



Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

With the arrival of the omicron variant you will have seen that guidance for schools has been updated and the national guidance on mask wearing is now the same as the local guidance we had been operating under for some time, specifically around mask wearing in communal areas. Please continue to send your child to school with a mask (unless exempt). We have now deployed 39 CO₂ monitors around the school to test ventilation (which is a crucial mitigation measure). This has proven to be a useful tool.

Covid-19 Summary

New cases	Relatively low but rising slightly.
Communication	Use covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk for all Covid-19 related queries and to report new positive cases to us.
Symptoms	Do not send your child to school and seek a PCR test if they have a positive LFD test or the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feverish ▪ A new, continuous cough ▪ A loss or change to sense of smell or taste ▪ Headache ▪ Upset stomach ▪ Sore throat ▪ Unusually tired
Home Testing	Twice per week using LFD. Please report all results to the NHS .
Guidelines for Positive Cases in Your Household	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 by other means should 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.
Test Exempt	Do not take LFD or PCR tests for 90 days after a positive PCR.
Isolation Work	Set via Microsoft Teams.
Mask Wearing	Advised in communal areas, optional in lessons and outside. Please send you child to school with a suitable face mask.

Testing in January

Under the new guidance secondary schools are required to offer LFD testing for all students before they return to school. Having become much practiced at this in recent months we now believe that we can test the entire school population in one day. This will minimise the disruption to education while providing reassurance to the community. **Therefore, Tuesday 4th January 2022 will not be a school day as originally planned but rather a testing day. The first teaching day of the term will be Wednesday 5th January.**



Students will be required to attend for only a short period of time to undertake a test (uniform is not required). Your child should attend school at the start of their allocated slot:

Time	Students
9.00am	Year 7 with surnames A-M
9.30am	Year 7 with surnames N-Z
10.00am	Year 8 with surnames A-M
10.30am	Year 8 with surnames N-Z
11.00am	Year 9 with surnames A-M
11.30am	Year 9 with surnames N-Z
12.00pm	Year 10 with surnames A-M
12.30pm	Year 10 with surnames N-Z
1.00pm	Year 11 with surnames A-M
1.30pm	Year 11 with surnames N-Z
2.00pm	Year 12
2.30pm	Year 13

I appreciate that this is a disruption and I am really grateful for your support. The previous testing days have identified positive cases and therefore I think it is a worthwhile endeavour. If you have any queries please email covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

Year 11 Applications for the Sixth Form

A reminder to Year 11 parents that Sixth Form applications are still open. You will have been sent an email directly that makes clear how to apply. Please contact Mr Constable (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) with any questions or queries about the Sixth Form or Mrs Panesar (lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk) for queries relating to the application process.

Year 13 Pre-Public Exams

Our Year 13 students will be sitting mock exams next week. Mr Whitehouse has already been in contact with both parents and students to share the details. Good luck!

Guidelines for Public Exams (Summer 2022)

While it remains "Plan A" for Years 11 and 13 to sit a normal exam season this summer, schools have been asked to ensure that they have plans in place should exams not be possible on public health grounds. Mr Whitehouse has had such plans in place from the very beginning (hence Year 11 internal exams last week and Year 13 exams next). So please be assured that we will be prepared for any further developments.

Parent Survey

My thanks to all of you who took time to complete the feedback survey sent out this week. The overall results are very positive and, crucially, it has given us a clear understanding of how to improve further. Our next focus will be developing our communication about the curriculum so that you can better support your child(ren)'s learning.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 10th December

This Friday students may choose to wear a Christmas jumper (or similar) in place of their blazer/school jumper (all other elements of the uniform are required, including a shirt and tie). To participate they should bring £1 and all money raised will be donated to [Save the Children](#).



Christmas Charity Fayre

Brookie's Business Club (Year 7 & 8 students) are really excited to have planned their first Christmas Fayre. Please support them and also the wonderful charities ([Mind](#) & [Blue Cross](#)) they are fundraising for by ensuring your child has some cash with them on Friday 10th December. The fayre is first break and will have loads of delicious goodies to buy, yummy smores kits, a host of super fun games with prizes to be won, the doughnut challenge and, of course, a firm favourite: Sponge a Teacher (or Sixth Former)! We are all very excited!

Christmas Dinner Order Deadline Friday 10th December

Students will have the opportunity to have Christmas dinner in the final week of term. Tickets can be purchased from the canteen from Monday 6th December to Friday 10th December. The amount will be debited from the student's account. The dates are as follows:

- Year 8 and 10 – Wednesday 15th December
- All other year groups – Thursday 16th December

Christmas Concert – Monday 13th December

We are planning to hold our traditional Christmas concert at St. Paul's Church, 7pm on Monday 13th December. There will be a blend of readings, music and singing (plus mince pies!) on the theme of Faith, Hope and Charity. As we did with the school production, we will continue to monitor local and national developments with Covid-19 and update our risk assessments accordingly but I remain hopeful that the event will proceed.

Christmas half-day – Friday 17th December

For new parents, we always end each full term with a half day. School will therefore end at 12.20pm on Friday 17th December. Buses will be rearranged for this earlier finishing time however public buses will run at their usual times and so you may need to make alternative arrangements on that day.

It was absolutely fantastic to be able to enjoy the first school production since the pandemic began. The students were fab-u-lous! I would like to congratulate all of the students involved and particularly Kai, who was a truly exceptional Scrooge. My thanks to Mr Malyan, Miss Meanwell, Miss Undery and Miss Gwilliam for all of their hard work. It certainly put me into the Christmas mood!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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