

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2020

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Hello from Mr. Usher



Hello all, as always, it's been a busy week here at Emmbrook Junior School. A big thanks to the Parent Forum for their feedback. We are working hard on the logistics of returning to hot school meals from the 5th of October and ensuring that all children have enough time to eat along with other considerations including the importance of maintaining our year group bubbles. You may have noticed that we have updated our Child Protection Policy along with our Health & Safety policy both of which can be found on our website. We continue to try and update our website so that it is a useful resource for you as parents but we know that some areas still need to be updated. Curriculum bulletins can now be found on the website along with previous Newsletters, which are always a good port of call when looking for information. If you don't see me round about the school for the next couple of weeks it's because of the arrival of my daughter, however, while I'm on paternity leave the school will be in the very capable hands of Miss Scales and Mrs Brant.

I would like to thank all those parents that have taken the time to welcome me to Emmbrook Junior School and let me know how we're doing. I'm very aware that we can't please everyone all the time but it makes a big difference to everyone at Emmbrook Juniors when our community lets us know what we are doing well.

NHS – Is my child too ill for school?



It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

But there are [government guidelines](#) for schools that say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school on the first day. Let us know that they won't be in and let us know why.

If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore, let us know.

For further guidance if you're unsure, go to: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Times Tables Rock Stars

To login into Times Tables Rock Stars go to www.trockstars.com/login/15813.

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Pola Debska	Abhinav Mannava	Finlay Siggins	Lucy Hall

Overall Most Correct Answers

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Pola Debska	Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Eden Matthews

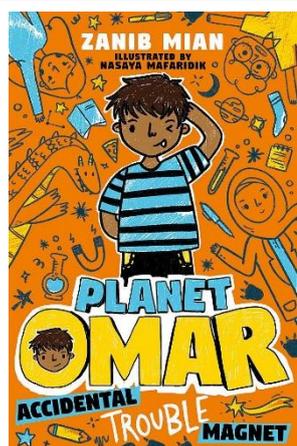
Austin has nearly caught Eden for overall correct answers in Year 6, Chiami is not far behind Aidan in Year 5, while Abhinav is right on Isabella's heels in Year 4 and Jovan is breathing down Pola's neck in Year 3. Could we have a new group of overall leaders next week?

Don't forget, the earners' scores reset every week. Can you top the charts next week?

Troubleshooting – My level has gone down!

Remember, Times Table Rock Stars is designed to improve both accuracy and fluency. Garage gives you 30-ish levels on one of the times tables so you learn it inside out and back-to-front! You then get a Gig which tests you on everything. The Gig will assess not only how well you answer the questions, but how quickly you can answer. Sometimes, when we are being quizzed on all the times tables, we slow down and Rock Stars will recognise this. This means that sometimes, following a Gig, Rock Stars will send you back to a level you have already done as it has detected that you weren't as quick as you were in the Garage. This is fine; you've not done anything wrong. It's a chance to practise, get quicker and earn lots more coins. You then get another Gig and try again. Sometimes you may do so well in a Gig that you skip some levels as you have shown you can do that times table so don't need to practise that one!

Anti-Racism



Books by authors from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds or with characters who are Black, Asian or from a Minority Ethnic background.

Planet Omar Series: Planet Omar/Unexpected Super Spy/Incredible Rescue Mission – Zanib Mian

My parents decided it would be a good idea to move house AND move me to a new school at the same time. As if I didn't have a hard enough time staying out of trouble at home, now I've also got to try and make new friends. What's worse, the class bully seems to think I'm the perfect target. At least Eid's around the corner which means a feast (YAY) and presents (DOUBLE YAY). Well, as long as I can stay in Mum and Dad's good books long enough...

Author Info: Zanib Mian fell in love with writing at primary school. After studying molecular cell biology at University College London, she taught science in secondary school before deciding to move into children's publishing. Zanib felt that characters from all minorities were missing from books for young children and launched Sweet Apple Publishers with a clear commitment to publishing inclusive books.

Parent Consultations

This term we are planning to hold parent consultation meetings 'virtually' using our Teams platform. We are in the process of planning how this will work but parents & carers will be given the opportunity to sign up for a slot in a similar way to previously. All parents will be sent a link to the meeting which they will be able to click

on and join the meeting. This does NOT require that you have a Teams or Microsoft account to work. You will then be placed in a lobby and the teacher will be able to let you in at your allotted time. When in your meeting you may see a message informing you that the next parent is waiting in the lobby. This process is new to everybody and while we are doing our best to anticipate any problems, we do ask that you understand there will be teething issues and we will do our best to address them.

The 'virtual' consultation is being held earlier in the term than usual and so will be a conversation around your child's well-being, how you feel they have taken to the return to school and what gaps in their knowledge and understanding you may have noticed during lockdown, you may also wish to share some of the learning successes that took place over the period.

A more formal autumn term report with identified next steps for learning will be shared with all parents and carers towards the end of the autumn term once assessments have taken place.

Year Group Exhibitions

As with parent consultations, we are forced to look at alternatives to in-person exhibitions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are still looking at what 'virtual' options may be available and how these might work but we have decided to move the exhibitions to later in the autumn term. This will mean that staff have adequate time to prepare them and we will be able to share some of the work done over the course of the term.

Remote Learning

Each week, staff have been sharing a remote learning document with links to the Oak National Academy. This is intended for children who are off school because they or a member of their household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or if they are away from school for another reason but are otherwise well enough to do some learning. It is **not intended** to be done by children who are at school as normal as we feel that the normal home-learning expectations that we have set are plenty. Please do NOT feel that your children have to do this in addition to their normal school day.

