



Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

At times the last week has felt a little like the earlier stages of the pandemic with schools responding rapidly to changing guidance and the limited reintroduction of remote learning. In this case, Year 10 working from home was not a response to Covid cases in that year group but a staffing shortage caused by high numbers of absences. Thank you for your support with all the changes.

Year 9 to Learn at Home on Monday 24th January

Owing to the nature of Covid-19 self-isolation periods, we know that we will lack sufficient staff to supervise all of the students safely on Monday. Therefore, on Monday Year 9 will need to work from home. At present the situation improves drastically on Tuesday as isolation periods finish, however, we have learned that the situation with Covid-19 can change quickly and so I will write on Monday morning if we do need to take action for Tuesday.

As much as possible students will have a live lesson delivered via Teams. Lessons will last for 45 minutes and supplementary work may be set. Where live lessons cannot be provided because the class teacher is absent, independent work will be set via Teams (each morning we will email parents a list of absent staff so that you are aware of the lessons that won't be live). We will not provide live lessons for PE and encourage students to find an opportunity for their own suitable physical activity.

Information regarding the use of Teams can be accessed here:

- [Guidance for parents](#)
- [Guidance for students](#)

If you have any queries about remote learning provision then please contact my PA, Sarah Farndon (sfarndon@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

Covid-19 Vaccinations

I have been asked to share the following message with you from Wokingham Borough Council:

12–15-year-olds can now get vaccinated against Covid-19. The vaccine is safe and effective for children, and at present two doses are being offered to this age group to help give them the best protection. Locally, we have seen a good uptake in children aged 12-15 getting vaccinated and we want to keep up the momentum – particularly when it comes to second doses.

While it is uncommon for children to be seriously unwell with Covid-19 related symptoms, they could get Long Covid, which leads to ongoing health issues. Young people are also more likely to be asymptomatic, meaning they'll pass the virus onto others unknowingly. To reduce the



rate of transmission, we encourage all parents and carers to get their child vaccinated if they are between the ages of 12-15 years old.

You can book their vaccination appointments on the [NHS website](#). Alternatively, local vaccine walk-in clinics are available at Waitrose Sports Hall, Bracknell and Broad Street Mall, Reading, please check the [NHS website](#) for opening hours.

Early January, all parents and carers should have received a letter from us (via email) to provide consent for the vaccinations that will be offered here by the Berkshire School Aged Immunisation Team on January 31st. To access the consent form please click on the following [link](#) and use the unique code **BK110060** before 9am on Thursday 27th January.

Covid-19 Summary

New cases	Students: Cases rising in all year groups (most significantly in Year 7). Staff: Cases currently high.
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 any of 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 . You are now advised to continue testing even if you have had Covid within the last 90 days. Those who test positive via LFD are not required to take a confirmatory PCR test and should self-isolate immediately.
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 should take a daily lateral flow test for 7 days . Whilst engaging in daily LFD testing, anyone who tests negative can continue to attend school.
Changes to Isolation Period for Positive Cases	Students can now leave self-isolation on day 6 if they have a negative LFT result on day 5 and day 6. The tests must be 24 hours apart and they must not have a high temperature. If either test is positive, students must continue to isolate until they get 2 negative LFT results taken 24 hours apart or they have completed 10 full days of isolation.
Isolation Work	Set via Microsoft Teams.
Mask Wearing	Optional in classrooms. Required in communal areas until Thursday. Please send you child to school with a suitable face mask.

Further Growth at The Emmbrook

I am pleased to share that the rising popularity of The Emmbrook looks set to continue this September. We've seen a 40% increase in the number of first preferences for the next Year 7 intake, which is really something. Given this, we are working with the Trust and Wokingham



Borough Council to look at how we could again expand our new intake to 240 students (as we did this year with the current Year 7), 30 students above our standard intake of 210.

With a very significant growth in numbers (from a school population of around 800 in September 2018 we should reach around 1,200 in September 2022) we are working hard to ensure that all students feel the benefit of additional funding. At present we are advertising a range of new teaching posts and have already made strong appointments for September. We are also in discussions to deliver new capital investments in order to upgrade the site and buildings, which is very exciting.

Should you have any views on this that you would like to share on this then please email me (my email address is always at the bottom of the weekly update letter).

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you for all of your very generous donations before Christmas to the Reverse Advent Calendar. As a result of we donated a massive 338kg of food to the Wokingham Foodbank. This was all distributed in time for Christmas and made such a difference to so many families.

I always like to end with some positivity so I would like to commend the incredible achievement of the Year 7/8 girls' football team on their frankly astonishing 11-0 win in the week. Better even than the victory was the report from their coach Miss Taylor, who said that the team were cohesive, positive and respectful, utterly demonstrating our FAIR values. We can be very proud of them and I'm looking forward to strong cup run this year!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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