

Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

My first duty is to ensure the safety of every member of the Emmbrook Family and so this week began with a full lockdown drill. We were joined by officers from Thames Valley Police and I am grateful for their time. The overall standard of the drill was outstanding. While we hope that we will never have the need to go into a lockdown, I hope you will be reassured to know that we are prepared for such an eventuality. Thank you for your support.

Year 7 Parents' Meetings

Advanced warning that Year 7 have their parents' meeting on Thursday 8th January. Year 7 parents and carers will receive direct communication about booking appointments and we are looking forward to these important meetings.

For all parents and carers, please be aware that in order to facilitate the meetings, **school will finish for all students at 12.20pm on Thursday 8th January**. 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 who require it, we will be able to offer childcare provision until 2.55pm. Please email enquiries@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk by end of Tuesday 6th January to notify us that we shouldn't release your child until 2.55pm.

Understanding Ofsted Report Cards

This week Ofsted has resumed inspecting schools with a new framework. Following inspection, schools will receive a report card that replaced the old single-word judgements. These report cards are likely to include a range of outcomes that don't compare directly to the old system.

When we were last inspected (October 2023) we were judged as 'good' in all areas. While we have continued to enjoy significantly improved exam outcomes since our last inspection, it is likely that our next report card would include a wider variety of judgements (as this is an intended outcome of the new system). We're not expecting to be visited imminently but, in truth, you never exactly know when Ofsted will call. The new framework places a bigger emphasis on your views, so you will be a vital part of our next inspection (which I take to be a good thing!).

To help parents understand the new system, Ofsted has released a 3-minute video that explains how it works. The video can be seen via [this link](#).

Sharing Concerns

We will always want to maintain an open and honest dialogue with parents and carers. If you ever have any concerns please contact us, initially via your child's tutor. Year Leaders are also available to discuss any concerns:

- Year 7: Miss Taylor (dtaylor@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Year 8: Miss Cairns (rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Year 9: Miss Horne (ehorne@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Year 10: Mr Taplin (staplin@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Year 11: Mr Tichband (jtichband@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)
- Year 12 & 13: Mr Constable (dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk)

While social media can be an amazing way to stay engaged; please keep in mind that it can also be a source of misinformation and so contacting us to discuss concerns will always lead to better outcomes.

Christmas Events

A reminder of the upcoming Christmas events and activities:

- **House Competitions** – Christmas themed competitions began this week and will continue for the rest of the term.
- **Christmas Jumper Day** – Thursday 11th December – students can replace their school jumper/blazer with a Christmas jumper for a £1 donation (via [ScoPay](#)) to support Save the Children.
- **Christmas Concert** – Monday 15th December, 7pm, St. Paul's Church.
- **Little Red in Panto Land** – Tuesday 16th, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th December, doors will open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. Tickets are available through [ScoPay](#).
- **Christmas Dinner Day** – Wednesday 17th December – students will need to pre-order a Christmas dinner through their tutors and will be issued with a voucher. Payment will be taken on the day so please make sure there are sufficient funds on your child's account. There is no charge for students who receive free school meals but they will still need to pre-order. A flyer is attached with more information about the dinner.
- **Christmas Fair** – Thursday 18th December.

Attendance at school is vitally important and so we really want to see students attending fully all the way up to the Christmas holiday. If you would benefit from support with this then please contact us.

Christmas Jumper Donations Welcome

If you find that you have any Christmas jumpers that have become too small for your children then we would welcome any donations. Jumpers can be dropped at reception. Thank you.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations are being provided to students in Years 7-11 on Tuesday 9th December.

Sixth Form Applications Open

The deadline for applications is approaching so please encourage your child to complete their application if they have not already done so. If you have any questions regarding our Sixth Form, please don't hesitate to contact us:

- Mr Constable, Head of Sixth Form – dconstable@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk
- Mr Whitehouse, Assistant Headteacher – pwhitehouse@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk

Feedback from the Community

We've been contacted by a local resident who wanted to share a concern regarding parents waiting to collect students at the end of the day with their car engine idling. The Highway Code indicates that unnecessary engine idling while a vehicle is stationary on a public road is prohibited. To help improve the local environment please be mindful of engine idling while waiting to collect students. Thank you for your support with this.

Preventing Winter Illness in Schools

As the colder months approach, we can expect to see increases in common airborne viruses. The Department for Education has recently published this blog article: [Top tips on how to keep your child healthy at school](#). It gives practical guidance to schools and families to help keep everyone healthy, support healthy learning environments, and reduce illness-related school absences.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,



Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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