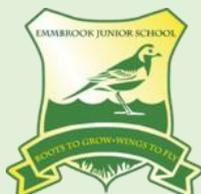


Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 17th July 2020

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Letters emailed last week and this week:

- Well-Being Newsletter
- School Nursing Newsletter
- The Willows Partial Re-opening
- Autumn Term Dates
- School Meals Info
- Covid 19 Risk Assessment Sept 20
- M & S School Uniform
- Bulmershe Open Evening/Morning (Year 4 and 5)

Hello from Mr. Usher



1 Term finished and 1 exhausted Head Teacher; 2 year groups returned and 2 Covid haircuts; 3 months gone and 3 staff moving on; 4 new staff recruited and 4 year groups in to meet their new teacher; 5 cups of coffee (before breaktime!) and 5 biscuits to dunk in each; 6 litres of hand gel and 6 weeks of summer beckoning; 7 updates to the Covid-19 risk assessment and 7 brightly coloured staff rotas; 8 classrooms spruced up ready for September and 8 excited teaching teams; 9 Zoom meetings a week (at least!) and 9 poor Internet connections; 10 CPD courses completed and 10 packs of tissues; 11 weeks of online learning on Teams and 11 tips spotted (!! 😊) 12 children per bubble and a partridge in a pear tree! It's been an interesting and enjoyable, if somewhat unusual, start to my time at Emmbrook Junior School. I have found the staff to be superb and the children charming. I have also been overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents and carers. Thank you all for the kind messages and lovely gifts, I can tell I'm really going to enjoy being at Emmbrook and seeing it recognised as the outstanding school that it is. **Please take a close look at the Autumn Term Dates** we have sent you and remember that they may be subject to change depending on the circumstances we find ourselves in.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

In Memory of Ted Hunter



It was with deep sadness that we heard the news of the death of Ted Hunter who, until a year ago, was our Vice-Chair of Governors. Ted devoted his career and much of his retirement to Education. Having graduated in German at the University of Nottingham, Ted became a teacher and spent many years at one of Berkshire's large comprehensive schools as Head of German and then Deputy Head Teacher, from where he retired. In retirement, he supported local authority Children's Services as an education consultant sharing his experience with schools helping them to improve. Ted joined the Emmbrook Junior Governors in 2011 when all three of his grandchildren were pupils. Shortly afterwards, Ted became Vice-Chair and also ran the Leadership and Staffing Committee. He put a great deal of effort into supporting the school under three different head teachers. He retired from the governors a year ago after eight years.

He was greatly respected by both staff and fellow governors; always positive, always able to offer good advice and always willing to take on tasks to help the school. Ted was an inspiration to many and will be sorely missed. – Bryan Williams (Vice-Chair of Governors)

Goodbye Miss Barnes and Mrs. Stanford



It is with a heavy heart that we wave goodbye to Miss Kathryn Barnes as she leaves us to join 'The Coombes Primary School' to be their Deputy Head Teacher. We are exceptionally proud of Miss Barnes and we know she will be a brilliant asset to her new school. In just 18 months she has played an instrumental part in our school improvement journey and we could not have done it without her. We want to thank her for her determination, sheer hard graft and incredible problem-solving abilities. She has worked exceptionally hard across all aspects of school life (particularly in Inclusion and in English) and has helped to make a positive difference to so many children. We know that many of our families have truly valued the support and care Miss Barnes has provided for them and the children in the classes she has taught have loved her to bits. She is a

very special person indeed and we are so glad that she chose our school to work at, even if just for a short time. We will miss her beaming smile, her Guinness World Record breaking level of productivity and her sense of humour. Farewell and thank you!

We also wave goodbye to Mrs Stanford who has a very special place in the heart of Emmbrook Junior School.

I only started in September but in a short time I've learned a great deal about her. Mrs Stanford goes above and beyond for the children she works with, using her amazing resourcefulness whenever she can. She is an avid learner – I have seen her notebooks filled to the brim and she always takes time to research. Mrs Stanford is incredibly knowledgeable (she's the secret weapon on any quiz team). Her head is full of facts! She adores books and can find anything you might need at the library. On top of these wonderful qualities, Mrs Stanford is also a seasoned sourdough baker, a very capable techie, a bee keeper, a sprout grower, a back-of-the-class heckler, a BSL signer and a Papier mâché whizz.

Over her ten years at Emmbrook she's not only shared her knowledge and expertise but laughter, empathy and friendship. Mrs Stanford has brought so much to our school – it will not be the same without her. All of us at Emmbrook Junior School would like to wish Mrs Stanford a happy and restful retirement – she deserves it. – Miss C Biln



Attendance from September 2020

The Government and Wokingham Borough Council have asked us to let parents know that **attendance at school from the start of September will be mandatory**. We are aware that while most parents will be keen for their children to return to full time education others may be anxious about returning their children to school. As a school we will first and foremost try to work with parents and reassure them that we will be following the guidelines as laid down by the DfE for the safe return of all children to school.

The school has shared its draft risk assessment with all parents so that they can feel confident about the reopening of the school from September. The DfE guidance states:

...the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;*
- *schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct*

We will be working closely with the Wokingham Education Welfare Team to help families struggling with the return to school. If you have any concerns or worries please contact the school so that we can support you in returning your children to school.

From September we will be returning to our normal uniform policy. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.

Please note that our **catering service have informed us** that they will only be able to provide the carried meal/packed lunch option from September. We requested that normal hot lunches are provided but they have told us they are not able to offer this under the current circumstances. If this changes we will inform you as soon as possible.

From September the 3rd we will be operating a 'soft start' to the day with the school gates and classroom doors opening from **8:30am to 8:50am**. Children will be able to go directly to their classrooms via the outer doors. This should reduce congestion and allow parents with children in the infants to drop off either before or after dropping off their infant child. If children arrive after 8:50am they will be recorded as late. Also, from September we will be extending the opportunity to walk home alone to Year 5 pupils as well as Year 6 pupils although this will only be done with written consent from parents. The school bike sheds will be in operation with the current one-way system continuing to be in place. We will be asking parents not to linger on site and if they need to speak to a teacher to contact the office via: admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

Times Tables Rock Stars

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Will Tucker	Michael Khan

Overall Most Correct Answers

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Eden Matthews	Lucas Baily



Well done to Eden for catching up on the most correct answers for Year 5 and Will for being the highest Year 5 earner this week. Can anyone catch Isabella & Aidan?

Login at www.ttrockstars.com/login/15813, using your Teams username (without the @emmbrook-jun bit) and your Teams password. If you are using the free app, you'll need to tell it we are at Emmbrook Junior School (not the secondary school).

Summer Learning

Summer Learning

This week we shared some of these activities with children taking part in the Key Hub Club and you may wish to use them over the summer. 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 follow 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. Year 6 children will continue to have access until the start of September when their access will be terminated.

Black Lives Matter – Anti-racism



This black resin statue of Ms Reid, called A Surge of Power, was created by artist Marc Quinn and designed to be a temporary installation to continue the conversation about racism. He said he was inspired to create it after seeing an image of her standing on the plinth with her fist raised during the Black Lives Matter protest on the 7th of June. How many statues of BAME people does the UK have? Who do you think deserves a statue to recognise their work on anti-racism?

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

- **Not Like The Others: A Hidden Picture Book About Diversity** by Jana Broecker
- **Julian is a Mermaid** by Jessica Love
- **Where Are You From?** By Yamile Saied Méndez

Virtual Sports Day

So the results are all in for sports day. The details are as follows:

The houses in order are:

4th – *GOLDEN EAGLES (14319 points)*

3rd - *KINGFISHERS (14455 points)*

2nd - *HUMMINGBIRDS (14483 points)*

1st - *REDSTARTS (15118 points)*

The following are the top 3 performers for each year:

Year 3 - *Evie Plummer, Xabi Clarkson Puente, Lilly Morris*

Year 4 - *Sophia Chinn, Annabel Westrap, Henry Wilkinson*

Year 5 - *Skye Seeley, Will Tucker, Elena Di Costanzo*

Year 6 - *Alex Ramirez, Eddie Newman, Ben Plummer*

13613 Side to Sides completed
903 successful Catching Claps
3379 Burpees smashed
2 hours and 27 minutes worth of Planks
1560 hole in ones
6313 Tuck Jumps (amazing amount)
2 hours and 11 minutes worth of Crane
12366 Star Jumps done

Well done to everyone who took part 😊

Online Safety

The potential harm or risk: *Fraud (online)*

Description: Fraud can take place online and can have serious consequences for individuals and organisations.

What can you do? Talk about what identity fraud, scams and phishing are. Remember that children are sometimes targeted to access adult's data, for example, passing on their parents or carers details (bank details, date of birth, national insurance number etc). Therefore, there is a need to keep everyone's information secure not just their own. It's worth thinking about what "good" companies will and won't do when it comes to personal details, for example a bank will never ask you to share a password or move money into a new account.

