



Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: School Closure from Today

It is with great sadness and regret that I write to you ahead of our closure at 2.55pm today. We will be open to a small number of vulnerable children and the children of key workers from Monday. I wanted to take the opportunity to share some thoughts with you all.

Firstly, I want to thank all members of the community. This has been a challenging week, made so much easier by the outstanding conduct of this community. Our students have been fantastic, a real credit to the school and you as parents. I have received so many lovely emails and messages from parents over the last few days, your support is appreciated. Finally, the staff have truly gone above and beyond, they are an exceptional team.

From Monday our remote learning provision will begin. The primary communication method will be via Show My Homework. The tasks will allow students to study with independence, however the teachers who are fit and well will be available by email throughout the closure. Please support our safeguarding policies by ensuring that students only attempt to contact teachers by sending messages from their Emmbrook email account. If you encounter any IT problems please contact lpansar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

In addition to this, on Monday we will be sending out our first daily challenge for students (staff and parents too!) via our Facebook page and Instagram. Everyone can get involved and send in their entries. The following day we will announce the winners when setting the next task and so on. We hope this will be a fun way to keep the community together. I will also write to you all regularly with any updates that I have.

Students and parents/carers should not attempt to visit the school site during this period of closure.

Vulnerable Children and Children of Key Workers

The school will maintain a skeleton staff from Monday 23rd March to offer provision for these groups of students. The Government's advice is clear, even for vulnerable and key worker children, **if it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**

The Government has define these groups as:

Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Key workers: health and social care, education and childcare, key public services, local and national government, food and other necessary goods, public safety and national security, transport, utilities, communication and financial services.



For detailed information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I am grateful to the parents who have already requested a place for their child(ren) via our parent survey (<http://tinyurl.com/emmbrookkeyworker>). **This survey closes at 5pm today.**

We must ensure that we have accurate registers and safe staff to student ratios, so we cannot accept children without the offer of a place from us. **I will write to all parents by 12pm on Saturday 21st March via email confirming a place for your child(ren). If you do not receive this confirmation email then do not send your child to us on Monday.** I would appreciate you confirming that you have received my email and that you accept the offer by 12pm on Sunday 22nd March. If you have any questions regarding this, please email me directly: nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

Over time, as the situation develops, it may become challenging to maintain our provision due to staff absence; if this were ever to be the case I would inform you with as much notice as possible.

At a time like this, our school motto "Learning together, succeeding together" has never sounded more apt. We will get through this, together.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher