

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 7th May 2021

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Letters this week:

- Holiday Activities and Food Programme
- Year 6 Leavers Hoodies Ordering
- Manor Sept 2021 (Year 5 only)
- Parents' Meeting for Manor Jun 2021 (Year 6 only)
- Be Internet Legends
- SLA Fundraising

Message from Mr Usher



Ramadan Mubarak to those members of our community currently observing Islam's holiest month. Muslims across the UK began observance of Ramadan on the 12th of April and some of our children have been fasting (Sawm) which is thought to help encourage self-discipline and empathy with the less fortunate, allowing Muslims to concentrate on worship, faith and helping the community.

I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend although the issue I have with short weeks is that my to-do list never seems to get any smaller.

So far (touch wood) our move back to year group bubbles has not led to any transmission within the school. Children and staff are still required to follow our control measures including wearing face coverings (in the case of staff); following the

one-way system; regular and frequent handwashing/sanitizing. **We also keep the school ventilated by having windows and doors open.** As the weather gets warmer this may be less of an issue but British weather being what it is **children do still need to be prepared for the various weather** that they may encounter.

Thank you for your on-going support with ensuring our school is nut-free, this is a serious health & safety issue and we appreciate that checking every item in a lunch box can be vexing, however it is vital to keep children safe.

The PTA is working hard on plans for **the summer BBQ as well as a leavers' party for our Year 6 children.** We are currently working on the basis that the **Year 6 residential for the current cohort will be able to go ahead** as planned, as will the planned trip for the current Year 5, who are scheduled to go early in the next academic year. The admin team have been in touch with Year 5 parents regarding the payment schedule.

As mentioned previously the **Parents' Forum is meeting on the 21st of May** so if you have any issues you'd like to raise please let your year group reps know. **The school is keen to improve lines of communication with parents & carers and resolve issues as quickly as possible.**

This week is **'Deaf Awareness Week'** and Mrs Hughes, who leads our Hearing Resource Base, shared an assembly with the children on this theme. As a school with a hearing resource base **we have embraced British Sign Language as part of our curriculum.** The children get to practise using BSL on a regular basis and many particularly enjoy singing through sign, maybe you can get them to share some of their signing with you at home. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09gkqyw>

I am still blown away by the generosity of our parents & carers and I know that you give generously to the school. I'm conscious that many of our families are stretched financially so I would like to thank everyone who gives so willingly to the school. If you can support the appeal for aid to India, that's fantastic but if you can't we completely understand and **there is no pressure to donate.** All the children will still get to enjoy the activities whether you are able to contribute or not.

From all the staff and children at Emmbrook Junior School have a fantastic weekend.



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 D	Isobel M	Zoe H	Freddie H
Most Correct answers (so far)	Pola D	Sophia C	Aidan T	Lauren J

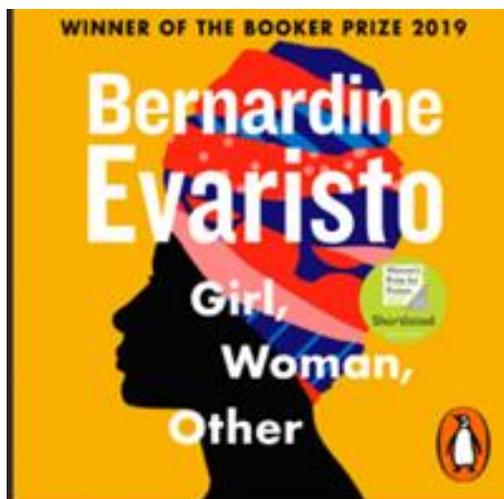


You can login in to Times Tables Rock Stars here:

