

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 26th June 2020

In this Edition:

- Hello from Mr. Usher
- In memory of James Furlong
- Easing of restrictions - 4th July
- Reminder – Transition plans
- Social distancing on site
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Black Lives Matter
- Online Safety
- Rapunzel
- Year 6 Poems



Letters emailed last week and this week:

- Well Being Thursday Newsletter
- New Finish Time for Year 5
- A Message From Berkshire Maestros
- What The School Looks Like Now Booklet
- Transition Week – Years 3, 4 and 5
- Years 5 and 6 End of Term
- Letter from Mr Usher regarding the events from last weekend
- Copy of Information being shared with the children

Hello from Mr. Usher



Another week down. I hope you've all had a chance to enjoy the sunny weather, maybe with a drink in hand and of course at a social distance. We've had another week of changes announced by the government and it looks like we're moving gradually towards some kind of normalcy. Personally, I can't wait to be able to get a proper pint of Guinness. **Despite the changes announced, we are not in a position to make any further changes to the provision we are able to offer at school.** Again, I've been in awe of how well the children at Emmbrook have adapted to what some are calling the 'new normal'. It is very much my wish that we will have all the children returned to school in something resembling normality by September. Thank you for your endless patience, we will do our best to keep you as informed as possible throughout. Currently the general public is being informed about the government's intentions at the same time as schools which has created some challenges for us but we are confident that we are proceeding as safely as we can within the guidance.

In Memory of James Furlong at The Holt

Last weekend The Holt lost a dear friend and colleague. Many children from Emmbrook Junior School go on to The Holt, we have former pupils there; siblings there and friends there. They are part of our community and we stand with them. Sunflowers face in the same direction and the children here at Emmbrook made these Sunflowers to let our neighbours at The Holt know we are thinking of them and James' friends and family at this time.



Easing of Restrictions from 4th July

I'm sure like me you were interested to hear that the lockdown restrictions are easing from the 4th of July. Although it has been widely reported in the media that we are moving to 1m social distancing this is in fact a slight distortion of what was actually announced. **To be as clear as possible we will NOT be in a position to welcome any more children to school following July the 4th.** The new easing of restrictions, in some circumstances, requires additional mitigation against the risks of transmission and we are not in a position to do this. Even if we were in a position to do this it would only mean that those children who have not been able to come into school so far would have at most 1 week before we plan to close the school to all bubbles (except the Key hub Club) on the 10th of July. The level of disruption to children, families and staff does not make this a worthwhile venture and so **we will be continuing with our current structure.**

All children will have an opportunity to visit school before the end of term to say goodbye to their old teacher and hello to their new one. You should all have received information about transition week which will run during the final week of term.

Transition Arrangements

This week, you will have received a letter inviting all children to attend a transition session in school to meet their new teacher. If your child will not be attending, please let us know by emailing us at admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk. Any children who are not able to come will be offered the chance to meet their new teacher via Zoom on Monday 20th July instead. Our teaching and support staff cannot wait to meet everyone properly!

Clothes and Sunscreen

With the recent hot weather and predicted thunderstorms, it's important to ensure that children are coming to school prepared for the day's weather. We know this is difficult to predict but where possible, children will be outdoors, so light rain jackets, hats, sunscreen are all important to remember depending on the day's weather report.

We have previously mentioned appropriate clothing for school. Some children have been wearing, understandably in the heat, clothes that are overly revealing. Please ensure shorts are not too short and that midriffs are covered. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

Social Distancing on Site

We know how lovely it is to see other parents during pick up and drop off and that is very tempting to stop and have a chinwag with each other. Our staff have enjoyed seeing you all too! However, we do need to ask that parents abide by social distancing guidelines whilst on the school site, and keep the 'one way' system moving so that we do not have any bottle-necks or end up with too many people gathered in one particular area. Thank you for understanding and for helping to keep us all safe. Should you need to speak to a member of staff about something concerning your child, please send an email to the school office who will arrange for the staff member to give you a call.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Hopefully you are making the most of our Times Table Rock Stars subscription. In case you missed the e-mail, the key information you need is www.ttrockstars.com/login/15813, username is the same as your Teams username (without the @emmbrook-jun bit) and the password is exactly the same as Teams. If you are using the free app, you'll need to tell it we are at Emmbrook Junior School (not the secondary school).

Once you're logged in, you'll need to pick a Rock Star name and then you're ready to play! (Children are only recognised online by this Rock Star name.)

Doing a “Gig” first will set your level, so you know what times tables you need to practise. Most of us start lower than the level we actually are, as it’s our first time using this programme. Don’t worry though, as performing in the Garage will let you level up quickly. Garage is the best mode to play as the questions are set based on your Gig performance. After a while, you’ll be often a new Gig to see how your skills have improved.

The more you play, the more your skills improve, the more Rock Star coins you earn. The game lets you customise your avatar with your hard-earned coins. Garage mode earns the most coins. Remember, the main point is to improve yourself and not worry about others.

However, you can go up against others if you wish. Feel free to take part in world-wide festivals to improve your fluency. Or challenge a classmate (or a teacher!) These challenges will test all of the times tables and division facts up to 12 x 12.

Times Table Rock Stars is a fun way of improving children’s fluency in line with the Government’s expectations. Playing for just 5 or 10 minutes a day can vastly improve knowledge and recall speed.

Diversity - Black Lives Matter

Here are this week’s ideas for books that could keep the conversation going at home around diversity, inclusion and anti-racism.

Books for Kids

The Island – This book can be used with any year group. It is an essential book for discussing racism and xenophobia.

The Whisperer - A book about cats which deals with themes linked to racism, identity and co-existence.

Shaun Tan – ALL OF HIS BOOKS - His books deal with issues like alienation, migration, belonging and culture.

I Don’t Want Curly Hair - A gentle book about appreciating what you have and celebrating others.

Some of you may have seen ‘The School that Tried to End Racism’ this week. During the program some students are tested for unconscious racial bias – you can take the test yourself here:

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

Online Safety

The potential harm or risk: *Content: How it can be used and shared*

Description: Knowing what happens to information, comments or images that are put online. Once something is shared online it can never be taken back. Pictures can be taken and edited without the consent of the person who put them up in the first place. Even if social media accounts are deleted previous posts etc. are still saved on the servers of the social media companies.

What can you do? Does your child know what a digital footprint is? Try talking about how content can be shared, tagged and traced and especially how difficult it is to remove something a user wishes they had not shared. Depending on the age of your children it’s worth thinking about what is illegal online, especially what may in for some people be seen as “normal” behaviours such as sharing explicit images of themselves.


Residential Visit to Manor

We have been in contact with Manor and are pleased to let you know that the **Year 6 trip planned for September (for current Year 5 children) is still going ahead**. Thank you to the parents who have continued making payments. We are waiting to find out if there will be any restrictions in place and how the visit may be impacted by the current pandemic but at the moment the plan is for it to go ahead.

We have yet to have confirmation from the coach company that they will be able to honour our booking but the admin team is working hard to ensure the trip that if necessary alternatives can be found.

Rapunzel – Part 3 by Annabelle in Year 6

But first, a quick recap from the last two weeks:

Rapunzel – Part 1	Rapunzel – Part 2
<p>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...</p>	<p>So when the girl was fast asleep, The mother walked in with not a peep, She shaved it off with not a sound, And labelled it at one hundred pound, She whipped it off to London Town, Where she bought a brand-new gown, When the mother awoke the child, She looked at the mirror and far from smiled, She rode off in a little car, And headed to a wig shop bar.</p>
<p>Rapunzel – Part 3</p> <p>Then she bought her brand-new wig, She danced around and did a jog, After she was finished there, With her brand-new wig of hair,</p> <p>She got a ride back to the city, Her mother said she looked too pretty, So when Rapunzel took it off, Her mother shut it with a moth,</p> <p>Where it nored it strand by strand, Leaving only the itching band.</p> <p>The End</p>	

Well done Annabelle! You have certainly kept us all entertained with your witty and poetic version of the story!

Year 6 Poems about the impact of lockdown on the school

The bubbles from 6-Fir have been working on these group poems that show how they have felt about lockdown and in particular how it's affected school.

A Stranger Called – By Fir Bubble 1

*A stranger called this morning,
 Corona was his name,
 Made everyone stay at home,
 Our school was not the same.*

*No more ticking of the clocks,
 No more teacher there to care,
 There is no point complaining,
 Now I'm staring in mid-air.*

*No assemblies in the hall,
 No thoughts going through brains,
 It's seeming to take ages,
 Like waiting when it rains.*

*No books on tables or desks,
 Not a word on the board,
 Art work still left on school walls,
 All equipment is stored.*

*Not a single child in sight,
So no more trips away,
Covid-19 is to blame,
He never asked to play.*

*No more sounds of the children,
Just the sound of the trees,
No more 6-hour long school days,
Just the sound of the breeze.*

*No more ringing of the bell,
No more tapping of feet,
No more large crowds of children,
And no people to meet.*

*The squelching in the puddles,
The chatter of the hall,
They have now all gone missing,
Not one person with a ball.*

*No sound through the corridors,
Not a single bell noise,
Or fun games played of football,
No happy Year 6 voice.*

*Not a child in the bare halls,
No tapping of their feet,
Most classes without children,
No child in any seat.*

*No screaming of the children,
From anybody's mouth,
No more flapping of paper,
No louder than a mouse.*

*Now we are stuck in bubbles,
Two meters still applied,
Break time will always be fun,
The gap kept must be wide.*

*Naughty corona virus,
Seen before? Not ever,
Keeping everybody in their homes,
Changed the school forever.*

The Silenced School - by Fir Bubble 2

A stranger came this morning,
Corona was his name,
Made everyone stay at home,
Our school was not the same.

One lonely Monday morning,
There were no children there,
The children were home-learning,
Left in their parent's care.

No children in the playground,
The tables, tapping free,
No learners busy learning,
No face laughing with glee.

They are just sat in despair,
No school chairs with their creaks,
The Emmbrook hall undisturbed,
It lay empty for weeks.

Not a mark made anywhere,
No ink put on the page,
No whiteboards busy squeaking,
The dawn of a new age.

The chairs are frozen with fear
The tables have been turned
The ground is sad all alone
The laughter is not heard.

The teachers are all silent,
The pencils are all crying,
The viruses are laughing,
Rulers are all sighing.

The whiteboard stopped squeaking,
The children stopped grinning,
The paper stopped crunching,
The trimmer stopped trimming.

A stranger came this morning,
Invisible to all,
Who knows how long he will stay?
So powerful, so small.