

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2020

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Hello from Mr. Usher



Hello everyone – what a week! Lunches, uniforms, TikTok, home learning have all come up this week along with the usual start of term questions and queries, however it has been brilliant having the majority of children in school this week. I know that there have been some questions about what to do if someone in your household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 so we have added some guidance and a link to where you can book tests to this week's newsletter.

A very big thank you to those parents that have supported us by remembering to social distance when on site and follow the one-way system at the start and end of the day.

Everyone in the school is continuing to do their utmost to keep the children (and staff) as safe as possible while still delivering a worthwhile education. As you can imagine, there have been teething problems and there will continue to be issues, which we will try to address as effectively as possible. We thank you for your continued patience and support.

Welcome Meetings via Zoom

Each year Group will be holding a welcome meeting for parents via Zoom on **Wednesday the 16th of September at 4:30pm**. Sadly, we cannot invite you all into school as normal. The teachers will share some of the expectations in terms of behaviour for learning as well as outlining the curriculum areas that will be covered over the course of the term. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers at the end and we hope that these meetings will also give you the chance to get to know your children's teachers a little better. The meetings will be approximately 20-30 minutes long. Passwords and codes will be shared for these meetings by the teachers via ScoPay. We will record the meetings so that should you not be able to attend, you will be able to view them at a more convenient time.

M&S School Uniform

We are aware that there have been some issues with the uniform orders from M&S. They are a new supplier for the school this year and there have been some teething issues linked to production. We are working with M&S to resolve these issues as soon as possible. It has been lovely to see the children back this week, all looking smart in their uniforms, however, if you have an issue with the uniforms and you feel that M&S have not addressed it for you, then please let the office know. We are happy to help.

Adults on site at drop off and collection

We have had a number of requests from parents asking us to remind our community about the need for **social distancing when dropping off or collecting children**. We know that many of you are keen to catch up with other parents and a quick 'hello' often turns into a chat. We would rather not have to be the 'Covid police' so

please remain a safe distance apart when waiting to collect your children and leave the school ground promptly once you have them.

We have had some reports of the pavements outside the main gate becoming busy with 'two-way pedestrian traffic' during our soft start each morning. We urge all parents to be mindful of others as they are walking towards or from the site along the main road.

We have opened up the play equipment for the children to use on a specified day during the school week but would ask that you **do not allow** your children to play on the equipment at the end of the day. **Please leave the site as promptly as possible.**

Finally, some Year 5 and Year 6 children have been given permission to walk home alone. This supports us in reducing the number of adults on site at the end of the day however, there has been some confusion with children that have permission to walk home still being collected. If you have given permission to your Year 5 or Year 6 child but still wish to come and collect them please let the office know via email.

Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping everyone safe.

Times Tables Rock Stars

To login into Times Tables Rock Stars go to www.ttrockstars.com/login/15813. Your child's 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).

All children will bring their logins and passwords home by the end of this week. Try and help your child to learn their login and password as this will help them to access TTRS both at home and at school.

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Not Started yet*	Dominic Laski	Aidan Thomas	Harry McAllister

Overall Most Correct Answers

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Not Started yet*	Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Eden Mathews

* Information about how to access Times Tables Rock Stars has been emailed this week and the logins and passwords shared with the children. Children in Years 4-6 will continue to use their logins from last year but we thought it wise to give them a little reminder!

Home-Learning

We have sent home clarification on our expectations for home learning this week, which we have aligned closely to our catch-up curriculum work this term. **For now, please ensure that your child reads daily (at least five times a week for a minimum of ten minutes) and that they log on to Times Table Rock Stars regularly to practise their times tables.**

Your child will be sent home with a library book, a levelled reading scheme book and a Reading Record book. Books are isolated for 72 hours once they are returned to school. On the off chance that a child wants to borrow a book on the same day it has been returned, it will be cleaned with anti-bacterial spray. Reading record books are checked every Friday so please ensure these records are brought into school and that you or your child are filling them in and have signed to say that they have read each day.