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

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

Design a T-shirt Comp Winner from Key Hub Club



This week in Key Hub club, one of our groups had a design a t-shirt competition. The children were tasked with designing their own t-shirt in whichever style they wanted and the best design was Mille Warner from 5 Pine. Millie designed hers with a strong message that is important in today's world and current situation, saying "we can only get through this together" and using the colours of the rainbow to represent the NHS. All the t-shirt designs were amazing and creative but we felt Millie's just topped the lot. As a prize she got to choose 2 books from library prize stash.

Goodbye from Miss Barnes

Goodbyes can always be difficult times and for me, this goodbye is particularly challenging. Saying farewell gives us the opportunity to stop and think about the good times and I want to thank you all for being part of them with me.

Joining Emmbrook was nothing like I expected it to be; Emmbrook is like nothing else. In its journey, it's true there have been trials and tribulations, ups, downs and inside outs but there has been fun and laughter, success and ambition and there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that for me, it has been the best experience.

The pupils at Emmbrook are simply brilliant - they are fun and funny, wise, witty and hard-working. When you're having one of 'those days', it's always a quick hello, a wave, a smile or an intellectual conversation you never expected to have that makes you stop and realise exactly why you became a teacher in the first place. This love and respect for each other is instilled in Emmbrook pupils by the most dedicated staff I have ever known - their commitment to improve and develop has been at the heart of the journey and I am very proud to have been part of that.

As I think back to all the brilliant times, I wipe a tear away and know how much I will miss them all. Despite the short time I have been part of Emmbrook, I have made the most special memories and I feel honoured to have been part of a school that know will continue on its journey to brilliance.

I wish each of you luck on the way. Thank you for letting me part of the team.

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 but we know that this is a significant increase and may be an issue

for some families. **If you now feel you wish to withdraw your children from the residential please contact the admin team ASAP.**

British Sign Language



100 basic signs in BSL - you can use this YouTube link to start learning some basic signs in BSL.

As with all YouTube links we encourage parents to review the material before sharing with children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMNHvXSW4iE>

Jessie's Hopes for the World

I hope that the world will be filled with joy

I hope that everyone would be happy in their life

I hope that everyone will have enough money so they won't have to worry about any thing

I hope that bad things won't happen

I hope that people would look after every animal big, small, carnivore or not

I hope that everyone will have a good education whilst having fun

Thank you Jessie, – I'm sure we share many of these hopes too.

Finally... a message from our Governors

It's been a year like no other. Our thanks must go to the school staff and leaders who have kept delivering education to our children day-in, day-out. Whether in bubbles, or remotely, we have been amazed at how the school has adapted and pioneered, often far in advance of other local and national schools. It is an understatement to say that we are proud of the staff and children of EJS.

Looking back to 19/20... we've had three Head Teachers in three terms - Mr Fenton left us, Miss Scales held the ship and now Mr Usher leads us. Well done Miss Scales and welcome Mr Usher! We also have three new Governors - Ann Tigerstedt, Matt Butchers and Tony Colby who are welcome additions to the team as we lost the services of Tony Charters, Raghu Vydyanath, Phil Theobald and our outstanding clerk, Barbara Hunter.

Financially, it was a transitional year for us. In recent years, we have needed to invest across the school to see the OFSTED improvements that we all wanted. It meant digging deep and using cash reserves, but we were thrilled with the outcomes and the improvement in results that was clear in our monitoring prior to lockdown. Our attainment and progress is now on the right path and we have a balanced budget plan for the next three years... assuming some sense of normality returns.

Following the work to determine the future of our schools and the support during the Spring term, our links with the Infant School have never been stronger. This encourages high quality transition, but also allows shared thinking, communications and schedules to make things as easy as possible across the two settings. Now we need to dive deeper into how we improve services by working with the Infant School.

Lastly, the pandemic – Zoom and TEAMS became staples of school life proving that some schooling can be delivered remotely, enabled by our investments in IT and the creative prowess of our staff. It also seems that the school is seen as a leader in this technology having been 1 of 3 schools asked to present to the wider borough. Well done. There were at least 40 revisions of the government guidance to schools in the 4 month period, which led to numerous revisions by the SLT to the school risk assessment for working in the face of the pandemic. Right now, the SLT are planning the reopening of the whole school in September, working out how we can bring all of our children safely back– not an easy task.

Looking ahead, we will be revisiting our school strategy and how we work within the community. We will also be continuing the preparations for the return of the OFSTED inspectors.

Whilst it's been a challenging year, we are proud of the progress that the school has made and feel highly confident that we have the right pieces in place to accelerate our progress.

We look forward to a busy and buzzing school in September. Meanwhile, enjoy your Summer break and recharge your batteries.