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

Racial Equity

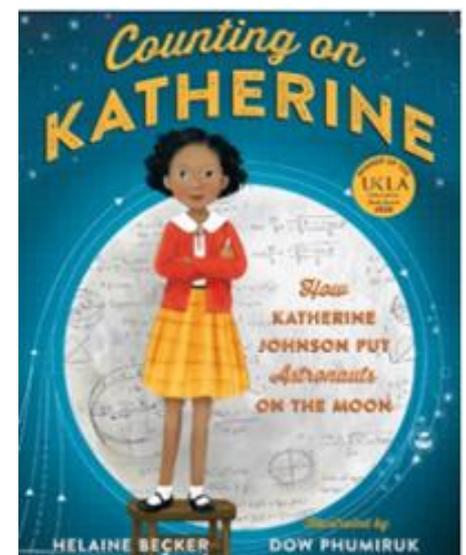
Each week we will be asking staff to share some of their learning around racial equity both with the rest of the staff and through this newsletter. **This week Mrs Day, one of our brilliant Year 6 teachers, is sharing some reading recommendations.**



I am an avid reader, always on the lookout for new reading material, and when out on a dog walk, I came across a box of books someone had left outside their home. I picked up the book **Girl, Woman, Other** and took it home. At first, I found the story hard to follow as the characters kept jumping around. As I read on, the stories of each of the characters began to weave into each other. **The story is about twelve vastly different women and their lives in Britain.** It takes you through their ups and downs and the prejudices they face. This is Britain from twelve very different viewpoints. From Newcastle to Cornwall, from the birth of the twentieth century to the teens of the twenty-first, *Girl Woman, Other* follows these women on their personal journeys through this country and the last hundred years. They are each looking for something - a shared past, an unexpected future, a place to call home, somewhere to fit in, a lover, a missed

mother, a lost father, even just a touch of hope. **This book gave me an insight into lives that are far removed from my own.**

The second book I would like to recommend is the children's book **Counting on Katherine** by Helaine Becker. I came across this book in the Scholastic Book Club magazine. As a mum to two boys, I am always on the lookout for new, diverse books and came upon this one. While Neil Armstrong's name is synonymous with space travel, not much is known about the mathematicians whose careful calculations made the moon landings possible. **In particular the story of Katherine Johnson, an African-American who worked for NASA** and despite being a mathematical genius, faced racism and sexism to have her voice heard. Her determination and her desire to learn everything about the universe drove her to challenge the institutions that would hold her back. This picture book biography gives us an insight into Katherine, a child who loved to count and was fascinated by the world around her, and the journey she took to becoming a crucial part of America's space programme. **Beautifully illustrated with accessible information, this is a truly inspirational read.**



Coronavirus Appeal in aid of India

This week you should have received a letter about **our support for fundraising in aid of India**. During the week of 17th May 2021, we will be collaborating with a different, yet equally crucial goal in mind – raising funds for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Coronavirus Appeal in aid of India.

In order to add our support to that being offered from around the world, SLA schools (of which we are a member), will be holding cricket themed events throughout the week of 17th May 2021.

Mr Fisher will be running Cricket Competitions for each class during their outdoor PE sessions and challenging each class to score as many runs as possible. It would be wonderful if you could sponsor your child by donating through the Just Giving page below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/WokinghamCricketFundraiser>

Any contribution is gratefully received and will go towards supporting those in need through the Disasters Emergency Committee who are channelling all current donations to their India Appeal. Information on this charity organisation can be found [here](#).

Online Safety – Internet Legends

You should also have received a message this week regarding ‘Internet Legends’. **This is to supplement and support the learning children already do around online safety**. Over the next term, all children at EJS will be taking part in some special sessions designed to teach them about how to be a safe and confident explorer of the online world. **To make the most of the internet, children need to make smart decisions**. Be Internet Legends empowers younger children to use the web safely and wisely, so they can be confident explorers of the online world. The content of the sessions includes:

- Think before you share
- Check it's for real
- Protect your stuff
- Respect each other
- When in doubt discuss

We're excited that **your child has been able to bring home a 'Be Internet Legends' kit**, containing everything your family needs to build a 3D Legend trophy and instructions of how to take part in an online safety quiz. (If you have more than one child at our school, the kit home was sent home with your oldest child.)

More information can be found by visiting https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en_uk/parents/



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.**

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term

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 & **Year 6 Leavers' Party** (details TBC)

19th July 2021 – Optional Report Consultation Meetings

21st July 2021 – Last Day of Academic Year

At Emmbrook Junior School we are:

