

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to the first weekly bulletin of the school year. The first day of the new school year is always so uplifting - seeing the children return, welcoming new families to our setting, hearing about the wonderful adventures of the Summer holiday and seeing friends catching up.

This is of particular importance to those who had their first day at Emmanuel on Tuesday and we are so proud of how well the pupils have settled in - most routines are already embedded and the pupils are working really hard.

For the teachers, the term started last Friday with our two INSET days. We pride ourselves on the evidence-informed approach we employ to keep teachers current and ever developing and base our teaching and learning around the Rosenshine principles of instruction. To support this we were so lucky to have guest speaker and internationally renowned cognitive scientist Efrat Furst to talk to the whole of Initio Learning Trust. This built on the training she completed with us last year looking at how children take on and retain information in the most effective ways. Our curriculum is built on these principles and they guide us to introduce learning in well sequenced and small steps and to use regular recap (retrieval) to ensure pupils are ready for the next steps when they are taught them.

At Emmanuel, we understand that being able to fluently read and comprehend, coupled with a love for reading are integral to pupils' success across the curriculum and in adult life. As such we also spent INSET time reviewing the ILT Reading Strategy and understanding the role of teachers of all subjects in supporting children with this vital skill.

The start of year INSET always includes safeguarding training and this year was no different. Updates and reviews of national common safeguarding themes were explored before culminating in a hotly contested Kahoot quiz!

I appreciate that over the next couple of weeks you will be in receipt of significant amounts of new information from us so I will keep this bulletin short and wish you all a wonderful weekend in the sun. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker