

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2020

In this Edition:

- Hello from Miss Scales
- Black History Month
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Visitor and Online Safety
- Halloween Dress Up
- The Conqueror Challenge
- Guidelines for illness
- Dates for Diary



Letters this week:

- Infant School Library Books (Year 3 only)
- Halloween Virtual Balloon Race
- Conqueror Challenge
- Visitor Agreement
- Increased Safety Measures
- Wokingham Children's Book Festival
- The Willows Breakfast Club Survey
- Bikeability Reminder (Year 6 only)

Hello from Miss Scales



Happy Friday to you all! We are pleased to welcome Mr. Usher back to school today. We've missed him whilst he has been off changing nappies and burping his new born!

This week has been assessment week in school. The children have been doing some baseline tests so that the teachers can identify any gaps in learning or particular strengths that they may have and then target our teaching accordingly. We are pleased to say that the children have taken assessment week well and truly in their stride and have shown perseverance and stamina throughout the week. Of course – that is not all the children have been up to. This week, it was the turn of Beech class to spend an afternoon chopping up vegetables and serving up a batch of Year 6's now famous Minestrone soup. When visiting Year 5, I have had some very animated conversations with some of the boys about their ideas for their alternative ending to their class book 'Cosmic' that they are writing. Down in Year 4, the children have been having a lot of fun converting comic strips into playscripts which they read out to me with gusto. And as for Year 3 - they have really impressed me with their use of direct speech and adverbs in their writing about the Greek Gods.

Black History Month

October is Black History Month. In school, teachers will be having conversations, sharing stories and watching some educational videos around this topic with their children. We strongly believe that learning around this topic should not be left solely within October. Instead, this month will be a catalyst to start conversations which lead on to deeper learning across the entire school year and beyond.

Mrs Knight has recommended the following resources which you might find useful to dip into at home.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/49883230>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p07pd843/horrible-histories-top-5-black-history-month-with-oti-mabuse?collection=black-history-month>

So often in schools, children learn about the lives of iconic black people during Black History Month – such as Martin Luther King, Rosa Parkes and Mary Seacole. However, we also recommend discussing the lives of current influential black people too and exploring local black history. The mural on the wall opposite RISC in central Reading is a wonderful depiction of black history yet there is currently an on-going debate on whether it should remain on display or not. What does your child think?



Next week, Mr. Usher and Miss Biln are taking part in Wokingham Borough's 'Racial Equity' virtual meeting with colleagues from schools across Wokingham. They will be discussing what EJS have been working on as a staff in terms of racial equity as a school and sharing good practice and our next steps in reinforcing this theme throughout everything we do at school. We are proud to get the opportunity to talk about this with fellow schools.

Times Tables Rock Stars

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Oscar Earl	Novak Whitehouse	Aidan Thomas	Lucy Hall

Overall Most Correct Answers

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Oscar Earl	Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Eden Matthews

All change for our weekly earners and a new overall correct in Year 3 – well done, all! Will anyone catch up to our other overall most corrects? Isabella Jones has just become my rock star nemesis this week and thrashed me 46 to 32 on a tables rock slam! The shame of it! Well done Isabella – you have impressed me so much with your speed and accuracy.

Trouble-shooting:

Too easy?

Remember - there are many functions on the TTRS app that help children to practise all of their times tables (and not just their designated table) such as festivals, rock slams, studio and sound checks. Some children are saying that they think TTRS is too easy for them. Times Tables Rock Stars is used to increase fluency as well as accuracy. Your child might find that they have to work through lots of subtly different levels on the same times table – a times table they may believe that they have already mastered... however, if they hit the speed and accuracy target each time, they will soon move up the ranks. Coins are very motivating as your child can then 'buy' outfits and body bits for their little avatar!

Finished?

There are 420 levels in Rock Stars Garage mode. What do I do when I've finished? Well, there are the multiplayer options like 'Festival' (where you can take on anyone around the world in a live concert); 'Arena' (where you can take on anyone from the school in a live concert) and 'Rock Slam' (where you set a target for anyone in the school to beat). The first two are live, but Rock Slams are left for people to face whenever they log on. You do not have to answer a challenge, but go on – have a go! The other option is to work on your speed. That's where Studio comes in. You have a minute to get as many right as you can as fast as you can! The top 10 rock stars in the whole school can answer each question in under 2 ½ seconds! Can you join that group? You can, of course, try any of these modes at any time but they will feature all number facts up to 12 x 12. Are you ready?

Covid-19 Safety at EJS

You will have received a letter this week explaining how we have reviewed and updated our guidance for visitors to the school. The key things to note are that parents / carers must drop forgotten items off into a box outside the office from now on and that face coverings must be worn by visitors to reception; in areas of the school where social distancing is not possible and when in prolonged close proximity with a child. We will only invite a visitor or a parent into the school if we deem it is essential and only one parent / family will be allowed in Reception at any one time. Our visitor safety guidelines have also been issued to parents for your information.

We are seeing an increasing number of children and parents congregating on the playground or school drive at the end of the day or not following the one-way system. It is very important that we all do our bit to restrict potential transmission of the virus so we urge you to leave the site quickly and safely.

Dogs on Site

Please can we remind parents/carers that neither school allows dogs on the school site unless they are working dogs. We strongly encourage dogs to be left at home rather than tied up by the main gate. Thank you for your support.

Online Safety

This week's topic is 'Inappropriate content'

Like looking up rude words in the dictionary back in the day, children often look to push boundaries and be in the know about things they have heard about from elsewhere. However, whereas the dictionary would provide text results, an online search will offer images and video. You may be an expert at setting up filters to limit what your child can be exposed to but this is not the case everywhere that they go – other parents may not be filtering for a variety of reasons and if they are you can't be sure that the levels are the same as those you have set. Whether it is an inappropriate pop-up ad, videos showcasing Peppa pig or other cartoon characters in seemly adult contexts or forums promoting self-harm and extreme ideas, children can stumble across content by accident or intentionally that can make them feel upset and confused. The ease with which children may be exposed to this content all depends on what they are doing online. When children take part in the following activities online, the possibility and probability that they will see content that is not inappropriate increases:

- Joining social networks before reaching the minimum age
- Playing games and using apps which are not age-appropriate
- Watching live streams which may show inappropriate content or taking part in them and unconsciously being exploited

An NSPCC survey found that [78% of young people admitted to joining social media sites](#) before reaching the minimum age and half of the children surveyed had seen sexual, violent or other adult material on social media. Using apps and platforms that are not age-appropriate can expose children to things that they may not be ready for. Whatever age your child is, it's important to prepare them for what they might see and if it does happen, staying calm and having a conversation about it.

What do the children want to tell you this week?

Year 4 Roman Day:

On this day, we got to come to school dressed as real-life Romans. We really enjoyed the 'Hit the Shield' game. We had to take it in turns to throw a ball at a shield to earn points. We enjoyed it when Iggy came into the hall dressed as a real Roman soldier and explained all about the armour. When Iggy came into our classroom, he explained all about Roman bathhouses. It was so fun to see what the Roman bathrooms were like. After break, we went into the hall to play a real Roman game. It was like noughts and crosses but instead of a grid, it was on a target. In the morning, we went into the hall and did the quiz. Iggy set up some boards with facts about the Romans on and we had sheets with questions. We had to find the answers in the text that he gave us. **By Mia Varley and Sophia Curry.**

Lillia in 5 Maple:

"I really didn't like the idea of the daily mile when we first started but now I really enjoy it I'm getting better at it. It makes me ready to start my work."

Pine Class:

On Thursday 8th October 2020, Pine Class had a video visit from an author called Sue Palmer. We learnt even more space facts than we knew before! For example, astronauts' muscles shrink including their heart! We learnt that Scott Kelly (an astronaut) came back from his year mission to space and compared his health against his identical twin brother and found out that Scott's bones were 7 years older as a result of the mission. It costs 2 million pounds to make one spacesuit! The suit is like a onesie but not as comfy. Sue read us a section of her book (May's Moon) and told us it took her 6 months to write it and then another 6 months to edit! We have entered into the competition where we hope to win the prize as we will get to try space ice-cream! Sue says it has the texture of the ice-cream is like polystyrene but when it melts on your tongue it tastes delicious.

Halloween Dress Up Day

Another reminder that on Friday 23rd 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.



The Conqueror Challenge!

A huge thank you goes to Mr. Fisher, who has organised a fantastic fitness extravaganza! The children are really excited about taking part in this and we hope you will support them at home too. With everyone on board, we have no doubt that this event will be a big success and will encourage children to be active and help us fundraise for the school.

You have been sent all the information about how the challenge will run! We are aware that there has been an issue with the link you were originally sent for the form your child needs to complete, however this has now been resolved. The new link has been emailed out to parents/carers today. If you have any further questions, please direct them to Mr. Fisher.

What do I do if my child is unwell?

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Absence COVID-19 Coronavirus

A quick guide for parents/carers

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
 <p>... my child has coronavirus symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not come to school ✓ Contact school ✓ Self-isolate ✓ Get a test ✓ Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>... the test comes back negative</p>
 <p>... my child tests positive for coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not come to school ✓ Self-isolate for at least 10 days ✓ Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>... they feel better, but after 10 days. They can then return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone</p>
 <p>... somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not come to school ✓ Contact school ✓ Self-isolate ✓ Symptomatic household member to get a test ✓ Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>... the household member test is negative</p>
 <p>... somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not come to school ✓ Contact school ✓ Self-isolate for 14 days 	<p>... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation</p>
 <p>... NHS test and trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not come to school ✓ Contact school ✓ Self-isolate for 14 days ✓ Seek a test if symptoms develop 	<p>... the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation</p>
 <p>... we/my child travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</p>	<p>Term time holidays, including quarantine time, are unauthorised. Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not come to school ✓ Contact school ✓ Self-isolate for 14 days - even if a test is negative ✓ Seek a test if symptoms develop 	<p>... the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed</p>
 <p>... we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Do not come to school ✓ Contact school ✓ Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	<p>... school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>
 <p>... I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p>	<p>Only people with symptoms* need to get a test People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</p>	<p>... when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</p>

* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste

Dates for your diary:

Week Beginning 12th October and 19th October – Bikeability in Year 6

Wednesday 21st October – Parents Consultations (via Teams)

Thursday 21st October – Parents Consultations (via Teams)

Friday 23rd October – Halloween Dress Up Day

Monday 2nd November – INSET day – no school

Tuesday 3rd November – First day of term

Wednesday 4th November – Year 6 trip to Sea City in Southampton to the Titanic Exhibition

Thursday 5th November – Year 5 Tudor Day in school

BERKSHIRE
Maestros



Music Lessons

Do you like music? Interested in learning an instrument?

Berkshire Maestros offers musical instrument and singing lessons in your school, face to face during the school day.

Prices start from just **£10 per lesson***,
and you can even hire an instrument from us!

Instruments in your school

Taught by

Find out more or book your **FREE** taster session below

More info please

FREE taster please

www.berkshiremaestros.org.uk

*Help with fees available, please contact us for more information