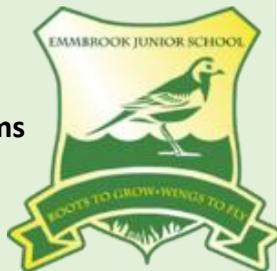


# Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## In this Edition:

- Hello from Mr. Usher
- New Inclusion Lead
- New times for Y3 & Y4 Zooms
- Y3 and Y4 Home Learning
- New Classes and Teachers
- End of Year Reports
- Work of the Week



## Letters emailed last week and this week:

- Well Being Wednesday Newsletter
- Letter to Year 5 Parents about returning to school
- Year 6 Leavers Disco
- Y5 and Key Hub Club - What does school look like now?

## Hello from Mr. Usher



Hello everyone, I'll start with a big thank you to all of our parents and carers. You have been very supportive and patient which has helped during the challenges we have faced as a school over the course of this term. I also apologise to any members of the community that were disturbed by our alarms going off last weekend. The alarm company that is supposed to attend in the case of an alarm going off was at another premises and by the time they attended our own site manager had been informed and switched the alarm off. We have asked the alarm company to contact a key holder immediately if this happens again in the future. Many of you may be aware that the government has announced this week that there is **no longer** an expectation that all primary age pupils will return to school before the summer. I believe this is because they have realised following feedback from school leaders that schools do not have the space or staff to do this safely following their guidance on social distancing. The senior leadership team has been working closely with our governing board to see how we can return more pupils to school as safely as possible. I know many parents will be concerned and disappointed but at this point it is extremely **unlikely that we will be able to return children from Year 3 and Year 4** to school before the summer holidays begin.

**Key Hub Club** - We have seen a massive increase in the number of children accessing our Key Hub Club provision. Since it is now unlikely that Yr 3 & Yr 4 will return to school, many parents who have previously not accessed the provision will now be considering doing so. We have based the return of Yr 5 on the numbers we are currently experiencing at the Key Hub Club and we are very much nearing capacity. There are many Key Worker parents whose children are entitled to access this provision but have chosen not to as they are able to provide childcare at home, for this we thank you, and if you are in a position to continue doing so that will help us ensure those who need the provision are able to access it. There are some parents who are not able to provide childcare at home and therefore have no choice but to access the provision. In order to ensure that children who need the provision are able to get access, we will be asking for letters from employers of key workers who cannot work from home to confirm that they are integral to the covid-19 response. If we are unable to meet the provision required by our Key Worker parents, then we may have to reduce the offering that we are making to our Year 5 pupils. **I am asking you to consider if your children truly need to access this provision particularly if both parents are able to work from home.**

**Year 5** - families from Year 5 should have received an email detailing which bubble they will be in from Tuesday next week. You do not have to accept your allocated place, should you choose to decline the offer no action will be taken by the school or Wokingham Borough Council regarding attendance. Should you change your mind please contact the school office at least 24 hours in advance to let us know. In order to support social distancing and reduce the potential number of adults on site, we will be allowing Y5 children to walk home alone with written parental permission. If you are willing to allow your child to walk home alone or meet you off site, then please email the school office and copy in the Y5 year group email. You should have also received information about the safeguarding measures we have put in place in light of the Covid-19 pandemic along with information for the children about what school looks like

now. We have been impressed by how well the Year 6 children have coped with the social distancing measures and are confident that these will work for the Year 5 pupils. However, we cannot guarantee that social distancing will always be observed. Staff will take care to address any anxieties the children may have with well-being and pastoral care being the focus of much of the session. As you can see from the bubble information below, in order to support as many children as possible some adults work across more than 1 bubble. Additionally, if any Y5 children are entitled to Key Worker provision they may also be in one of the Key Hub Club bubbles. If you are a Y5 Key Worker parent and feel that your child only needs to be in school for their allocated bubble then this will be very helpful, however if they need to continue accessing all day provision then they will be able to join the Key Hub Club for the rest of the day.

**Year 3 and Year 4** - I know many families will be disappointed, confused and even angry that we are not able to return these children to school too. Please believe me that we would like all the children back at school, however we have limited space and staff. It is very unlikely that we will be in a position to return these year groups to school before September. We are planning transition days where children will be able to come in for half a day to meet their new teachers. We are also looking at how we can improve the home learning provision for these year groups (details are below). At present this is all we can offer, and I apologise if this does not meet your expectations.

**Summer holiday provision** - the infant school are liaising with 'Funtastic Kids' to find out if they will be interested in offering a summer holiday club as they have in the past. I will find out as soon as possible if this will be going ahead and open to children from the junior school as well. This provision will not be funded by the school and parents will need to book and pay for the club in the usual way.

## Bubbles

Ideally adults leading bubbles would only work with a single group of children. We have found this to be unworkable and have previously stated that some adults will lead more than one bubble and some children of Key Workers may also be in more than one bubble.

For clarity and to help you make your decision about your child you can see which staff are leading which bubbles. If you are uncomfortable with your child being in a bubble with more than one adult leading it or with an adult that is leading two bubbles you must take this into account when deciding if you would like to send your child to school.

Previously a different staff member has been on the rota for the Key Hub club each day but as we return year 5 and the number of families accessing the key hub club provision increases we have placed the same adults into the Key Hub club each day with extra support for children with additional needs.

As mentioned above, the numbers of parents requesting a place at our Key Hub Club has increased by a very large amount. Where previously we have been able to accommodate additional children easily we are now reaching capacity and with the decision to return year 5 children to school we may soon be full in the key hub club. We appreciate that many parents may be entitled to Key Worker provision but have chosen not to take up the space. We do ask parents to seriously consider whether they need the space in the Key hub club particularly if they are working from home.

<b>Beech 1</b> Mrs Foxley and Mrs Jones	<b>Beech 2</b> Miss Crombie	<b>Beech 3</b> Mrs Foxley and Mrs Jones
<b>Fir 1</b> Miss Barnes and Mrs Preston	<b>Fir 2</b> Miss Barnes, Mrs Preston & Mrs Smith	<b>Fir 3</b> Mrs Spencer
<b>Pine 1 (am)</b> Mr Hewitt	<b>Pine 2 (pm)</b> Mr Hewitt and Miss Biln	<b>Pine 3 (pm)</b> Mr Fox
<b>Maple 1 (am)</b> Mrs McAllister	<b>Maple 2 (am)</b> Miss Biln	<b>Maple 3 (pm)</b> Mrs McAllister and Mrs Smith

**Key Hub Club Bubble 1**  
Mrs Tinson, Mrs Knight, Mr Fisher, Mrs Edwards, Ms Kozma

**Key Hub Club Bubble 2**  
Mrs Hatherley, Mrs Newport, Mrs Hawkins, Ms Kozma

## Our new Inclusion Lead from September

In September, we will be welcoming Mrs. Lisa Brant to our Emmbrook team. Mrs. Brant will take over the Inclusion Lead role from Miss Barnes and will work in school 3.5 days a week. Mrs. Brant has extensive SEND experience and has spent the last 14 years doing inclusion roles across the primary and secondary sector. She has also done classroom teaching across the Primary sector. Before Miss Barnes leaves, she will be giving Mrs. Brant a comprehensive handover. Getting to know all of the children and families personally who fall under her umbrella of care will be Mrs. Brant's top priority once she joins us in September.



## NEW TIMES – Year 3 and 4 Class Assemblies and Drop-ins times

With the return of Year 5 and 6 as well as an ever-expanding Key Hub Club, our teachers' timetables have changed as a result of their increased teaching responsibilities. Therefore, we have had to reschedule the class assemblies and drop-ins for Year 3 and 4 accordingly.

The teachers have chosen to run **one, longer online session per week which starts with the class assembly and then continues into a learning drop in for any children who want to stay online to share and discuss their home learning with their teacher.** The new Zoom meeting codes and passwords have been emailed out to you individually as a security measure.

Attendance at the class assembly and learning drop-in is optional however the teachers love getting their class together via Zoom and having a catch up. We know the children enjoy the opportunity too. If your child does not want to attend the learning drop in at all, they can log out after the class assembly part. If they do want to attend the learning drop-in, they do not need to stay online for the entire session and can log out when they choose.

We will no longer be locking the Zooms so your child can join at a time convenient for them. For security reasons, we will keep the waiting room function on so that we can monitor who we let into the meetings.

### Class Assemblies followed by Class Drop-ins:

Class	Day	Time
Ash	Monday	9:00am – 10:15am
Larch	Tuesday	10:00am – 11:15am
Elm	Tuesday	1:00pm – 2:15pm
Cedar	Thursday	10:00am – 2:15pm

Please note that we are no longer able to offer the virtual Class Assemblies and Drop-ins to any Year 5 and 6 children still at home as the staff in these year groups are now leading bubbles in school full time.

## Enhanced Home Learning Provision for Years 3 and 4

Given the announcement from the government this week that recognise that most schools are not able to return all pupils safely before the summer, it is now extremely unlikely that we will be able to return

Year 3 and Year 4 before the summer holidays. We are therefore asking the Year 3 and Year 4 team to look at how they can enhance the provision available to their year groups. This may be in the form of a short video input for activities or recorded audio support to accompany presentations. In order to ensure that staff have adequate time to prepare these they will begin from **Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June**. Please be aware that Year 3 and 4 teaching staff will be leading learning bubbles at school during the week, while they will continue to respond to emails and give feedback for any submitted activities, it may not be as rapid as it has been up until now.

Each week the Year 4 and 3 staff will also ask for an activity to be submitted for which they will give some feedback. This will be optional for children and families as all activities have been.

Year 3 and 4 staff will continue to do whole class assemblies but will add the drop-in session after their assembly.

Don't forget that all the children have access to [Times Tables Rock Stars](#). This is a fun way to practise multiplication tables – details have been sent out by Mr Fox.

## Diversity - Black Lives Matter

I am sure you will have seen there is a lot in the news at the moment about the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. Many of the children have been speaking about this in school and we suspect some of you may be wanting to talk to your children about this at home. This links to the school curriculum around British Values, History and the news. When discussing with the children we would not give an opinion or bias, we would purely discuss facts. Below are some videos and resources to help foster a discussion with your children about the news, race and equality if you so wish to do so.

[https://www.weareteachers.com/anti-racism-videos/?utm\\_content=1591732747&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.weareteachers.com/anti-racism-videos/?utm_content=1591732747&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52813673>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNEKbVq\\_ou4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNEKbVq_ou4)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWvAj7E5t9o>

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Black\\_Lives\\_Matter](https://kids.kiddle.co/Black_Lives_Matter)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayoSRpQ8I-U>

## Classes and Teachers for Next Year

It has been the practise at Emmbrook Junior School to mix the classes up at the end of Year 4. This year we will not be mixing the children up as they move into Year 5. This may be disappointing for some children (& parents) while for others it may be a relief. Since the Year 4 children have not had an entire year together and given that transition into the next year group is going to be key, we feel that this is the best plan for most children as they will know who they are going to be in a class with next year. Teachers will also be able to plan a more effective transition. Unless there are specific reasons to re-balance the classes this is likely to be the model we use as a school moving forward.

We are currently putting together transition plans and hope to be able to invite all children into school at some point before the summer holidays to attend a half-day session led by their new Class Teacher. We are also looking at ways that new class teachers can meet individually with the children and parents of our SEND and vulnerable children before the end of term. As you can imagine, this is proving quite complex to organise whilst maintaining social distancing guidelines and bubble sizes. Once we have more details, we will share our plans with you.

## Online Safety

**The potential harm or risk:** Age restrictions

**Description:** Some online activities have age restrictions because they include content which is not appropriate for children under a specific age.

**What can you do?** Talk about why age verification exists and why some sites require a user to verify their age. For example, online gambling and purchasing of certain age restricted materials such as alcohol,

they provide a warning that the site may contain disturbing material that is unsuitable for younger viewers. This sort of discussion at home (and school) can help children understand how this content can be damaging, it is also worth reminding children that the minimum age of digital consent is 13 years old. This is the age at which young people can agree to share information and sign up to social media without parental consent under General Data Protection Regulations. Perhaps you could talk about why it is important and what it means in practice.

## End of year reports

Just before the end of the summer term, we will send out your child's end of year school report. Thank you to all the children who have sent their teachers their pupil report comments.

As the teachers have not been able to conduct the usual formal and informal assessments during the summer term to give a full report on your child's progress and attainment this academic year, the information shared in this report will be based upon the assessments that took place in the Spring term. These assessments, which have been shared with you previously, made predictions about what your child's attainment would be at the end of the academic year based upon the assumption that the children would have another full term of schooling. The teachers have also written detailed comments about your child's strengths and achievements this year as well as identifying areas for further development.

## Work of the Week

Thank you to Alex Desai in Year 3 who has shared his super explanation of the water cycle with us. Alex, your painting skills are exceptional, and your presentation is stunning. It's quite topical to be studying the water cycle with all of this recent rain! Well done Alex.



**Rapunzel – Part 1** by Annabelle (Y6)



You thought you knew the sweetest story,  
But the real one's much more gory,  
A little girl just turning seven,  
Her knotted hair reached nine-foot eleven,  
Her horrid hair just grew and grew,  
Until she got it stuck in stew,  
It began to boil and turn all green,  
It was the ugliest thing she'd ever seen,  
Her mother tried to cut it off,  
She snorted and said I'd rather eat broth,  
Then one night her mother said,  
While the girl was tucked up in bed,  
I'll shave it off knot by knot,  
That'll teach the little tot...

Look out for the next part of Annabelle's poem in next week's newsletter.