

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2020

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Letters this week:

- Survey Results – The Willows Breakfast and After School Club
- Berkshire Maestros Newsletter
- After School Clubs – Spring 2021
- Survey – The Willows
- End of Term
- Conqueror Challenge Update

Thank you from Mr Usher



I know many of you may be feeling a little dejected and confused following the Government's announcement that we are to go into Tier 2 at the end of the current lockdown. I'm certainly beginning to feel increasingly frustrated with the restrictions being placed upon us. I would only ask that you continue to follow our Covid-19 guidelines to help us mitigate the chances of transmission at school. I have to admit that we have been very lucky up to now. I find myself touching wood all the time as unlike many other local schools we haven't yet had to isolate any bubbles. I say lucky because our risk assessment, while as effective as possible, is no better than any others in the borough. The majority of cases in schools in Wokingham have been due to community transmissions so I ask and urge you as lockdown ends to continue to protect yourselves and the rest of the Emmbrook community by following the government rules despite any frustration you may be feeling. **I firmly believe that the reason why we have not had to isolate any bubbles is because of the vigilance of our parents and carers**, keeping children at home if members of the household display symptoms and following the guidance issued both locally and nationally. I thank you for your efforts and sacrifice and hope that it continues to allow us to remain fully open.

Thank you to those of you that helped us complete our vision survey for Emmbrook Junior School, it's not only helpful but vital to get input from our parents and carers.

Have a good weekend everyone and stay safe.

Talking to your child about anti-racism

Here are some links to resources that **may** give you some ideas about how you can chat to your children about race.

Watch and listen:

- [Podcast – Talking race with young children](#) - some helpful tips on how to initiate conversations and be proactive with discussions (this is an American podcast and so may use terminology more commonly used in the US).
- [BBC Woman's Hour – How to talk to your children about race and racism](#) - some starting points for discussions and how to empower children.
- [All Bugbears – a girl explains how she is sad when she sees people being racist](#) - thoughts about how everyone is the same on the inside.
- [Newsround - Growing up in black America](#) - looks at opinions from around America and the history of slavery.
- [Horrible Histories – Rosa Parks](#) - a short YouTube video all about Rosa Parks.
- From the US, CNN have partnered with "Sesame Street" for [Coming Together: Standing Up to Racism](#), a town hall for kids and families.

Being an inclusive school, this is something that we believe in very much and hope you will support us in tackling racism.

Times Tables Rock Stars

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Jovan S	Abhinav M	Nathan S	Austin I

Overall Most Correct Answers

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Oscar Earl	Isabella Jones	Aidan Thomas	Isabelle Mason

Online Safety

Challenges - Online challenges acquire mass followings and encourage others to take part in what they suggest. Ask your children if they know what an online challenge is? You could discuss any examples they or you may be aware of and that while some will be fun and harmless, others may be dangerous and or even illegal. Get them to think about how to assess if the challenge is safe or potentially harmful, including considering who has generated the challenge and why? Make sure they know that it is ok to say no and not take part. Do they know how and where to go for help if worried about a challenge? Make sure they understand the importance of telling an adult about challenges which include threat or secrecy ('chain letter' style challenges).



Kidschat.net is a free online messaging site aimed at children. You can talk to people you don't know on public forums and via private message. You can access the site as a guest or by creating an account. **13+ Official age rating**



Expert overall rating for **Kidschat.net** = **Very Poor**

Kidschat.net doesn't have an appropriate system in place to ensure only young people aged between 13-19 can access the site. This means it's easy for both younger children and adults to use it. There is a high risk your child could talk to an adult they don't know and come across language or messages they might find upsetting. There are also reports online about young people being sent private messages asking for nudes.

The site advertises itself as the 'world's largest chatroom for kids' and a place children can go 'to make friends'. Some kids might think that it's ok to use so it's really important to talk to your child about the dangers of using these types of free messaging platforms. **We do not think this site is suitable for anyone under the age of 18.**

You can find out about a wide range of apps and online platforms at: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Assessments

The children have been doing their termly assessments this week. The main purpose of these tests is to identify any gaps in children's learning. This allows teachers and support staff to plan how best to support the children to address these areas of learning that need to be developed further. The tests also give us an indication as to whether the children are likely to reach age related expectations by the end of the current academic year. Many children find tests intimidating and stressful and we as a school do everything we can to support the children and so the termly judgements are not based upon test results alone. The teachers use their professional judgement based upon the work they see in class on a day to day basis as well as the snapshot provided by the test data.

We will of course be sharing our assessments with you via a termly report which will indicate if your child is on track to meet expectations (or exceed them) in reading, writing and mathematics.

The Conqueror Challenge

We have just completed our 7th challenge leaving 6 more to go. The final big challenges are still to go and the children and staff have been making great progress in whittling down the kilometres. It's amazing to see so many children really push themselves and want that sense of achievement when they have hit a target. As well as this, the generosity of you all has been fantastic in regards to the donations we have received on the Just Giving page. We have nearly hit our initial target and will look to increase this after Christmas. The link for the Just Giving page is as follows if you wish to donate:

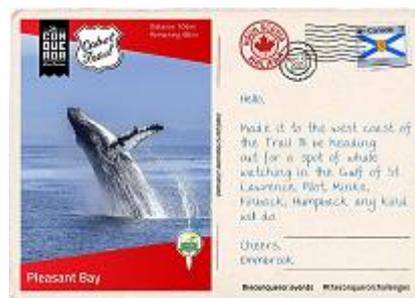
https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmbrook-junior-school?utm_term=DnPg3yKm4

If you wish to record your child's activities then please follow this link to fill in the online form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Q8pkRCuPhk2xPScES2el7HEgsR7Z5QVFtrlqb7B4okB UQVFPWTJOWVplRzQ0MkdUQ0tRNDVONIuzWi4u>

Our current total stands at 3341.7km as a total. The year 3's are the first year group to hit over 1000kms and we have now had 6 people hit the 100km mark.

Well done to all and keep on moving!



Parking in the local area

You may have noticed the request to be considerate when parking in the local community at pick up and drop off times in last week's newsletter. **Thank you to those of you that have supported us** and we have had reports of improvements, however we continue to receive complaints from some of our neighbours who believe that we as a school are not taking the issue seriously enough. I'm sure you realise how this can be a cause of frustration and even anger for some of the local residents. As we make clear to our neighbours, the majority of our children live in the area and the school is an integral part of the community it serves.

Photographs of cars that have been parked in an inconsiderate manner locally (particularly in Emmbrook Gate) have been shared with us and if the issues continue we will follow this up with all relevant parties.

We hope that you can continue to help us by ensuring that you are considerate of our (and your) neighbours if you need to park in residential areas when picking up or dropping off children at school.

Again – thank you for your ongoing support.

What do I do if my child is unwell?

Wokingham Guidance -

<https://wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/resources/assets/inline/full/0/535887.pdf>

Latest DFE guidance for parents –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 1st December – Flu Immunisations

Thursday 10th December – PTA Christmas Raffle Draw

Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

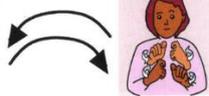
Friday 18th December – Last Day of Term (**2.00pm finish**)

Tuesday 5th January – 1st Day of Spring Term

At Emmbrook Junior School we are:



Inquisitive



Adaptable



Kind



Inclusive



Courageous