

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 12th February 2021

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Message from Mr Usher



Well, last weekend certainly didn't go to plan. England's (rugby) performance against Scotland was as lacklustre as the snow, at least we were successful in the cricket and hopefully the boys will find their form against Italy tomorrow.

'Gong hei fat choy', (apologies for any misspelling) I hope all the children enjoyed their screen free day and some Chinese New Year activities. Wishing you all a wonderful 'Year of the Ox'.

It's been a very challenging start to our year and **I, again, would like to pay tribute to all the staff here at Emmbrook Junior School.** The challenges of supporting children with remote learning while providing a face to face provision for vulnerable children and those of key workers is hard enough but doing so in the face of a global pandemic

when staff have genuine concerns for the safety of their own families takes real dedication and courage. **I would like to thank Tesco's, Waitrose, Morrisons and a Year 4 parent** for their kind donations that have enabled Miss Brown and Miss Scales to put together some well-deserved well-being gift bags for the staff, it is wonderful to be part of such a generous community.

I would like to congratulate and thank Miss Biln who delivered a lecture to University of Reading masters degree students on racial equality when educating diverse groups. The lecture was very well received and is a brilliant example of how Emmbrook Junior School is starting to take the lead within the wider community.

A very big well done to all those parents and carers who are managing to balance supporting their children with home learning while working from home, looking after little ones, running a household and maintaining their sanity. **We know it's not easy for you either and we thank you for your incredible efforts and enthusiasm.** Your messages of support for staff continue to lift our spirits, so please keep them coming.

You may have noticed that **we have added a gallery to our website** and we'd really like to celebrate the incredible learning that is going on both at home and at school so please email your child's teachers with pictures of their activities so we can share them via our new gallery as well as through this newsletter and on Twitter. You can find the gallery here: <https://emmbrookjuniorschool.co.uk/gallery/>

I also hope you (and the children) are enjoying the **bedtime stories being read by members of staff** and shared via Teams. This, along with our new Accelerated Reader Program, is part of our strategy for developing a culture of reading in the school and hopefully encouraging a love of reading for the children. (Don't worry if you don't know about Accelerated Reader yet! We will be rolling this out to all children once we return to face to face learning). **We hope to be able to welcome Mrs Hatherley** back to school after half-term having recovered fully from her Covid-related illness. She has been missed by the team who are really looking forward to her return to the Year 3 bubble.

Finally, please have a wonderful half-term – try to enjoy some restful family time and recharge batteries, refill your metaphorical buckets and take care of yourselves.



Times Tables Rock Stars

Top Earners for the first half of Spring Term

| Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 st - Pola | 1 st - Isabella | 1 st - Aidan | 1 st - Seb |
| 2 nd - Ewan | 2 nd - Harry | 2 nd - Nathan | 2 nd - Harri |
| 3 rd - Isla | 3 rd - Josephine | 3 rd - Iris | 3 rd - Isabelle |

Most Correct Answers for the first half of Spring Term

| Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 st – Pola | 1 st - Isabella | 1 st - Aidan | 1 st - Marcus |
| 2 nd – Ewan | 2 nd - Harry | 2 nd - Nathan | 2 nd - Lauren |
| 3 rd - Jovan | 3 rd - Josephine | 3 rd - Iris | 3 rd - Seb |



A massive congratulations to all our certificate winners (especially all the double winners!) We will return to weekly certificates once everyone is able to be back at school – don't forget you too have the chance to win a certificate. **Keep practising!**

You can login in to Times Tables Rock Stars here:

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/15813>

Racial Equality

Emmbrook Junior School has, in many ways, **taken the lead within Wokingham primary schools** in how racial inclusion is thought about. We are very fortunate to have dedicated members of staff that have led discussion and training across the borough and within the wider community. Part of this, prior to lockdown, was to make **racial equality a part of our regular communications** with parents. Now we have settled into remote learning we have decided to resume our weekly discussion piece.

Key Question: Can you name an artist, an author and a scientist who come from a Black, Asian or ethnic minority background? Can anyone else in your family? If you are struggling, think about why this might be.

Pupil Voice – Well-being Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who has completed the well-being questionnaire with their children. The survey closes today but will directly impact the nurture provision that we are putting in place moving forwards. By getting an idea of how the children are doing both at home and at school we can start to plan the best ways to support them not only with their learning but also with the social aspects of life.

[Pupil Voice - Wellbeing Questionnaire](#)

No Remote Learning for half-term

There is no remote learning set for the half-term break. **We strongly encourage all our children to have a rest and recharge their batteries.** This of course can involve reading for pleasure and practising multiplication tables via TTRS but should also involve getting lots of exercise, going for walks, doing something creative; developing a life-skill such as cooking and **generally having lots of fun.**

Remote learning will recommence on Monday the 22nd of February.

If you'd like to share any of your activities or creations **please send pictures via the year group email addresses** and your teachers will be in touch after we return to school.



In School Learning

We look forward to returning to full face to face provision as soon as possible but in the meantime, we will see our key worker and vulnerable children year group bubbles on Monday the 22nd of February.

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 unaccompanied** even on the school playground before this time.

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 – This is a challenging one!



Difficult Conversation Warning!

Pornography – Exposure to inappropriate sexual imagery is one of the most obvious dangers in accessing the internet. While parents and carers will do their utmost to reduce exposure to such material, it is almost inevitable that, at some point, children will see or be shown pictures or videos that we would prefer they were not. When discussing this sort of material with your children it's important to make clear that it is not an accurate portrayal of adult relationships and that not all participants are doing so willingly. It is also worth remembering that viewing such material can lead to distorted views of physical relationships and in some circumstances can normalise violent or abusive behaviours.

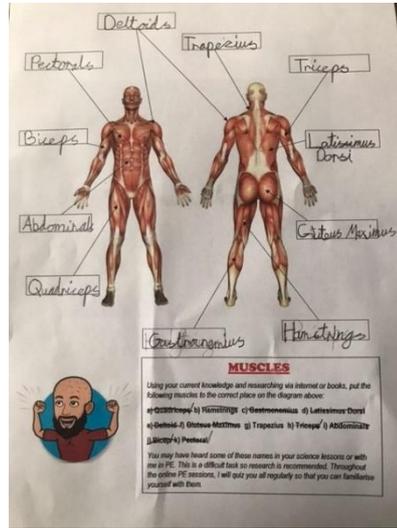
To find out about the latest apps, games and social media sites your children may be interested in or already accessing go to: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/>

Keep on Reading & Remote Learning!

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

Isla enjoying her reading den or as she calls it, 'Bookworm Towers'!





Here are some pictures of remote PE learning going on at home. Thanks for the pictures. If you have any examples of the great learning you are doing at home please email them to your teachers via the year group email addresses and we will share them in the newsletter, on the website or even on Twitter.

To share your work please email photos to your year group:

year3@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

year4@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

year5@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

year6@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

Ofsted Parent View

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.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

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).

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.

Thanks again. Your support makes such a difference.

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:

