

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 12th March 2021

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Letters this week:

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- USports Easter Camps
- WBC Flyer re Walking and Cycling to School
- Accelerated Reader Guide for Parents
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Message from Mr Usher



Where did that week go? It's been fantastic seeing all the children back in school and beginning to settle back into the routine of school life. Some children have found it more challenging than others but overall the mood around the school has been very positive.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who are helping us by following our Covid rules while on site and thank you for the feedback. This week we have identified the end of the day as a pinch point as many parents and children leave the site at once, therefore we have tried to ensure that classes are released gradually at the end of the day. **We are considering staggering the finish time** but this will have a knock-on effect for some families, children and staff. Some patience may be required if there are large numbers leaving the school site at once, however the guidance that we have received is that as

long as contact with another person is for less than a total of 15 minutes and one or both are wearing face coverings, then the potential for transmission is minimal. This is borne out by the fact that **during the autumn term we had no cases of in-school transmission identified**. Our aim at the end of the day is to allow everyone off the site as quickly and smoothly as possible. We will continue to remind the children about the importance of social distancing when on the school site and as they leave. I am aware that school pick up and drop off is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to catch up and have a chat. However, **I have to ask that these chats do not take place while on the school grounds or just outside the school gates** particularly at pick up and drop off time when the volume of traffic is high. This is less to do with reducing transmission (as everyone is wearing a mask) and more to do with ensuring a smooth flow of movement and reducing the anxiety of people who are understandably worried about moving past others.

As a school **we are aware of and share concerns regarding the quality of the school meals** provided by Caterlink through the local authority. It would be fair to say we are extremely unhappy with the provision and we are strongly considering entering into a tendering process with the Infant School and other local schools to identify other possible providers. **We are keeping a record of all our concerns** which I have shared with the catering company at a meeting this week. We share your frustration in this matter and have been assured that our concerns will be addressed. We will continue to monitor the food provided.

So far, I have not received any complaints from our neighbours regarding parking at the start and end of the day, thank you for your support and consideration in this matter.

I will be reminding children in Y5 and Y6 who walk home alone that **mobile phones should be kept out of sight and not used while on school grounds**, this includes to share videos or pictures. Mobile phones are only allowed as an additional security measure for children walking home alone. I would appreciate it if you could reinforce this message at home. There have been instances where having a mobile phone in view has made someone a target for thieves.

It's been wonderful to see all the children back at school, **attendance is above 98%**, thank you to everyone for their efforts in making this happen. **Have a wonderful weekend.**



Reframing the language – The children are NOT a lost generation

I have previously shared with you the words of one of my fellow head teachers regarding the rhetoric and language pervasive in the media regarding our children. **I do not believe the children are a lost generation** and I will not refer to them as damaged or as the Covid generation.

As a school staff we have decided to reframe the language we are using and we felt it was important to share this approach with you and **hope you can support us by trying to reframe the language too.**

We will try to avoid saying...	Reframe more positively
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catch up• Lost learning• Damage to learning• Lost time• Recover• Behind• Speed up• Cram in• Won't / can't fit it all in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map• Identify areas to develop• Move forward• Master• Consolidate• Strengthen• Deepen• Revisit• Challenge• Misconceptions

Times Tables Rock Stars

Each week will be looking for the top earners and most correct answers from each year group.

Year Group	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Weekly Top Earner	Pola	Isobel	Aidan	Thomas
Correct answers	Charlotte	Isobel	Finlay	Lauren



Certificate are awarded to the highest earners of the week. The child with the most correct answers at the end of each half term will also be awarded a certificate. At the moment Charlotte, Isobel, Finlay & Lauren are in the lead for each of their respective year groups but this can change week by week depending on who answers the most correct answers in total over the half term so far. **Will they be able to hold off their classmates until the end of term?**

You can login in to Times Tables Rock Stars here:

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

Racial Equity

This week in our values assembly I asked the children to **think about what we mean by race.** Even as an adult I found it difficult to accurately describe what 'race' actually is. If we are to have a fair discussion and understanding of racial equity then surely it follows that we need to know what we mean by race. In the assembly I pointed out that **there is a difference between race and nationality.** This is obviously a complex and often difficult issue but that doesn't mean we should avoid the conversation. In order to help me better my own understanding Miss Biln shared a video with me that explores the question of what we mean by race. **The film is aimed at adults** and I found it a useful way to organise my thinking on this matter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U>



Online Safety

Impact on confidence (including body confidence) – Knowing about the impact of comparisons to ‘unrealistic’ online images is incredibly important when thinking about confidence. It’s important to talk about the use of image filters and digital enhancement, many of our children will be more aware of the use of filters than we are but are they aware that such filters are often used in a far more subtle way – to smooth out skin, make someone seem slimmer etc. and discussing photo manipulation including discussions about why people do it and how to look out for it.

It’s also worth exploring the role of social media influencers, including that they are paid to influence the behaviour (particularly shopping habits) of their followers and so they themselves may be recommending products or services because they have been paid to, rather than because they genuinely use or believe in them.

