

# Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## In this Edition:

- Message from Mr Usher
- Times Tables Rock Stars
- Every Mind Matters
- Racial Equity
- Appeal in aid of India
- Online Safety
- Walk to school week
- PTA
- National Read to a Sibling
- Ofsted Parent View
- Dates for your diary



## Letters this week:

- Year 6 Cooking
- Year 6 PSHE
- Menu Change for Census Day
- Walk To School Week
- The Great Emmbrook Trail

## Message from Mr Usher



**Eid Mubarak to all the members of our community that celebrated Eid al-Fitr this week.** Eid is a time for celebration in the Islamic faith – and there's actually not just one Eid, but two. The first, Eid al-Fitr, follows Ramadan – a test of devotion and endurance as people will undergo a month of fasting and prayer. Eid celebrations were impacted last year by UK lockdowns and this year again Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr celebrations will be smaller in scale than under normal circumstances because of current restrictions, however I hope our Muslim families have been able to celebrate despite the current restrictions.

The children may have mentioned the smell of pizza pervading the school this week.

**Mr Fisher was able to arrange some lunchtime pizza** for the staff here at Emmbrook Junior School in recognition and thanks of key workers. Unfortunately, the delivery arrived late so instead of having hungry staff we delivered the pizza directly to them in their year group bubbles. Apologies if your children came home extra hungry on Wednesday, **however I'm sure you agree that your children's teachers deserve a little treat.**

As the roadmap out of lockdown continues we also continue to review our controls in school. We continue to be fortunate in that we have not had any cases of in school transmission. While we continue to be vigilant we feel it might be time to consider which of our controls are no longer necessary. The school's risk assessment remains under constant review and we do our best to balance the chances of transmission with the impact of the controls we have in place. **From Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May we will no longer be requiring staff to wear face coverings when in their year group bubbles.** This brings us in line with the Infant school and supports the well-being of staff and children who have found communicating through face coverings a challenge. **Staff and children who wish to continue to wear face coverings will of course be allowed to do so** and any visitors to the school will still be required to wear face coverings when in school. Staff will need to wear face coverings when moving around the school where there is increased potential for transmission in communal areas. **We are going to ask that parents and carers please continue to wear face masks/coverings** at pick up and drop off time. We will of course continue with all our other measures including the regular use of Lateral Flow Testing for all members of staff, regular hand washing/sanitizing and best use of space for social distancing.

You may be aware that the government has decided **there will be no SATs tests for Y6 this year** and as such we will not be in a position to share results with Y6 parents as was done prior to the pandemic. Staff across the school will do both formal assessments (tests) this term as well as their usual in class formative assessment. This information will be used to **give an informed Teacher Assessment of children's achievement**, which will be shared in their annual reports. Writing will be moderated with teachers from other schools in Wokingham to ensure that assessments are fair and accurate.



Have a fantastic weekend from all at EJS.

## 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	Isla W	Isobel M	Annabel W	Freddie H
Most Correct answers (so far)	Pola D	Isobel M	Aidan T	Lauren J



You can login in to Times Tables Rock Stars here:

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

## Public Health England - Every Mind Matters self-care tool



### Looking after your mental health

Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more. We have expert advice and practical tips to help you look after your mental health and wellbeing.

And remember, mind and body go hand in hand – [visit Better Health](#) for lots of free tools and support to help you kickstart your physical health too.

[Your Mind Plan can help you to take simple steps to look after your mental health and find a good work-life balance.](#)

## Racial Equity

This week's learning share is from the fantastic Dr Fox.

I find my knowledge and understanding of a subject is best done through personal experience. Whether by me doing something myself or the first-hand account of a relevant subject. This is why my journey into racial equity began in earnest with the Channel 4 programme that tried to identify and eliminate racism within a school (The School That Tried to End Racism – available on All 4). This was on quite a while ago but has certainly led my thinking ever since. It made all involved reflect on terminology, shared experience and what things actually mean. The process involved separating children into race-based groups: a white group and a B.A.M.E. group. However, the children decided that this had to change within a week as B.A.M.E. was too broad a term for its members. It made me think

of the various forms I've had to fill in throughout my life. How there were generally two options for that I could have picked: White - British or White - Other, followed by a dozen or more options for other people. Yet in this experiment, one group was filled with those two options and all of the others constituted the whole other group. At least at first, before the children addressed this. Regardless of shared backgrounds or heritage, people's experiences differ. Which is why, for me, finding out as many of those experiences is important.

This led me to another programme (The Talk - also available on All 4), where people of colour recounted times in their lives when an adult would tell them how their life would differ because of the colour of their skin. In honesty, I found this a difficult watch at times. Part of me didn't like the idea of grown-ups setting children up for an issue that may or may not happen. But then part of me understood the principle of "hope for the best but plan for the worst". Maybe I struggled as I had no shared context but that's why I watched it to further my understanding.



In short, having uncomfortable conversations isn't nice but if it leads to greater awareness, understanding and ultimately kindness, then we should all do it. After all, we may all experience the same situation but our experience from that situation will differ.

## Coronavirus Appeal in aid of India

Thank you to anyone who has already donated to the Wokingham Cricket Fundraiser for India. **The Schools Learning Alliance of which we are a member has already raised over £1700 for this worthy cause.**

**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



**Meet Bluebell the Internet Legend by Izzy in Year 4 & George's Internet Legends Trophy.**

'It took us a couple of hours last night to watch the videos and build her legend trophy, but the content was great and kept Izzy engaged the whole time. Such a lovely initiative!' (Izzy's Mum).

If you'd like to share your own Internet Legends please email your child's picture into school or share via twitter: @Emmbrook\_Junior

More information can be found by visiting:

[https://beinternetlegends.withgoogle.com/en\\_uk/parents/](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/>

## Walk to School Week

**Emmbrook Junior School is taking part in 'Walk to School' Week (17-21 May).** The nationwide event is organised by walking charity Living Streets and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended 60 minutes minimum of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates! Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life.



## PTA – The Great Emmbrook Trail

The PTA have organised The Great Emmbrook Trail for Spring half term and this year, the theme is Bugs!

Nearly 60 households in the Emmbrook area have got their thinking caps on and are busy designing and creating some wonderful “EmmBugs” that will be displayed outside their houses for you and your family and friends to spot. **The trail will run from Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May until Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June.**

So, please help the PTA to raise lots of money for Emmbrook Infant & Junior Schools by buying a map (or several) and taking a walk around our lovely neighbourhood during half term to see how many EmmBugs you can find. **You can also share this wonderful event by searching Facebook events for “The Great Bug Trail 2021” and inviting friends, family & neighbours.**

**To purchase your maps, which are £3,** please complete the form with the letter you should have already received and return to the school with either cash or cheque via the PTA letterbox which is outside the Infant School reception, or hand them into either school office. Maps purchased via the school will be sent home with your child in time for the trail to start.

Maps are also available to purchase via Eventbrite, at a cost of £3.72 (72p is the Eventbrite fee).

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-emmbrook-trail-the-great-bug-hunt-tickets-151349583679?aff=ebsdssbeac> or go onto the Eventbrite website and search for “emmbrook trail”. Maps purchased via Eventbrite will be available to collect from either Emmbrook Food & Wine or Emmbrook Post Office.

Many thanks for your support,  
Emmbrook Schools PTA

## 'National Read To Your Sibling Day'

'National Read To Your Sibling Day' is on Thursday 20th May, 2021 and was created by children's author Kerry Gibb, to encourage brothers and sisters to read to each other.

Kerry has witnessed first-hand the amazing benefits of her own children reading to one another and wants to urge children everywhere to do the same. “Older children get a fabulous sense of responsibility and make wonderful role models for their younger siblings. Snuggling up reading a book together is fantastic for bonding and seeing their older siblings read to them will encourage the younger ones to follow suit. **Reading aloud to each other helps children enhance their communication skills and comprehension,** as well as boosting their speech, vocabulary and language.”

**Our school is getting involved by asking children to read to their siblings at home.** (If they do not have a sibling, they could always read to a young relative, friend or neighbour.) Children can then report back to school the next day and discuss the books they read to their sibling and how they reacted to it. Did they laugh? Did they seem calm? Did they enjoy it? You could even encourage them to take photos of them reading together to share with the class!

**Younger siblings can be encouraged to read to older siblings too.** Some of them find reading their school-books to their parents a chore as it is labelled 'homework'. Reading their school-book to their older brother or sister instead can bring a whole new level of enjoyment to it. They could even read their favourite bedtime story and take it in turns to read a page each.

**Please encourage your children to take part!**

More information can be found here: <https://kerrygibb.com/national-read-to-your-sibling-day/306/>

## 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

**17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021** – Walk to School Week

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2021** - National Read to Your Sibling Day

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – Y5 Cooking (please bring in an apron and tie long hair back)

**31<sup>st</sup> May 2021** – Spring Bank Holiday (school closed)

**1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – Half term (school closed)

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – INSET Day (school closed to children)

**8<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – Back to school

**14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – Y6 Residential (if allowed by government)

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021** – Transition Day

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

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2021** – Sports Day (TBC)

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2021** – End of Year Reports out & **Year 6 Leavers' Party** (details TBC)

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2021** – Optional Report Consultation Meetings

**21<sup>st</sup> July 2021** – Last Day of Academic Year

## At Emmbrook Junior School we are:

