a detailed character description, the children worked so hard to bring the story to life using drama and in their recent, eye-catching newspaper reports set on the Australian beaches. In maths, the children have worked tirelessly on their place value challenges and our *Maths No Problem* Singapore mastery approach has well-supported their transition from understanding the value of 5-digit numbers to numbers up to a million. Please continue to work hard on times tables at home as this will hugely benefit your child's learning in school.

In humanities news, we have begun our geography focus on the tropical island of St. Lucia and have relished sharing all the children's amazing homework on this topic. We will be looking at the geography of the island, local traditions and culture, as well as undertaking map work and comparing life in St. Lucia to life in Verwood and the UK. After half-term, we will conquer the Ancient Greeks in history and we are hopeful that the children will participate in a Greek-themed Day, on Thursday 12th November. We will communicate more details closer to the date if we are able to go ahead with this.

Our science topic this half-term has been forces and we have been so impressed with how the children have applied their knowledge from first school to think scientifically and solve some difficult questions about gravity, mass, weight, Newtons and friction.

Thank you so much for supporting your child with their homework and reading each week. We have been blown away by the quality of their work so far and, in particular, how quickly they have adapted to using our remote online platforms - Google Classroom and Hegarty maths. It is essential that these tasks are completed as they are set to support your child's learning in class so please do keep it up Year 5 - well done! We do run a Year 5 homework drop-in club at lunchtime on Mondays and Tuesdays for those who need time or assistance online, so if you think your child would benefit from this, please do contact the office to let us know.

Wishing you all a wonderful break over half-term. It will be an excellent opportunity for the children to have a rest and reflect on their fantastic achievements this half-term. They have already come so far and we cannot wait to see what they will achieve next!

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Weir (Head of Year), Mrs Prestage, Mr Brennan and Miss Stinson



Year 6 News

Well done year 6 for completing your first half term! They have really hit the ground running, showing independence, resilience and maturity. We have been very impressed with their start and look forward to the next half term.

Year 6 have been collecting a fantastic amount of candle credits each week, which is being recorded either on their tutor group's sheet or in their diaries. Good luck to all houses! I wonder who will win the first reward?

We are really in the swing of homework now and have been really pleased to see lots of children taking care and time to complete their tasks each week to the best of their ability. We will continue to set English and Maths homework on a Friday and expect it completed by the following Friday. We have noticed that some children have found it more challenging to complete their homework on time so I would like to invite them to a homework club running after school with Mrs Binning until 4pm. I hope those invited, by letter, will take up the great opportunity to join.

This half term started with a Humanities topic of North America, looking at the geography of the location and the history of the Native Americans. This gave the children a solid foundation to understanding our English text, *The Wolves of Currumpaw*. The children have focussed on how to answer different types of reading questions, how to include a range of vocabulary in their writing, how to write from different points of view and how to engage the reader during character descriptions.

In maths, we have been using *Maths No Problem*, as they did in year 5, to re-visit place value but progressing to taking numbers up to 10 million. We have also begun lots of arithmetic practise using the four operations of number. Please do continue to practise times tables at home, as they are the foundation to accurate written methods and fractions.

As I am sure you are aware, year 6 will be doing their SATS next May and we have already looked at some of the test papers, analysed what the children already know, and prioritised what we still need to work on. We will have a Mock SATS, week beginning 9th November, where we will give the children the experience of all of the test papers on the correct days and this is where we will identify individual provisions for some children, which may be a reader or extra time.

We are planning to hold a meet the tutor virtually after half term, where we look forward to discussing how your child is getting on in their lessons and with their SATS preparation and will be happy to receive your questions.

We wish you a restful and relaxing half term and thank you for all of your support to ensure that year 6 have had a settled and positive start to the year.

Kind regards,

Miss Howe (Head of Year), Mr Brenton, Mr Humphries and Mrs Anderson



YEAR 7 NEWS

I am delighted to again be leading the Year 7 team this year. Mr Cotton, Mr Foord and I are the three class tutors with Mrs Thompson and Ms Fagge sharing the pastoral care of the pupils. We are also lucky to have Mrs Savage, Mrs Whittingham and Mrs Thorn supporting the year 7 group Bubble.

We are proud that our pupils have been able to return to school with a high work ethic, this is reflected in the excellent attitude to learning we have seen already in the classrooms and is reflected in the high standard of work being produced in their books.

Obviously, we have all had to adjust to new routines, hygiene and social distancing rules, but being in a year group bubble has given us all the opportunity to get to know each other quickly and to get on with the important jobs of teaching and learning.

Apart from the obvious Covid 19 situation, Year 7 pupils have also had to cope with the transition into KS3. With this, they will have noticed significant changes to their school life, routine and responsibilities, compared to year 6. Our expectations of them are very high and that includes behaviour and personal organisation.

In Wellbeing, pupils have had lessons on how to cope with homework. They have also shared good ideas on where and when to do it, as well as ironing out problem areas. Please discuss this at home. At the beginning of the year, homework was purposely introduced slowly, to help pupils become accustomed to it. Online homework is now being set and the expectation is that they are completed by the due date. The homework diaries are used to record clear instructions. Weekly spelling lists are also stuck in so they can be tested at home. Parents checking that homework has been completed and submitted, supports both the pupils and the staff. Please do contact us if you feel that your child is struggling with homework, there are many ways we can help.

Uniform: please refer to our website as well as the homework diary for our uniform expectations. Trainers are not acceptable unless it is a PE day. We have also noticed pupils drawing on their hands and arms recently, we would like to discourage this. As it is now getting cold, can you remind your children to bring their coats to school - we are trying to get outside as much as possible.

Pupils are also expected to have a reading book with them in school. Accelerated Reader quizzes can be accessed at home. Pupils will earn Candle Credits for each quiz and we are going to positively encourage healthy competition between the House groups to support this. Pupils should keep an eye on the notice board for more information.

Please email or phone into the school office to contact any member of the year 7 team if you have any concerns. We are delighted to be teaching your children and look forward to a successful and exciting year.

Mrs Robertson, Head of Year 7



YEAR 8 NEWS

Dear Parents,

On behalf of Mrs Richardson, Mrs Etheridge and myself, I would like to welcome you and your child to Year 8. We are looking forward to teaching your children and helping them develop as individuals.

This is a significant time in the children's education, as Year 8 begins to prepare for their eventual transition to Upper School. It is an exciting time for the Year 8 team and a privilege to be involved in the learning of students who we watch mature into young adults.

Without overstating the obvious, following the last academic year's protracted lockdown, the Autumn Term in Year 8 has been a period of significant change for our older pupils. I speak for all my colleagues when I say that I have been both impressed and encouraged by how well the children have adjusted to their modified timetable and also by how seamlessly they have adapted to the ongoing implementation of social-distancing & enhanced hygiene measures.

Clearly, some established traditions of the Year 8, Autumn Term (such as the Year 5 Buddying Programme) have had to fall by the wayside, but others like the Ambassador Scheme are still able to go ahead (albeit in a slightly modified way).

I have outlined one or two important points below:

Homework

During their time in Year 8 your child can expect to receive homework on a regular basis.

Due to current circumstances homeworks will be set online (this might be in the form of a Humanities Google Quiz, Hegarty Maths, or the forthcoming Tassomai programme).

Your child will be asked to record homework in their diary on the day it is set, as well as recording the date it is to be completed by. Please give your children an appropriate amount of support and encouragement whilst completing their homework and help them to establish positive routines. Also, please be aware that the amount of homework that your child receives is only likely to increase in Year 9. As such, it is vital that our Year 8s establish an organised and positive approach to their homework now.

Diaries

Please monitor and sign your child's diary on a weekly basis. These diaries are an important means of communication between home and school. In addition (if you have not done so already), could I please remind you to read and sign the parents' section of the home/school agreement which you will find in your child's homework diary.

Attendance

Given the unpredictability of the 'current circumstances' and the loss of so much traditional schooling forced upon us through the previous national lockdown - I cannot over stress the need to endeavour to get children into school especially if the barrier to their attendance might be classed as a minor ailment. Also, I'd appeal to everyone to think twice before booking family holidays during term time - if they're followed by a child needing time off due to an illness, this can have an extremely detrimental impact on their attendance.



YEAR 8 NEWS cont

Uniform

Our KS3 pupils are role models for their younger peers. You would be surprised at the amount of influence our older pupils have. As such it is very important that they take pride in their school uniform and always come suitably attired.

Please periodically check that your child is wearing the correct uniform as historically 'one or two' of our older pupils are given to attempt to customise it - which erodes standards.

Socks should be grey, black, or white and black leather school shoes and not trainers need to be worn (Vans are not acceptable).

Last year I noticed that some members of Year 8 had taken to forcing their thumbs through the sleeves of their jumpers - again, should this be the case, it is unfortunately time to replace the garment.

I fully appreciate that many of the children will be growing at an alarming rate during Year 8. Please try to ensure that the girls' skirt lengths are appropriate (i.e. just above, or below the knee) and not too revealing. A single pair of stud-ear rings are permissible, but other jewellery (including rings) is not. Children can however wear a single charity band of their choice.

All items of uniform still need to be labelled to prevent loss. Please contact either your child's form tutor, or the school office should you have any additional questions regarding school uniform. Appropriate school uniform is outlined in the school diaries - but, as with most things, it's often a case of letting common sense prevail.

Mobile Phones / e-safety Issues

Mobile phones must continue to be placed in the phone boxes and not be concealed in pupils' bags as this undermines the school's e-safety / acceptable use policy regarding electronic devices. Mobile phones must be switched off on entry to the campus (as this reduces opportunities for misuse). We do have episodes of internet misuse (fortunately few and far between last year) and in the event that your child has been receiving threatening, inappropriate, or offensive messages from other KS3 pupils - please 'screenshot' the relevant material. I will contact parents to make them aware of their child's internet conduct and in some cases recommend the information be passed onto the local PCSO.

Year 8 Ambassador Selection

The first wave of Year 8 Ambassadors is currently being selected. The standard of their applications was very high. Applicants who may have initially fallen short, will be given individual targets to meet.

Although, many of the Ambassadors' historic roles within the school will currently be curtailed - I'm sure that with a little creative thinking and modern communications technology, they'll be able to continue to make a marked impact both within and outside of the Year 8 Bubble.

Upper School Applications Deadline

Please be aware that the deadline for upper school applications to be with the local authority is Saturday 31st October. It is well worth spending time perusing the Websites of both QE & FUS and (in the absence of more traditional open days) fully exploring their virtual tours.

And Finally

If at any time you have concerns or require extra information, please phone the office and make an appointment to speak to your child's tutor. As the year progresses and the transfer process to upper school begins, please read and digest the communications sent out via ParentMail and check for key dates and events.

I know we have many talented pupils in Years 8 - I am looking forward to enabling all our children to have a happy and successful year at Emmanuel Middle School.

Kind regards,

Mark Rangdale Head of Year 8



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Term

Half Term	Mon 26th October - Fri 30th October
Deadline for Upper School	
Applications to be received by DCC	Saturday 31st October 2020
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Monday 2nd November 2020
Return to School	Tuesday 3rd November 2020
Individual School Photographs	Friday 6th November 2020
Year 6 Mock SATS Week	w/c Monday 9th November 2020
Year 5 Treehouse Theatre	Thursday 12th November 2020
Year 5, 6 & 7 Flu Vaccinations	Thursday 3rd December 2020
End of Term	Friday 18th December 2020

Spring Term

Staff Training Day (school closed)	Monday 4th January 2021
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Tuesday 5th January 2021
Return after Christmas holiday	Wednesday 6th January 2021
Half Term	Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2021
Return after half term	Monday 22nd February 2021
Break up for Easter	Wednesday 31st March 2021
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Thursday 1st April 2021

Summer Term

Return after Easter holiday	Monday 19th April 2021
May Day	Monday 3rd May 2021
Half Term	Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2021
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Monday 7th June 2021
Return after half term	Tuesday 8th June 2021
Break up for Summer	Friday 23rd July 2021

NO NUTS/APPLES PLEASE

Please remember that the school operates a no nuts or apples policy. Therefore children must not bring apples or products which contain whole or part nuts into school. We reserve the right to confiscate such items and return them to your child at the end of the day.

