

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 25th June 2021

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Message from Mr Usher



Wednesday was 'National Thank a Teacher Day' and it was wonderful to receive and see teachers receiving cards and messages of thanks. I am very grateful not only for the wonderful teachers at Emmbrook Junior School, who go above and beyond and work so hard to meet the needs of all their children, but also the support staff and admin team who do all they can to make school a little better every day. We have many fantastic staff here, who are all part of what makes it such a wonderful place to be. Therefore, it is with more than a little sadness that at the end of this year **we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Cooper**, who has been a part of our school for almost 18 years. She has decided that it is time for her to begin her retirement and develop her already impressive golfing skills. **I'd like to thank her for all the support and dedication** she has given to the children of Emmbrook Junior School and wish her all the best for

a happy retirement.

Hopefully you should have received an updated menu for school lunches. We have a menu change for Tuesdays and Thursdays. On these days there has been very little uptake for hot dinners, therefore we are trialling an alternative offering for the children of a cold packed lunch or a jacket potato. This has the added advantage that the children eating school meals will be able to have them outside with their classmates should the weather be clement. I know some parents prefer a hot meal which is why we have chosen those days where the uptake for school meals is very low and retained the option of a jacket potato.

Please don't forget we have **EmmBOOK festival coming up on the 9th of July**. Reading is integral to life at EJS and having an opportunity to celebrate World Book Day (all be it very late) is a way of us expressing our love of all things reading.



At this time of year, it's useful for us, as a school, to get some general feedback from our parents and carers about how we are doing. Using the questions asked by Ofsted **we have put together a simple survey** that you can complete on line either by clicking the link [Parent Survey](#) or scanning the QR code. We appreciate any time you are able to give us for this. The survey is for general feedback but should you have any specific issues that need addressing please contact the school in the usual way.

From September we are planning on moving our weekly **newsletter to a different format using Microsoft Sway**. This means that you will be sent a link that will enable to you to read the communications easily on your phone, tablet or computer rather than via PDF. We have been experimenting with using Sway for our staff briefing sheets for some time now and feel they are much easier to access for the majority of people. The links to the newsletters will still be emailed out to you and shared via our website.



The weather isn't looking great but I hope you're all able to enjoy the weekend anyway.

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	Isobel M	Elizabeth L	Sumaiah E-D
Most Correct answers so far...	Lydia G	Isobel M	Zoe H	Sumaiah E-D

This week the Year 4 team also had a practise at using the DfE's multiplication tables check which will be a compulsory part of school assessment from next academic year.

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 Mr Usher

I have always loved language and like Professor Dumbledore, I have found words to be one of 'our most inexhaustible sources of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it.' Teachers weave magic on a daily basis in their classrooms, especially with the language they use, so I was particularly interested in a blog I came across by Dr Muna Abdi who I follow on Twitter, called: [Language is important: Why we are moving away from the terms 'allyship' and 'privilege' in our work.](#)

There has been much talk about the term 'white privilege' in the media of late and, in my opinion, much misunderstanding of the term and the language surrounding it. The blog by Dr Abdi talks about how 'language shapes how we make sense of our experiences and sets parameters that guide our understanding of what is (and is not) possible. However, language is not fixed, it is dynamic and just as it shapes, it too is shaped.'

I strongly suggest you read the blog in full but she notes, 'An integral part of anti-racism work is challenging the taken for granted, and explicitly naming the problem.' So what language should we use? Dr Abdi's organisation has made the following commitment:

Moving forward, we will not be centering the terms 'allyship' and 'privilege' in our discourse, opting instead for terms such as 'solidarity' and 'structurally enabled/embedded advantage' to shift us from oppositional framings, towards language that recognises our interconnected experiences.

As the blog covers both these terms, and again I urge you to read it, I have chosen to share her ideas around why they will be moving away from using the term 'privilege'.

Although 'privilege' is helpful for naming the unearned structural advantages some groups have, and in mobilising some action on an individual level, the term is also problematic, for many of the reasons outlined above, and additionally:

- 1. People respond to the term with frustration and agitation. It creates a visceral response and often awakens feelings of guilt, shame and denial that can shut down further conversations. The term names advantage as located at the individual level, and this often poses an affront to the self-concept of an individual who may see the term as accusatory or an indication of a moral flaw. This does not mean choose language to appease those who may be resistant.*



- II. *It remains fixed on the centrality of Whiteness. The focus becomes ‘what can White people do?’, which inadvertently separates the individual from the system. Privilege often highlights the commodification of racism, which can be a useful starting point to mobilize those who are confronted, but it does not offer a way forward that can be sustained.*
- III. *It has no origin story. We attach privilege to individuals, without exploring how it has been produced by a system of oppression and is in fact the end manifestation of the way in which that system operates.*
- IV. *Racism as a system constructs us as binarily opposites, but the outcomes it produces create the conditions that legitimize other overlapping and interconnecting behaviours. By positioning us outside of one another’s experiences, and focusing only on the manifestation of oppression at an individual level, we maintain those binary positions and fail in our practice, to understand the intersectional and relational impact of oppressive systems.*
- V. *We often talk about ‘privilege’ as if it is the cause and not the consequence of oppression. We fail to challenge our thinking that frames the outcome of the system of oppression as the reason for the system of oppression’s existence in the first place. E.g. male advantage is not the reason for Patriarchy.*

Dr Muna Abdi is Director of MA Education Consultancy <https://ma-consultancy.co.uk/>

Online Safety – Net Aware

Online safety in lockdown and beyond - As lockdown restrictions are easing our routines and time spent online may change. We've got advice and tips to help you keep your kids safe online.

Over the last year or so, with lockdown restrictions and home-schooling, we've all had to change and adapt to new situations and it's likely that some things will not go back to how they were before. From advice on gaming to helping manage your child's wellbeing online, our lockdown hub has everything you need to help keep them safe online.

[8 tips for keeping your kids safe online during changing restrictions](#)

[Keeping kids safe on conferencing apps](#)

[Keeping kids safe while gaming](#)

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



Dates for your Diary

Summer Term

2nd July 2021 – PTA Non-Uniform Day (£1 donation please)

7th July 2021 – Y6 to Secondary Transition Day (TBC)

9th July 2021 – EmmBOOK Fest (dress as a book character)

13th July 2021 – Governors' Day

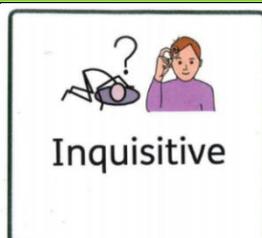
15th July 2021 – Sports Day

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

19th July 2021 – Optional Report Consultation Meetings

21st July 2021 – Last Day of Academic Year

At Emmbrook Junior School we are:



Parents' Forum

EJS Parents Forum - new members needed!

From September we are looking for new members to join the Forum. The Forum meets for an hour once every half term with Mr Usher, to share the views, issues and compliments raised by parents. The meetings are also an opportunity for the school to gauge the opinion of parents.

We are looking for new members including a Chair and note taker:

Please contact ejsparentsforum@gmail.com for further details.

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

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.**