



EMMANUEL CE (VA) MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Executive Headteacher: Mr R Jenkinson / Head of School: Mr R Christopher

NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM 2019 (1)

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

I hope you enjoy reading the Spring newsletter.

Pupils and staff alike have worked hard this half-term. Within the formal curriculum, teaching and learning continues to improve and the pupils continue to rise to the challenge. We are currently changing the boards in the corridors to showcase the amazing writing the pupils have produced across a variety of subjects. It goes without saying the quality of work produced in art adds to the creative flair.

A special mention to year 6 who completed their mock SATs with great success, leaving them well placed for May. Year 5 are enjoying a good breadth of curriculum, I have enjoyed dropping in on their Vikings topic. In KS3, pupils enjoyed their trips out and Year 7 pupils are looking forward to the French trip in March.

Emmanuel's Got Talent is reaching its conclusion. This week our House groups gathered to watch and vote for their choice of act to represent them in the finals. It was touching for many staff to see how supportive pupils were when watching the acts. There was a great feeling of togetherness within the groups. That is a great sign for the culture and ethos we continue to grow at EMS. Thanks to Mrs Williams, Mrs Binning and Mr Timmins for their hard work in making this happen. I hope you are able to come and support the finals in March.

Have a wonderful half-term break and enjoy the lengthening days. It feels like winter is behind us!

Rob Christopher
Head of School



Late to school

The school is open at 8.30am - Registration is at 8.40am.

If your child arrives at school after 8.40am they must report to the school office to let us know they are here and safe.

If your child is absent for any reason please telephone the school on 01202 828100 by 9.00am or email office@emmanuel.dorset.sch.uk and identify the name of your child, class and reason for absence. **Please note that we require you to contact the school on every day of absence.**



Child Protection

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead in school is Mrs Alice Ponchaud (Assistant Headteacher). If you have any concerns related to child protection issues please contact her through the school office. If Mrs Ponchaud is not available, please speak to Mr Christopher or Mrs Robertson who are the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.



SCHOOL CLOSURE

Although we have not had to close the school due to snow so far this year, it is still important that parents are aware of the procedures that are in place if the school has to close due to extreme weather conditions. The procedure is that Dorset County Council will publish a list of closures on their website on dorsetforyou.com. You can access this information on the website by going to <http://mapping.dorsetforyou.com/closedservices>. The school will also put a notice on its own website.



NO NUTS PLEASE

Please remember that the school operates a no nuts policy. Therefore children must not bring products which contain whole or part nuts into school. We reserve the right to confiscate such items and return them to your child at the end of the day.



Hair Style Reminder

Hair styles should be one colour (natural shade and not dipped) and not extreme. The school reserves the right to set this principle in line with current trend and fashion. For guidance: no shorter than grade 2 length for an all over style. Grade 1 is only acceptable where the hair is tapered to a longer length from the neck. It is also unacceptable for pupils to cut patterns into their hair.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION Administration of Medicines

If you wish school staff to administer medication to your child, parents must complete the consent form which can be obtained from the school office or on the school website (Parents/School Forms). Staff will be unable to administer any medication (this includes Strepsils and similar throat lozenges) without the required form - a note in the diary or a letter will not be acceptable. Staff are unable to administer aspirin or medicines containing ibuprofen unless they are prescribed by a doctor.

All medicines must be in their original box or container.

All prescribed medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the instructions for administration.

QE - Guys & Dolls

On Thursday 7th February, the whole of Year 8 went to QE's production of Guys and Dolls. We went on two buses, and all of my class were on the same bus, so we got to sit next to our friends. When we got there, we saw that they had a whole orchestra in front of the stage! The show is set in the early 1950s, and the costumes, acting and set were amazing! I saw several old pupils from Emmanuel. One of my favourite songs was "Luck Be a Lady" which I thought they sang really well. We didn't have to pay anything for the trip, so everybody went, which was great! I was worried that it was going to be boring and too long, but I really enjoyed it.

The story is about a gambler called Nathan Detroit who has to find somewhere to hold his Craps game. He has to find a new home for his game quickly - but he doesn't have the money to get the one place he finds. He makes a bet with Sky Masterson, a gambler ready to take on any bet. Nathan bets Sky that he can't take a "doll" he chooses to Havana on a date. When Sky agrees to the bet, Nathan chooses Sergeant Sarah Brown who works at the Mission and Sky eventually falls in love with her. At the end, they get married, as well as Nathan and Adelaide, who were engaged for 14 years! I really enjoyed it and would definitely go again!