Lost Property & Changing Weather

It seems like every year/term parents and carers spend money on uniform that is then left on the field or playground. If it is labelled there is a good chance that it will (eventually) find its owner, however if it's not then it ends up joining the piles of lost property that seems to accumulate at an incredible rate over the course of the year.

Normally our wonderful Parent Forum will attack the mounting collection, however, due to Covid-19 they are unable to come in at present so I would ask that you **ensure all your children's items are adequately labelled**. If your child already has lost an item they can go and search the lost property cupboard at playtime or lunchtime.

As the weather changes please make sure that your children have a weather appropriate coat for break times and lunchtimes especially as it gets colder over the coming weeks and months.

Thanks for your support on this.

Online Safety

Personal data - Online platforms and search engines gather personal data. This is often referred to as 'harvesting' or 'farming'. Do you and your children know how cookies work? Data is often farmed from sources which look neutral, for example websites that look like games or surveys that can gather lots of data about individuals. A great starting point is to discuss how, and why, personal data is shared by online companies. For example, data being resold for targeted marketing by email/text (spam) – you may be able to share an example of where this has happened to you or someone you know. Talk about how you and your children can protect yourselves, including what to do if something goes wrong (for example data being hacked) and that acting quickly is essential. Perhaps you could research the rights children have with regard to their data, including particular protections for children under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). There are ways to

limit the data companies can gather, including paying particular attention to boxes they tick when playing a game or accessing an app for the first time.



Triller - Triller is a video app, similar to TikTok, that lets you create and edit short videos using effects and music, which you can share with your friends and followers. You can also watch and comment and like other people's videos.

13+ Official age rating - Triller doesn't have any specific information about safety features for parents and carers on the app or on their website. They have created some Community Guidelines that outline how they're trying to keep the platform a friendly and safe place to be.

The app also isn't constantly moderated by a team at Triller, which means inappropriate content won't always get removed straight away and your child might come across something they find upsetting. The overall rating for Triller in terms of safety is: **Average**

When you sign up for a Triller account you aren't asked to verify your age, but we don't think it's suitable for anyone below the age of 13. It's easy for kids to speak with people they don't know and come across videos that might not be suitable for their age.

Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. Advice and resources are available to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

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

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Well-being

Our well-being newsletter will be restarting on a monthly basis from next month and we will be sharing ideas for how you can support your children's mental health during the current pandemic and beyond. If you have any ideas that you would like us to share with the rest of the community, then please get in touch.

It is the firm belief of Emmbrook Junior School that in order to learn effectively then children must feel safe and secure and we have various initiatives in play to support their well-being, including mindfulness sessions and increased physical activity through the daily mile.

Daily Mile

As part of our well-being provision, we have increased the amount of physical activity the children do each day by introducing the 'Daily Mile'. This means that the children go outside and walk, jog or run for 10 minutes. Most will do much less than a mile and some may run more, however the idea is that they quickly get outside, get some fresh air and move. Research has shown that this improves well-being and academic achievement. The amount of time given over to this is less than that taken for morning break time or lunch time so the children don't spend time changing shoes (they don't change foot wear at play time or lunch time), they are able to choose their pace and chat with their friends as they move. Each year group has its daily mile at a different time of the day so that the year groups don't need to mix and bubbles remain as secure as we can make them. So far, the feedback from the children has been that they love the daily mile and would like it to continue but we are aware that some parents are concerned over the appropriateness of footwear. The vast majority of children are able to partake in the daily mile wearing their usual school shoes, this was one of the key features of the initiative at its inception, after all those are the same shoes they play in at break time and lunch time.

Year 4 Roman Day

Year 4 were very lucky this week to have a visit from a bona fide (Latin phrase) Roman soldier. After sharing some history of how the Roman Empire expanded across most of Europe and some of north Africa, we shared the delightfully disgusting etiquettes of a Roman bath before having a quiz about Roman life. We had a go at a Roman game (Ludus Segedunum – think noughts and cross with a couple more rules), that can actually be found scratched into the Hadrian wall! After lunch, we saw just how



advanced Roman weaponry was compared to their victims, before being put through our paces with some drills. Our target practise needed a bit of work though as many of us were attacking the Roman shields instead of the Celtic ones! All in all, a great day was had, with our visiting Roman saying how impressed he was with our children. Great job, Year 4!

Amazon Wish List & Amazon Smile

The PTA have set up an Amazon Smile account for the two schools. This means that you can raise money for the school simply by doing your usual Amazon purchases. If you go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> you can choose **Emmbrook County Primary School Parent Teacher Association** as your chosen charity. Then 0.5% of the value of your eligible purchases will be donated to our PTA. Once you have logged in through Amazon Smile you are able to shop in the usual way including buying items from a wish list...

Parents often ask us the different ways that they can support our school. We appreciate that not everyone can spare the time to come in and volunteer or attend every school fund-raising event. Therefore, we have set up an Emmbrook Junior School Amazon wish list. Next time you are browsing on Amazon, you will be able to view our wish list and purchase inexpensive items for the school (such as books or other resources) should you want to. We have also added some more expensive resources that a group of parents may feel they want to club together to buy. Anything you do buy for us can be automatically delivered to the school by selecting Emmbrook Junior School's Gift registry address at the checkout. If you don't do this the item may be delivered directly to your usual delivery address.

We have a general wish list for resources that can be used across the school, as well as year group specific ones. To access the wish lists, go into your Amazon account and click on the 'Account & Lists' tab at the top.

[Click on 'Find a List' then search for Emmbrook Junior School.](#)

Or use the link below:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1XCPWWH5UAPP0/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you individually for your generous contributions. In order for us to be able to do this, please add your name to the 'free personalised gift message' that should appear when you click on the option to deliver the item to our school address. Alternatively, please let the school office know (via a quick email) when you have bought something. Your support makes such a difference.

Happy shopping!