

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 21st May 2021

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Message from Mr Usher



It has been quite a week at Emmbrook Junior School. We started with a confirmed case of Covid-19 in Y3, this meant closing the year group on Tuesday and quickly reverting to remote learning. Luckily the child was not in school during the infectious stage and we were quickly able to reopen Year 3 the following day. **I have to thank our Year 3 team for the speedy way they got the remote learning up and running** with very little time. Thank you also to the parents and carers for their understanding and the quick organisation of child care (including members of staff). The fact that **we have had no other children or staff with symptoms or positive test** results gives us a good indication that our controls are working well. This appears to be a case of community transmission and we are confident that our risk assessment remains robust. We continue to be vigilant with our Covid-19 controls and ask that you do the same.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19:

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible
2. You, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have the test.

Anyone in your childcare or support bubble should also stay at home if your child has been in close contact with them since their symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

This week we have also carried out interviews for the teaching position that will be made vacant at the end of this academic year. We are very pleased that we had 10 applications. The final three candidates were all very good and would have made a fantastic addition to our team. We have made an offer which has been accepted and once we have written confirmation we will share with you who our new teacher will be.

All the children have also been very busy with **Year 3 being 'Junior River Rangers'**. I very much enjoyed the **Greek salad and Thai style summer rolls that Year 5** made for my lunch this week, as well as the very tasty **potato cakes and carrot chutney that Year 6** made and shared.



Thank you to the 'Parents' Forum' for their valuable input this week, we had another productive meeting.

Only one week until half-term and I think we all need a rest, I only hope we get some better weather. **Have a great 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	Lydia G	Isabella J	Annabel W	Freddie H
Most Correct answers (so far – only 1 week to go)	Pola D	Isobel M	Annabel W	Freddie H



Next week we will announce who has the most correct answers for this half term.

You can login in to Times Tables Rock Stars here:

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

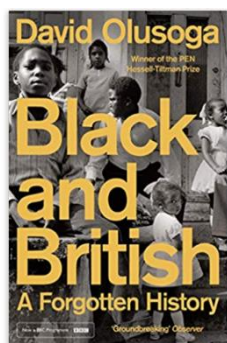
Start/End of the day reminder

Please remember that school starts from 8:30am. We have noticed some children arriving earlier than this. The gates are open before 8:30am by the site team as they have to be at the front of the school at this time. This does not mean children should be arriving at school before 8:30am. Classroom doors may be open to ensure enough ventilation in line with our covid-19 risk assessment but this does not mean that staff are ready to receive them. **Children arriving before 8:30am will need to wait outside** while staff prepare for their arrival. Additionally, the playground gates will be shut at 8:50am and anyone arriving after this time should report directly to the office. We will be reminding children that they **should not be riding scooters or bicycles on school premises at any time** and we'd be grateful if you could reinforce this message at home. This applies to adults as well. Thanks for your support on this matter.

Racial Equity

This week's learning share is from Mrs Tinson.

To develop my understanding of racial equity, I decided to read the book '**Black and British - A Forgotten History**' by David Olusoga. Having studied history at school, I couldn't remember being taught anything when



covering social history during the Industrial Revolution! It dawned on me that here was a large chunk of history that had passed me by. A huge section that for whatever reason was not discussed in school or covered in the media, until quite recently. I decided to try and rectify this by broadening my own knowledge. As a school teacher, I wondered how I could cover any pertinent topics with the children, when I only had my own life experiences and news articles to back up my limited understanding. Having watched Hollywood films like 'Gone with the Wind' and reading 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' as a child - I stopped to wonder what had they taught me? Probably, a rather superficial picture of the difficulties of living in a Western society.

However, I started work in the 1980s and I was lucky enough to work in a large and proudly multi-racial company, at a time when race relations and gender discrimination were starting to be discussed. Personally, I enjoyed meeting people from different cultures and soon learned about cultural differences first hand -enjoying their various life stories. This was a time when some politicians were recognising the need to create legislation to protect large sections of society for the first time. I felt a sense of trying to take steps towards equality for all. In 'Black and British - A Forgotten History' however, I soon saw how legislation had been used (in the past) to keep the country wealthy and ensure the 'best' for the empire and its all-important trade; at a great human cost. It was easy to see how politics had greatly influenced the



lives of non-white citizens with many twists and turns, depending on the economic and employment needs of the country at the time. I found it hard to keep pace with the legislation quoted and wondered on the negative impact of this on the lives of real people.

Looking back in history, if only the human cost of creating a wealthy nation and wealthy individuals was questioned far sooner things may have been different. I just think how hard it must have been for people to feel powerless and subjugated. It is clear many of these notions still linger today even if realities have changed, especially as many social inequalities which were created by those political and economic decisions back then still require solutions and many imbalances still exist.

To help society begin to treat everyone with equity, school is the ideal setting. Here young children can mix freely and form friendships away from other influences; opening their minds to equality, equity and non-discrimination. To help today's children to recognise how each we can celebrate our differences as well as recognise our similarities must be an important lesson.

Online Safety – More Internet Legends



We have even more internet legends to share this week. Some awesome work done by children across the school.

The Be Internet Legends Parent's Page is a helpful handbook full of tips and tricks for supporting your child's digital education.

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/



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/>.

PTA – The Great Emmbrook Trail

Get the bug for this half-term fun

EMMBROOK has got the bug for creepy crawlies.

Later this month, Emmbrook Schools PTA is hosting The Great Bug Hunt to keep children entertained during half term.

The trail will take youngsters across town looking

for all manner of insects, guided by a handy map.

Tickets cost £3.72, and £3 from every purchase will go towards the Emmbrook Infants and Junior Schools PTA.

Tickets can be redeemed for maps at Emmbrook Food & Wine (1.46 Clifton Road) and

Emmbrook Post Office (139 Reading Road).

The Great Bug Hunt begins on Friday, May 28 and will continue until Sunday, June 6.

For more information, visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-emmbrook-trail-the-great-bug-hunt-tickets

For the latest news visit

WOKINGHAM
TODAY

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, your family and friends to spot. **The trail will run from Saturday the 29th**

of May until Sunday the 6th 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=ebdssbeac>

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

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

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

Gallery





[https://www.southeastriverstrust.org/junior-river-rangers/.](https://www.southeastriverstrust.org/junior-river-rangers/)

Year 3 Junior River Rangers



This week in Year 3, we hosted a zoom assembly and workshop with Charlene Duncan from the South East Rivers Trust. This fitted in perfectly with our learning journey – Flow – where we investigate our local rivers and those around the world, learn more about the water cycle and consider the human

impact on our water system.

Charlene explained about the work that the trust will be doing in partnership with Wokingham Borough Council to improve a stretch of the Emmbrook at Riverside Park, just by Morrisons.

She also told us about how we could become Junior River Rangers and enter a competition to win certificates and badges for ourselves and a river investigation kit for the school.

In the workshop we learnt about the river habitat, how to limit pollution into our waterway and ways to improve the Emmbrook. Charlene also showed us the different activities that we could do to become River Rangers. Ash class were surprised that they had already completed many of the suggested activities in the competition during Year 3's wander down the Emmbrook last week!

We would like to encourage as many children to participate, it is free, you earn a badge and certificate and will help the school to try and win the competition. There are many activities to choose from and can be done in the evening, weekend or during the half term holidays. Brothers and sisters are welcome to take part too.


If you are interested please click on this link:

<https://www.southeastriverstrust.org/junior-river-rangers/>

Remember to click on Emmbrook Juniors to show which school you are from.




At Emmbrook Junior School we are:



Inquisitive



Adaptable



Kind



Inclusive



Courageous