EMMANUEL'S GOT TALENT THE RESULTS ARE IN!

What a Journey!

Back in November 2018, we held auditions seeking out talent among the pupils of Emmanuel Middle School. During lunch and break times over the course of winter term, we held over 70 auditions. Discovering, in some cases; hidden talents, closet performers and exceptional excellence. After some tough decisions, we finally decided upon 24 semi finalists which were all recorded and shown in this weeks house assemblies. House members who were only privy to their House acts voted for their two favourite performances who would then go through to the live finals show to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 20th March. Tickets for this spectacular will go on sale after half term priced at £3 per adult and £1 per child (under 16s).

We are excited that we will have four judges from the local community at the Final - these include the Mayor of Verwood and an ex-pupil from EMS. It is very kind of these people to be giving up their time to support this venture and for this we are thankful. Also very important - all the judges have not been part of the audition process and are completely uninfluenced and impartial, making it fairer for the children.

The Semi Final Results

Without further ado we can now announce the results (in no particular order!) of the semi finals as voted for by the pupils themselves (we are very pleased not to have made the decisions!)

THE GRYLLES HOUSE FINALISTS ARE

Grylls Girls and Zoe Richardson

THE MALALA HOUSE FINALISTS ARE

Harvey Rawlings and GR8

THE VUJICIC HOUSE FINALISTS ARE

Beat Brothers and The Big Jammie Dodgers

AND THE WATSON HOUSE FINALISTS ARE

5 Stars and Dancers Duo

Congratulations to all those who have made it through to the finals. You should by now have received your Certificates and information/permissions required for rehearsals. Please return these as soon as possible after half-term.

Pupils that did not make it through to the finals should still be very proud of themselves - they demonstrated commitment and endeavour in all of their acts - they are also very welcome to still be part of the show by joining in with the choir and assisting with any other roles required on the night!

And finally, we would like to thank all those at home who have provided all the support, encouragement and organisation with bringing in costumes and props to enable the children to show themselves at their best.

Looking forward to the final show!

The EGT Team



DigiGirlz

Last term we went to Microsoft in Reading. This was for an event called DigiGirlz, where seven girls were selected and taken to learn more about women in technology. At 6.30am (a very early start) we set off in the mini bus. The journey was long but worth it for the amazing day ahead.

When we arrived we were greeted by our group leader and given a goody bag along with a campus badge and DigiGirlz t-shirt. We were swiftly taken to the lecture room. We went there several times for the introduction, Q&A, learning about the past of technology and what job opportunities there are for us in the future and finally who won the competition.

The challenge was to programme two micro bits for a marketing project. Our idea was a



doorbell for somebody with a hearing impairment. We got them to communicate, flash, make sounds and come up with text. All through using Make Code. We also made posters and accessories for our micro bit. At the end we had to pitch our micro bits and ideas to the CEO, Head of Marketing and the Head of Engineering. With an enthusiastic performance we had them laughing at our little dances and how we performed. They were

all very inspiring women. We found this trip very helpful and an interesting experience. Finding out 65% of us wouldn't have a job that exists is CRAZY to think about!!

By Sophie T and Casey G



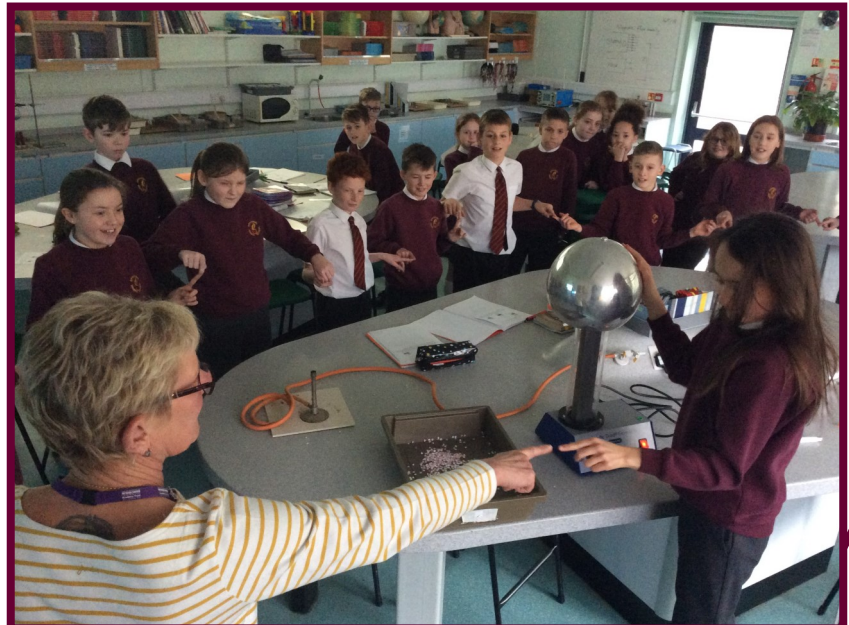
Science News

This half term Science Club have been finding out about the work of different types of Scientists. Year 7 and 8 have been discovering how Forensic Scientists gather information from crime scenes. This week, they will using what they have learnt to investigate a "crime" committed at school.

