

# Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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## Letters this week:

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## Message from Mr Usher



I'd like to start this week's parent newsletter by **congratulating Mrs Smith on the birth of her grandson**, Teddy Felix, 8lbs 1oz, born this week. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing her and her family all the very best and welcoming the newest member of the family.

The Prime Minister announced this week that **he hopes** schools will be able to **reopen from the 8<sup>th</sup> of March**. You may have noticed, as I did, that this was not a firm commitment and will depend on a variety of factors, including how successful they are in administering the vaccine to vulnerable groups. I'm aware of how frustrated many of you will be by the on-going need for home-learning. I personally would much prefer to have all the children back in school, however there are also parents and carers who are equally anxious about the possibility of transmission. **We are continually reviewing our risk assessment** and as of this week staff have been asked to complete lateral flow testing twice a week. This additional measure should reduce the chances of asymptomatic members of staff transmitting the virus to each other and the children in their bubble. You can find out about the other controls we have in place in the [risk assessment on our website](#).

**A very big thanks to all the parents and carers** at home attempting to balance home learning with work commitments and family life. Your messages of support have been very welcome and helped raise the spirits of our very tired staff.

I'd also like to thank those parents and carers whose children are still in school for following our requests to wear face coverings and maintain social distance when on school grounds. With the number of deaths surpassing 100,000 it is clear we all need to play our parts in keeping the virus under control.

I sincerely hope we are able to welcome all children back to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March but we will continue to hope for the best and plan for the worst.

Finally, **I must pay tribute to the fantastic staff here at Emmbrook Junior School**, who are all working in extremely challenging circumstances to provide both remote and in school education that is more comprehensive, I'm told, than many other schools both locally and nationally.

## 'Free-from Friday' – Chinese New Year – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021



We are very conscious of the amount of time children (and staff) are spending at their screens. So, we are planning a screen free day on **Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of February**. This is also Chinese New Year, The Year of the Ox, and we are going to theme our 'Free-from Friday' around this celebration.



For children in school this will be a non-uniform day where we spend as much time as possible doing creative, active, non-screen-based activities all themed around Chinese New Year.

For children learning at home we are going to provide a range of suggested activities from creating lanterns to suggested Chinese recipes. These activities will be available on Teams and will not be compulsory **but there will be no live learning provision on this day**. We would really encourage the children not to spend any time in front of a screen. We know that many families enjoy the structure provided by the live learning timetable, which is why we are giving you 2 weeks' notice. We are aware that most families do not have the facility to print activities at home so we will be asking any families that would like an activity pack to email the admin team ([admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk)) who will print off the activities and arrange a time when they can be collected.

Unfortunately, we cannot arrange for the packs to be delivered, however, if you contact the admin team by **Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February** we can arrange a time for you to come into school safely and **collect your pack during the week beginning Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>**. In order to avoid waste and disappointment we would ask you to contact admin in advance by email so that we can ensure that we have the correct number of packs printed and arrange collection times to reduce queuing and ensure social distancing. Please do not come to reception for a pack without pre-arranging a pick-up and please only take the number of packs you have requested (1 per EJS child).

## Mental Health Week

**Children's Mental Health Week** is next week - the theme is **Express Yourself!**

Mrs Edwards will be adding plenty of activities to the Wellbeing Section of Teams which will be available from Monday. Please feel free to access these activities if they are of interest to you.

The current lockdown situation is having an impact on all children whether they are at school or learning from home. To give us an idea of how the children are doing we would be very grateful if you could **complete the linked online survey with each of your children** – whether they are in school or not. This is in no way obligatory but the more information we have the better we can respond to the needs of the children.

[Pupil Voice - Wellbeing Questionnaire](#)

## Remote Learning

Remote Learning continues and the majority of children learning from home have been able to access either the live inputs or the recordings. We do ask that **links to lessons are not shared with children or family members** that do not attend EJS and we remind you that sessions are recorded. Please bear this in mind when you are in the background.

If you have any learning that you would like to celebrate with your child's teacher please email it in directly via the year groups emails.

We would love to build a gallery on our website of home learning so any pictures you have please email them in too.

- [year3@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:year3@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk)
- [year4@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:year4@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk)
- [year5@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:year5@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk)
- [year6@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:year6@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.



You can find our current Risk Assessment here: [Risk Assessment](#)

## Online Safety

### Is Among Us multiplayer game safe for children?

What should parents be concerned about in Among us?

#### Talking to strangers in the game

If your child is playing a game that is set to public, they may meet and chat with people they don't know which could put them at risk.

#### Seeing inappropriate content

Although you can use the censor filter to block out bad language, it does not block everything and there are words that are not picked up by the filter. So, despite this feature, there is the potential that children can be exposed to inappropriate content.

#### Are there any safety features?

Apart from a censor option to remove the bad language, there are no inbuilt safety features in the game.

#### Ratings – what you need to know

Among us was originally rated PEGI 16 when it was released in June 2018 however following an increase in interest in the game it was reclassified as PEGI 7 following another review of the game by the VSC Rating board. In the Apple app store, it has also been listed as suitable for ages 9+.

Based on the PEGI rating this indicates that the game may “contain some possibly frightening scenes or sounds. Games can show violence as long as it's unrealistic and directed towards fantasy characters. There may be some non-realistic violence towards people or violent actions (e.g.: bombing of cities or non-human targets).” Among us does contain some cartoon violence as the Imposter character is instructed to take out the Crewmates on the ship, however, it's not graphic or pointed towards real people.

You can find out more here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/is-among-us-multiplayer-game-safe-for-children/>



## Conqueror Challenge Update

Once again, the children have smashed the conqueror out the park! To date we have done 6902km and are now over half way through the whole challenge. We have 3 children who have completed over 300km themselves, and another 14 children who have done over 100km. It's amazing to see so many children taking part and doing this with their families. When the forms come in I often see family walks, dog walks and bike rides and it's a great feeling knowing that the parents are joining in and helping their children. What was also great to see was that one of the children, during our online PE sessions, showed me a conqueror medal of their own as they were doing their own personal challenge as well!

For those who have already purchased a Wokingham Newspaper this week, you may have noticed an article about the school and its Conqueror Active challenge. If not then get yourselves down to the shop and buy a copy 😊.

Thank you to those who have already donated. If you would still like to donate then please see the link below: [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmbrook-junior-school?utm\\_term=qkdi3ajD3](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmbrook-junior-school?utm_term=qkdi3ajD3)

As you may see from the news article, we have some projects we would like to get done in the future and any contributions will help towards this. Both the Reading Summerhouse and the Gym Play equipment come at a large cost so we want to raise as much as we can to contribute and get these in place.

It has been AWESOME to do the online sessions with the children at home and I am glad everyone is staying active and as always, trying their best.

## Keep on Reading!



Well done to Mohammad who built this cosy looking reading den with his siblings! **Please continue to email Miss Scales with any photographs of your reading dens.**

We hope you have enjoyed our bedtime story collection in Teams so far.

Remember, we will add the next chapter to each book on a weekly basis so keep an eye out for the next instalments!

## Ofsted Parent View



Give Ofsted your view  
on your child's school

<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

We continue to receive a variety of very generous gifts from parents and carers for which we are immensely grateful – if you are one of the many parents that has sent us a gift this term – thank you very much.

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).

**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](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

More information on the Lockdown rules can be found at [www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home](http://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](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-childcare-bubble-with-another-household)

## At Emmbrook Junior School we are:

