

Emmbrook Junior School Newsletter

Friday 9th July 2021

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Message from Mr Usher



How are we at the end of the second to last full week of the year? I have to confess I feel like there is still very much to do and increasingly little time to do it.

Thank you to all the children (and parents/carers) for the fantastic book themed costumes this week. **The EmmBOOK festival has been a fantastic success** thanks to the organisation of Miss Scales and the English Team. A big thank you to Mrs Karen Usher (my mum) for her presentations to each year group and her sponsorship of the **Virtual author visit of Gareth P Jones**, as well as the donation of a selection of his books to our school library. Gareth was very well received by the children and [his books can be purchased online at a variety of sellers](#). If you choose to order through Amazon please use Amazon Smile to contribute to our PTA. **Also, a big thank you to Mr John Halsted** who talked to the children about publishing. Today the children enjoyed 3 visitors (2 live and 1 virtual), as well as taking home a book from the great EmmBOOK Festival book swap. **Thank you for all the generous donations of books.** Those left over will be used to add to our library and start small collections in each classroom.

Well done to Mr Fisher for organising the book fair, which has also given the children the chance to get some new books, as well as raising some funds for the school. I've been told by people who have been here for quite some time that **this has been the best book day ever.**

A massive **thank you to our outgoing parent forum reps, Clare and Emma.** They have done a fantastic job in representing parents and I am very grateful for all their efforts and hard work. Thank you to the remaining parent forum reps who will be continuing but we need two more of you to join them. **Currently, no-one has offered to take on the role as Chair so we really need someone to step into this vital role.**

Yes, England are taking part in the Euro Finals on Sunday. Yes, it's the first time in 55 years that we have reached the final of a major tournament and yes, some schools are offering late starts (or not opening at all) on Monday. **We will be open as usual at the regular time** and despite what has been implied in the media, we have not been given special dispensation to alter the school day. However, whether we win or lose, **the children are invited to wear red & white** (or a football kit of their choice) to celebrate together the fact that England got to the final. It's been an incredibly busy term and we have only one full week remaining with various activities and events planned including sports day. **I apologise that we are not able to have parents spectate** at this event but I'm sure the children will be able to tell you all about their triumphs. I'd like to reiterate my thanks to those parents & carers that continue to abide by our Covid risk assessment and wear face coverings when on site.

Well done and thank you to all our staff who have helped safely get us to this point in the year, not long to go until they can have a well-earned rest.



Have a great weekend and C'mon England!

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	Pola D	Hope T	Chiami C	Lucy H
Most Correct answers so far...	Lydia G	Isobel M	Chiami C	Lucy H

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

Racial Equity

This week's racial equity share is from Miss Biln.

Racial equity is something I'm really passionate about, particularly from my own experiences as a brown woman, working and living in a majority white area.

In 2020, after the killing of the George Floyd and the activism that followed, I felt compelled to do something, anything – not only to support fellow humans suffering around the globe but to speak up about the injustices and hardships faced by people of colour in my local area. I sent out a letter about racial equity to my school, senior leaders, governing body, local borough and formerly-attended educational institutions. I was incredibly anxious about sharing what I had written but I was unable to stay silent. I did not know what reaction it would get and I did not know what the outcome would be.

A year has passed and in this time I have had many discussions with different people. Disappointingly, some have refused to even acknowledge me. There has been a great deal of reflection, learning and research. People have been increasingly aware and understanding of racism and its impact. Importantly, many have been willing to work on racial equity, both personally and professionally.

For me, this has been and continues to be a very emotional and intense experience. At times, I have regretted sending my letter because of the difficult feelings it's brought up and the consuming workload that has come with it. Frankly though, it was all worth it to have a child in my class tell me that they were grateful we were having these conversations for the first time.

The key learning I have gained from this past year is this: if you able to, raise your voice. I have lived much of life with my head down, making sure I don't cause a fuss. This approach has done literally nothing to improve my prospects or anyone else's. It can be scary to stand up and speak out about injustice but it can also bring about meaningful change. If you have a voice and you are safe to do so, push for positive change in the world – whatever it may be.



I think this poem perfectly sums up the reason why I've taken action and the reasons why I will continue to take action:

scream
so that one day
a hundred years from now
another sister will not have to
dry her tears wondering
where in history
she lost her voice

Jasmin Kaur



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.

Online Safety



Our overall rating for WhatsApp – Average

As WhatsApp has an age rating of 16+ there are no parental controls available. There are various privacy settings that can help keep your child safe such as managing who can see their profile picture and bio and who can add them to a group.

Be aware that WhatsApp is end-to-end encrypted meaning that only the sender and recipient can see the contents of a message. This makes it harder to stop inappropriate behaviour.

If you decide to let your child use WhatsApp, you should make sure to explore all the privacy settings available and agree some rules around who they're allowed to talk to on the app.

We have been made aware of some children being upset by how WhatsApp has been used outside of school. Please be aware that while we do our best to help children understand responsible use of social media, there is no way we can monitor what children do online outside of school. Please help us to keep your children safe online by monitoring what they have access to on the internet. We will of course respond where we are made aware of children being abusive to each other online but we cannot police how the children use social media such as WhatsApp outside of school.

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.**



Or if you have any general feedback you can contact the Parents' Forum: ejsparentsforum@gmail.com



Thank you to the parents/carers that have taken the time to complete our survey or the OFSTED parent view survey (16 parents have already contributed to this). The questions are identical to those on the OFSTED parent view survey, which you can also complete following the link that we share via the newsletter and website. You can still complete the survey 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 more responses we have the better we can act on any potential issues that we may be unaware of. The only difference

between the two surveys is that for the **OFSTED Parent View the information is available publicly and our own survey is used internally.**

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term

13th July 2021 – Governors' Day

15th July 2021 – Sports Day (No parent/carer spectators due to Covid restrictions – sorry!)

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 – **2pm finish**

Autumn Term 2021-22

1st Sept 2021 - Inset Day

2nd Sept 2021 - 1st Day of term

20th - 24th Sep 2021 – Manor Week

30th Sept 2021 – School Photo's

20th Oct 2021 – Flu Vaccinations

25th – 29th Oct 2021 - Half Term

1st Nov 2021 – Inset Day

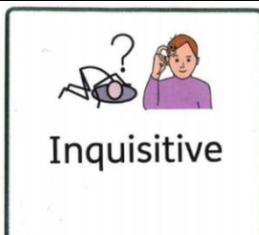
3rd Dec 2021 – PTA Christmas Fair & Non-Uniform Day

10th Dec 2021 - Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumper day

17th Dec 2021 - Last day of term



At Emmbrook Junior School we are:



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.

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.**