We also have some new pets in the science department - our very own stick insects.



Year 6 have also been investigating static electricity with some hair raising results.



Arts Award, Bronze, Visit to Roche Court
Monday 28th January 2019



The Roche Court Educational Trust (RCET) works with teachers, young people and specialist groups to develop confidence and skills by looking, thinking and speaking about art. Their aim is to provide a greater understanding and enjoyment of the culture of our age. Set in beautiful parkland, just outside Salisbury, there is simply no better place to go to on a beautiful crisp day in January!

As part of Arts Award Bronze Part B the students are required to explore the arts as an audience member. So off we went for the day, 15 Year 7 and 8 Arts Award students, Mrs Whittingham (Navigator) and me (Driver). The students were given a tour of some of the sculptures and lots of opportunities to ask questions and sketch. The Assistant Head of Education later emailed me to say...

“I really enjoyed meeting your students today and I hope they had a great visit. The ideas and connections they were coming up with were amazing!”

I agree - Yes they ARE amazing! I was totally bowled over with their responses to the works and the facts they remembered days later! We ALL had a fantastic time and learned so much!

Mrs Thompson, Mrs Whittingham & Arts Award Students



YEAR 5 NEWS

On behalf of the entire Year 5 Team, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of your child's learning. It is hard to believe that we have reached the half year milestone but we could not be more proud of our Year 5 children, growing in independence each day and never ceasing to amaze us with their talents, perseverance and zest for school life.

Viking Raiders...

This term, the children have thrown themselves into our topic of the Vikings and have relished the opportunities to debate their beliefs, battles and vicious reputation. The children's knowledge of the norsemen has been phenomenal and we have greatly appreciated all their efforts and your support with the homework linked to this. Our next piece of extended writing will be our non-chronological reports on the Vikings, which we hope will form part of our new display in the Year 5 area.

Sewage Works!

To link in with our geography topic of 'water' next half-term, Year 5 will be venturing out to the Holdenhurst Sewage Treatment works in Bournemouth at the end of March. Although we couldn't call it a glamorous outing, this is an extremely interesting and educational trip for the children and we are looking forward to enriching their learning through this visit. Please keep an eye out for information regarding the trip - adult support is always welcome.

Reading

Thank you for reading with your child regularly at home and recording it in their blue Reading Record. It is great to see how much the children are enjoying their reading and particularly as this has such an impact on their learning in school. If we can encourage them to read a range of genres, that would be hugely beneficial for the development of their comprehension skills. For example, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, recipes, or news articles from First News. May we also take this opportunity to thank parents who have offered to come in and hear readers. We will be in touch after half-term to arrange possible dates and times.

Clubs

Please keep encouraging the children to take part in extra-curricular clubs at school. They are a great way to learn new skills, meet new people or just have some fun and there are a range of sport, music, worship and creative activities available. Please see the website or notice boards for more details.

Thank you, once again, for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming parents' evenings. Before then, please do contact us should you have any queries or concerns regarding school. Our doors are always open.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Weir (Head of Year 5), Mrs Richardson, Mrs Prestage and Mr Brennan



YEAR 6 NEWS

Excellence, Endeavour, Enjoyment and Attitude to Learning

We have really hit the ground running on return to Year 6 after the Christmas holidays. A lot of our focus is on getting children ready and prepared to take their SATs in May this year. We had a really successful running of the Mock SATs week and were really impressed with the children's excellent methods of working, focus and concentration.

Their endeavour to do their best and set targets from any mistakes was amazing and lots of children really enjoyed seeing improvements and progress; as a Year 6 team and school, we are really proud of them.

When you are reading your child's report please note that achieving a 3 for A2L is expected in Year 6 and shows that a child is consistently meeting our school values. Achieving a 4 A2L shows that a child is consistently meeting our school values and therefore is exceeding in their academic target. Achieving a 1 or 2 for A2L shows that a child is not meeting our school values and therefore this is having a negative impact on their academic potential.

