



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Weekly Update**

I am pleased to share that the number of Covid-19 cases being reported continued to remain relatively low and stable this week – this is very positive news! As such, we will continue to maintain the current arrangements and mitigation measures in school as we monitor the situation for another week. WBC have sent revised guidance for home testing which is covered below.

### **Reporting Covid-19**

Please use [covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) to report any positive Covid-19 test results. This email address should be used for any Covid-19 queries.

### **Covid-19 Symptoms**

Please be vigilant for the symptoms of Covid-19:

- Feverish
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste
- Headache
- Upset stomach
- Sore throat
- Unusually tired

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms they should not attend school and seek a PCR test.

### **Covid-19 Testing**

Please continue with LFD testing twice a week at home. Report your results to the NHS [here](#) (and ensure that you inform us of a positive result). If your child has Covid-19 symptoms or returns a positive LFD result then please do not send them to school and seek a PCR test.

PCR tests can be accessed [here](#). Students at home with a positive confirmation of Covid-19 or awaiting the results of a PCR test will be set work via Teams.

Wokingham Borough Council, in line with the Berkshire West Health Protection Board have recently reviewed their advice and now recommend that, in secondary schools, any child who has a household member test positive or has been identified as a close contact of a positive case via NHS Test and Trace or via other means should be advised as follows:

- To take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test on day 3
- Whilst engaging in daily LFD testing, anyone who tests negative can continue to attend school.
- Anyone who has tested positive via PCR in the last 90 days should not carry out either LFD or PCR testing.



## Local Advisor Parent Election Results

I am pleased to report that Janine Dotchin and Karen Blake (Knight) have been re-elected for new terms as parent members of the Local Advisory Board. I am grateful Janine, Karen and Kate Jones for standing and to all those who voted.

## Message for Cyclists

If your child cycles to school please remind them that they need to be safe and consider other road users. We have had feedback from local residents that our students have been blocking pavements with their bikes.

We want to be good members of the community and expect our students to be polite and give priority to pedestrians. The Highway Code states that we should not cycle on a pavement and that cyclists should take care when passing pedestrians, especially children, older or disabled people, and allow them plenty of room.

## Butterfly Training Tools & Flick combs

Please be aware that these are prohibited items in the school community. We understand for some students these are linked to martial arts interests but we ask that these items are not to be brought to school at any time. We will be reinforcing this message with our students and would appreciate your support in sharing this information too. Any student found in possession of one of these prohibited items will receive a school sanction.

## New Support Staff Appointments

Our continued growth as a school has created the opportunity and requirement for additional support staff roles to enhance the day to day operation of the school and to broaden the experiences available for students. We were really spoilt with a large number of strong candidates and so we made four new appointments:

- Reception/administration
- Library Coordinator
- Two colleagues to support the Year Leaders

These new colleagues will begin joining us during December and I will write to introduce them then. Furthermore, Mr Farndon will move from his cover supervisor role to a new role in the Inclusion Team.

I am confident that these changes will have a tangible positive impact and I am particularly excited that the new Library Coordinator will begin work to restore the library service that has been lacking since the pandemic; more details to follow.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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