

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello and welcome to a new half-term. It's been a beautiful, dry and cold week. If only the rest of winter remained that way! We have been allowing pupils to wear coats in classrooms with windows open across the school. During practical sessions in science, food, textiles and product design, pupils may be asked to remove baggy or bulky layers for safety reasons. Just before half-term we received 18 CO2 monitors. These will be placed across the school and hopefully this will enable us to control room temperature that means pupils do not need to wear coats. I will keep you updated.

We have few COVID cases in school despite the national picture. We will continue with our current measures in school. At some point we will need to address wearing PE kit as field conditions deteriorate but we will give you notice of any change. Assemblies remain as key stage events and face coverings remain optional for all members of our school community. Thank you for continuing with the twice weekly lateral flow testing.

Mrs Anderson will be leaving Emmanuel at Christmas after nearly 10 years of outstanding service. She is moving into a different sector within education to work as an outreach teacher supporting children in foster care, to ensure they have the best life chances possible. I am sure you will join me in recognising her excellent work with so many pupils over the years and we wish her the very best for the future. Mr Gorgirzadeh will take over 6KA in January. He will be working in school this half-term for three days a week to provide the best possible handover with Mrs Anderson. Already known as 'Mr G', he is a former Cranborne pupil (not that we hold a grudge..) and well versed in the middle school system and local to the area.

Next week, year 6 pupils will sit mock SATs tests. These are a test of the taught curriculum across the four KS2 years. This is not about pupils' scores, or to judge the progress they have made. It will enable staff, through question level analysis, to focus on areas we need to cover with the pupils from their four-year programme. Staff will be able to discuss findings during parents evening later in the month.

We had a productive training day on Monday. Training was provided to stay up to date with all matters regarding safeguarding. This was followed by developing teaching techniques in feedback - mainly whole class feedback. I am sure your child will talk about the frequency of this in their lessons. This is a far more effective strategy than individual comments in books that are rarely acted upon or discrete examples and opportunities provided to improve. During the afternoon session staff worked in developing their implementation and measuring the impact of the new Trust curriculum we launched in September.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Rotary Club's Shoebox Appeal, whether it was sending in a completed shoebox or providing items for shoeboxes made up in school. Members of the Rotary Club collected the boxes this morning and thanked everyone for their support. The school collected over 40 boxes this year.



Finally, we spent the last half-term launching and using E-Praise as a reward and sanction platform. Further details as to how you will be able to access this system, which will enable you to receive regular notifications about your child's efforts and endeavours, will be sent out next week.

Have a great weekend and please be safe around bonfires and fireworks this weekend.

Mr Christopher