

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 18th December 2020

In this Edition:

- Thank you from Mr Usher
- Anti-Racism
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Online Safety
- From the Governors
- From The Parents' Forum
- Ofsted Parent View
- In class...
- Amazon Wish List
- What to do if your child is ill
- Dates for your diary
- Our Values



Letters this week:

- Conqueror Challenge Update
- Last Week of Term Reminders
- Year 5 Pharaoh Day (Year 5 only)
- St Paul's Treasure Hunt
- Year 4 Christmas Production (Year 4 only)
- WBC School Survey

Thank you from Mr Usher



As I come to the end of my second term as Head Teacher of Emmbrook Junior School there are many people that I would like to thank for all their hard work. I couldn't possibly list them all by name, but I hope they all know how grateful I am to work with such a supportive community. First **all the staff** (Admin, TAs, Teachers, Lunch Time Controllers, the Site Controller, the caterers, cleaner etc.) at Emmbrook Junior School are amazing. They all go the extra mile for the children and I am in awe at all their efforts. I'd like to thank **the PTA** for their continued efforts at raising funds for the school in really difficult circumstances; **the Parent Forum** for their important and useful feedback, **the Governors** for all the time they give to the school and support they give in driving school improvements; **Nicci Morris (my mentor)** at Hillside for her support and guidance; **Mrs Gillard** at the Infants for always being on hand with advice and support; Gillian Cole & Francois Walker our School Improvement Officers and Wokingham Borough Council. Thanks to **Grotech Production Limited** for the on-going supply of hand gel and table sanitizer. Thank you to **Bernard Burton** for his generous donation to the school.

Thank you to **all the children here at Emmbrook Junior School** who make it the incredible place it is and thank you to all the parents and carers of our community that have responded to our requests and guidance, as well as trusting us with the education and care of your children. It's been a challenging term and we (I) haven't always got things right, but the successes of the term certainly outweigh the issues.

You should have received your child's report this week – if not please check their bags, otherwise contact us in the New Year and we can re-send you a copy.

From everyone at the Emmbrook Junior School Team please have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anti-racism

It can't have escaped your notice that we have been actively working on anti-racism. Next term we will be forming an Emmbrook Junior School Equity Team to continue the work we have been doing in school to develop racial inclusion. The work of the team will include (but not limited to) surveying children, parents and staff to give all stakeholders a voice; reviewing our curriculum to ensure that it is representative; enhancing our library provision and working with key partners in the community, including The Emmbrook School and Wokingham Borough Council.

Thank you for your on-going support of this vital work.

Times Tables Rock Stars

This week's Top Earners

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Jovan S	Isobel M	Nathan S	Isla W-W

Overall Most Correct Answers for Autumn Term

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



Isla has taken this week's Top Earner spot for Year 6 but all other positions remain the same – from next term we will start the rankings from zero (to give others a chance to catch-up), although no one will lose any coins they have earned and we will still have an overall winner at the end of the year.

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

Online Safety

Grooming – For parents and carers, knowing about the different types of grooming and motivations for it can be a useful way of identifying it and stopping it in the first place. Grooming includes, but is not limited to, radicalisation, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) and gangs (county lines). It's worth talking about boundaries in friendships with peers and also in families and with others. Explaining the importance of disengaging from contact with suspected grooming and telling a trusted adult is vital, along with ensuring children know how and where to report it, for safeguarding and personal support, and to the police. Where there are concerns about sexual abuse and exploitation, these can also be reported to Click CEOP. See the [NCA-CEOP Thinkuknow](#) website for further information on keeping children safe from sexual abuse and exploitation. At all stages it will be important to balance helping children to make sensible decisions to stay safe whilst being clear **it is never the fault of a child who is abused** and why victim blaming is always wrong.



Rec Room is a social gaming platform where you can create and play games. You can play solo, with friends or join public rooms to play with people you don't know. It also has a chat function that lets you speak to other players, via text or audio, in real-time. 7+ Official age rating

Kids aged 12 and under can only sign up for a junior account on Rec Room. This means they don't have access to any of the chat features and can't talk to anyone on the app.

Children aged 13+ are given standard accounts and access to all the features including text and audio chat. This means they could easily speak to people they don't know via text or audio chat.

We would recommend that children 16 and under only play in a private room and with people they know, like school friends.

Our overall rating for Rec Room = Average 😊

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

From 'The Governors'

Welcome to the final update for 2020 ... where to start... what can be said that has not already been said? Well it's not all bad at Emmbrook Junior School...

This term, our kids have been amazing, as usual. They have returned to school and embraced bubbles, extra handwashing, social distancing (to a degree), school trip cancellations, extra tests in the first half term and the continuous reminders of the pandemic in our community such as "tiers" and "lockdown". All this with resilience and consistently showing that they are pleased to be back in school. We would like to give the **credit to the**

whole staff who have been working tirelessly to make school an engaging and positive place – **thank you!** This is duly reflected in our attendance figures, which are fabulous.

The Governors and staff have been busy working on our strategic direction this year. The senior leaders led an update of the mission statement at the start of 2020 and more recently focused on updating our core values. These have now been finalised as **Kind, Inclusive, Courageous, Inquisitive** and **Adaptable**. More recently, many of you have further helped shape the future school by responding to our survey request – **thank you!** Based on your feedback and that from the staff and children, we aim to complete our strategy review and send around our **5-year plan** in the Spring term, 2021. We are also leading the borough in our work to embrace **diversity and equality** and have been presenting to numerous schools – a real leadership position to be proud of.

We have welcomed two new Governors to the team this term – **Christine Mitchell** is a retired Head Teacher and **Pavitra Aroon** brings extensive education consulting knowledge. We have been progressing our work to get us match-fit and ready for an Ofsted visit – but this visit won't be until later in 2021 as the inspectors are continuing only with the interim phase inspections for research in the Spring term (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/interim-phase-maintained-schools-and-academies>). The review of the learning gap caused by the pronounced time out of school through the pandemic, however, has given us genuinely encouraging signs that our **catch-up curriculum is perfectly placed**.

We know that happy and engaged children learn better and were pleased to see that most of you supported the **nurturing** welcome back to school that was provided to the children this term, rather than hitting them with a siloed focus on the core curriculum. We are pleased we could extend the provision to the **broader curriculum** in the second half term and look forward to the Spring term when we will be able to **assess the progress** made by the children using our improved data assessments developed between the governors, senior leaders and school improvement team, to support the needs of teachers and governors with the same tools – things really are so very positive within the school and are developing and improving all of the time.

So - amongst the weirdest of years, we see improvements at EJS – in leadership, in strategy, in data assessment and in governance.

We've done more than survive, we are **thriving** thanks to the parents, carers, teachers, assistants and support staff, but most of all **our children – your children – who continue to make us proud!**

From all of your Governors, **enjoy the Christmas break and stay safe.**

Sam Dowse
Chair of Governors

From 'The Parents' Forum'

As 2020 comes to a close, the EJS Parents' Forum would like to **thank all parents and carers for your involvement** in the Forum over this challenging year. During our zoom meetings with Mr Usher we have discussed the issues you have emailed in regarding clubs, communication, rewards, SPAG, road safety, mobile phones, medication and masks, as well as feeding back many positive comments regarding how well the EJS team continue to support our children and their wellbeing. Not forgetting how they helped us to home-school!

We have a new-found level of respect for the staff at EJS and wish you all a merry Christmas, a happy and healthy 2021.

Merry Christmas from The Parents' Forum

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.

From Mr Fisher

Well done to all the children and adults who have taken part in the Conqueror Challenge. It's been an amazing effort from all involved and we start again in the new year and look to hit our total goal! Also, for those who have donated to the school, **thank you from the bottom of my heart**. This means a lot and we can do so much with the extra funds that come in. You are all truly amazing!

Well done to all the children in PE. It's been fairly up and down with what we can and can't do but we have made it work and myself and all the teachers hope you have learnt from and enjoyed your PE sessions. This week has seen the Intra House football tournament take place and the winners will be announced on your return to school in January.

The library has had a bit of a makeover and has been invested in heavily amongst the staff. **Thank you to all of you who have purchased items/books for the library**, the children will love them!

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and New Year. Look after yourselves and I look forward to coming back in January after a very much needed break! Mr J Fisher

In class...

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.

The **Year 3** children have been using skills built up during the term's learning journey, tremors, to construct earthquake proof buildings. They used a variety of different materials and engineering techniques such as flexible base supports, pendulums and reinforced walls using x-frames. Much fun was had in testing the buildings by shaking tables vigorously and observing the state of the constructions afterwards. Thanks to Mr Usher and Miss Scales for their observations and interventions.

Year 4 have performed and recorded the Christmas Production – Year 4 parents can access this through Teams.

Christmas Door Competition



Best Theme



Most Mathematical





Most Creative



Most Artistic



Most Festive

In lieu of a Christmas concert this year, each of the classes in **Years 3, 5 & 6** have recorded a video of them performing a Christmas Classic. Year 4 have shared their Christmas Show.

These have been shared in the year group folders on **Teams** which can be accessed in the usual way.

Please do not share these videos on social media as we only have permission from some parents to share with the year group. Thank you.



Best Tree Scene



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.

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!

A big thank you from Mrs Edwards for all the books purchased for our well-being library.

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:

Tuesday 5th January – 1st Day of Spring Term

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

Thursday 7th January - Y5 Egyptian/Pharaoh Day (Optional dress up for Y5)

Monday 25th January – Y4 Trip to Ufton Court

At Emmbrook Junior School we are:

