**Headteacher Update**

**Friday 4th October 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We can hardly believe we’re in October already, but the weather has definitely taken an autumnal turn. Thankfully we have had a sunny end to the week and children have been able to enjoy playtimes outside. Please can we ask that all children bring a coat/ jacket to school as we do try to get them out for fresh air even on wet days, as long as the rain isn’t too heavy.

**Our friends at Emmanuel**

We love welcoming Pastor Dave, from Emmanuel Church, to lead our assemblies each half term. This week he talked to the children about the importance of the choices we make, which is our focus for this term. He reminded children of the small decisions we make every day that can have a big impact on how we make others feel and how we feel about ourselves. We enjoyed a good sing song at the end too. Thank you, Pastor Dave!

During our assembly the children watched a wonderful video from Explorers Club, which runs every Monday evening and is open to children of all ages. This is a really lovely club for our community and many of our children regularly attend and enjoy it. Why not try it out?

We all know how hard it can be to keep children entertained during the holidays, especially in the autumn months when the weather isn’t always ideal for getting them outside. This half term Emmanuel will be running a daily club with lots of exciting activities for children to take part in. Children need to be booked in for the sessions, so be sure to sign up to secure places.

Dave has also asked us to remind parents about the fab Lego club which takes place on the first Saturday of every month at Emmanuel Church.

Please see the attached flyers – to book a place on the half term sessions simply click on the link on the PDF.

**‘The more you that you read, the more things you will know… ‘**

It is always great to see our star readers being celebrated on our Facebook page at the start of the week. While numbers are edging up, there is still a significant number of children who do not read at home. We cannot emphasise enough the positive impact a little extra practice has on children’s learning in school – it makes a huge difference!

We ask that children read at home a minimum of three times a week and diaries must be signed by the adult who has heard them read; this ensures children receive recognition and rewards linked to our ‘Read for the Stars’ initiative. Children in years 5 and 6 may read quietly to themselves, but they still need their diaries to be signed by an adult.

**Drop Off**

Following last week’s update, we would like to thank those year 1 parents who have followed our guidance and left children at the gate so they can walk to their classroom independently.

**Harvest Assembly**

A quick reminder that our junior children (years 3 – 6) will be taking part in a Harvest Festival at Emmanuel Church on Monday 7th October. We would like all children to bring one item to be donated to the food bank as part of the celebration. Children do not need to bring more than one item, as they will have to carry this to the church. Thank you.

**Parents’ Evenings**

This week parents will have received information to book in for parents’ evening appointments. This first meeting is to discuss progress so far, but to also chat about how your child has settled into their new class. It’s an opportunity for you to meet the class teacher and raise any questions you may have about the new year group.

Please note that, due to staff training, years 1 and 4 are holding one of their parents’ evenings on a different night – Thursday 24th October.

**Sponsored Bounce**

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to parents, extended family and friends who sponsored children for our bounce event. We raised total of £2600, which is AMAZING! As we said previously, our brilliant PTA are working hard to raise money to replace the large, fixed play equipment on both playgrounds. What a great start!

**‘Tis the season… for coughs and colds!**

We have arrived at the time of year when coughs and colds are in abundance. Most of the staff are parents ourselves, so we understand what it’s like to have children who are under the weather, and how tempting it is to keep them off school ‘just in case’. But more often than not, when they are given the chance to ‘see how they go’ children bounce back once in school with their friends. Unless children have a temperature and are poorly, they can be in school with colds, coughs and sniffles. We promise to look after them and send them home if we think they aren’t well enough to be in.

To try to keep the germs at bay we have refilled all the automatic hand sanitisers in school, and staff will be regularly asking children to use these throughout the day.

**Attendance**

Autumn bugs have impacted on attendance this week and attendance in most classes has been low. Congratulations to our year 4 class, who have won our class competition this week with 96% - well done!! They won a sweet treat which they have received this afternoon.

Reception: 90%

Year 1: 92%

Year 2: 92%

Year 3: 93%

Year 4: 96%

Year 5: 92%

Year 6: 88%

*Whole school attendance is 94.3%.*

Let’s hope this lovely sunshine stays with us for the weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Harrison and Mrs L Guy

**Dates for your diary:**

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| **Date** | **Event** | **Time** | **Classes involved** |
| Monday 7th October | Harvest Festival | 1.30pm | Years 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| Tuesday 15th October | Parents’ Evening | 3.30pm – 6pm | All years |
| Thursday 17th October | Parents’ Evening | 3.30pm – 6pm | Reception and Years 2.3.5.6 |
| Thursday 24th October | Parents’ Evening | 3.30pm - 6pm | Years 1 and 4 |
| Friday 25th October | Break up for half term | 3.15pm | All years |
| Tuesday 5th November | PTA Fireworks Night | 5pm – 7pm | Community |