

# Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

## In this Edition:

- Hello from Miss Scales
- Governor Update
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Anti-racism
- Parents Consultations
- PHSE and SRE
- Home Learning
- Online Safety & Road Safety
- Year 3 Greek Day
- Halloween Dress Up
- Dates for Diary



## Letters this week:

- Bags2School Reminder
- PTA 100 Draw
- Free School Meals
- Bikeability Training Dates (Year 6 only)
- School Photographs
- USports Half Term Camp
- National Child Measurement Programme (Year 6 only)
- Wokingham Children's Book Festival
- Welcome to Year 3 from the Governors

## Hello from Miss Scales



Greetings everyone! You'll notice the absence of Mr. Usher's emoji and the arrival of mine in this newsletter, which can only mean one thing... We have some happy news to share with you all! Last Friday, Mr. Usher became a Dad for the second time to his new daughter, Elizabeth. We've all gone a bit gooey-eyed for her as she's absolutely gorgeous. We are sure you will join us in congratulating Mr. Usher, his wife and son on their new baby girl. He is currently on paternity leave and will be back in school by the end of next week. In the meantime, please direct any emails for Mr. Usher to me via [admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk).



We've all had a fantastic week in school with the arrival of some very groovy Greeks in Year 3 and the delicious smell of freshly cooked minestrone soup wafting down the Year 6 corridor. Year 5 have impressed me with their character studies in English whilst Year 4 have been immersed in learning more about the Roman Empire. We are very proud of your children for the way they have approached their learning in class since they have returned. We have been focusing on presentation, active listening, participation and collaboration within lessons and it has been lovely to see such high levels of engagement and team work.

In other news, I am becoming addicted to Times Tables Rock Stars! If your child would like to challenge me (or indeed any other member of staff) to a mathematical duel, they can do so through the Rock Slam function. Top tip – Mr. Fox is an absolute pro with times tables recall and is quicker than the speed of light! Challenge him at your peril!

## Governor Update – The Journey Continues...

Wow! Fully back to school and a month has passed.... what a journey we have been through! A big welcome to you all. We hope that you had a great Summer and that all the children are ready for the year ahead. We've welcomed some new staff to the EJS family and wish them the very best in their new jobs. Plus we welcome our new year 3 children, parents and carers.

The school is absolutely match-fit and firing on all cylinders. Mr Usher, Miss Scales and Mrs Brant continue to have the Governing Board's full support and we're delighted at how the school had a fresh and inviting feel for the new academic year. I hope you agree that the children have returned to a school that not only has a

positive, calm and nurturing atmosphere but high expectations of what our children can achieve. We are truly excited about this coming year and hope that you are too.

There are three big things that the Governors will be asking the school to act upon:

- **Taking a more strategic approach to where the school needs to go in order to be competitive and attractive in the future**
- **Ensuring teaching excellence to deliver high quality education, that meets the needs of all children**
- **Curriculum depth, broadness and variety, particularly ensuring that we are inclusive and bring a wide cross-section of content into the minds of our pupils**

Finally - we must acknowledge the huge amount of work by the school in planning and executing the safety protocols for all children, staff and parents with respect to Covid-19. Please help and support by encouraging hygiene excellence and social distancing on the school site. Thank you for your continued support!

## Times Tables Rock Stars

To login into Times Tables Rock Stars go to [www.trockstars.com/login/15813](http://www.trockstars.com/login/15813).

### This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Pola Debska	Isabella Jones	Nathan Smith	Milly Devereaux

### Overall Most Correct Answers

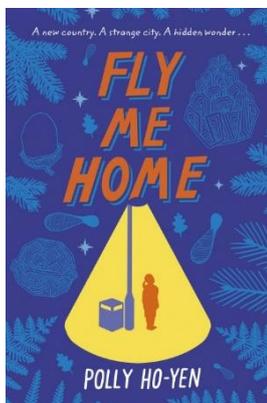
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Pola Debska	Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Eden Matthews

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

**Troubleshooting – “It's too easy for me”** Times Tables Rock Stars is used to increase fluency as well as accuracy. Studies show that known facts can be recalled within 3 seconds, which is why passing each level means getting 20 right in 60 seconds, or 60 right in 3 minutes. If you're “stuck” on a times table – it can't be ‘too easy!’ You need to get a question right in 3 seconds and then do the same in a Gig to prove you've mastered it. Getting the hang of typing in the answers quickly also helps of course, but that's why practice makes perfect!

## 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.**



### Fly Me Home – Polly Ho-Yen:

*As I turned to look for her, Dad let go of my hand, and when I looked back, he was striding away. Out of reach.”*

As she struggles to adjust to life in a new country, Leelu dreams of flying back home to her father and the life she left behind. London is grey and cold, there's concrete everywhere; she doesn't want to be here. Leelu feels so lonely – but she's not alone. Soon she discovers someone is leaving gifts for her, wondrous gifts that bring her curious magical powers. Will they help her find her way home? Filled with magic, family and friendship, this is an unforgettable and moving tale of one family's battle to belong.

**Author Info:** Polly Ho-Yen is a writer based in Bristol. She used to be a primary school teacher in London and while she was teaching there, she used to get up very early in the morning and write stories. One of those stories is now a book called *Boy in the Tower* and was shortlisted for the Blue Peter Book Award, Waterstones

Children's Book Prize and the Federation of Children's Book Groups Book Award. All three of her middle-grade novels have been nominated for the Carnegie Medal.

