



Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Weekly Update

For all of our families that celebrate Diwali, I hope that you enjoyed the recent festivities!

This week has been very busy with trips (I believe a total of 8 trips) so there has been an unusual amount of cover lessons. I'm sure that they were excellent experiences for the students that participated.

First Extended Parents Evening – Thursday 23rd November – Early School Closure

I wrote at the beginning of the year to inform you all that we were going to try arranging parents' evenings differently this year as a common complaint from parents was that there were not enough appointments. Therefore, Year 7-11 parents' evenings will begin from 1pm. By doing this we create lots of additional appointments, however, we also recognise that it eats into the school day. We will gather your views on this trial towards the end of the year.

Year 10 will be the first year group to have a new style parents' evening on Thursday. Therefore, **school will finish for all students at 12.20pm on Thursday 23rd November**. 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 Tuesday 21st November to notify us that we shouldn't release your child until 2.55pm.

Wokingham Winter Carnival – PTA Chocolate Tombola

The fantastic PTA will be at the Winter Carnival with their usual chocolate tombola stall to raise money for the school. There are two ways that you can help them this year:

- Donate chocolate prizes (see attached flyer)
- Volunteer to help on the day. Volunteers can sign up with [this link](#).

Christmas Dinner Day

This year's Christmas dinner will take place on Tuesday 12th December. Students will be offered a Christmas dinner (Halal chicken and vegetarian options will be available) and pudding for £3.50 (free school meal children will be able to choose the Christmas dinner within their usual daily allowance). Details to follow regarding the ticket system that will be used on the day.

School Production

The annual production will take place on Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. A flyer is attached with this letter and all are welcome!





Email Issues

I recognise the irony of sharing this news via a letter that is emailed out, but we are aware that there has been an issue with school emails going to junk folders. We are confident that we have now fixed the issue. If you were expecting an email from us this week it might be worth checking your junk folder.

Careers Update

As part of our careers program, this week students from Years 11 and 12 visited the National School and College Leaver Show in Ascot. They had the opportunity to talk directly with higher education providers and employers. Our students engaged with the exhibitors and their conduct was excellent.

- The National Careers Service offer a wealth of advice via [this link](#).
- The Henley College information evening takes place on Saturday 18th November, 10am-12.30pm. For more information and to book a place, please use [this link](#).
- If your child has an interest in studying medicine then the Medic Mentor site is a useful and a free resource via [this link](#).
- Employment 4 Students provides information on part-time jobs and seasonal jobs and other opportunities via [this link](#).

WBC Consultation

Organisations from across Wokingham Borough have come together to agree a long-term vision for the area and they would like as much involvement from residents as possible. The council is hosting a webpage for this work on its community engagement platform for the community vision steering group and all of the partners involved. This vision will set out what sort of place we all want the borough to be; what are the most important things we need to do to ensure a great quality of life for everybody in the community. There is a survey for residents so for more information or to contribute please use [this link](#). The students have also been sent the link via their school email accounts.

I hope that you all have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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