



Friday 14th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

As you will all know, on Monday afternoon we held a lockdown drill. The drill was highly effective and the students were a truly exceptional. I assessed the effectiveness of the drill with officers from Thames Valley Police and they were in agreement that it was conducted to a high standard. We will now review the process to make improvements. Let's hope that we never need to use this process, however, as with fire evacuations it is important that we are prepared. My sincere thanks for your support with this.

Year 7 Parents' Meetings & Early School Closure – Monday 10th March

Year 7 will have their parents' meetings on Monday 10th March and so school will finish for all students at 12.20pm to facilitate this.

The E1, E2 and E3 buses have been rearranged for the earlier time, however, we cannot rearrange other shared bus services (so these services will leave at 3.30pm and, therefore, you may need to make alternative travel arrangements).

For parents that require it, we will be able to offer childcare provision until 2.55pm. Please email jrimmer@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk by end of Wednesday 5th March to notify us that we shouldn't release your child until 2.55pm.

Stronger Starts

We are thrilled to be able to announce that our Meals and Mentoring programme has been awarded a £500 grant by Tesco's Stronger Starts Scheme. Thank you so much to all of you for voting with blue tokens over the last 3 months; Mrs Massey is really excited, as this grant will allow the programme to continue for at least the next few years, benefitting more students than she thought would be possible!

Road Safety

Please ensure that you park considerately when waiting to pick up your child. A member of the public who lives nearby was in touch last week when a parent blocked their driveway. They stated that there was then a near miss with a pedestrian as they attempted to navigate past the parked car.

Half Marathon Support

The Emmbrook School PTA will be helping with the Runners' Bag Drop off for the upcoming Wokingham Half Marathon on Sunday 23rd February at Cantley Park. Can you spare any time to help? It's good fun for adults and children and it's a good way to meet other parents from our great school! Please sign up using [this link](#).





Spring Concert – Save the Date

Advanced notice to reserve Wednesday 5th March, 7.00pm, in your diaries. More information will follow.

World Book Day £1 Book Tokens

Students can use a token to get a free book or £1 off a full price title from 13th February until 23rd March 2025. Physical book tokens are now available to collect from the library. Alternatively, students can download a token using [this link](#). The book token barcode can either be scanned from a phone or printed out and shown in-store. Free book options can be seen [here](#).

Messages from Wokingham Borough Council

This week we have two important messages from WBC to share with all parents/carers...

Keep Safe in Wokingham

We hope you've had an opportunity to participate in some of the workshops and online sessions since the Keep Safe in Wokingham campaign was launched earlier this month. Further events for children and parents, providing practical tips on keeping safe online and in the real world, are available throughout February. Details can be found [here](#).

With half term approaching, please remember that should you or your child(ren) experience incidents or behaviours that cause concern, either online, or in person, the Community Safety Partnership, which includes Wokingham Borough Council and Thames Valley Police, encourage you to report this to the school or directly to the police, by phone: 101 or [online](#). We would also encourage you to advise your child(ren) on how to keep safe and what to do in the event of an emergency.

Please do make the most of the campaign workshops and sessions, including the NSPCC Online Safety for Parents and Carers session taking place on Monday 17th February at 6pm.

Household Support Fund

There's more than £500,000 available to help Wokingham Borough residents through the Household Support Fund this winter. You can apply if you're struggling to pay for:

- Food
- Bills
- Energy costs
- Other everyday essentials

The Household Support Fund has been allocated by the Department for Work and Pensions to councils in England to pass on money to residents who need it. What you're entitled to depends on your situation:

- Free school meal families – £15 per week, per child during the school holidays for each child receiving means-tested free school meals
- Pensioners, carers and disabled people – one off grant of £120



- All other households – one off grant of £60

The current round covers October 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025. Please do not re-apply if you've already got a payment recently. If you successfully applied for a Household Support Grant between April 1st and September 30th 2024, you will automatically get another payment this winter. It will be paid six months after your last payment. You do not need to re-apply.

To apply now please use [this link](#).

Today is the last day of this half-term. School will resume for all students when the bell goes at 8.20am on Monday 24th February.

I hope that all the students enjoy their half-term break!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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