

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's parent bulletin.

I talk often about children gaining the most from taking part in activities that are high challenge and high reward and this week Year 5 are embracing exactly this! They are enjoying a fantastic week exploring Dartmoor and Heatree Activity Centre. What has been particularly noticeable has been the children's resilience and teamwork skills. This has been noticed by both EMS staff and Heatree staff who have said that the children have shown the best levels of cooperation and kindness to each other. Year 5 have been pushing their boundaries, crawling through rivers, rock scrambling and climbing trees - all with a big smile on their faces.



We are finalising numbers for the French residential for year 7 next year and are below the minimum threshold for it to take place. As recognised above, the character development during these experiences is phenomenal.

We wish year 7 and accompanying staff well next week at PGL Liddington and look forward to sharing their experiences in the bulletin.

Next week is also a huge week for year 6 to show how much they have learnt across the four years of key stage 2. Their scores will not define them as people. We know how committed the pupils have been to their learning and we are super confident this will be reflected in their performance across the week. Well done and go smash it!

Last Wednesday saw our Science Week activity take place. This year's theme was connections. The students took part in an interactive escape room activity solving clues and unravelling mysteries. They worked together against the clock to save our new Science pet Timmyscopic the Science Tarantula. The activity started as they found out Mr. Rangdale had locked Timmyscopic away in a desperate bid to solve his arachnophobia. Students worked in small house teams to try and unlock the box and save Timmy!

The winning house was Vujicic earning 200 candle credits for their house. In second place was Malala who received 150 candle credits, closely followed by Watson with 100 candle credits and Grylls in fourth place earned 50 candle credits for their house.

On top of all of this, each individual member from the winning team for each year group received 20 candle credits. A fun and rewarding day for everyone.



## Gardening Club Trip to the 'Gardeners World Fair'.

Last Friday the Gardening Club had a fantastic day out visiting the Gardeners World Fair at Beaulieu. We enjoyed seeing all the different borders that had been created and gained inspiration for our own courtyard project back in school. We were also able to explore all the other attractions at Beaulieu, which was very exciting! This was made possible due to the organisers generously giving us free tickets to the event.



## Accelerated reader

Competition is really hotting up in this term's accelerated reader challenge - the highlights are below. Please encourage your child to read and quiz as regularly as possible and support their class to win the competition whilst also developing their reading skills which are so vital for their success across the curriculum.

**Y5 - 5FW have taken an early lead but can easily be overhauled.**

**Y6 - 6JB have a slight edge but there is fierce competition in this year group.**

**Y7 - 7JJ has a slight edge but there is a lot of catching up to do!**

**Y8 - This is turning into an interesting three-way tie between 8BNS, 8JP and 8NS.**

## Our marvellous sports leaders

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 8 sports leaders who yesterday played a vital role in the running of the Verwood First School sports day. We received hugely positive feedback from the school for their contribution - well done to them all for helping this event run smoothly and giving the first school pupils such a lovely experience.



## Autism

Are you interested in finding out more information about Autism?

The Autism Education Trust sends out regular newsletters which contain up to date information and advice about Autism.

Visit the website: <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/>  
Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and sign up!

We wish you all a great bank holiday weekend. We hope whatever festivities you have planned go well and that the weather holds off! We look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 9th May when Year 6 commence their SATs tests. Good luck to them.

Mr Rob Christopher & Mr Alister Barker.