A huge well done to all children who have been receiving candle credit certificates; they are very well deserved and are consistently meeting our school values, which we are looking for on a day to day basis.

Equipment

Half term is a great time to freshen up those pencil cases so please could you support your child's return to school and make sure they have a blue handwriting pen and pencil to ensure they are ready for learning straight away. We of course have spares but we really would like to keep those for back-ups on the occasions that children forget. Some children rely on us providing equipment and I think being half way through Year 6 now, all children can be expected to bring their own resources and be responsible for them throughout the day.

Thank you very much for your continued support and communication.

Enjoy a restful half term.

Kind regards,

Miss Howe
(Head of Year 6)



KS3 NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

My colleagues and I can barely believe that we are now virtually half-way through the academic year. Personally, I'm starting to feel rather dwarfed by some of our pupils and have witnessed them developing into increasingly confident and assured young adults. Although they are still firmly grounded within the familiar confines of Emmanuel Middle School, I suspect that many of our Year 8 pupils now have one eye firmly fixed upon their chosen Upper School and are quietly readying themselves for a period of change and transition. Our Year 7 children are also maturing rapidly and have adapted well to the positive changes taking place around them.

Guys and Dolls at Queen Elizabeth School

I was thrilled that all of our Key Stage 3 pupils were given the opportunity to see the Guys & Dolls production at Queen Elizabeth School this year. In the past only our Year 8 pupils have been invited, so I jumped at the chance to organise an excursion for our Year 7 children too. I must admit that I did initially have some reservations about watching a 1955 musical for the best part of three hours, but my goodness, it was a phenomenal performance! Genuinely - memorable. I'd like to thank the PTFA for funding the transport to and from the venue, as well as all the children and staff at Queen Elizabeth School for staging such a terrific production. Here's Emily Harrison's (8TW) review: [EMILY'S REVIEW WILL BE EMAILED](#)

Year 8 Ambassadors

Again, I'd like to thank and praise our Year 8 Ambassadors for the fantastic contribution that they have made recently in providing tours of Emmanuel Middle School to prospective families, acting as guides during our open day / evening and supporting the staff on a daily basis.

Several new Ambassadors are about to take on responsibilities having met the individual targets assigned to them at the start of Year 8. I'd like therefore to congratulate: Julia Petrie, Gabriel Aldworth, Emily Harrison, Sophie Morrell, Cherry Driscoll, Benjamin Price, Nyla Khodair, Tyla King, Jacob O'Brien, Natalie Harper and Callum Bethell. I'm sure that they will do everyone proud, working hard to support the staff and promote the school's core values of 'excellence, endeavour and enjoyment'. Many of our Ambassadors are about to take on a further, important role. They will be listening to Year 5 pupils read (on a weekly basis). This additional support proved (last year) to be very successful in helping to improve our younger pupils' reading skills and was also very popular amongst the older children. A useful initiative!

Our Year 7 pupils, who may be considering becoming Ambassadors in year 8, will need to have a sustained attendance record of 95% + and an average attitude to learning score of at least 3.5 (or more) at the end of the current academic year. If they reach this initial threshold, potential candidates will then undergo a vetting process by the staff. This is a rigorous process yet something to aspire to...



KS3 NEWS cont

Year 8 Activity Week

Preparations for the Year 8 Activity Week are well under way. This year's itinerary includes:

- * Winchester Science Centre
- * Rock Reef Climbing Centre
- * Bournemouth Laser Quest
- * Leeson House Field Studies Centre in Swanage
- * Tower Park - Splash Down & Cineworld
- * Paulton's Family Theme Park

As usual there's a real buzz around Year 8 regarding the range of entertaining activities which we've managed to pack into the week & also the very competitive price that Mrs Childs has been able to negotiate for the children. I consider that, including all the transport costs involved, £110 per pupil really does represent great value for money. I really hope that (as has been the case for the previous two years) all of our Year 8 pupils are able to participate - making it a genuinely inclusive week for one & all.

The Parentmail payment website is now 'live'. Here you can log on and pay using a credit, or debit card (as well as Paypal). If you're unsure how to access it please contact the school office staff for guidance. You may choose to pay the balance, or prefer to pay in staggered instalments. In addition to paying via Parentmail, payment can be made at the school office using cash, or cheques made payable to 'Emmanuel Middle School'.

I'll be sending out a more detailed letter at the beginning of June, outlining the specifics of the week. Watch this space.

Upper School Admissions

Year 8 pupils will have their Upper School places published and confirmed on 1st March. Please note that EMS staff will have had no influence on the decision making process and are unable to intervene in any appeals made to either FUS, or QE on behalf of pupils. Queries need to be made directly to the Upper School. Once the admissions process has been completed and confirmed please keep a close eye on the Upper Schools' websites with regards to forthcoming transition information, parents' evenings etc. I will send out information at the start of the Summer Term, just to clarify key dates.

Homework

Homework is an intrinsic part of a child's studies during their time in Years 7 and 8. As the amount of homework a pupil is expected to do grows; it becomes increasingly important that parents work in partnership with their children to help them to organise and spread their workload effectively.

Unfortunately, I'm currently aware of far too many of our older students sitting in the school hall at lunchtime catching up with incomplete homework tasks - having failed to meet their deadlines. Chasing up missing homework 'eats up' staff time (which is better spent on teaching & learning) and can generate a negative spiral for the pupil. Above all - it's frustrating.



KS3 NEWS cont

With the above in mind, at this point in the year then, it might well be worth visiting Emmanuel's website. Have a look at the 'parents' section & follow the link to the school's homework policy. There you'll find a copy of the envisaged homework timetable, as well as an outline of responsibilities. The advice given to parents is to:

1. Ensure diary is in school every day
2. Encourage the completion of homework by the deadline
3. Sign the homework diary
4. Seek support from the subject teacher where necessary.

The school provides a lunchtime homework club on a Tuesday. Pupils can come here to seek advice on the completion of tasks. My experience is that class teachers and tutors will always support & encourage independent learners with their homework, so long as they're not presented with last minute pleas...

School Uniform

Once again, having reached the mid-point of an academic year, I feel it's worth drawing your attention to the uniform section of the school website. There are a couple of main issues.

Shoes

Firstly, I've noticed a surprising number of pupils are frequently wearing trainers to school (I'm aware that for a few of them this is for medical reasons). Please note that flat, black shoes are the acceptable option - not black trainers. I'd urge everyone to respect this, as it's surprisingly easy to erode existing high standards of uniform, by knowingly sending a child to school in trainers.

Girls' Skirt Length

Again, without running the risk of sounding overly puritanical, or Victorian, I'd like to reinforce the point that girls' skirts should be 'just above, or below the knee'. This is a matter of common sense and not one of 'interpretation'. Years 7 and 8 do see the children undergoing rapid growth spurts, so it's quite possible that a half-term shopping spree is in order.

And Finally

Last year was, as you know, a period of rapid change, improvement and transition for Emmanuel. It has been gratifying to see our older pupils showing a genuine willingness to embrace new procedures and routines. Key Stage 3 is now reaping the rewards of the improvements that were instigated last year and have now become embedded within the cultural fabric of the school. I hope that all of our Year 7 and 8 pupils will have a successful and rewarding second half of the school year.

Best regards,

Mark Rangdale (Key Stage 3 Lead)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term

Break up for half term	Friday 15th February 2019
Return after half term	Monday 25th February 2019
PTFA School Disco	Friday 1st March 2019
PTFA Stationery Shop	Thursday 7th March 2019
School Reports Home	Friday 8th March 2019
Year 8 Chelsea's Story	Monday 11th March 2019
Year 7 French Residential	Mon 11th - Friday 15th March 2019
Red Nose Day	Friday 15th March 2019
PTFA Recycling Collection	Friday 15th March 2019
Emmanuel's Got Talent Final	Wednesday 20th March 2019 (7pm)
Parents Evening	Wednesday 27th March 2019
Parents Evening	Tuesday 2nd April 2019
Break up for Easter	Thursday 4th April 2019
Staff Training Day (school closed)	Friday 5th April 2019

Summer Term

Return after Easter holiday	Tuesday 23rd April 2019
PTFA School Disco	Friday 26th April 2019
May Day	Monday 6th May 2019
Year 6 SATS	w/c Monday 13th May 2019
Break up for half term	Friday 24th May 2019
Return after half term	Monday 3rd June 2019
Tutor Group Photographs	Thursday 6th June 2019
Sports Day	Thursday 13th June 2019
Year 8 Activity Week	Mon 24th - Fri 27th June 2019
Year 6 IOW Residential	Monday 1st - Friday 5th July 2019
PTFA Summer Fayre	Friday 12th July 2019
Break up for Summer	Tuesday 23rd July 2019



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noon for 2 weeks**