## Parent Consultations and IPP Meetings

Parents consultations will take place 'virtually' using our Teams platform. We will soon be sending out instructions for how to sign up for your slot and how to join the meeting. This does NOT require that you have a Teams or Microsoft account to work.

This 'virtual' consultation with your child's teacher is being held earlier in the term than usual to give us a chance to discuss your child's well-being and attitude to learning, how you feel they have taken to the return to school and how they are progressing so far. 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 all of our summative assessments have taken place.

If your child is on the SEND register and has an IPP, teachers will invite you to a meeting to review your child's new IPP and to discuss the strategies we will use in school to help them overcome their particular barriers to learning. Our teachers are currently putting together SMART targets in preparation for these IPP reviews and will be in contact soon to arrange a suitable time to meet. These meetings are also likely to be done virtually.

## PSHE – Sex and Relationships Education

A few Y6 parents have quite rightly queried when their children will be taught about changes to their body in puberty – a very important unit which is usually covered in Year 5. Please rest assured that our Year 6 team are busy planning those sessions and intend on delivering them either just before or just after October half term. A separate communication will be sent to Year 6 parents explaining more about what we will cover in those sessions and exactly when they will be.

Children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. This is why the DFE have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools from September 2020. All of the compulsory subject content must be age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. It must be taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law.

We are in the process of planning out a more balanced approach to the statutory delivery of the Sex and Relationship Curriculum where lessons will be spread out throughout the year rather than just in the summer term. I am aware that our 2020-21 curriculum maps on our website do not reflect these changes yet. Sorry for any confusion that this has caused. We will update them as soon as we have agreed our whole school approach and also invite parents to take part in a consultation to agree our revised SRE policy in light of the new statutory guidance.

## Home Learning

**A plea from teachers!** Please can children NOT steam ahead in their SPAG workbooks at home? It is important that the children do the units that mirror what they have been learning in class and that they only do the questions set by their teacher each week. If your child has taken a particular fancy to their CGP books, there are lots of other workbooks available for you to purchase on line at very reasonable prices. <http://cgpbooks.co.uk>

## Online Safety

In this week's newsletter, we wanted to signpost you to this useful guide for parents and carers on establishing a healthy relationship with screen time at home. This issue has become even more challenging recently due to the increased proportion of people working or learning from home. Recently, I have reflected on what kind of

role model I am for my own children in terms of the way I engage with digital devices at home. The information and tips in this guide are a good starting point for initiating conversations with young children and developing healthy attitudes.

<https://www.childnet.com/ufiles/Young-children-and-screen-time---a-guide-for-parents-and-carers.pdf>

## Road Safety

We have had some reports of cars failing to stop for pupils and parents at the zebra crossing by the Senior school during school drop offs and pick-ups. Therefore, we ask that parents talk to their children about road safety at home and remind them to be vigilant whilst crossing the road. Many of our older pupils now walk home unsupervised so it is even more relevant for them to brush up on their road safety knowledge. Our teachers will reinforce this in school too.

## School Photographs

Brush those pony tails and iron those t-shirts for it is school photograph day on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October! We will welcome our new photographer from Tempest Photography. Individual photographs will be taken of the children. If they have a sibling in the school, they will also be photographed together. This year our photos are going 'contactless' meaning that a proof will be emailed directly to you, rather than you receiving a hard copy via the school. Details will be included within the email regarding how to order your photographs online. The photos will then be delivered to the school and sent home with the children. Please be assured that the photographer will ensure all social distancing measures are followed whilst the photographs are being taken.

## Year 3 Greek Day

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their themed day this week. They were particularly impressed by the 'Real Greek' who led their learning. (Although a few children commented that he looked suspiciously like the 'Real Roman' who visited Year 4 last week! Funny, that!) They pretended to be Hoplite soldiers and practised their battle formation, as well as solving a head-scratching Archimedes puzzle, learning about the 12 Olympians and the history of Ancient Greece. Lil Smallman in Year 3 Ash summed up Greek Day perfectly: "Today. Was. AWESOME!"



## Halloween Dress Up Day

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October we will be having a non-uniform dress up day across the Infants and the Juniors! Children may come into school dressed as a Halloween character or they can choose to dress in their clothes from home if they would prefer. We respectfully ask that your child comes into school in appropriate footwear for the daily mile and for the playground – which means no high heels or open toed shoes. Your child will also need to ensure that they can fit their coat on over their costume as the weather is due to turn colder.



We are hoping the event will raise some much-needed funds for the school and therefore we suggest a minimum voluntary donation of £1 from each child. Thank you so much for your support.

## Dates for your diary:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October** – Hot dinners resume

**Week Beginning 5<sup>th</sup> October** – Assessment Week for all year groups

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October** – Individual and Sibling School Photographs

**Week Beginning 12<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> October** – Bikeability in Year 6

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October** – Parents Consultations (via Teams)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October** – Parents Consultations (via Teams)

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – Halloween Dress Up Day

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – INSET day – no school

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – First day of term

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 6 trip to Sea City in Southampton to the Titanic Exhibition

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 5 Tudor Day in school