

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and happy new year. I hope you had a great Christmas and enjoyed the festivities of the season. It was wonderful to welcome the children back on Wednesday morning and see them catch up about the holidays. It was also impressive to see how focussed they were as morning registration and then lesson 1 started.

On Tuesday, our INSET day at QE school focussed on pupil mental health and behaviour. This was a very important day, in collaboration with all WAT schools where the changes in the human brain which occur in middle school years were explored and the way in which strong relationships, meaningful reward / recognition of effort combined with consistent application of expectation enables pupils to thrive. Following this, we established clear roles pupils, staff, senior staff and parents have in three key areas: 1) readiness to learn, 2) respectful relationships and 3) engagement. This new, local policy can be found on the school website: EMS Pupil Behaviour Guidance in the policies and documents section.

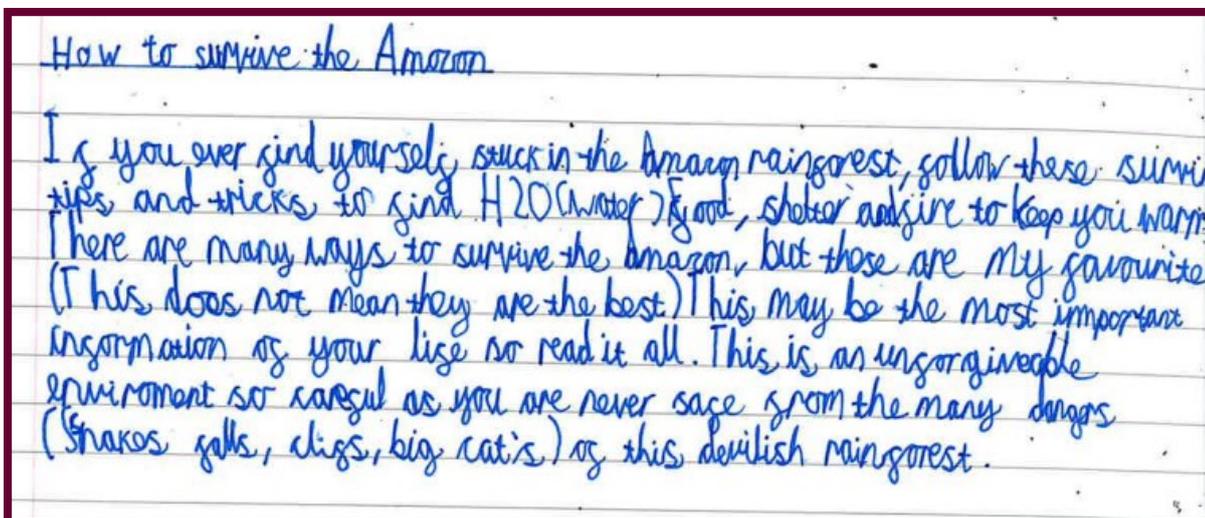
A reminder to Year 6 parents that next Tuesday 10th January is our information evening about off-site trips and the SATs that the children will sit in May. You have already received a ParentMail about this and Mr Humphries and his team look forward to sharing this important information with you in the school hall at 17.30 on Tuesday.

Today, our Year 7 & 8 pupils watched a presentation of how to access the Sparx Maths platform. During the Spring and Summer term, children in these two year groups will make the transition from Hegarty Maths to Sparx, where they are combining the best of both, using expertise from Hegarty Maths and Sparx to improve learning outcomes. The transition starts today with this week's homework being set on Sparx. To ensure any initial access issues are overcome please ensure homework is attempted in good time. This is a really exciting change and we are looking to build on the huge success that Emmanuel Middle School had previously with using Hegarty. **Please note, children in Year 5 & 6 will continue to use Hegarty for their homework.**

A look ahead to next Friday 13th where Year 7 have their 'Time in a Bottle' workshop. This has become an annual event where we welcome Paul Stevens in to perform a play which has a focus on the risks of alcohol. There will also be a workshop and lesson to support the play. We will be sharing information about the law as well the effects of alcohol on a young person's developing body. Please talk about this at home. Statistics show that the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions in the under 18s is higher than the national average for both BCP and Dorset. Thanks to our PTFA who have paid for this enrichment activity.

In Year 5 English this week, the children have been working hard to finish their explanation texts and finish reading The Explorer before starting a new English text next week - The Magician's Nephew! Well done to those who took an AR quiz over the holidays. Year 5 pupils are able to check out a new book or renew their book every Monday, Year 6 on Tuesdays, Year 7 on Thursdays and Year 8 on Friday - the library is open to all year groups on a Wednesday.

Here is one of the introductions to the explanation of how to survive in the Amazon.



At the end of last term Mrs Christopher announced the winners of the Art club challenge which was to design a Cubist Christmas card. Congratulations to the following winners:

Year 5 - Callisie H and Teddy P

Year 6 - Ellie G

Year 7 - Layla G

Year 8 - Chloe J

As you can see from the compilation of their work below the standard was superb. Well done to everyone who took part.



It just leaves us to wish you all a happy and successful 2023 and hope you have a great weekend.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker