

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 3rd July 2020

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Letters emailed last week and this week:

- Well Being Newsletter
- [Supporting Managing Anxiety](#)
- Year 6 RSE letter
- Farewell to Year 6
- Berkshire Maestros Big Music Day
- Virtual Sports Day
- M&S Uniform Website Launch
- Breakfast and After School Club Reopening Survey

Hello from Mr. Usher



Where did June go? Where did the summer term go? It doesn't feel like long since I was walking in on the 20th of April for my first day as Head Teacher here at Emmbrook Junior School. Thank you to the PTA for all their efforts raising vital funds for the two schools this year and for their continued enthusiasm despite lockdown. I'm really looking forward to taking part in the events that they have planned for the coming academic year, although I'm afraid I won't be able to shave my beard without express written consent from my wife.

Thank you for the continued support and understanding that the parents and carers have shown me and the school over this trying and difficult period. I would also like to thank the staff who have continued to go above and beyond in how they continue to support not only their own classes but the bubbles they are now also leading.

Emmbrook Junior School has continued to provide daily Maths and English activities, along with weekly spellings and Learning Journey materials. On top of this, teachers have shared a wide range of optional extras along with weekly Zoom assemblies and on-line drop ins, provided contact via email and over the phone where needed as well as, more recently, Times Tables Rock Stars. This is much more than many other schools have had the capacity to provide but I know that much of the material can't be accessed without the support of parents at home and for that support, I thank you too.

Next week will be the final week for our Year 6 children who in many ways have been short changed by the Covid-19 pandemic; they have missed out on many rights of passage, such as their leavers' disco and Year 6 production. These experiences can never truly be repaid but I am impressed with the mature and sensible way they have all got on with things since they returned.

Enjoy your weekend everyone.

Next Term September 2020

You may have seen announcements in the news this week about the planned reopening of school to all children from September. In many ways this is exciting news, as it means we can finally have our whole school together again but it does mean that we are faced with a series of challenges. Over the remaining weeks of term, we will put together careful plans for the full reopening of the school. As I'm sure you can appreciate there are a great many factors to consider and government guidance that we must examine and adhere to as much as possible.

Please try to be assured (I know many of you will still be anxious) that the safety of children and staff will be our top priority and as soon as we are in a position to share our plans for September we will do so.

We will be working very hard to ensure that we are able to **open to all pupils from September** for full days.

Transition Week

Last 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!

School will end for Y6 & Y5 bubbles on Friday the 10th of July. The Key Hub Club will continue until Friday the 17th of July. All children from Y3-5 have been invited to a transition session with their teachers for next year which will take place during the **week beginning** the 13th of July.

Social Distancing on Site

Please help us to keep the children, staff and yourselves safe by following the one-way system as indicated when on the school site. Could you please remind your children, who may be walking home alone, that they should continue to observe social distancing when heading home.

Many children are arriving early for their allotted bubbles and while we appreciate their enthusiasm – this does mean that they are having to queue when waiting to come onto the playground. Please ensure that your children are not arriving any more than 5 minutes before their session is due to begin so that we can avoid too much waiting in queues and bottle necks around the school site.

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).

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Poppy Pritchard	Aidan Thomas	William O'Connor	Lauren Nimmey

Overall Most Correct Answers

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	William O'Connor	Lucas Bailey

Diversity - Black Lives Matter

As we move into the next academic year we will be reviewing not only our school curriculum to ensure that it is more representative and diverse, but we will also be developing our whole school values. For the school we will be looking at how anti-racism is an integral part of our inclusive community.

Here are this week's ideas for books that could keep the conversation going at home around diversity, inclusion and anti-racism. If you are aware of any other useful resources or books that address themes around racism and diversity please let us know.

Books for Kids

- **Goodnight Stories For Rebel Girls** - A collection of stories celebrating a wide range of women.
- **A Is For Activist** - An alternative alphabet book to spark discussion.

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: *Disinformation, misinformation and hoaxes*

Description: Some information shared online is accidentally or intentionally wrong, misleading, or exaggerated.

What can you do? Talk about disinformation and why individuals or groups choose to share false information in order to deliberately deceive. It's important that we know about misinformation and are aware that false and misleading information can be shared inadvertently. You may have heard about online hoaxes, which can be deliberately and inadvertently spread for a variety of reasons, there have been various examples over recent years. It is also worth explaining that the viral nature of this sort of content can often appear to be a stamp of authenticity and therefore why it is important to evaluate what is seen online. Do your children know how to measure and check authenticity online? It's also important to discuss the potential consequences of sharing information that may not be true.

Residential Visit to Manor

Last week we told you that the planned Year 6 trip planned for September (for current Year 5 children) was still going ahead. **However, the Government Guidance released this week has made it clear that residential trips should NOT go ahead in the Autumn Term.** We are obviously VERY disappointed about this however we have managed to secure alternative dates. **The residential will now be taking place in from June 14th – 18th 2021.**

We are pleased that we have not had to cancel the trip but due to the increased demand in the summer months the cost of the residential is significantly higher. We are still waiting to confirm exact costs but it is likely that the total cost of the trip will be around £450. Families will be given additional time to make payments towards the cost of the trip. If you now feel you wish to withdraw your children from the residential please contact the admin team ASAP.

Trebuchets and Shields by the Key Hub Club



