



Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Weekly Update

The first full week of the year has felt very focused and purposeful. I've been really proud to have the opportunity to show how well your children have been getting on with the Year 6 tours.

Attendance and Family Holidays During Term Time

Good attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of academic success and we ask all parents to support us by ensuring that students attend school every day wherever possible. Whilst we understand that family circumstances can occasionally make a request for absence necessary, government regulations are clear that schools should not authorise leave during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The decision on whether circumstances are exceptional rests with me as the Headteacher.

Parents should be aware that unauthorised absence for a family holiday may result in a penalty notice being issued by [Wokingham Borough Council](#). Under the current national framework, unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10-school-week period can lead to a fine of £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days. A second penalty notice within three years is charged at £160, whilst further unauthorised absence may lead to legal proceedings rather than an additional fine.

We therefore strongly encourage families to plan holidays during school breaks wherever possible. Being in school every day and regular attendance gives students the best opportunity to achieve their full potential, benefit from classroom learning and participate fully in the life of the school.

Further information on Fixed Penalty Notices can be found [here](#).

Studybugs – Reporting Student Absence

Another reminder that we've introduced a more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence from school, called Studybugs. Through the app you will be able to report your child as absent due to illness and inform us of pre-arranged appointments.



We know that good attendance has strong links to academic outcomes and positive mental wellbeing; the use of this platform will enable us to take proactive steps in supporting this.

Please download the Studybugs app from the [App Store or Google Play](#) or by scanning the QR code. Please ensure that you sign up with the email address you have previously shared with us.



Open Evening – Wednesday 16th September

Another reminder that this year's Open Evening runs from 6pm on Wednesday. While visitors enjoy meeting our staff, it is our students who truly bring our school to life, and we are seeking volunteers to act as tour guides for the evening (if your child has already been invited to support a curriculum area, please ignore this request). Students who would like to help should register in **H1.1 at 6.00pm** and will finish at **8.30pm**. Parents/carers should arrange collection, although permission can be given for students to leave independently. If your child would like to volunteer, please complete this [online form](#). Thank you in advance for supporting this important event and for helping us showcase the very best of our school community.

As we do every year, **school will end at 12.20pm on that day** to allow us to set up for the evening. The E1, E2 and E3 buses have been rearranged to be at school for 12.20PM however the 202 and 244 cannot be rearranged as these are shared services (so students who rely on these services will need to make alternative arrangements or remain to catch the bus at 3.30pm). If you would like your child to stay at school until 2.55pm then please notify us by the end of Monday via enquiries@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

If you would like more information about September 2027 then please visit our [website](#) or contact Mr Johnson (cjohnson@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk).

Barkham Road Closure

Thames Water will shut Barkham Road in Wokingham, between Bearwood Road and Barkham Street, from Monday, September 14, until mid-November. As a result, traffic is expected to be significantly heavier across the Finchampstead, Arborfield and Barkham areas.

School Transport have been in contact to share that this may lead to delays on some coach services. They will be closely monitoring services throughout the closure period and will make any necessary adjustments to timings where required.

Anyone travelling from that side of Wokingham may need to leave a little earlier for the next few weeks.

PTA Update

Our PTA continues to provide fantastic support to the school community, helping to fund projects and opportunities that benefit students across the school. Their contribution makes a genuine difference and we are very grateful for the time and effort volunteered by members throughout the year.



The PTA Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 22nd September at 6pm in our conference room. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. Whether you are interested in taking on a more active role or simply want to find out more about how the PTA supports the school, any support is greatly appreciated and we would be delighted to welcome you along.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are delighted to be hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September. Students and staff are invited to enjoy a selection of cakes and sweet treats while helping to raise money for a fantastic cause. Cake vouchers can be purchased in advance through [ScoPay](#) at £1 per voucher, with each voucher redeemable for one cake. We look forward to your support and thank you for helping us make a difference.

Celebrating Sporting Success!

I'm delighted to share the news that Alex Pickup in Year 11 has been crowned the Sandee WTKA Intercontinental Open Champion, securing his place at the WTKA World Games in Thailand next year. This is an incredible achievement and we're wishing him all the best for the next tournament!

Ignite Writing Club

Ignite Writing is a creative writing club for 11–18-year-olds offered by Wokingham Library. The aim of Igniting Writing is to bring young writers together to develop their creative writing, share ideas and make friends in a fun, relaxed group setting.

Sessions are free to attend and open to both beginners and more experienced writers, with each session focusing on a different writing topic each week to ensure that there's something for everyone. Please see the attached flyer or visit Igniting Writing's page on [WBC's website](#).

I hope that you all have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

nmcsweney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk