

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 22nd January 2021

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Letters this week:

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Message from Mr Usher

This has been another very challenging week in school as we sadly had a second member of staff test positive for Covid-19. Luckily, this staff member had not had direct contact with any children in the 48 hours prior to the positive test result and is not unwell. Therefore, we did not need to close another bubble or ask staff to isolate. We welcomed back our Year 3 bubble on Monday and they have been exceptionally well-behaved and adaptable whilst we have been juggling other staff absence linked to self-isolation and illness. On the plus side, this has meant that I have had the pleasure of stepping in to teach the Year 3 bubble which has been a welcome break from some of the more admin-heavy parts of my job. I want to personally thank the other members of the team who have stepped in to support running the Year 3 bubble and remote learning whilst members of the team are unable to.

We had an exciting delivery to school this week – our supply of lateral flow testing kits for staff! From next week, we will be inviting our staff to take a LFT twice a week. Regular asymptomatic testing is an important addition to supporting us to maintain the continuity of education. Should a staff member receive a positive result on the LFT, we will immediately ask all direct contacts to isolate while they await further confirmation of the positive result by taking a PCR swab test.

We continue to be encouraged and motivated by your messages of support to our team about the provision.



Remote Learning



We are always thinking of ways that we can enhance and supplement our current remote learning provision. Some of our members of staff, such as Mr. Fisher and Miss Scales, have been recording themselves reading a book they think the children at EJS would love to listen to. Each staff member has chosen a different book, and will record a chapter each week. These will shortly be available on Teams! We hope your children enjoy them!

Mrs Smith has put together some Music lessons for each year group which will also be uploaded onto Teams very soon.

The message for supporting your child at home remains: You will know when your child is in the best frame of mind to concentrate and therefore to learn. If they start to lose focus or become anxious, then learning will not be productive. Let them take a break and do something that they enjoy and then try again later. Well-being – yours and your child's – is paramount. Remember – when children are at school, they spend plenty of time doing other things besides formal lessons such as playing with their friends, art and design, running around the playground, visiting our school library, listening to a story, singing a song or watching an educational video. Do not feel guilty for establishing a similar timetable at home that works for you.

Pobble has provided an excellent visual reminder of things that the children can do at home that DO NOT involve screen time! There are four different sheets

bursting full of ideas on this website:
<https://medium.com/pobble/simple-and-fun-non-screen-activities-that-children-can-do-at-home-115543cb3b9c>

One of our favourites is number 7: Build a Reading Den! Miss Scales would love to see any reading dens built at home. Her favourites will feature in next week's newsletter! Email your photos to rscales@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk



In School Learning

Another reminder for the children who are accessing learning in school, please ensure that they are wearing layers for warmth. Our risk assessment includes increasing ventilation by having doors and windows open around the school. Tights, leggings, thermal underwear worn beneath school trousers or skirts along with additional base layers and sweat shirts are all ways of ensuring that children stay warm enough when in school.

Online Safety

The **National Safer Internet Day** is on the 9th February. This year's theme is 'An Internet we Trust – exploring reliability in an online world.' The Internet has an amazing range of information and opportunities online, but how do we separate fact from fiction?

Questions to ask when you are looking at information online with your child might be:

Who wrote this? Why was it written?

What are the online clues that may make something seem less reliable or trustworthy?

What does your child pledge to do to help create a more trustworthy internet? For example, "I will only share things I have checked are true" or "I will support my friends if fake news upsets them."

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.

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!

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.**

Lockdown Rules & Guidance

More information regarding the latest national lockdown can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

More information on the Lockdown rules can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home

Guidance on making a childcare bubble with another household at: www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household

At Emmbrook Junior School we are:

