

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back into school after the Easter holidays. I hope you all had a great fortnight - it was a real treat to have some fantastic weather after a long winter. Judging by conversations with the children, there have been a lot of exciting day trips, events and holidays which have been lovely to hear about.

The start of term is a great time to reset expectations in all areas. In worship this week the children revisited our EMS way - our shared vision for conduct and learning behaviour throughout the school day. In addition, we reset our expectations of uniform. This is not a school with particularly restrictive uniform guidance and therefore it is expected that the rules in place are followed by everyone:

Shirts - tucked in

Ties - 7 stripes

Shoes - formal - not trainers, sports branded leather shoes or canvas

Hair - no lines cut into your scalp and no shorter than grade 2

Hair - natural in colour and one colour

Skirts - just above the knee, not mid-thigh. Pupils are not permitted to roll them.

Make-up - for cover-up purposes to support self-esteem. No mascara / eyeliner / foundation.

Jewellery - one stud in each earlobe only. I have seen some beautiful earrings - please return to studs.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the children adhere to these expectations. Pupils looking smart is important.

As the mornings become brighter and warmer pupils naturally arrive earlier to school. We have begun to bring pupils onto the school site from 8.20am and gather on the tennis courts where they are supervised. At 8.30am all pupils enter the building to prepare for the school day. All pupils should be in their class and ready to learn at 8.40am. Breakfast club runs from 7.50am each day and details of how to book and pay for this can be found on the school website.

After May half-term we will re-introduce use of the PE changing rooms for year 6, 7 and 8. Pupils will wear their full school uniform and change into and out of their PE kit. Please can we ask that you ensure all uniform and PE kit is clearly named. We will also revert back to our whole school finish time of 3.20pm for all pupils.

You will have received a letter and information from Mr Timmins earlier today via ParentMail giving advice and guidance about the use of social media and how to stay safe online. This is a good time to remind everyone of the importance of regularly checking and supervising the internet use of children. This has also been covered in both key stage assemblies this week.

The Summer term brings a new range of clubs to our extra-curricular offer. Please talk through the clubs list attached to discuss how your child can contribute to the wider school community. Clubs are a fantastic place to explore existing areas of interest but also to try out new activities and spend time with peers. The start dates for the clubs are detailed on the attached list.

Thank you to all parents for your continued support in promoting the ACCELERATED READER programme in school. This programme has been proved to raise reading standards in schools and we have seen that those children who read the most at Emmanuel Middle School do make the best progress in English. **EMS pupils read 57.3 million words last term!**

Congratulations to the winning classes who enjoyed their hard-earned mufti-day today:

5CS

6JB

7RDF

8ER

Please encourage your children to read as much as possible this summer term to ensure that their class has a chance of winning the summer term MUFTI prize!

This term we will be awarding **MILLION WORD READER CERTIFICATES** to those pupils who have reached this significant milestone (and to those who have far exceeded it).

There's been a discernible buzz around Y8 this week as the pupils begin to participate in our annual transition programme. These are a series of scheduled events designed to ensure that our older pupils enjoy a smooth transfer to their respective upper schools.

This week, Year 8 were lucky enough to enjoy the company of Georgina (Student Liaison Officer) & Calvin (Student Ambassador) who delivered an informative assembly about life at University (specifically BU). The children learnt about both the academic and social benefits of choosing to opt for a degree course. They explored aspects of life at university as well as how having a graduate's degree might impact their place in the labour market.

In addition to the BU Assembly, our QE students have had an initial (face to face) meeting with their soon to be Assistant Head Mr Oldfield, as well as their Deputy SENDCO. This took the form of a question and answer session - allowing our pupils to get their first real incite into life at Queen Elizabeth's School.

As the Summer Term progresses - there will be numerous transition events. It's an exciting time for one and all.

Year 7 have been learning about 'movement' and 'joints' this week through a class dissection of a chicken wing. The students had an opportunity to carry out the dissection themselves and they conducted themselves really well. We managed to have a look at the mechanism of two hinge joints and the internal structure of a bone - really great hands-on learning!

In Year 6 Humanities, the pupils have this week been completing their unit of World War 2 in conjunction with their reading of 'Letters from the Lighthouse' in English. Next up is the exciting unit called 'Extreme Earth' where volcanoes and earthquakes are explored.



In Year 5 Art lessons the pupils have been creating Henri Rousseau inspired jungle scenes in mixed media. This is being displayed currently in the Lower School creating the vibrant scene shown below.

French Language Leaders delivered a French Easter activity to the Year 5 pupils who were in school on Thursday 7th April. They researched information and practised the key French words at French Club beforehand. The activities included a quiz about Easter in France and a poem in French with colourful eggs.

Well done to the Language Leaders who showed fantastic leadership skills and self confidence:
Taryn B, Belle P, Zara A, Maisie S, Keira C and Grace I.

Feedback from all concerned was very positive so watch this space for the next one.



I am sure it is fully on your radar already, but of course Monday is a Bank Holiday. I therefore wish you all a great long weekend and will see everyone on Tuesday 3rd May.

Mr Christopher and Mr Barker