

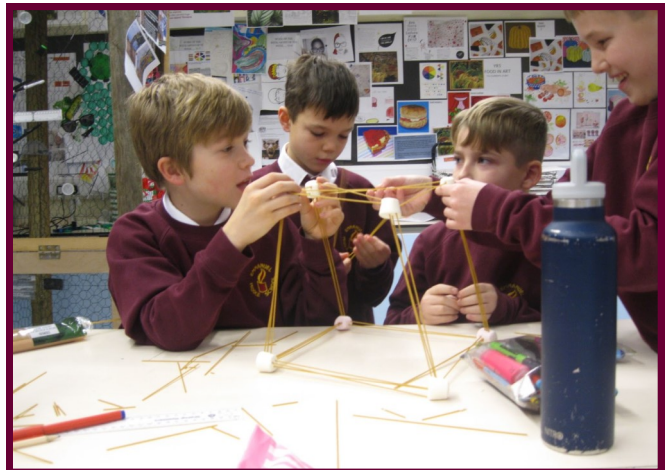
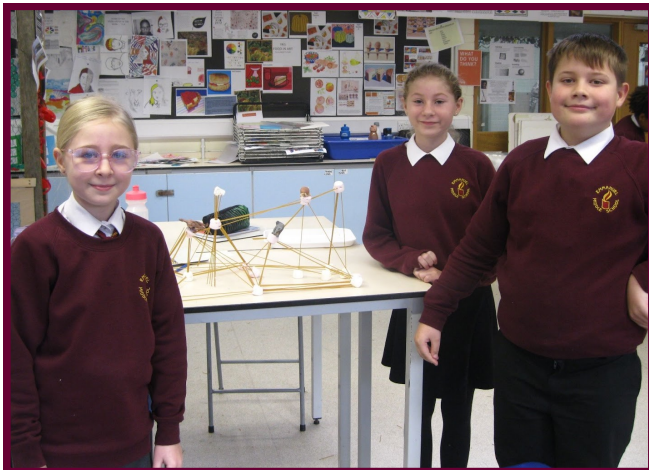
Good afternoon and welcome to the penultimate weekly bulletin of the Autumn term. I must start by congratulating our pupils for their hard work and commitment to their homework. This week, Hegarty Maths have released their engagement figures for the country and the Emmanuel pupils have again performed brilliantly compared to their peers nationally. From over 1000 schools EMS is in the top 4% for the accuracy of work completed and in the top 3% for hours of work completed per student. Some pupils in Year 8 may have returned home saying they trialled a new Maths homework platform this week called Sparx - which has joined forces with Hegarty. More information will follow from Mr Brennan - Head of Mathematics.

With the weeks of rain being replaced by cold, crisp, blue skies and sunshine this week it was perfect timing for our pre Christmas events. Today was our annual Christmas jumper day - to supplement the decorating of classrooms and Secret Santas which have been happening across the school.

To continue our Christmas celebrations we are holding our carol service at 19.00 on Tuesday 13th December at St Michael and All Angels Church in Verwood. There will be a service for all KS2 children in the morning and all KS3 children in the afternoon. We are unable to invite parents to these services but warmly invite you all to the evening service at 19.00. No tickets are required and seating is available on a first come, first served basis. There will be refreshments served afterwards by our PTFA.

Next Wednesday is our Christmas lunch and with over 280 pupils having pre-ordered their lunch it is going to be a very busy service which is required to start earlier than usual. The pre-order for Christmas lunch is now closed so we are unable to take any further orders. Please note that there is no other lunch provision on this day.

On Monday we welcomed design and engineering company Arcadis into school to work with Year 6 on a STEM activity. As a company who has been involved in many high profile construction projects in the UK our pupils benefitted from the knowledge and experience of the civil engineer and project managers who visited. The learning focussed on how to build stable structures and will be followed by a collaboration with KS3 later in the year.



On Monday we had a successful Dr Bike event which was run by Sustrans. Many students decided to brave the cold and get their bikes out in return for a free bike safety check and a morning breakfast snack, fruit and drink. Thanks to all the pupils who took part in this event. I know many were very happy with their new and improved bikes at the end of the day! Today we have reminded pupils about road safety and responsible travel. If your child rides or scoots to school please remind them to be safe and remember to look before crossing roads and be courteous to other road and pavement users.

On Tuesday we had the pleasure of Crane Valley Golf coach Darrel Ranson coming into the school to put on some exciting golf sessions for our students in the sports hall. This included a mixture of putting, chipping and accuracy challenges for pupils to try. We know everyone that attended had a great time and had a chance to try a new sport many have not experienced before. For more details about getting into golf please contact Darrel at Crane Valley or Mr Osborne at school. We would love to set up a golf team at EMS and enhance our link with Crane Valley golf club.

The Gardening Club is a group that has been meeting weekly this term. They meet with the aim of rejuvenating and revamping the courtyards at school throughout the year. The group were lucky enough to visit the amazing Knoll Gardens, where they had a fantastic time and were really inspired with so many ideas to use in their designs back at school. They have also been planting bulbs and got 'hands on' making seasonal wreaths using foliage.



It has been very Christmassy in Food Tech this week! Gingerbreads, drizzled icing, sprinkles, shortcrust pastry mince pies, jam tarts, icing, more sprinkles, fruit cakes with melted jam, marzipan, fondant icing, a galaxy of sprinkle decorations and shortbread cookies with added sugar toppings have graced the worktops in the food room! To enable pupils who forget to bring containers home to protect their hard work, please can we ask for any borrowed containers to be returned as our emergency pile is completely depleted. We will be holding an amnesty in the new year for any to be returned.



Our EMS Ukulele club - who have been practising so hard over the last few weeks - finally got their chance to shine yesterday and spread some Christmas cheer! They surprised the students and teachers at lunchtime with a 'flash mob' around the school and in the playgrounds. Their fun and familiar Christmas medley had everyone singing along and left us all with a lovely Christmassy feeling.

Please support communications by continuing to use your child's planner to communicate with tutors or teachers - especially for one-way communication such as being excused from PE for injury or illness.

With the end of term next week, now is a good time to remind you of the arrangements. The last day for children will be Thursday 15th December with school finishing at the usual time of 15.20. School then reopens to children on Wednesday 4th January.

We wish you all a great weekend,

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker