

Dear Parent/Carers,

As I write this final bulletin of the year I am filled with a mixture of joy, pride, sadness and gratitude. What a year it has been! I will reflect on the remarkable nature of the 2021/22 year but first there is a huge amount which has still been happening this week.

Tuesday saw our first (and now annual) end of year awards ceremonies. Year 5 & 7 held wonderful ceremonies in the school hall during the day before Year 6 & 8 enjoyed a fantastic evening at the Verwood Hub. There were so many highlights of the day: seeing the pride as the children came to the stage to collect their award; listening to fantastic performances from all the musicians; hearing the children speak; seeing the leavers' video but in many ways one of the highlights was the fact that the majority of the Year 8 families were in the cafe bar at the Hub enjoying the chance to socialise as a big group one final time. This felt particularly special considering the nature of the past two years. Well done to all our award winners but more importantly well done to every child who have all contributed to our school community. It was so difficult to decide the award winners - we could have chosen many winners for each category.



Wednesday was another fabulous day for our Year 8 leavers with the afternoon BBQ and evening disco. So much fun was had by all at both events and the children were a real credit in the way they conducted themselves in these less-structured events.

The epraise rewards have kept coming this week too with Footgolf at Crane Valley a real hit and several teachers 'enjoying' being splatted by wet sponges as pupils used up their final hard-earned candle credits.

Thank you so much to Mrs Lush and Mrs Carver who ran the second hand uniform sale this week. This proved very popular so please know what an impact you had if you donated pre-used uniform. There will be details of a further sale early in the Autumn term. Please continue to send in uniform that is no longer needed.

As this is the time of year that uniform gets purchased for the new academic year I will take this opportunity to reiterate our uniform expectations. Please follow these carefully as it is crucial they are adhered to and purchasing inappropriate clothing is an expensive mistake. Threads and Treads are always a good starting point.

September provides an opportunity to return to the correct full EMS PE kit. In essence this is centred around skorts, shorts and tracksuit bottoms. Cycling shorts and leggings are not to be worn. All pupils are welcome to wear EMS hoodies and plain white polo / t-shirts. No branded tops with stripes and logos across the chest / shoulders etc will be permitted. Shoe trainers such as Nike Air Forces are also not part of our uniform. Please read the uniform guidelines below for the full list.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Long or short-sleeved white blouse	Long or short-sleeved white shirt
School tie	School tie
Grey/black skirt (flared or pleated) length just above or below the knee	
Plain grey / black straight legged trousers or tailored shorts	Plain grey / black straight legged trousers or tailored shorts
Maroon embroidered sweatshirt	Maroon embroidered sweatshirt
White, grey or black socks or black tights	Black, grey or white socks
Flat black school shoes, NO trainers of any description or boots. Canvas shoes are not acceptable.	Flat black school shoes, NO trainers of any description or boots. Canvas shoes are not acceptable.
<b>PE KIT</b>	<b>PE KIT</b>
Plain white polo shirt	Plain white polo shirt
Maroon skort	Black shorts
Black football/hockey socks	Black football/hockey socks
Black / blue tracksuit bottoms	Black / blue tracksuit bottoms
Maroon hooded top for outdoor winter sports	Maroon rugby shirt / Maroon hooded top for outdoor winter sports
Studded boots for winter field sports	Studded boots for winter field sports
Trainers for other outdoor activities	Trainers for other outdoor activities
Gum shield (for contact sports)	Gum shield (for contact sports)
<b>Other Uniform</b>	
Apron(s) for Science, Design, Cookery	
<b>Classroom Equipment</b>	
Clear pencil case containing pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, 30cm ruler and a small selection of coloured pencils or felt-tipped pens All children must use a handwriting pen with blue ink Ring binder/folder	

This week saw us bidding farewell to two members of staff. Mrs Carolyn Johannesen is retiring from our French department and Mrs Karen Mansfield is also retiring from her TA role. Both have brought so much to the school and we are very sad to see them leave.

In September we welcome two new members of staff. Mr Ben Shooter will join us as an experienced teacher who will lead Music and be a Year 8 tutor. Mrs Rebecca Dunn is joining us as a TA in Year 5 following several years of working in similar roles in local schools. We are very much looking forward to having them as part of our team.

In further staffing news, with Mr Shooter's appointment Mr Timmins will no longer be our Head of Music - whilst continuing to lead computing. As Mrs Weir's trust-wide CPD lead role grows, she is stepping back from being Head of Year 5 and Miss Chloe Stinson will take on that role. In Year 6, Mr Joe Humphries will be taking on the role of Head of Year and Mrs Thorn is returning to work alongside Miss Howe before starting her maternity leave after October half-term, working alongside each other for seven weeks will ensure a smooth transition. Mrs Thorn is well versed in the EMS way, having taken a year out after working here with distinction.

I started this bulletin by expressing the range of emotions this year has evoked. It has been quite a journey. It feels remarkable to think that it is only this academic year that we were facing the challenges of mass covid absences and online learning. The Spring term in particular tested the staff and pupils and I am proud that the school stayed open even with large staff absences - those in school stepped up in the way that has become the norm in this wonderful team. The children also coped admirably with last minute changes becoming standard. The return of school trips was a huge success and underpins the value of learning away from the classroom. Next year will be the final transition year that enables us to establish away trips in year 5 and 7, to spread the cost and home activities in year 6 and 8.

The Summer term has been an absolute joy with all elements of school life being opened up again. In two intense weeks we had our long overdue Ofsted inspection and SATs week. Ofsted was a rigorous examination of the school and as the report shows, the school stood up to it brilliantly. Then the staff and children got straight back up for SATs week and delivered results significantly better than the national performance. We will continue to work hard for all of our children. There is no room for complacency and I am thrilled to have such a dedicated and motivated team.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you and your children in September after a fabulous and well deserved summer break.

Mr Christopher and Mr Barker