

Dear Parents/Carers,

I had the pleasure of leading a cycling reward activity on Wednesday this week. This was one of the rewards available for pupils to purchase through the EPraise shop. We were incredibly lucky with the weather, it was a perfect bike ride from school and into Moors Valley via Potterne Park. We rode approximately eight miles in total although most of the pupils' energy was spent playing various games in differing locations in the Park. It was great to see pupils across three year groups working and playing together. I should also mention their behaviour was exemplary. Please keep promoting these reward activities at home, keeping the pupils planning and aspiring to work towards their next target. Every pupil in the school has the opportunity to purchase something from the shop to recognise their efforts in school.



Over the past two weeks, and across the next two weeks, colleagues have come together to review and adapt their curriculum. As you will be aware, we have been working on this project for a couple years and it is one that is never complete and always evolving. However, each subject area has benefitted from face to face time. The upshot being an excellent curriculum design for the pupils within the Trust. In addition, staff have been further developing their pedagogical strategies linked to retrieval practice - a key strand of our Teaching & Learning approach using Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction. If you talk to your child I am sure they will tell you all about their mini whiteboards and retrieval quizzes.

We welcome three former pupils on work experience next week, who are now year 11 pupils at Ferndown Upper School. They will be based in DT, Art and PE and will also be supporting the year 6 Mock SATs. It is wonderful for our pupils to see former pupils come back, work with them, hear what school was like when they attended and how they have progressed through Upper School.

Good luck to our year 6 pupils next week who will be taking their Mock SATS. This gives them an opportunity to show how they have progressed since November, and provide us with insight into areas of the curriculum that need re-visiting in the lead up to May.

Year 7 classes have been getting stuck into their DT projects and I have been lucky enough to sample some of the fantastic breads that have been baked in food tech. The 10 Bounce Challenge was launched this week in the PE department as part of our trampoline lessons. I have heard some big numbers from the year 8 classes, although I have seen Mr Foord looking a little pale a few times! Year 5 have also been showing some great reading and writing skills in response to their text, *The Magician's Nephew* by C S Lewis.

Year 7 and 8 pupils have had assemblies this week on the Youth Parliament - #MakeYourMark. Pupils will be casting their votes next week.

We have also had confirmed this year's Transfer Day as Friday 1st July - a date for diaries.

Covid numbers in school have risen slightly over the past two weeks, mainly in year 5 and 6 which is not a surprise given vaccinations in year 7 and 8. We have a rolling case rate of approximately 7 pupils per day. Please keep testing regularly and if you are a close contact please test daily in the morning for 7 days.

There could be some interesting conflict in households this weekend as the Six Nations begins with the four home nations all playing against each other. I will leave it there . . .

Have a great weekend,

Mr Rob Christopher