

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to our latest weekly bulletin at the end of our first full week of 2023. The pupils have had a great week, settling back fully into all their routines and coping well with the unsettled weather and dodging the showers at breaktime!



Last term the Junior Duke offer here was launched and the take up has been fantastic. On Monday, Mr Christopher met with all 80 pupils to outline how each year group's participants will meet regularly to review their progress through their challenges. Meeting dates are placed on each year group notice board and on the Junior Duke notice board. On Thursday the KS2 participants took part in a first aid training day and this will be repeated for KS3 next Friday. A few highlights included the choke vest and listening to a chorus of clicks whilst Anne was being resuscitated!

Last Friday I wrote to you to say that in KS3 we were launching Sparx Maths as a replacement for Hegarty homework. The first week has been a real success with the vast majority of pupils accessing the new platform without technical issues. One of the benefits of Sparx is that parents can be notified if their children's homework is not completed in advance of hand in date to ensure support can be given and homework completed. Details of how this function will be set up will be shared shortly.

Our inter-house competitions re-launched this week with high levels of participation. Each class has the opportunity to spend a lunchtime in the sports hall completing a wide range of sports activities accumulating points with each repetition they complete. The higher the participation of the tutor group and their accuracy the more success.

On Tuesday we welcomed the parents of Year 6 children to share information about the 2023 SATs tests and also our activity days in the Summer term. Thank you to so many of you for attending - please see our school website (<https://www.emmanuel.dorset.sch.uk/page/?title=SATS&pid=31>) to review the information shared - and to complete some of the past test questions discussed on the evening! Thank you to all of you who have indicated you are able to help with administering the tests by being a reader in our mocks at the end of January and/or in May's tests. If you are able to help and have not yet registered this, please contact the school office by 24th January as we are holding a meeting on 25th January at 8.30am for volunteers.

Today, we welcomed Paul Stevens to perform the 'Time in a Bottle' workshop for our Year 7. This has become an annual event where we welcome Paul in to perform a play which has a focus on the risks of alcohol. Please talk about the content of the session at home.



Preparations for our show 'The Lion King' are powering ahead. Next week's Lion King rehearsal has been cancelled due to our Choir taking part in the Young Voices Concert at the O2 in London. Rehearsals will recommence from Wednesday the 25th January when they will finish at 5.00pm.

All that remains is for us to wish you all a great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher & Mr Alister Barker