

# Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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- Times Tables Rock Stars
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## Letters this week:

- Year 6 Christmas Song (Year 6 only)
- Change of Menu 10<sup>th</sup> December
- Cold Weather Alert
- Wellbeing Newsletter
- Silent Auction
- School Meal Change
- School Library Books
- Wokingham Guidance If Your Child Is Unwell
- PTA Raffle
- Christmas Closure
- RSE Policy Consultation
- Parent Forum Minutes

## Thank you from Mr Usher



A number of parents have mentioned dangerous driving they have observed recently, both from members of the public and by members of our school community. Many of us may be in a hurry or frustrated by other drivers on the road but that is not an excuse for poor road craft or lack of proper courtesy. I will support any parents or carers who choose to report such actions to the police. **This is about keeping our children safe.**

Thanks to those of you that are helping by parking responsibly in the area. It was mentioned to me that The Dog & Duck are amenable to people parking briefly at pick up and drop off times although we haven't as yet been in touch to confirm this.

**The Parents' Forum met last week** and were kind enough to share your positive comments and feedback which have been shared with the whole team here. If you have any feedback please get in contact with the parents' forum via the email address on the school website. Presents for teachers/staff has come up and while there is no expectation that you buy gifts for staff **they are allowed and welcome.** We will encourage staff to isolate gifts for 72 hours so please don't be offended if they don't open them immediately.

This week some of our cohort **Governors have met with children** via Zoom to find out about how things are going at the school, along with what the children are learning.

On Monday we were lucky enough to have a **remote assembly delivered by Fr Richard** of St Pauls to celebrate the start of advent – thanks to Fr Richard for a lovely assembly. Ask the children about Christmas surprises.

Finally, we have nearly made it to the end of term and **we continue to be lucky.** You are probably aware that The Emmbrook School has had to close until January and our thoughts are with our colleagues. The closer we get to the holidays the more aware I am of the impact of having to close a bubble. Were any children required to isolate it could potentially impact their family's Christmas plans. **Please continue to follow our Covid guidance,** if you are able to wear a mask on site please do so, please maintain social distance when waiting to collect children. We will continue to **remind children about cleaning hands** and keeping a safe distance. The less contact you have with people outside your household the less likely the virus can be transmitted. Passing someone on the street presents little risk especially if you are wearing a mask but if you stop for a chat the risk increases the longer you chat for.

We have had some reports of children not using an appropriate crossing on Emmbrook Road and walking in front of cars coming onto the school site before 8:30am when the gates are opening. **Before 8:30am and after 9:05am only the pedestrian pathway should be used, not the driveway.** Children under Year 5 should be accompanied to school and **all children should use the proper crossing points.** Please remind your children about the importance of road safety and we will do the same in school. Thanks for helping us to keep all the children safe.

**Have a great weekend everyone – Christmas is almost here!**

## Anti-racism

Hello all, the governors and staff have been looking at some material produced by Black British filmmakers exploring the impact of George Floyd's killing by the police in the United States and the protest it has sparked in the UK. We thought this might be of interest to some of our parent community:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/take-your-knee-off-my-neck/episode-guide>

The films are powerful and contain language and topic matter that you may not feel is appropriate for your children and **we are not recommending that you share these with children**. We are using them as a stimulus for discussion among staff and governors.

## Times Tables Rock Stars

### This week's Top Earners

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

### Overall Most Correct Answers

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



Well done to Isabel, Nathan and Austin. Can anyone move Jovan, Isabella, Aidan and Isabelle off the most correct answers top spots? Only one more week and then we have the termly winners!

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

## Online Safety

**Fake profiles** – Not everyone online is who they say they are. Try explaining that in some cases profiles may be people posing as someone they aren't (i.e. an adult posing as a child) or may be "bots" (which are automated software programs designed to create and control fake social media accounts). Talk about how to look out for fake profiles. This includes things like profile pictures that don't look right, for example of a celebrity or an object. Accounts with no followers or thousands of followers or a public figure who doesn't have a verified account are often fake too.

**MeWe** is a free social media platform which allows you to connect with friends, family and people you might not know. The app allows users to talk privately, publicly or within private groups to share content such as photos and videos. **16+ Official age rating.**



MeWe is a social media sharing site that is quite similar to Facebook. The app has useful privacy features that help restrict who can see your posts and good reporting and blocking tools. However, there are no specific parental controls or safety features. There are lots of reports online detailing concerns about the information that gets shared on the platform. This includes posts about weapons, drugs, sexual content, hate speech and fake news. For this reason, we don't think the app is suitable for anyone under the age of 16. Parents and carers should be aware that MeWe has a disappearing message feature that allows users to send messages, images or videos that disappear once opened. The app also has a function that allows other users to easily download images and videos posted by other members. This can be switched off in Settings.

**Our overall rating for MeWe = Average 😐**

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.

## In class...

**HRB** have been making rice crispy cakes this week with festive toppings.

**Year 3** have been using manipulatives to support their calculations in maths.

**Year 5** have held a Tudor Trial this week to test the guilt of Anne Boleyn.

*On the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, we changed history forever! Pine and Maple acted out the trial of Anne Boleyn, Miss Felton, who was claimed innocent with Miss Biln as the judge. Half the year group was the prosecution, the other half was the defence.*

*Overall, Pine Class's favourite part of the trial was presenting the evidence to the court and to the jury. If we could change one thing, it would be asking more questions regarding the evidence. We have learnt how a court works and that presenting accurate evidence is crucial in deciding guilty or innocent verdict.*

**Year 4** have continued rehearsing for the Christmas production – it's going to be amazing.

**Year 6** have been learning about longitude and latitude in Learning Journey as well as doing their usual maths & English lessons.

**Remote Learning** – all year groups have had some simple test quizzes assigned to them via Teams – this is part of our on-going preparation in case of a lockdown or bubble closure. Please ensure that your children are logging on and accessing the quiz, it doesn't matter if they don't know the answers. **The purpose of the quizzes is not to assess learning but check that children are able to access Teams and assignments given to them in the event that we have to switch to remote learning.** We are aware that some children may not have access to the internet or a device at home, in these cases teachers will make an exception. Thanks for your support.

## Amazon Wish List



**A huge thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to visit our school's Amazon wish list** to order books and other resources for us. We would like the opportunity to thank you individually for your generous contributions. In order for us to be able to do this, please add your name to the **'free personalised gift message'** that should appear when you click on the option to deliver the item to our school address (some of you have done this and you should get a thank you email). Alternatively, please

let the school office know (via a quick email) when you have bought something. Thanks again. Your support makes such a difference.

Mrs Edwards has especially asked us to plug the requests for our well-being library and **some parents have already purchased books for us.**

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:

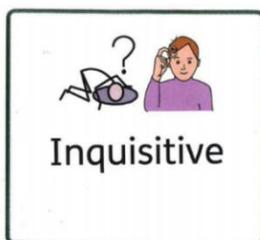
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – Non-uniform Day & Last Day of Term (1:30pm finish) – *note the change in end time!*

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

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – Y6 Victorian Day (Strict School Uniform, Chalk Boards and the Cane! 😊)

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January** - Y5 Egyptian Day (Optional dress up for Y5)

## At Embbrook Junior School we are:



## Christmas Jumper Day 2020