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/>

The Masked Readers Revealed



Hope you enjoyed guessing who was under the masks in our own Emmbrook Masked Reader. The results are in:

The Hat - Mrs Jones
The Beard - Miss Felton
The Blob - Miss Scales
The Tiger - Mrs McAllister
The Viking - Mr Usher
The Rose - Miss Biln
The Unicorn - Mrs Preston
The Card - Mr Fisher

Did you guess correctly?

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.**



Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will be taking place on the 30th and 31st of March. Due to Covid-19 and the recent return to school we will operate a very similar system to last term with consultations taking place virtually via Teams. Details regarding booking an appointment and accessing meetings will be shared next week by the admin team. While the teaching staff are taking time this week and next to assess and start to map out and identify the areas to develop, the conversations with teachers this time around **will need to be more of a two-way dialogue** with parents sharing their perceptions of their child’s needs and teachers giving an idea of the misconceptions they have seen and agreeing a way forward. I know many parents (although not all) will want to know if their child is on track to reach (or exceed) the expected standard by the end of the year, some may be, others not, but after only a few weeks of face to face learning teaching staff will not be in a position to accurately make this distinction. We will be focussing on **ensuring the children are as prepared as possible for the next stage** in their schooling, be that moving to the next year group or transitioning to secondary school.

Rapid Lateral Flow Testing

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils can access rapid lateral flow tests.

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- [at a local test site](#)
- [by collecting a home test kit from a test site](#)
- [by ordering a home test kit online](#)

Please note that these tests should not be used if someone is displaying symptoms of Covid-19. If someone in your household is showing symptoms please book a [PCR test](#).

Conqueror Challenge

Welcome Back! It's great to see the children back in school and being able to interact with them live in person. It's amazing to see them all with smiles on their faces and enjoying their time in school. All the children have been updated with the latest on the Conqueror Challenges and have been informed about 3 brand new challenges. The new challenges are Mount Kilimanjaro (97km), Kruger National Park (412km) and the Pacific Crest (4000km, yes that is right 4000 kilometres, the biggest one yet!!). The first 2 challenges will be added to the Conqueror Challenge outside of school but the new Pacific Crest Challenge will be an in-school challenge only, using the daily mile to travel the distance.

The last 2 weeks have been record breaking in regards to the Conqueror Challenges, having completed over 700km in each of those weeks. We currently stand at 10320kms completed with 3287.8kms to go. It's been a mammoth task and a fantastic achievement by everyone involved. Thank you to all the parents helping their children and encouraging them to keep active and to challenge them. Thank you also to those who have donated via the JustGiving page, every donation is greatly appreciated and goes a long way.



As you may be aware the latest donations are going to go towards our latest project of building a Reading Summerhouse. We are quite a bit short of our target as this project is not a cheap one and will cost in the region of £10,000.00. If you are able to donate for all the hard work the children are putting in then please click the following link and donate whatever you can:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmbrook-junior-school?utm_term=zeWpVWzZM

We have 6 challenges left to complete and the Conqueror Display is starting to look awesome. Once these have been completed the Conqueror Hall of Fame will be finished and the children given their certificates and pictures.

Thank you for all your incredible support and we look forward to seeing you all soon in more normal circumstances.

Dates for your Diary

19th March 2021 – Red Nose Day In return for a £1 voluntary donation to the charity, children may come to school dressed either as their favourite superhero or wear something red.

w/b 22nd March 2021 – Parents of children with IPPs will be contacted to arrange a review meeting over the next two weeks (if you have an IPP review meeting there is no need to also book a parent consultation)

30th March 2021 – Parent Consultations via Teams

31st March 2021 – Parent Consultations via Teams

1st April 2021 – Last Day of Term (2pm finish – after school club will run to 4:45pm)

19th April 2021 – First day of Summer term

3rd May 2021 – May Bank Holiday (school closed)

31st May 2021 – Spring Bank Holiday (school closed)

7th June 2021 – INSET Day (school closed to children)

Sunday 4th July 2021 – **PTA Summer BBQ - 12pm to 3pm (details to be confirmed) – save the date!**

15th July 2021 – Sports Day (TBC)

16th July 2021 – End of Year Reports out

19th July 2021 – Report Consultation Meetings

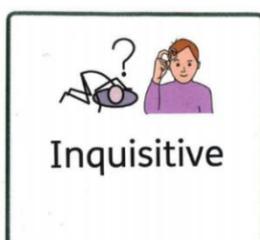
21st July 2021 – Last Day of Term

Gallery



Litter Picking in the community – showing brilliant community spirit and the Emmbrook Value of being kind – in this case kind to our environment & teachers were super impressed with all the amazing World Book Day work that has been sent in. Annabel from Pine Class made her favourite book (Pages & Co) into a very yummy victoria sponge cake.

At Emmbrook Junior School we are:



Inquisitive



Adaptable



Kind



Inclusive



Courageous