Covid-19 Testing

What should I do if my child or someone in my household has symptoms?

It's important that if your child (**or anyone in their household**) has any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, they do not attend school and stay at home. You should arrange for them to get a test and tell your school the test results. This will help the NHS Test and Trace process. If you have a positive test result, your household should remain at home and follow the Test and Trace self-isolation guidance.

Web link to order a home test kit or book an appointment at a test site: <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

EJS Governors

Introducing the cohort governors

As a governor one of the best ways to get to know the school, the staff and the children is the visits that we make to see the school in action. One of the monitoring roles that the governors hold is that of cohort governors. This means that every year group of children is assigned a governor who will follow that year group through from year 3 to year 6. Having one governor aligned to a group of children throughout their time at Emmbrook Juniors allows us to get to know the children well and therefore encourages 2-way communication. Hearing the children's views and experiences is vital to the work that we do with the school, they are, after all, why we are here! We visit the children in their classrooms at least once a term and try to attend important events such as school trips, assemblies and exhibitions. We also meet with the teachers from our assigned year group every term. Aside from getting to know the children well, working in this way helps the governors to see how the school improvement plan is being implemented in the classrooms and really helps us to understand how the school runs.

Who are we?

Year 3 – Tony Colby is an Associate Governor (joining EJS in the 2020 Summer Term) and has two children – one in Year 5 in EJS and one in Cygnets in EIS. Tony will be following the 2020 Cohort through their four years at EJS and is looking forward to seeing them grow and develop throughout their time at the school.

Year 4 - Darrell Frost has two children in the school (Year 3 and 5) and has been a Governor with EJS for over a year and with EIS for over 5 years. He's super keen to have the two schools working strongly together and to see how our children are learning in the classroom.

Year 5 – Matt Butchers has been a governor since January. He has two children at Emmbrook Infant school who are very much looking forward to coming to Emmbrook Juniors in the coming years. As well as being a teacher at a local secondary school, Matt also plays trombone in Wokingham Brass Band and he has a passion for all of the arts. He is excited to get to know year 5 and see how they on through the course of the year; and would love to see some of their wonderful work... he has heard great things!

Year 6 – Katherine Pritchard is a parent governor and has 2 children in the school (year 4 and 5). She has been a governor with EJS since May 2019 and cohort governor for the current year 6's since they were in year 5 and has loved getting to know them. She has been so impressed with the work that the children have produced for their exhibitions as well as their general enthusiasm for learning in the classroom. She is looking forward to seeing what year 6 holds for them!

Online Safeguarding

PLEASE BE AWARE - TIKTOK/SNAPCHAT/WHATSAPP/TWITTER/INSTAGRAM/YOUTUBE

There is an extremely upsetting and highly graphic video currently trending on TikTok of a man live-streaming his suicide. Whilst TikTok have stated that they are doing their best to remove the video, it has been shared across many social media platforms hundreds of thousands of times including under fake captions. Some captions on TikTok are as trivial as 'look at the pasta I cooked tonight' before the video then plays; therefore, children could come across the video without even searching for it.

Well-being

Every Mind Matters

The new Better Health - Every Mind Matter Children and Young People's Mental Health campaign from PHE and partners has gone live.

It includes a new NHS-approved tips and advice for parents and carers to look after their children's mental wellbeing, developed in partnership with leading children and young people's mental health charities, including Young Minds, The Mix, Place2Be and The Anna Freud Centre.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>

In school this week...

Even though it's only our first full week back at school we've had plenty going on.

The Year 6 children have had a go at dissecting a heart – we will have a write up and photos to share next week, while the Year 5 children explored the universe through the visiting planetarium and again we will share a write up and some photos of this event in next week's newsletter.

All the children have been enjoying doing the 'daily mile' as well as starting to learn British Sign Language. Research has shown that increased physical activity has a positive impact on both mental health and academic achievement both of which are key to supporting our children back into school following lockdown. We have made BSL part of our curriculum as it is a fantastic way to develop the skills of all children in our inclusive school.

Emmbrook Junior School - 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.