

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 6th November 2020

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Letters this week:

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- Collection After School (Year 3 only)
- RBFRS Bonfire and Diwali Activity Sheet

Hello from Mr Usher



A big thank you to the Parents Forum whom I met with recently. The feedback and comments are invaluable and we really appreciate your support. If you wish to get in contact with the Parents Forum to share any comments you have, details can be found on our [website](#).

I should also mention the PTA committee who are still doing as much as they can to raise important funds for the school, despite not being able to run many of the usual events. Look out for details on this year's Christmas raffle which will be drawn online via Zoom by yours truly.

One of the issues raised by the Parent Forum was around the assessments recently completed by the children. The purpose of these assessments, unlike the ones they will do later in the term, was **not** to assess their progress but to ascertain what learning, if any, had been lost during the first lockdown, when many children were not in school. These tests will support teachers in planning what areas need to be re-taught and what gaps there are in understanding. This is why teachers were not able to share specifically where the children are in terms of their attainment during the recent parent consultations. However, the usual assessments will take place in a few weeks' time and following these we will be able let you know where your children are in terms of their academic achievement. I hope this makes sense and thank you for your patience.

We know that the new lockdown may be impacting many people's wellbeing but please rest assured that we are doing everything we can to keep children safe while at school. Keep safe and have a great weekend.

Coats & Jumpers

The massive drop in temperature can't have escaped your notice and we would like to remind you that **children should be wearing a school jumper and an appropriate coat or jacket to school.**

As we have to maintain air circulation in school to reduce the chances of Covid-19 transmission, we have windows and doors open during the school day. If you are worried about your child becoming cold, they may wear an additional, jumper, fleece or tracksuit top over their school jumper. This should not replace their school jumper but be in addition to it. If children report that they are feeling cold we will also give them permission to wear the coats should they wish to.

Please keep any additional jumpers etc. as plain as possible.

Thanks for your support on this.

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Contributions during WW1

People from all parts of the British Empire contributed to the needs of the war, whether by serving in the armed forces or providing material and financial resources. Most of this contribution was of a voluntary nature. Indeed, all those serving in the Indian Army were volunteers. People of colour and the regiments and branches

of the services in which they played their part could be found in all theatres of the war. Black Briton Second Lieutenant Walter Tull saw action in France and Italy; African soldiers were also on the western front; four Indians and at least one West Indian were pilots in the Royal Flying Corps; sailors from India, China and Nigeria served in the Royal Navy.

[You can find out more about how black and ethnic minority soldiers supported the war effort here.](#)

Times Tables Rock Stars

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Pola Debska	Isabella Jones	Finlay Siggins	Austin Ilbrey

Overall Most Correct Answers

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

Oscar is still in the lead overall in Y3 with Pola not far behind. Pola being the top Y3 earner for the third week in a row. Isabella is holding on to her overall lead in Y4 and is extending her lead. Aiden looks unstoppable in Y5 – come on Y5 someone can catch him! Well done Isabelle for the most correct answers in Y6.



Maths Week England Rock Out 2020 is starting soon!

As part of our commitment to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, this November we are taking part in a competition for Maths Week England. It's called Rock Out 2020 and it's all done online via play.ttrockstars.com/15813

For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition

hours). Winning classes in the school and in the country as a whole will be the ones with the highest average. All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 7.30am and 7.30pm on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 12th, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans. We suggest a limit of half an hour a day outside school hours – some will play more, some will play less.

Thanks for your support

Covid-19 – Start and End of Day – Thank you



A very big thank you to all the Year 3 parents who have been absolute 'stars' in standing further back on the playground at pick up time. This has allowed the flow of people on and off the school grounds to be much smoother with much less crowding around the playground gates. Please remind any siblings or child minders that may be doing the pick up that they must wait behind the stars when doing collections so that we can keep the pathway clear.

Also, a very big thank you to those of you that have chosen to wear face coverings on site. The guidance from Public Health England has been very

clear that the chances of transmission when passing people on the street or playground is minimal but by wearing face coverings you are alleviating the anxiety of some members of our community as they come onto the school grounds.

Online Safety

Privacy settings - Almost all devices, websites, apps and other online services come with privacy settings that can be used to control what is shared. Talk to your children and help them find information about privacy setting on various sites, apps, devices and platforms. It's worth explaining that privacy settings have limitations, for example they will not prevent someone posting something inappropriate.



Omegle is a free online chat site that lets you speak to other users without registering. You can choose to talk via text chat or video call. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions where they chat anonymously using the names "You" and "Stranger" meaning you have no control over who you can talk to. **Official age rating - 13+**

Our overall rating for Omegle - Very Poor

It's easy for kids to gain access to Omegle as the site doesn't require you to register as a user, or identify their age, meaning anyone is able to access the site.

Omegle refer to their site as a place users can go and 'Talk to strangers'. We think it's dangerous for children to use as they can easily talk, via text and video chat, to people they don't know who might be over 18.

There's also a high risk that your child will come across explicit sexual content and bad language on the site. We do not think this app is suitable for anyone under the age 18.

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

What's been going on this week?

Tudor Day in Year 5

Year 5's new topic is about Tudors and King Henry VIII.

In the morning, we did four activities: drawing ourselves as Tudors in the style Hans Holbein, Tudor coat of arms, we compared modern day and Tudor life and acted out the Battle of Bosworth.

In the afternoon, we made Tudor brooches out of clay. We learnt a very catchy song about Henry VIII and his six wives.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EGzHsye71c&list=RD3EGzHsye71c&start_radio=1

To sum up the day it was AWESOME, FUN and AMAZING!

Ilesha and Ben W (Pine): "I loved making a Tudor style brooch out of clay"



Beth (Pine): "King Richard III was killed by Henry VII in War of Roses"

Freddie (Maple): "The battle was super fun!"

Zoe H (Maple): "Drawing the portraits of us as Tudors was super fun!"

Nathan (Maple): "I learnt that the War of Roses started the Tudor period"

Miss Felton and Miss Biln would like to thank everyone for their great effort with this fantastic day.

Year 6 - Despite our trip to SeaCity Museum being cancelled, we had a great day. Kate from the museum Zoomed into the classrooms and gave us an excellent workshop. We learnt lots about the Titanic and have begun using that in our Learning Journey and English work. We then built boats out of tin foil and had to test them. We had to design the boats to make sure they could float and hold some weights. We then tested them all and crowned a boat making winner! Some of our boat managed to hold over 500 grams of weight.



The Conqueror Challenge



4 weeks in to the conqueror challenge and we are just under 2000km. 3 challenges have been completed and we are very close to completing 3 more. Its been a fantastic effort from the children and staff, putting in that little bit extra to push and challenge themselves. We had our first pupil cross the 100km mark, a massive well done to Bertie Butler (3 Larch), keep going and maybe you will hit the 200km marker 😊.

In regards to fundraising, we have so far to date collected £620.00. Thank you to all of those who have donated to help the school and support all the children at Emmbrook Junior School. If you wish to donate to this amazing challenge then please follow/click on the link and donate what ever you can. No donation is to small.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmbrook-junior-school?utm_term=aB8eY23aN

For those who have not managed to take part yet and would like to, please click on the link for the online form and enter your activity details. Remember, only put in the details of the activity you have done as extra. Not what you would normally do on a week to week basis. For example, family walk or bike ride, taking the dog for a walk when maybe you wouldn't, walking/skating/running or cycling somewhere when you would normally drive.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Q8pkRCuPhk2xPScES2eI7HEgsR7Z5QVFtrlqb7B4okBUQVFPWTJOWVpIRzQ0MkdUQ0tRNDVONIUzWi4u>

What do I do if my child is unwell?

You can find the guidance we shared last week here:

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

Candles for Christmas?



I make hand poured vegan friendly soy candles and other homewares from repurposed glass bottles that have been collected from family, friends, my lovely Emmbrook colleagues, local bars and restaurants.

If you are looking for a unique and eco-friendly gift I have a little Etsy shop and am offering free local delivery simply use the code FREEDELIVERYNOV when checking out :)

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/LBGlassware>

Lyndsey – Reception Team

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 12th November – Y5 & Y6 Road Safety Talks

Friday 13th November – Children in Need – Super Yellow Pudsey Day

Thursday 10th December – PTA Christmas Raffle Draw

Friday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Friday 17th December – Last Day of Term

Tuesday 5th January – 1st Day of Spring Term