



Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Headteacher's Update

I hope that this letter finds you well. This certainly feels like a period of adjustment as we all get used to our new routines. I am very grateful to students, parents and staff for the positive way that everyone has embraced this challenge.

After huge numbers across the country attempted to simultaneously access their many of our key websites (Show My Homework, MathsWatch, etc) initially struggled but now appear to be coping better. If you continue to experience any IT problems then please do contact [lpanesar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:lpanesar@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk), who will do her best to assist you. We will continue to review our remote learning and will look for opportunities to strengthen our provision further over the coming days and weeks. Please remember that our teachers are only an email away.

If your child is struggling with their mental health during this potentially tricky time there are websites providing tips and pointers to help support parents. Some of the top tips are:

- Stay calm and proactive
- Create a routine
- Exercise together (following government guidelines regarding social distancing)
- Create a distraction – do something fun

For further information, you can visit these websites:

- <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/6-ways-parents-can-support-their-kids-through-coronavirus-covid-19>
- <https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people>

If you are really concerned about your child you can always call the Samaritans on 116 123.

To support the students we have created a SharePoint page covering well being. Please encourage them to have a look at it. If anyone is really struggling there is a school email box that will be checked regularly by members of our Pastoral Team. The email address is [wellbeing@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:wellbeing@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk). It will be monitored Monday-Friday during our normal hours (8.20am-2.55pm).

Part of our Rewards Policy is that students doing well are nominated by their Year Leader to have hot chocolate with me in the morning. Social distancing won't allow for hot chocolate with me, but I thought it might be nice to have Remote Hot Chocolate with the Head tomorrow morning! We'll be having it here with the small number of students still attending, so if your children have had a good first week then why not all have some hot chocolate (or something else if you prefer) at around 9am, as a way of keeping the community spirit up!



At times such as these the best and worst of human nature comes to the fore. Sadly, I have heard that criminals are attempting to take advantage of the situation by contacting parents claiming to be from the Department for Education and requesting bank details so that free school meal payments can be paid directly to them. Please be vigilant to this and similar scams; I will always write to you to advise you of any national changes or new schemes being implemented.

Finally, I am very grateful to Miss Andrews for coordinating the daily Creation Station challenge on Facebook. There have been so many brilliant entries throughout the week. Miss Andrews will be working on a weekly honour board and we hope to create an exhibition of your children's creativity here once school life returns to normal.

Best wishes,

**Nick McSweeney**  
Headteacher