

# Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## In this Edition:

- Thank you from Mr Usher
- Diversity in Literature
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Online Safety
- Ofsted Parent View
- Conqueror Update
- Wokingham Online Nativity
- What to do if your child is ill
- Dates for your diary



## Letters this week:

- PTA 100 Club
- Manor Presentation on Teams (Year 5 only)
- Covid Update – letter from Mr Usher

## Thank you from Mr Usher



I obviously spoke too soon and tempted fate in my message last week. It feels like the virus is closing in on us with confirmed cases in the Infant and Senior Schools. All I can do is assure you that **we are doing our best to reduce the chances of transmission within our setting**. If you are unsure what to do please follow the guidance in the newsletter.

You have all been incredible in how you have followed the guidelines and requests we have made.

**Thank you to all of you that completed our surveys** regarding where we would like the school to be in 5 years' time as well as the connectivity audit. The connectivity audit has given us a clear picture of what provision we need in terms of devices in case of a lockdown or bubble closure. Your responses to where you would like the school to be in 5 years' time has given us a great deal of food for thought – thanks again for your contributions.

A huge well done and thank you goes to all of the children who helped Mr. Fisher and Miss Scales with the creation of our promotional video for prospective Year 3 parents. The children put a lot of effort into writing their parts and spent time practising speaking clearly and confidently in front of the camera. Mr. Fisher did an incredible job of editing the video together. **We are very proud to share it with you!** –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MxpQrGrqDI>

We were so grateful for the recent donations you made for a local foodbank, your contributions will really make a difference to someone locally who is struggling right now. **Thank you all for the wonderful donations to our Foodbank collection.** Due to your generosity, we managed to collect and deliver a staggering 85kg of



Christmas treats! It will bring some much-needed Christmas cheer to some families in our local community. Merry Christmas!

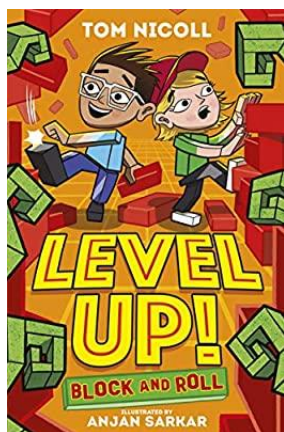
The Parents' Forum has let us know about one of our neighbours, Liz Reed, who volunteers for Trussell Trust. She has placed a box for Food Bank donations outside her house, 43 Clifton Road, Emmbrook.

Here is a link for the latest general request list, plus a Christmas list on the website too, <https://wokingham.foodbank.org.uk/>, if you are able to continue to make donations locally. Perhaps you can combine a walk to see the local Christmas lights, with a drop off at the box?

A message from the Mayor – Dressing the

Town Christmas Tree - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NrrrW6zStss&feature=youtu.be>

## Diversity in Literature



### Level Up! Series: Level Up!/Block and Roll/Last One Standing/Beast Battles/ – Tom Nicholl

Videogame-obsessed Flo gets more than she bargained for when she finds herself INSIDE her favourite game. Turns out, virtual reality isn't as much fun when it's not so virtual.

When Flo's engineer mum creates a device that will make her image appear in her videogames, Flo can't wait to use it! Ignoring her mum's warnings that it's not ready, Flo accidentally transports herself into the game, along with her not-so-keen-on-videogames-and-wishing-he'd-stayed-home best friend Max. Immersed in the world of Star Smasher, they not only have to face armies of soldiers, but also the very real possibility that there may not be a way out...

## Times Tables Rock Stars

### This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Jovan S	Marko W	Chiami C	Isabelle M

### Overall Most Correct Answers

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Jovan S	Isabella J	Aidan T	Isabelle M



A couple of new names this week – well done Marco and Chiami. Can we get some new names next week?

Keep practising - <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

## Online Safety

**Content which incites** – This is about knowing that violence can be incited online and escalate very quickly into offline violence. Letting children know that online content (sometimes gang related) can glamorise the possession of weapons and drugs but this is not the reality and the possession of such materials is illegal is key. It's also worth explaining that to intentionally encourage or assist an offence is also a criminal offence. Hopefully this is not something that our children will be exposed to but they should be aware of it so that they can recognise it when it happens and let an appropriate adult know. All children should know how and where to get help if worried about involvement in violence.



**Chatroulette** is an online chat site that connects you with other users from around the world via video-chat. The site requires no registration or age verification meaning anyone can access it.

While Chatroulette encourages users under the age of 18 to not use the site, there is no age verification process in place. This means it's easy for anyone to access the platform.

Official age rating : **18years +**      Safety Rating: **Very Poor**

**Users have no control over who they're connected with on the site.** This means your child will be chatting to people they don't know and there's a high risk they could video-chat with an adult.

There are two different channels for users to choose from 'Random chat' and 'Unmoderated chat'. As there is no way to moderate live video-chat, there is a high risk your child might come across something inappropriate or upsetting on the platform.

**We do not think this app 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/>

## Ofsted Parent View



<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

In advance of any possible visit from Ofsted in the coming year it would be useful if parents could give their feelings about the school via Parent View. Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. We only ask that if you do have any issues you raise them with us first so that we have a chance to address them.

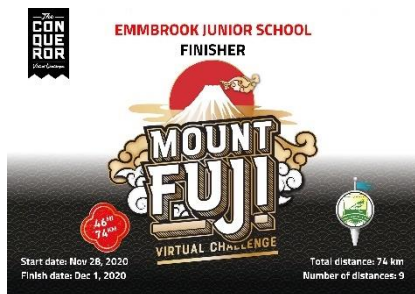
## The Conqueror Challenge

So some of you may have noticed a new challenge came and went in the Conqueror Challenge. On Friday we started the Mount Fuji challenge and by Tuesday it was already completed! This was a small distance so no surprise it was completed so quickly. This means we have now completed 8 Challenges and have 6 more to go. The total distance travelled is 3736.2 which is an amazing effort, with over 100 children taking part. A big well done to Luke Matthews in 3 Ash for being the 7<sup>th</sup> person to hit the 100km mark, amazing stuff and keep it going! Thank you to all of those who have helped and donated to the school, this is greatly appreciated and every donation helps the school. Let's keep being active over the next few weeks, especially over the Christmas period and log down those family walks/bike rides.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmbrook-junior-school?utm\\_term=8Kd7NR6Bw](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmbrook-junior-school?utm_term=8Kd7NR6Bw)

Some children have mentioned that their parents can not find the link for the online Conqueror form. The following link will take you straight to the form to fill and send.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Q8pkRCuPhk2xPScES2el7HEgsR7Z5QVftrIqB7B4okBUQVFPWTJOWVpIRzQ0MkdUQ0tRNDVONIUzWi4u>



## Wokingham Online Nativity

This year, many schools and churches have had to cancel or restrict access to nativity plays and services. For any families this is part of Christmas festivities therefore Kings Church are holding an Online Nativity Service via zoom. The service will be participative for the children who can dress up as a nativity character, join in the story via actions and responses and sing the traditional Christmas carols and songs. Below is a link to a short Facebook video in which "Justine and Bert the monkey" explain what is happening.



[https://fb.watch/28y\\_awoNYF/](https://fb.watch/28y_awoNYF/)

Please also find attached to this email details of the nativity service, together with the zoom code that is required to join.

## In class...

**Year 3 Ash:** Sign to Sing December 2020 - <https://youtu.be/QpmfPc8wKuk>

**Year 6 Beech** – We are enjoying writing our own version of Chapter 12 from The Polar Bear Explorers Club by Alex Bell. It is about some children who get lost in Iceland. They find igloos which contain fairies, who pretend to be nice but are actually evil! We are writing about when the junior explorers escape from the 'evil frosties'.  
– Isabelle M & Abi P

**Year 4** are rewriting songs in writing, using our skills from writing poetry and our experience from rehearsing our play.

## Amazon 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 should be automatically delivered to the school.

**Mrs Edwards has especially asked us to plug the requests for our well-being library.**

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. Happy shopping!

**Alternatively, please use the link:**

We really appreciate everything that you do to support and contribute to school life at Emmbrook Junior School. Thank you so much from all of the staff and the children.



## 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:

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – PTA Christmas Raffle Draw

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Last Day of Term (**2.00pm finish**)

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring Term

## At Emmbrook Junior School we are:

