

# Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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## Letters this week:

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- Wokingham Netball Summer Camp
- Emmbrook Trail Bug Hunt
- SUN Group
- Summer BBQ Cancellation
- Surge Testing and Vaccines

## Message from Mr Usher



I'd like to start my message by **thanking the staff who took the Year 6 children on their residential visit to Manor Adventure this week.** It was a first for me being the Head Teacher left behind rather than the trip leader and I have to tell you I have a much better appreciation for how parents letting their children go on a trip without them for the first time must feel. My daily phone calls to the team must have grated a little but I, like the Year 6 parents, had nothing to worry about, the children returned today, a little dirty and very tired but having had a wonderful week. So, I must thank the staff because unless they agree to go, the trip can't happen. **I'd also like to thank the admin team** for sorting all the arrangements and liaison with coach companies and Manor itself and **St Paul's Parish Rooms who made the trip financially possible for some of our families.** Finally, a big thank you to the parents and carers who entrusted

us with the safety and well-being of their children. It's been touch and go as to whether the trip would be able to go ahead but it's fantastic that the children have been able to enjoy the wonderful opportunity, which is a milestone in primary school life.

Just a quick reminder that we are a **'Nut Free School'** and **this includes snacks given to the children while still on school grounds.** We have noticed Nutella based snacks being eaten on the playground at the end of the day and ask that if you wish to give your child this sort of snack you please wait until you have left the school grounds. This also extends to shared birthday treats, which may contain nuts even if they are not in the main ingredients; here are a couple of suggestions which we **believe** to be safe:

- McVities Jaffa Cakes
- Penguins/Kitkats/Clubs
- Stroopwafels by Daelmans - These are nut free and look awesome
- Coconut rings (Sainsburys own)
- Tesco Finest Shortbread
- Maryland MINIS (must be minis) choc chip cookies

Of course, **fruit is the best snack** although we know it's not as much fun. Thanks for your understanding on this. **Ultimately, we are just trying to keep all our children safe.** This only applies to snacks outside of school time and our current guidance for break time snacks remains: portion of fresh fruit or veg; plain bread sticks; plain rice cakes; chunks of cheese ([as is detailed in our parent pack](#)).

**I'd like to wish all our families a wonderful weekend** and remember that there are many different types of dad and family as we celebrate Father's Day. To me, a dad doesn't need to be a blood relative, have a beard or even be male, to me... **"Dads are most ordinary men (people) turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story-tellers, and singers of song."** —Pam Brown

Have great weekend everyone.



## Times Tables Rock Stars



Every week will be looking for the top earners and each half term those who score the most correct answers.

Year Group	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Weekly Top Earner	Lydia G	Sophia C	Zoe S	Lauren J
Most Correct answers so far...	Pola D	Sophia C	Zoe H	Sumaiah E-D

You can login in to Times Tables Rock Stars here: <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student/15813>

## Racial Equity

This week's learning share is from Mrs Jones



I have always loved reading ever since I was a child, it is something that has always brought me great joy. However, as an adult I have found reading harder and often stick to reading children's books as I can read these more easily and enjoy them more. As a white person I have never encountered the problem of not seeing myself represented or being able to relate to the characters in the books that I read. As I got older I was challenged to think more carefully about the diversity around me and the lack of diversity in my books. This forced me to take a closer look at what I

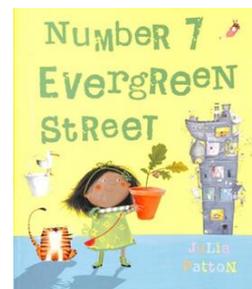
was consuming and how best to create this more diverse range of books. When I started growing my very own collection of books as an adult, I challenged myself to become more selective with the books I chose to read; I would browse the shelves of Waterstones looking for books written by authors from different races and backgrounds and cultures. I would look for characters that represented a diverse range of people - all the people that I see around me in my day to day life.

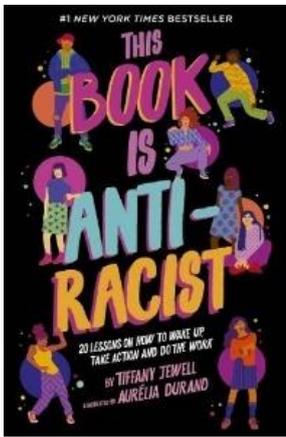
When I was thinking about what to discuss in this piece, it dawned on me that if I hadn't been so proactive with my selection of books, would my bookshelf have as many different characters and authors on it as it does? I wanted to highlight this week how easy it can be to fall into buying the same books and filling bookshelves with books that do not represent the diversity of the country and world around us.

I think that it is important to have diversity in the books I am reading because it reflects the experiences of people I encounter every day. Whilst not all the books I read highlight some of the difficulties that people of colour experience, some of them do, and books have always been an excellent way of exploring different lives and perspectives.

Instead of just posing that question to you, I wanted to share with you some potential starting points. Above, you can see a snapshot of my bookshelf. These are some of the books that I have bought that are written by a variety of authors but also have a variety of characters in them. I also spoke to a librarian friend of mine who shared with me a huge list of books. If you are looking for any more please get in touch and I will be happy to share more ideas.

- No 7 Evergreen Street, Julia Patton (KS1 aged children)
- Ada Twist, Scientist, Andrea Beaty (KS1 and lower KS2 aged children)
- Shona, Word Detective, John Agard (KS2 aged children)
- The Boy at the Back of the Class, Onjali Q. Raúf (upper KS2 aged children)
- The Girl who Stole an Elephant, Nizrana Farook (KS2 aged children)
- Noughts and Crosses, Malorie Blackman (A series for young adults aged 14+)





In my hunt for new books, I have recently come across this book. This Book is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell. This is a book that approaches racism in a child appropriate way but is a book for all people of all ages and all races to read to gain more knowledge and understanding. I would recommend reading this book before giving it to your children as it tackles sensitive topics and is aimed at upper KS2 and above aged children.

I urge you to look at your bookshelves. How diverse are the characters in those books? How diverse are the authors that write those books? What cultures are not yet represented on your shelves? Local libraries are a great source to find more books to read. Ask the librarians for help to find the type of book you are looking for. They are experts and are always happy to help. I encourage you to think about the books that not only you, but your children are reading.

## Online Safety



**Discord app safety** – What parents need to know

**What is Discord?** Discord launched in 2015 as a way for video game players to communicate with each other and develop a community outside of the games themselves. However, since then, it has grown into a full social network with a wide range of ways to interact with over 140 million\* active monthly users.

**How Discord works** - The platform works on the basis of servers. These are set up with a particular focus or emphasis as a way for people to congregate, discuss and exchange images, links, and information. These servers offer both text and voice communication via a microphone on the device you use. Users can be invited to servers or find links online to access them. The person who sets up the server usually sets some ground rules about who it is for and the expected level of courtesy and etiquette. **Note: Discord is not only just used by gamers nowadays.**

**What is the age rating?** 13 years and up, however, Discord “updated its age rating to 17+ at Apple’s request”. Their website states they want to “help ensure minors are not exposed to content inappropriate for them”. However, we found that under 17’s can still register and use the platform.

You can find out more about Discord:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/parents-guide-to-discord-on-how-your-kids-can-use-it-safely/>

**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.**

[If you would like to raise any issues or concerns with the school please use our communication flowchart to find out who you should talk to:](#)

Or if you have any general feedback you can contact the Parents’ Forum: [ejsparentsforum@gmail.com](mailto:ejsparentsforum@gmail.com)



## Dates for your Diary

### Summer Term

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021** – Moving up morning (**children Y3-5 to meet new class teachers**)

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2021** – Class Photos

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021** – PTA Non-Uniform Day (£1 donation please)

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2021** – Y6 to Secondary Transition Day (TBC)

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2021** – EmmBOOK Fest (**see last week's newsletter for details**) - *All children are invited to come into school on 9th July dressed as their favourite book character.*

**13<sup>th</sup> July 2021** – Governors' Day

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

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

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

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

## Message from WBC

### Surge Vaccinations in Wokingham Borough

Further to the leadership drop in this morning, the surge vaccination programme has been expanded to include all 18- to 24-year-olds living in the Wokingham Borough. Therefore, please could I ask secondary heads to promote this among their appropriate cohorts.



**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **What is happening:**

A temporary vaccination centre will open at Bulmershe Leisure Centre from today (Tuesday 15 June) to Sunday 27 June (inclusive). It will be open from 9.30am to 8.30pm each day.

The centre will initially provide first doses of the vaccine only for those people aged 18 to 24 who live in the Wokingham Borough. This offer will be kept under review depending on demand and availability.

All those aged 23 and older can now book their vaccine through the regular NHS route – via the NHS website or by calling 119.

We are expecting this to be a popular offer so are asking people to walk to the centre if they live close enough. There will be no parking available at the leisure centre or surrounding residential streets.

### **Why is this being done:**

The number of positive cases in the borough is increasing and the number of cases of the Covid-19 Delta variant, first found in India, is higher in these wards than elsewhere in the borough. Some of these cases cannot be linked to foreign travel and it is therefore necessary to take further action to help prevent the spread.

### **Those attending to get a vaccine must:**

Live within the Wokingham Borough. Those who do not know what ward they live in can use the postcode tracker on our website

Be aged 18 to 24 (inclusive)

Bring NHS number, proof of address and ID to the vaccination centre

Check Wokingham Borough Council's website or Facebook and Twitter feeds for updates

Residents aged 23 and over are encouraged to book a Covid-19 vaccination at a mass vaccination centre through the NHS website.

We also still need all those people who live, work or study in the affected wards to take part in our surge testing programme even if they have had one or doses of the vaccine.



# Gallery

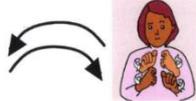
Some creative work – 'Tree Spirits' by some of our Year 6 children.



At Emmbrook Junior School we are:



Inquisitive



Adaptable



Kind



Inclusive



Courageous



## Amazon Wishlist



A huge thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to visit our school's Amazon wish list to order books and other resources for us.

**Given the weather recently we have added fans/coolers as an idea for each class, as it can become very uncomfortable when classrooms are hot.**

We would like the opportunity to thank you individually for your generous contributions. In order for us to be able to do this, please add your name to the **'free personalised gift message'** that should appear when you click on the option to deliver the item to our school address (some of you have done this and you should get a thank you email). Alternatively, please let the school office know (via a quick email) when you have bought something. Thanks again. Your support makes such a difference.

**Please click the link above or alternatively, please use the link:**

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1XCPWWH5UAPP0?ref=wl\\_fv\\_le](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1XCPWWH5UAPP0?ref=wl_fv_le)

We really appreciate everything that you do to support and contribute to school life at Emmbrook Junior School. **Thank you so much from all of the staff and the children.**

## Covid-19 updates

As we are unable to move to the next stage of the government road map **we will no longer be holding the PTA Summer BBQ.** We'd like to thank the PTA for their efforts and you can find a link on the school website should you still wish to contribute.

We will be going ahead with Sports Day this term but as guidelines limit numbers **we will not be able to have any parent/carer spectators.** This also means that the usual Year 6 production will not be live but recorded and shared either via Teams or our website.

We understand there may be disappointment and a little confusion given some of the events that are being allowed to go ahead, please understand we are just as frustrated as you are and **we are only following the advice of Wokingham and Government Guidance.**

As Year 6 are already in their own bubble, we have agreed that **the Leavers' Party, organised by the PTA, will go ahead as planned.**

**We have also been informed that the Delta variant may include differing symptoms** including head aches and a runny nose. These symptoms are obviously much more like a cold or even severe hay fever. If you are in doubt, especially if your child doesn't normally suffer from hay fever, then please arrange for PCR test. Better safe than sorry.

