

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the latest parent bulletin at the end of a week where we have all been tested by the stark winter weather! The freezing weather has done nothing to cool the learning and experiences in the classroom with the children continuing to work so hard.

On Wednesday evening, Miss Joyner and 40 of our choir members sang alongside 8,888 children to perform in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. The day started with a full choir rehearsal, making sure our moves were perfect and that we were all in tune!

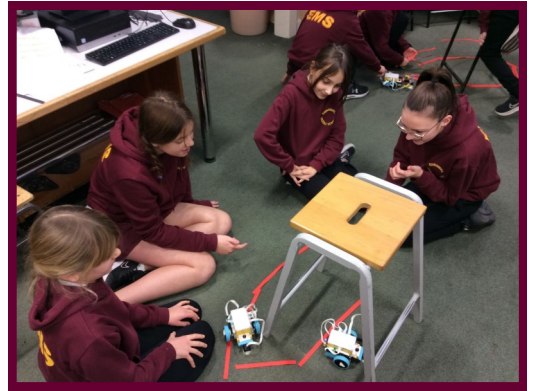
The evening was full of singing, dancing, cheering and even beat-boxing (and seeing how loud we could scream 'EMS IS THE BEST' across the arena to parents in the audience)! The children even had the amazing opportunity to support Heather Small, singing 'Proud'! If you missed the performance and would still like to see it, the concert has been professionally recorded and can be purchased from [www.yv23film.co.uk](http://www.yv23film.co.uk). A very big thank you to Mr Christopher, Mr Shooter, Miss Stinson and Mrs Higgs for coming with us on the trip and making it possible. We hope to go back next year!



On Tuesday evening the teachers took part in a trust-wide CPD session focusing on how to support children in retaining learnt knowledge. We were very pleased to be able to have Jade Pearce as a guest presenter to further our understanding of how revisiting key material over time supports with remembering and sharing the most effective ways to do this - which is termed retrieval practice. This will also form the focus on our INSET day on 20th February.



In computing, KS2 have been diving into the world of LEGO Robotics. Pupils have been learning about different types of robots and how to code the robots to do different movements such as going forwards and backwards and turning in circles. The last two weeks, pupils have been experimenting with two different kinds of sensors- light and distance! Although the robots were already built when we got them, the pupils have been able to build the right pieces to attach the sensors. Here you can see pupils testing their light sensors against different strips of coloured paper. We are looking forward to seeing what else we can get these robots to do leading up to the February half-term!



It has been Biology time in KS3. Year 7 has been studying Digestion, Nutrition, and Diet. This week they were carrying out food tests, to identify different nutrients present in a selection of foods.

Year 8 have been studying evolution and the theories presented in Charles Darwin's work on 'Theory of evolution by natural selection'. They carried out an investigation using different coloured rice (representing differing variants among a species) which they had to pick out of a bowl of vermiculite using tweezers (representing birds feeding). It was more challenging than it sounds! We will be analysing the results next week.



We have just completed our second phase of Accelerated Reader STAR TESTS for this academic year. The focus on reading has been very impressive with an average improvement of six months reading age across all year groups since October. Class tutors will be giving your children their new ZPD and Reading Age scores over the next few weeks so that they can select the correct texts for their book level. Please support your children with their reading choices, to keep up this tremendous progress, and help them win the MUFTI prize for this term's competition. Remember to use: <https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/> to check whether books at home are on the Accelerated Reader programme.

Yesterday, Sophie F in 7FC took part in Dorset schools cross country at King's Park. Her determination to overcome the very cold conditions helped her to 9th place against a very talented field. Congratulations to Sophie.

We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher & Mr Alister Barker

