



Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Home Learning Requirements Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January

As I have previously advised you over the last few days, we are currently experiencing a large number of staff absences related to Covid-19. Therefore, over the next 3 days we will need to ask year groups to stay at home as follows:

	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Year 7	Normal school day	Learning at home	Normal school day
Year 8	Normal school day	Learning at home	Learning at home
Year 9	Learning at home	Normal school day	Normal school day

Years 10-13 should not be impacted this week.

### Why have we taken this action now?

In the last three weeks we have experienced rising staff absences, either as a direct result of colleagues testing positive for Covid-19 themselves or because they are absent from work to care for their children with Covid-19.

We are now at the point where over 20% of teachers are absent from work and, given the length of isolation periods, this number cannot fall significantly in the coming days.

We have been securing, on average, 5 supply teachers each day in addition to our employed cover supervisors. However, as most schools are in a similar position, supply agencies cannot provide additional relief staff.

Given these constraints we do not have enough staff to provide supervision for all classes and therefore we cannot safely discharge our duty of care. By asking year groups to remain at home we reduce the number of classes that require supervision.

### How long will these measures last?

We have learned that it is very difficult to predict the spread of Covid-19. As isolation periods begin to end we hope to see staff returning. We know there will be a large number of staff absent on Wednesday (hence the need to ask two year groups to remain at home).

Presently, we expect the situation to have improved by the end of the week. Unfortunately, should we have more staff testing positive during the week we may need to continue asking year groups to learn from home.



## What provision will students receive at home?

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](#)

Year 7 will be shown how to access Teams in registration tomorrow.

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

We hoped that the situation would have improved by now but new cases have continued to be reported. We are proactively trying to give as much notice as possible to families and teachers.

I am sorry for the disruption and grateful for your support in this.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**

Headteacher

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