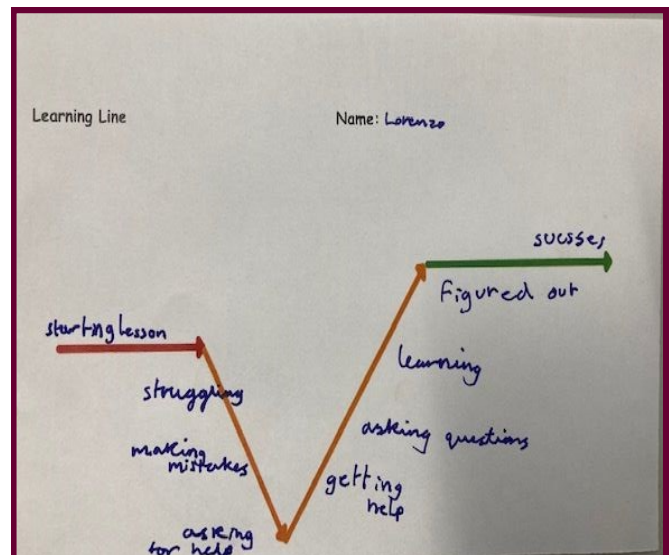
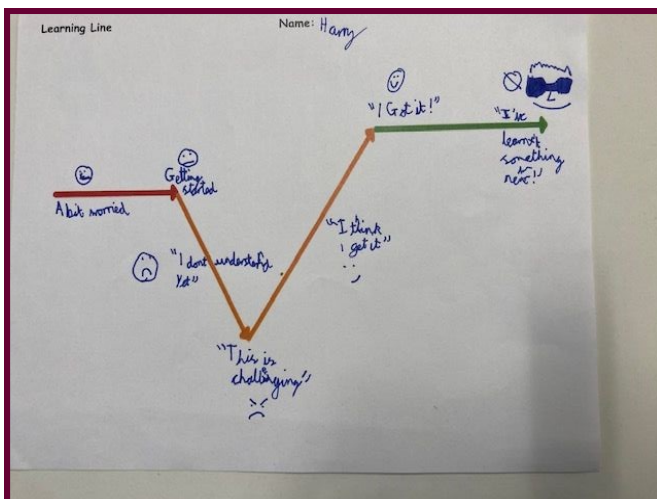
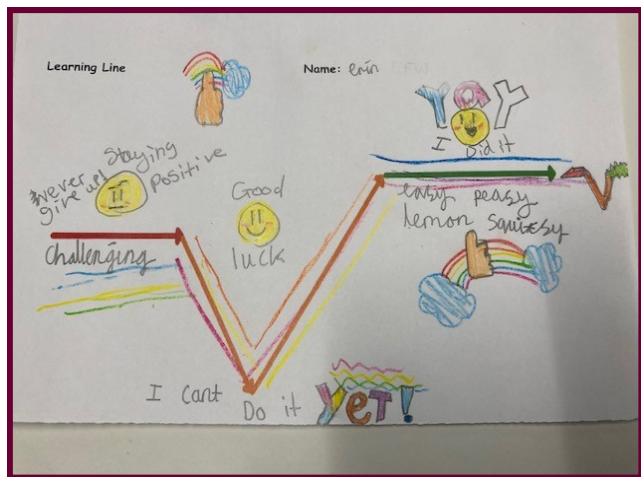
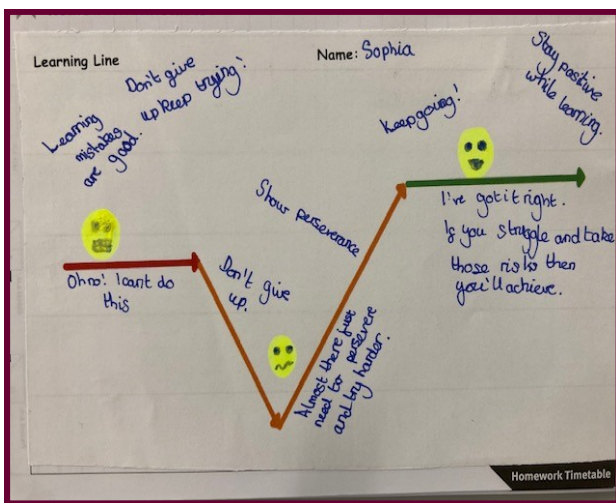


Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back

It has been a start of term like no other and while term is well underway this is our first weekly communication. It was with great pleasure that we welcomed the Emmanuel pupils back into school on Monday 5th. Very little compares to the buzz and anticipation of the start of a new school year - the excitement and understandable nerves of the new Year 5s, the step up to an older year group of last year's pupils and the joy of both children and adults reconnecting with people they have not seen for 6 weeks. I hope you had a fantastic summer - judging by some of the conversations I have had there have been some great adventures and the amazing Summer weather has had the most made of it!

At this point I need to take a moment to give a special congratulations to all our Year 5 pupils who have adapted and settled in so well already. Their collective work ethic and 'have-a-go' attitude have been fantastic and their creative interpretations of our EMS Learning Line really show their resilience and readiness for challenge. Please don't underestimate how much of this is down to the extensive transition work of Miss Stinson and her team in the Summer.



For the staff, term started on 1st September with the main event of our INSET days being a training session with cognitive scientist Efrat Furst who delivered a fascinating input on how to support children with understanding, remembering and retaining new information. The staff at EMS will continue to develop their understanding of how memory works and you will hear your children talk about their practice of new learning and *retrieval practice of prior learning*.

I don't want to tempt fate but I am hopeful that this year will be our most 'normal' since 2018/19 and the expectation is that we will be able to welcome parents into school in the way we did prior to the pandemic. On this theme, we are thrilled to be able to run our 'meet the tutor' parents' evening on Tuesday 27th September face-to-face. This is a great opportunity to put 'a face to the name' for parents and discuss how your children have settled into their new year group. Please note that our subject parents' evenings in November will be conducted virtually through SchoolCloud as this has proved to be significantly more convenient where parents are needing to book multiple appointments.

While academic learning is our core purpose, engagement with the wider school community is so important for pupils to make the most of their time in school. Our inter-house competitions in KS3 started last week with KS2 competitions to follow. Our extra-curricular clubs have also started and these provide the children with invaluable opportunities to explore new activities, further develop ones they already have an interest in and most importantly to have fun with their friends. The extra curricular clubs list has been sent to you, so please spend some time discussing this with your children to support them in taking advantage of these free opportunities.

A significant amount of information is shared at the start of term and thank you for keeping up to date with this. Mr Brennan has prepared guidance for maths home learning and Year 7 pupils will be introduced to Tassomai in the coming weeks.

At Emmanuel, careers was recognised by OFSTED as a real strength in our personal development curriculum. Our explicit careers lessons are embedded in our Wellbeing schemes of work and we are assessed and supported by Dorset Careers Hub who measure us against the Gatsby Benchmarks. This week we were delighted to take Year 8 as the pilot school, to visit Moors Valley, to investigate it as a local workplace (Gatsby Benchmark 6). This was a joint project developed in partnership with Moors Valley Country Park, Dorset Careers Hub and Emmanuel. The pupils had a pre lesson in school to learn about the different industry sectors and then they tried to identify them at 9 locations on the park. Emma Reeks from Moors Valley gave a talk when they arrived at the park and the pupils were accompanied by school staff as well as rangers and Compass staff in small groups. The pupils were enthusiastic about asking questions and thinking about the job opportunities which they may benefit from in the future. Their behaviour on the park was exemplary and we are extremely proud of them. Year 8 will complete their project at school, by investigating the job markets in the industry sectors identified. This work will be shared with the other Dorset middle schools and will be used as a template for other workplace visits in the county. Well done to Year 8 for a brilliant start to the year.



I hope you have a fantastic weekend and I look forward to seeing all the children on Monday morning.

Mr R Christopher & Mr A Barker