

# Community Spotlight

As you know, we have an active community and partnership programme that involves pupils, staff, parents and the wider community. We plan to share highlights of our activities with you each half-term and let you know how you can get involved.

A snapshot of Emanuel's community and outreach activities

April 2022

## Making a Splash

**Park House School**, run by BeyondAutism, is a special school for children aged 4-11 years with autism. It is right around the corner from Emanuel School on Battersea Rise. We are delighted to share that their pupils have started swimming with us this term as part of our partner school swimming programme and are really enjoying the experience.

Some of the successes are that pupils have managed to overcome challenges around getting in to and out of the water. We are thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to their learners.

In the Summer term, in addition to Park House, four other local partner schools will have weekly swimming lesson in our pool,

## The Power of a Book

One in four disadvantaged children across the UK has fewer than ten books of their own at home, and one in eight has none. We held a hugely successful book drive prior to Christmas to help, even if in a small way, to address this issue. **We collected over 3000 books** that were distributed to our local partner schools via our charity partner, The Children's Book Project. They are a wonderful charity based nearby on Lots Road. [Click here](#) to find out more, including DofE volunteering opportunities. Emanuel School is officially a book collection hub for our local area.

**We will be holding a summer book drive on the 27th, 28th and 29th April** so, if you are planning some spring cleaning, please hold on to your new or nearly new books for our primary school partners. They are keen to have them!

## Tech & Tea

Organised by Bobbie, our Community Partnership and Outreach Prefect, **we recently hosted the first of two Tech & Tea events**. The aim of the 'Tech and Tea' is for our pupils to help the elderly in our community to use their phones and laptops effectively by showing them how to download apps, increase the font size on their phones and finding and share photos with friends and family.

Our first event was a great success – 10 Emanuel pupils from Year 7 through to Upper Sixth helped solve tech issues and chatted to elderly residents at Signature Wandsworth, a care home 5 minutes from school. We can't wait for the next event in April here at Emanuel!



## Supporting Ukrainian refugees

We successfully collected, sorted and donated **160 bags of much-needed medical, hygiene and sanitary supplies** via the White Eagle Polish Club in Balham to Ukrainian refugees that have fled to Poland. We collected on Thursday and Friday and our donations were at the Polish border by Saturday evening. We have more to donate and will organise an additional drive shortly.

Led by our Charity and Community Partnership and Outreach Prefects, and supported by the EPA, **we have set up an appeal for the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal**. Please see the link to the appeal [here](#) if you are keen to donate.

We have reached out to local government, local and overseas agencies, connected parents and friends to explore ways that we can meaningfully help the refugees as they arrive in the UK as well as in Poland. We will share these with you as soon as we are able.

## Opportunities to get involved – Volunteering and Charity Work

### Join our volunteer reading programme

ongoing

If you have a spare hour each week, and enjoy reading with young children, we would love to hear from you. ES parent volunteers read at our local partner primary schools weekly during term time – it is incredibly rewarding for our volunteers and impactful for the children involved.

### Support our community and charity work

ongoing

Emanuel School partners with a number of organisations and charities in the local community. We help pupils find placements for volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh awards or simply to broaden their horizons. Our partners often have opportunities for parents, OEs and friends too. If you are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you.

### Volunteer at our book drive sorting session

3rd May

Join us to unpack, sort and deliver books for our partner schools donated the previous week. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and support our community partners.

### Facilitate Life Ed Workshops

5th July

On Tuesday 5th July during Field Week, we are planning to run workshops themed on 'Life Skills', for Year 10 pupils. Each workshop is 75 minutes (or 2.5 hours if needed) and will have approximately 10 pupils, depending on the uptake. If you have a skill you would like to and be willing to share, please get in touch.

For more information on our community partnership and outreach activities, please contact Mrs Irwin, Head of of Community Partnerships and Outreach at [Lisa.irwin@Emanuel.org.uk](mailto:Lisa.irwin@Emanuel.org.uk)