

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

## No Put Down Week 13th-17th November 2023

The first job of our new school council was to launch our "No Put Down" week on Monday 13th November. We were all so excited about this special week, which has been part of the school calendar for many years. As you will probably know from the news, it is also Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme of MAKE A NOISE ABOUT BULLYING. As curriculum lessons already cover strategies to deal with bullying behaviours, we choose to focus on the positives of relationships and how acts of kindness can impact everyone around us instead.

Throughout the week, we have been encouraging the use of positive language towards each other as well as sending secret messages on compliment slips. Random acts of kindness will also sporadically happen!



One act of kindness took place today with pupils delivering hot drinks and biscuits (that were made by the pupils) to staff at breaktime.

As part of No Put Down Week, we would love to invite you to play a part by writing a positive comment on your child's Big-UP-Bingo card and also to send in any compliments by email to school, which the staff can share.

**On Tuesday 21st November, KS3 pupils will be trained by the Dorset Mental Health Team on Kooth- an online mental health community where young people can access support. if you would like to find out more- visit the website: <https://www.kooth.com/>**

## Year 6 SATs Information Evening

On Monday 27th November we are hosting the Year 6 SATs information evening at school from 5.30pm-6.30pm. This is a good opportunity to find out about the upcoming national tests and how to help your child to prepare for them at home.

In addition, the running of our tests requires a large number of adults so if anyone is able to volunteer for any or all of the following dates to please contact the office:

22nd to 25th Jan 9am-1pm (Mock SATS)

13th to 16th May - 9am - 1pm (SATS)

## Online Safety Day

All pupils will be taking part in a online safety day on the morning of Tuesday 21st November. They will be working in tutor groups during lessons 1 to 4.

## BBC 500 Words

Last week Year 6 sent their entries for the 500 Words competition to the BBC. We are waiting to see if any children have won their height in books with a trip to Buckingham Palace. Their efforts have been fantastic with the quality of writing exceptional. Good luck to them all.



## Year 5/Year 8 Buddy Programme Update

Following their initial 'Ice-Breaker' Buddying Session, the Year 5 and Year 8 pupils have this week continued to develop their supportive friendships. The Buddying sessions play an important role in a middle school as they familiarise our younger pupils with their somewhat daunting, older counterparts.

Wednesday saw our first 'Show and Tell Buddy Session'. The Year 8 pupils brought in a range of interesting and personal items to show their younger buddies. These ranged from a radio controlled model tank to a pair of boxing gloves. The Year 8 children were asked to explain their items' significance and 'back-story' to their buddies and this proved to be a great success.

It was gratifying to see just how maturely our Year 8 pupils took to this task & to see them taking turns - demonstrating and explaining their objects to their recently acquired buddies.

In the evening several emails were exchanged between delighted staff who were supervising the buddying. Mr Rangdale singled out Stanley Zebedee for particular praise saying that *'I was really impressed with Stanley's amusing explanation - describing the backstory of his toy, wooden Katana sword and also by the care he showed for his Year 5 buddies'*.

Building on the success of this week's session, the Year 5 pupils will reciprocate with their own 'Show and Tell' session next week.

## PTFA Christmas Fair

Just a reminder that the PTFA Christmas Fair is taking place next Friday 24th November. Pupils are asked to bring in a House colour Tombola item on Monday 20th November and then on Friday, if possible, cakes to be sold on the cake stall at the Fair. Please also remember that secret present vouchers can be purchased via ParentMail. For further information please see the PTFA Christmas Fair Information sheet that was sent out via ParentMail on 8th November. Thank you for your support.

## Shoe box appeal

We are pleased to announce that The Rotary Club have had another successful Shoebox Appeal this year. The Wessex Area has collected over 18,000 boxes that will soon be heading to Eastern Europe - the contribution from EMS was significant. The gifts will make a huge difference to those children who might otherwise have very little to celebrate this Christmas. Thank you very much to all the families who supported this worthy cause.

## Colour Run Feedback

Thank you for your responses, over 50% return which is very much appreciated. The colour run was a resounding success, everyone enjoyed it and it is likely we will make it a bi-annual event. Being held in school time it allowed everyone to participate. Whilst awarding candle credits was supported (63%) there were some very good alternative suggestions. Thank you to everyone who offered an alternative. I will share with the PTFA other suggestions around promoting participation and other activities we could organise.

## Year 5 Netball

This week it was the turn of our year 5s to take part in a mini netball tournament at St. Michael's Middle School. This was the first tournament many of them had experienced, but they all did really well and had great fun in the process!



## Year 7 and 8 Netball

The year 7 and 8 netball teams played a match against Allenbourn on Thursday. They all played extremely well and the games were very close especially the year 8 game. We were winning both matches at half time, but the final scores were 13-4 to our year 7, but unfortunately year 8 lost 12-9. An amazing effort from all of the girls. Well done!



## Children in Need

Thank you for all support today in raising funds for Children in Need. We have raised £388.33.

## Year 5 Art

Year 5 have been working wonders with watercolour paint this week. Creating compositions, in the style of American Pop Artist Wayne Thiebaud, of cake shop windows.



I would like to end with a reflection on our wonderful pupil community we have here at EMS. It has been so uplifting to see how wholly the children have embraced 'No put down' week and the extent to which they have gone to give their friends and peers a boost. The impact this has on our school and everyone's sense of belonging is significant and they can all be very proud of themselves. I wish everyone a great weekend.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker