

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon - welcome to the first weekly bulletin of Autumn 2. I hope everyone had a good half term break and the chance to enjoy some of the great weather which now feels like a distant memory!

On Monday our staff took part in the third of our INSET days in collaboration with our Trust schools. The morning was spent in middle school subject teams using the shared expertise to further hone our curriculum and plan for common misconceptions in the upcoming sequence of lessons. In the afternoon, all Trust first and middle school teachers and TAs took part in training relating to SEND provision.

On Tuesday, it was great to welcome pupils back to school and they were immediately immersed in our online safety day. It is so important that our children understand both the benefits and risks involved in being online. Pupils completed age appropriate lessons focusing on staying safe online and ensuring they understand the risks involved in sharing information and images. It is really important as parents that you actively participate in monitoring your child's phone usage. Surveys suggest that more than half of parents feel that they are aware of what their children are doing online but 70% of teens say their parents don't know what they are doing.

Yesterday, Treehouse Theatre came to EMS, and helped take the Year 6 children back to the Viking Era! With the talented Ben leading the way, he managed to transfix the pupils from minute one, and by the end of the day had every single child helping to produce an inspiring performance that took us through 300 years of British history.

It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all involved. A special thank you as well to all of the hard work that obviously went into creating and providing costumes, they looked amazing! Thanks also to our PTFA who paid for this event.



Looking ahead to next week, we have the first set of mock SATs for our year 6 pupils. These mocks are low stakes assessments designed to ensure the children are familiar with the format and conventions of formal testing and also provide teachers with invaluable feedback about which previously taught subject areas need further input and where additional support may be required. The tests will be taking place in their English and Maths lessons.

Thank you to everyone who sent in shoeboxes for the Rotary Club's Shoebox Appeal. The boxes were collected this morning and will go to disadvantaged and displaced children.

Next week also sees our parent information evenings for the Year 7 residential (5.30pm on Monday) and Year 5 residential (5.30 on Wednesday) - we look forward to welcoming parents of those year groups in the coming days.

We've experienced plenty of rainfall this week, it would be great to see all pupils in coats to protect them when arriving and leaving school. It's great to see so many pupils involved in extra-curricular clubs at school. Just a reminder that outside after school clubs now finish at 4.15pm.

That leaves me only to wish you a great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday morning.

Mr R Christopher & Mr A Barker

