

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 30th April 2021

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Message from Mr Usher



The weather hasn't been quite so good this week but the **school has still been incredibly busy**, with most of the children still enjoying the outdoors as much as possible. **Year 6 have been continuing their exploration of World War 2**, as well as writing some brilliant persuasive letters.

Year 5 have also been engaging in some persuasive letter writing with their focus on the real-life issue of the building of paths in the local area impacting on local wildlife, they are even talking to the local newspaper about the issue.

Year 4 have been enjoying finding out about Mr Fox and Mr Fisher's 'trip' to Las Vegas and writing postcards, while **Year 3 have spent some time visiting the Emm Brook** to inspire some of their own writing.

The PTA AGM also took place this week, with the committee elections taking place and events for the remainder of the year being finalised. Please try and support the PTA who do tremendous work raising additional funds for the school. **Keep the 3rd of July free for the PTA summer BBQ.** We are reviewing how the PTA may be able to begin the Friday after school ice cream sales from later on in the term taking our Covid restrictions into account. I am staggered by the amount of money the PTA has managed to raise even this year, as well as the generosity of our parents and carers.

You may be aware that we have said a temporary goodbye to one of our Y6 teachers this week. **Mrs McAllister begins a one-year secondment to Rivermead Primary School** and we look forward to welcoming her back this time next year. You may have noticed that we have started advertising a teaching post to begin in September 2021, this is because **Mr Hewitt has decided to move onto pastures new and begin a new adventure from the end of this academic year.** I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking them both for their incredible hard work and dedication to the school and wish them both all the best for what is to come.

I hope you're all able to enjoy the bank holiday weekend and all the opportunities that it might bring.

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	Oscar E	Jakub T	Nathan S	Lucy H
Most Correct answers (so far)	Isla W	Jakub T	Aidan T	Lauren J



You can login in to Times Tables Rock Stars here:

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



Racial Equity

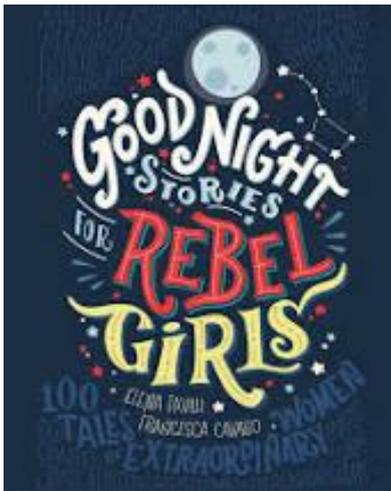
Each week we will be asking staff to share some of their learning around racial equity both with the rest of the staff and through this newsletter. The first member of staff to share is one of our Year 5 teachers, Miss Felton.

I am continuously enhancing my understanding and awareness of racial equity, and inequity, through challenging my perspectives and the perspectives of others. Such challenging of perspectives can be supported by keeping up with developments in this area, such as through documentaries and challenging unconscious biases in order to see the bigger picture.

A documentary, **BBC's Panorama Let's Talk about Race, aired on 8th March 2021.** If you have not already watched this I would highly recommend that you do. I found the programme **emotional and very eye opening**, just because you may not be experiencing racism, it doesn't mean it isn't happening around you. The programme makes you pause and talk about what these people are experiencing day-to-day, some which are shocking and unthinkable to yourself but unfortunately others have to face. For example, Corey's father admitted in the programme that he has followed his own son just to see how the rest of the world would perceive him. In addition to this, 'Corey felt that he cannot show all of his personality outside his home as he has been brought up not to be too loud or too passionate or come across as intimidating'.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-56253480>) It is extremely upsetting that parents have to tell their children to suppress their true selves in order to get by in society.

It is crucial that our children, who will have such a big impact on our world, are at the forefront of discussions around real and important topics, such as racism. These conversations may be difficult to start but it is important to do so. It is also key to acknowledge that there is always more to learn, you just need to be open to different perspectives.



It does not have to be just conversations, it can be introducing children to different books. For example, 'Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls' by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo, 'Stories for South Asian Supergirl's' by Raj Kaur Khaira and 'Stories For Boys Who Dare To Be Different' by Ben Brooks. These books highlight a wide range of people and how they have achieved their dreams in spite of the inequities that they have faced. Reading these books shows children that you can do anything if you put your mind to it and they also show positive role models that they may have not heard of.

Nut Free School

Following on from last week's reminder about EJS being a nut-free school could I ask that parents **please check items carefully when sending in treats for birthdays.** We are happy to have children share a small treat when celebrating their birthday but **even products that do not explicitly contain nuts may contain traces of nuts** (as indicated on the packaging). These are a risk to those children who can have a severe allergic reaction to nuts. We're not trying to stop the fun but simply trying to keep everyone safe.

Should such items come into school in the future they will be disposed of or sent home if safe to do so.

Thank you for your support on this matter.



Online Safety

Social media: **TikTok** Source: **BBC** Date: **21 April 2021**

The BBC reports that the **former children's commissioner for England Anne Longfield is suing TikTok**, a social media platform that lets you create, share and discover 60 second videos, **over how it collects and uses children's data**. Lawyers will allege that TikTok takes children's personal information, including phone numbers, videos, exact location and biometric data, without sufficient warning, transparency or the necessary consent required by law, and without children or parents knowing what is being done with that information. **Read the news story:** [TikTok sued for billions over use of children's data](#)

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/>

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.**

Messages from Wokingham Borough Council

Some parents and carers may be eligible for a one-off Test and Trace support payment of £500. This is payable in one lump sum from your local authority. To be eligible for a Test and Trace support payment, you should meet all of the following criteria:

- Be on a low income
- Be unable to work from home
- Be at risk of losing income as a result of self-isolating
- Live in England



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term

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

12th May 2021 – Virtual Meeting for Y6 residential to Manor (7pm) – *details will be sent to the parents of those children attending the residential*

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

1st - 4th June 2021 – Half term (school closed)

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

8th June 2021 – Back to school

14th – 18th June 2021 – Y6 Residential (if allowed by government)

23rd June 2021 – Transition Day

Saturday 3rd July 2021 – **PTA Summer BBQ - 12pm to 3pm – save the date!**

15th July 2021 – Sports Day (TBC)

16th July 2021 – End of Year Reports out

19th July 2021 – Optional Report Consultation Meetings

21st July 2021 – Last Day of Academic Year



Safeguarding

We were informed yesterday about a white male, approximately 5' 11", wearing a blue jacket and woollen hat, acting suspiciously around the village hall and roundabout on Wednesday at about 4pm. The secondary school have informed the Police and patrolled the area yesterday. If you have any information please contact The Emmbrook School on 01189784406.

At Emmbrook Junior School we are:

