

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 5th February 2021

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Message from Mr Usher



Happy Friday everyone. I don't know if, like me, you'll be attempting to enjoy England's opening game of the 6-Nations this weekend. It will feel a little different cheering from home rather than the pub or being in the stands at Twickenham with Guinness in hand, which is my personal preference. Whatever you choose to do this weekend, I hope you are able to enjoy some down time with the family. According to my weather app there is a 40% chance of snow on Sunday, which, if it does transpire, would at least be a good reason to get outside and enjoy some socially distanced fun.

I'm really pleased to see that the vaccination program seems to be on track (at least according to reports in the media), which means we should know if the government's plans for us to return all pupils to face to face learning on March 8th are likely to happen. We have been told, as you may be aware, that **we will get confirmation of school's opening by or on the 22nd of February**. This should give us time to adjust our risk assessment to ensure as safe a return as possible while also preparing for a smooth transition to in-school learning for all. Again, I would like to thank all parents & carers for their patience and support at this time. For the moment, **remote learning is with us for at least a few more weeks** and as such we continue to review our provision to ensure we are providing the best education we can given the circumstances. Part of this includes our expectations in terms of what is submitted by children so that we can successfully monitor and feedback on learning. There are further details about this later in the newsletter. We are aware that many children have done so much work that they have already filled their home learning books. This is brilliant and **if you need another exercise book please email the admin team** who will agree a good time for you to collect an additional one. When we return to face to face learning these books will be an important record of your child's learning that will support teachers in assessing your child's learning needs. So please remind children to try and follow the school's usual non-negotiables in terms of how work is presented and let them know that even if not every piece of work is marked all the books will be reviewed by their class teacher.

For those children who are part of our in-school provision, can I remind you that **school begins at 8:50am** and staff will not be in a position to receive children until this time.

The government have confirmed that **schools are not expected to provide remote learning over the half-term break** and we have been informed by our provider 'Funtastic Kids' that owing to the requirements set out by the government they will not be able to offer any care either. I realise this may be a challenge for many families and hope you understand the position we are in.

Thank you for all the positive comments regarding our learning provision, they continue to give all staff here a much-needed boost. I hope you don't mind but we have shared many of these wonderful comments via our school website, should this be a problem please let us know and we will remove the comment as soon as possible.

Have a great week end and 'C'mon England!



'Free-from Friday' – Chinese New Year – 12th February 2021

The Chinese New Year Activities are now **available to download and print in each year group's Team** but I would add none of these are compulsory and as a family you may have other plans or ideas for a screen free day. We would love to see any activities you get up to so please **email us pictures of your arts, crafts, cooking and play.**

The admin team has begun printing activity packs for those families that requested them by today's deadline so that they can be collected by mutual arrangement over the course of next week.

Pupil Voice – Well-being Questionnaire

Last week we shared the link to a well-being questionnaire for children. **This questionnaire will remain open until the 12th of February.**

The current lockdown situation is having an impact on all children whether they are at school or learning from home. Thank you to all those of you that have taken the time to complete the short online questionnaire regarding your children's well-being. It's not too late and if you would like to **complete the linked online survey with each of your children** – whether they are in school or not, we would very much like to find out how they're doing.

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 – submission of learning

The engagement of children with the remote provision has been incredible, as has the support of parents and carers. We were very careful at the start of the term to try not to ask too much of families. Given the engagement of the children has been so good the next step is to think about how we effectively monitor learning. Below are details of what we would **like** children to try and submit in terms of their learning on a weekly basis, each year group team has determined what is appropriate to their children.

Unlike some other schools (secondaries – mainly) **we will NOT be chasing families for work** to be submitted. We believe that to do so would increase anxiety for many parents and carers, so while we would like your children to submit learning as outlined please do not panic or worry if they are unable to do so. Year group teams will continue with making contact as they have been not to chase for work but **to support the children's well-being.**

There is a temptation as a parent or carer, when reviewing your child's work before it's submitted, to 'tweak' answers. When learning is being submitted remotely teachers and staff face the challenge (as they always have with homework) of establishing exactly how much of the work is the child's and how much is that of an overzealous (but very supportive) parent. This desire to get 'full marks' or 10/10 is understandable and certainly something to be aimed for and we are ambitious for all the children to achieve as highly as possible. However, learning is not about getting all the answers right, at least not always. While **we actively encourage parents to support and engage with their child's learning** submitting work that does not reflect what your child can actually do, does not help staff assess the learning needs of the children. I would go so far as to say that **mistakes and errors are an integral part of learning** and not to be shied away from but in fact celebrated.

Year 3:

Submit one piece of writing a week via email (linked to English OR Learning Journey). Personalised feedback will be given via email in response.

Complete and submit one electronic Maths Quiz (using Forms) each week. Feedback on electronic quizzes will be given in Friday's Maths mop up session.

Teachers will advise as to what work needs to be submitted, how and by when.



Year 4:

Submit two pieces of work (a combination of two of the following subjects: Maths, Reading or Writing) a week either through a Forms Quiz or via email.

If work is emailed in, personalised feedback will be given in response.

Feedback on electronic quizzes will be given in Maths mop up session.

Teachers will advise as to what work needs to be submitted, how and by when.

Year 5:

Daily feedback on all English and Reading tasks set.

Children should attend Friday Mop-Ups in Maths to go through any misunderstandings or challenging questions.

Option to email the Year 5 team any work that the children are particularly proud of in order to receive personalised feedback in response.

Teachers will email parents each Friday with weekly updates about work.

Year 6:

A written assignment will be set each week using the individual electronic notebooks on Teams.

Complete and submit one electronic Maths Quiz (using Forms) each week. Feedback on electronic quizzes will be given in Friday's Maths mop up session.

One Reading assignment set each week.

Teachers will advise as to what work needs to be submitted, how and by when.

In School Learning

Please note that the gates to the junior's playground are open from **8:50am to 9am** and children should not arrive before this time. If the gates are open early this is not a sign that staff are ready to receive children and children should not be left.

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

Live streaming - Live streaming (showing a video of yourself in real-time online either privately or to a public audience) can be popular with children but it carries risk when carrying it out and watching it.

As a parent it may be worth explaining the risks of carrying out live streaming. These include the potential for people to record live streams without the user knowing and content being shared without the user's knowledge or consent. As such everyone should think carefully about who the audience might be and if they would be comfortable with whatever they are streaming being shared widely. Children should know that online behaviours should mirror offline behaviours and think about any live stream in that context. Children shouldn't feel pressured to do something online that they wouldn't do offline. It is worth discussing why in some cases people will do and say things online that they would never consider appropriate offline. Talk about the risk of watching videos that are being live streamed, for example there is no way of knowing what will come next and so this poses a risk that a user could see something that has not been deemed age appropriate in advance.

To find out about the latest apps, games and social media sites your children may be interested in or already accessing go to: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>



Keep on Reading!



Xabier in his reading den!

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!

[You can find the links to staff reading bedtime stories in Teams - Bedtime Stories](#)

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

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:

