

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 10th July 2020

In this Edition:

- Hello from Mr. Usher
- Words from Miss Scales
- September 2020
- TTRS
- Transition Week
- Black Lives Matter
- Home to School Transport
- Online Safety
- Residential
- BSL
- Y4 Poem



Letters emailed last week and this week:

- Well Being Newsletter
- NHS Information re Diabetes
- Bling your bike/scooter competition
- Year 6 Leavers Disco
- Class Assembly Zoom Codes
- End of Year Gifts
- Year 6 Photo Montage
- Virtual Sports Day Zoom Codes
- Bikeability Holiday Courses
- Reading Cycle Festival

Hello from Mr. Usher



This week we say goodbye to the majority of our Year 6 children. Many of them have been on a long journey with the school over past four years and we wish we could give them a proper send off as they move onto the next stage of their educational careers. Although I've only had a few short weeks to get to know them it is clear they will be missed by the staff here at Emmbrook Junior School and I personally wish them all the best for the future.

I would like to thank Mrs Freeman and the admin team as well as Helen Joseph, one of our Year 6 parents, for organising the leavers' hoodies and photo montage. It makes a very big difference to a school community having parents who get stuck in and support the school and we are very grateful to all who give their time so willingly.

If everything has gone to plan you should have received or will receive very soon your child's annual report. I would like to thank Mrs Perkins and the admin team for organising this mammoth task as well as the teachers for writing them and Miss Scales for helping me read through them all. If you would like to talk to your child's teacher about their report, we are offering consultations by Zoom, you should find details about how to arrange this with your child's report.

Next week is our final week of term and your child should have been invited in for a transition session with their new teacher.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone – I'll be raising a glass to our lovely leavers.

Words for Year 6 from Miss Scales

To all of our children in Year 6...

This time last year, I truly believed that I would be hard pushed to ever meet such a hard-working, remarkable bunch of children as last year's Year 6. However, you lot have surpassed all expectations and have proved yourself to be compassionate and motivated learners who have shown great maturity and good humour in handling everything that 2020 has thrown at you so far! I have absolutely loved getting to know you all, sharing your work with you and being part of your Emmbrook experience.

Your rite of passage to secondary school might not be what you had imagined; I know there are many traditional Year 6 events that you haven't been able to take part in. Know that you will be missed. Know what remarkable young people you have become. Know that we are proud of every single one of you. Our school motto is 'Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly'. We are confident that you have developed some solid life-long learning skills to fly high in everything you do in the future. Fly high! (And pop back and visit once in a while!) See you all at the Leavers of 2020 reunion disco as soon as we can organise it safely!

**You're off to Great
Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So... get on your way!**

-- Dr. Seuss

September 2020

The plans for a full reopening of the school continue. As I'm sure you can imagine the risk assessments for such an undertaking are large to say the least.

We will be following any directives as set out by the government and ensuring that any guidance is appropriate to our school before implementing any changes.

We hope to be open to all year groups from the 3rd of September as planned. Teachers will be in school from the 1st preparing the school and setting up classrooms.

Measures we are likely to take may include: a soft start to the day with children arriving between 8:30am and 8:50am; staggered break times so that each year group has its own space to play and interact; setting up year group 'bubbles' and limiting contact between year groups; staggering the use of the hall at lunch times; organising classrooms so desks are all facing forwards; continuing to ensure rigorous hand washing; whole school assemblies will be done electronically. Once we are in a position to share reopening plans we will do so.

We have already started planning our curriculum for Autumn 2020, which will have increased focus on English and Mathematics but not to the exclusion of all other subjects. Children will still have an opportunity to enjoy other areas of the curriculum as well as revisit and rehearse previous areas of learning.

Times Tables Rock Stars

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
Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Eden Matthews	Michael Khan

Overall Most Correct Answers

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

Can anyone catch Isabella, Aiden, William and Lucas?

Transition Week & Beyond

By now you should be aware which day your child is invited in to meet their new teacher for next year. This will also be a brief opportunity to say goodbye to their current teacher. If you are unsure what day your child is invited in or if your child will NOT be attending their transition session please contact the admin team ASAP admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk. Any children not attending the transition session will be offered a **short meeting via Zoom on Monday the 20th of July at 9am**. (We will contact you separately about this.)

For the transition session **your child should NOT bring in any of the work** they have been doing during lockdown and they do NOT need to wear their school uniform. All equipment will be provided at school. Your children will be met on the playground by a member of staff when they come in for their transition sessions. There are painted yellow lines on the playground to aid with social distancing. Parents can help us by leaving the school site as quickly as possible following the yellow arrows. Please trust that we will look after the children and keep them as safe as possible. Thank you for your support in this. We are really looking forward to seeing the children.

Transition Week & Summer Learning

For transition week and the summer, we are setting some weekly challenges which can be found in Teams. As always **these are optional** so that they can fit in with your own family routine.

Year 3: Weekly Challenges on theme of 'creativity' and a STEM challenge to make a rainbow

Year 4: Weekly Challenges on theme of 'humankind' and a STEM challenge to make invisible ink

Year 5: Weekly Challenges on theme of 'change' and a STEM challenge to make a lava lamp

Year 6: Weekly Challenges on theme of 'significance' and a STEM challenge to make some hanging crystals

Some families have asked for additional learning provision to be made over the holidays, **this will be completely optional** but will following on from the activities that have been set on Teams. Children will continue to have access to Teams over the summer and can choose to do the English and Maths activities that are set. The summer holidays are normally a time to rest, recuperate and recharge but we know that many children have not been able to come into school at all this term and others have had limited provision so the additional learning activities provided are only there if you want them. There is no expectation that children will come to school having completed them.

Black Lives Matter – Anti-racism

EJS Mission Statement:

*We provide an **inclusive**, positive environment in which we nurture and empower our children to develop life-long learning skills. This enables them to grow into reflective, successful and well-rounded individuals in our **global community**.*

What do we need to remember?

Talking about race can be uncomfortable. Be aware, that feeling pales in comparison to the discomfort of those who experience racism on a daily basis.

Books for Kids

- **Ruby's Worry** by Tom Percival
- **I Love My Hair!** by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley
- **Astro Girl** by Ken Wilson-Max
- **Henry's Freedom Box**

Home to School Transport

Following the release of the latest government guidance on school re-openings in September, the Wokingham Borough transport team have compiled a short survey.

The survey is aimed at parents of both primary and secondary aged children, and looks to understand how children plan to travel to school come September. They would be grateful if you could take part by completing the survey using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/Mv2Uq6Ya3hipwx7a7>

Online Safety

The potential harm or risk: *Fake websites and scam emails*

Description: Fake websites and scam emails are used to extort data, money, images and other things that can either be used by the scammer to harm the person targeted or sold on for financial, or other gain.

What can you do? Do you know how to look out for fake websites and URLs? Try researching what secure markings on websites are and how to assess the sources of emails. Discuss the risks of entering information to a website which isn't secure and what to do if harmed/targeted/groomed as a result of

interacting with a fake website or scam email. Talk about who to go to and the range of support that is available.

This is a useful website for starting a conversation about online safety:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

Residential Visit to Manor

The residential will now be taking place 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.

British Sign Language

Emmbrook Junior School is very special for many reasons, but particularly because we are lucky to have a Hearing Resource Base on site to help support our Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. From September, every child in the school will start to learn British Sign Language. This will replace French as our Modern Foreign Language. Learning a different language at a young age can change the entire course of someone's life and we know it's so much easier to absorb another language when we are young. Teaching BSL is an important way to celebrate the diversity in our community. Modern-day BSL is used by over 120,000 deaf adults and about 20,000 deaf children in the UK and was recognised by the British Government in 2003 as an official minority language. More details will follow in September on this part of our curriculum as well as resources to support your children in practising their sign language at home!



Our Poet in Residence

Thank-you, Seth Warren in Year 4. This is such a haunting and thought-provoking piece of poetry. You have such a gift with words. Keep this poem somewhere safe and include it in your first published book of poems when you are older!

Inside the dog's big black eyes, the naked, normal humans wake.

Inside the naked, normal humans, the beautiful star emerges.

Inside the beautiful stars, the new great world forms.

Inside the new great world, the two giant moons shine.

Inside the two giant moons, the white metal spaceship appears.

Inside the white metal spaceship, the old sliding door slides shut.

Inside the old sliding door, the dog's big black eyes open.