

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's parent bulletin.

You will be aware of the success of the Epraise shop to reward the endeavours of our pupils and the significant financial commitment from the PTFA. The school ethos is fundamentally about catching children doing the things we ask them to do. Feedback from pupils and staff back this and visitors often remark about the atmosphere in school.

Pupils will make mistakes from time to time and this is addressed through a warning system that typically does not escalate past a C2. However, I have taken the decision, from 1st May, to make C2 a bigger deterrent as there has been an increase in the frequency of pupils regularly attending a 25 minute lunch detention. Across a calendar month pupils can accrue three lunchtime detentions for a C2. Thereafter, the 4th C2 onwards will require the pupil to attend an after school detention that will finish at 4.30pm. Staff will call home to arrange which evening, within a 48 hour window, pupils will stay for this detention. All pupils deserve a disruption free learning environment and low level behaviours can be the most disruptive for our pupils. As a parent, you are able to track lunchtime detentions, in fact you can track all candle credits etc, on Epraise and encourage your child to avoid being kept after school. This can make things particularly difficult if you have an after school or evening engagement or other children to collect etc.

The Trust, working with Headteachers, have made an addendum to the Trust level Behaviour Policy which focuses mainly on the law. We have the facility to scan children who may have made an error in judgement by bringing a vape into school. This is a national issue and is frequently in the news. In more extreme circumstances this has resulted in toilets being closed and children being restricted in accessing toilets. We do not have any restrictions in place but have dealt with vapes being brought into school and, in some cases, being used. This has been dealt with under our school level behaviour policy. We have purchased a 'wand' to screen pupils which is not invasive and does not require contact. This will be conducted exclusively by myself and Mrs Robertson, depending on gender, in our roles as DSLs. In time we will also train Year Leaders and the Senior Team. I must emphasise this is in place to act as a deterrent rather than become a normal, regular routine and will be used only where we have significant reason to believe a child is either carrying a vape or has been vaping.

For further information about these two areas please visit our website where the policies are available to read. Thank you for your support in making every effort for all pupils to fulfil their potential.

## **Year 5 Heatree trip**

Year 5 are so excited to go to Heatree next week! Just a few reminders before coming to school on Tuesday:

1. Don't forget your packed lunch and **named** water bottle
2. Be dressed in your activity clothes and appropriate shoes
3. **NO** mobile phones

## **SATs**

We are fast approaching the end of KS2 tests and our Year 6 pupils have been working so hard to be ready for their SATs. Thank you for all the work families are doing to support their children, looking through revision books and practice papers that children have completed at home. Our message is consistent, the SATs are not life changing tests for the pupils, however they do influence upper school setting and GCSE expectations therefore we want all pupils to fulfil their potential.

The Year 6 team work exceptionally hard to ensure the SATs week itself is as enjoyable as possible with a breakfast gathering each morning and additional down time between tests. It is however very important that pupils attend school all week unless they are too ill to complete the tests. Any missed tests will be caught up before they have contact with peers and as such this could impact a child's involvement in the planned activity week. If you have any concerns about your child being able to attend please contact the school at the earliest opportunity so any reasonable adjustments can be made.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with the administration of the tests - if anyone else feels they could help in the mornings of 9th - 12th May please can they contact Mr Humphries through the school office.

## Year 6 Boys' Football

Dorset County Cup semi Final: Emmanuel Middle School 4 Christchurch Junior School 3

The year 6 football team won their semi-final against Christchurch Junior School last Friday afternoon and will represent the school in the final of the Dorset County Cup on Friday 12th May at the County Ground, Hamworthy for a 3pm kick off. The semi-final was a tough and tense match played between two highly competitive teams. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the whole squad, the support from all the parents which was hugely appreciated, in addition to the fantastic new kit that Verwood Town FC have provided for the school.



## KS3 girls' trip to watch Team Bath Netball - Friday 21st April

Last Friday evening, Mrs Stocks and Mrs Poole took a group of Year 7 and 8 pupils to Bath University to watch Team Bath play a netball match against the Celtic Dragons. This was a fantastic opportunity for the girls and they all thoroughly enjoyed it, especially as Team Bath won by 4 goals! Both Mrs Stocks and Mrs Poole are hoping to make this an annual event from now on as it was a great success!



## KS2 Girls' football final details

As previously shared, our KS2 girls' football have reached their cup final which will be a three way shoot out with Bayside Academy and the winners of Blandford St Mary's and Christchurch Juniors. The details are as follows for those wanting to attend:

**Date:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Venue:** County Ground, Dorset FA, BH15 4BF

**Timings:** Shield Final - 12 - 1pm (please arrive by 11.45am)

## Climbing wall rewards session

On Tuesday this week we had a Climbing Wall at EMS which was offered as an Epraise reward. All pupils that purchased this had a 50 minute session - there were four different walls to try of various difficulty - most tried all of them! Big shout out to Abi Bolton - Year 5 who bought this reward to conquer her fear of heights - she said it worked! Also well done to Maisie Wyatt Y7 who had the fastest time for climbing the red wall - we had a mini competition! Massive thank you to Mrs Rham & South Coast Adventures for letting us have the use of the Climbing Wall for the whole day.



## Lost property

There is now a table displaying lost property in the area near the science block. This should make it easier for students to spot lost items, so please encourage your child to have a look. Some items are possibly from the Lion King rehearsals, so if your child was involved please ask them to check.

## Volunteers

Do you have a couple of hours to spare during the week before lunch on a Monday to Thursday? Would you be interested in helping out in our Design Technology lessons (Resistant Materials/Food Technology/Textiles)? We are especially looking for help on a Tuesday between 11.00am and 1.00pm and Thursday between 9.00am and 11.00am, but any offer would be greatly received. Please contact the school office if you are able to help. Many thanks.

We hope you all have a great extended weekend and enjoy the bank holiday on Monday. A reminder that we are closed due to industrial action on Tuesday 2nd May to all other than pupils who have a place. We look forward to welcoming the whole school back on Wednesday 3rd May.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker

We raised £146.65 from the cake sale today - thank you so much for your support.