



Thursday 1st April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

This term started in lockdown with the vast majority of students learning at home and ends with things feeling a little more normal. The support from all members of Team Emmbrook has been exceptional this term and we are all hopeful that the vaccine will allow us to continue to move towards normality in the weeks and months to come.

Covid-19 symptoms

If any member of your household has Covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of taste or smell) then all members of your household must self-isolate until a test is arranged at a local test centre and the negative result is received. If your child tests positive please notify us using covid@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk.

Testing and contact tracing in schools and colleges over the Easter holidays

The Department for Education have advised us that following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Staff and students should:

- continue to test twice a week at home (all those who are able to)
- report positive, negative or void results using the [report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#) portal
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back to find and isolate any positive cases

Schools have been asked to continue with contact tracing over the Easter holidays.

For the purposes of contact tracing we only inform need to be informed of a positive case if a student develops symptoms within 2 days of being in school or they have tested positive with a lateral flow device (LFD) test (and will subsequently need to book a confirmatory PCR test). If symptoms develop after 2 days, you do not need to inform us.

Where students test positive during the holidays using an LFD test more than 2 days since being in school, you will only need to inform us if they will still be self-isolating when we return. Staff, students, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Home testing for families

Anyone who lives with or is in a support bubble with secondary school aged children or secondary school staff is entitled to twice weekly home testing. More information about this can be found via these links:

- [Department for Education](#)
- [Wokingham Borough Council](#)
- [Online testing](#)



Covid-secure rules

At time of writing, the Department for Education has not announced any revisions to the guidance for schools for after the Easter holiday. Therefore, unless there are changes announced during the holiday, we will return with the same rules in place. Specifically:

- The wearing of face masks when indoors (unless exempt).
- Maintaining social distancing as much as possible and keeping strict social distancing from all adults and children in other year group bubbles.
- Sanitising at the start and end of lessons or whenever students enter or leave a room.

Should we receive any changes in guidance during the holiday we will reflect on these and advise you of any implications at the earliest opportunity.

Electronic scooters/bikes

Following enquiries regarding the legality of using electric scooters as transport to school we would like to draw your attention to the following statement from the "Ask the Police" website (www.askthe.police.uk):

Electric scooters/bikes, quads, go-peds, mini-motos, hoverboards and Segways are all examples of vehicles that may be considered in legal terms to be motor vehicles and are therefore subject to all the usual legal requirements that apply to cars or motorcycles e.g. tax, insurance, registration and driver licensing. They cannot therefore be used on a road unless they conform to the law and many such vehicles will never be 'road legal' as their design fails to meet UK or EC road vehicle standards. Furthermore, such vehicles cannot legally be used on the pavement either, in fact the only place they can be used is on private land with the landowner's permission.

As such the school requests that children not be allowed to use any of the modes of transport listed above as means of commuting to school. Further, they will not be allowed onto school premises from the start of next term. This message has been communicated to all students during form time.

Mindfulness and mental health

We continue to maintain a focus on mental health and wellbeing and, as part of our ongoing programme, we ended this term with a one-hour mindfulness and wellbeing session. The students were supported with a number of activities, including meditation, origami, writing postcards to others and mindful colouring. I am grateful for the resources produced by Miss Horne, Mrs Guinn, Mrs Kisubi and Miss Cairns and I hope that the students found it a positive experience. Following this letter there are pictures showing some of the output from the sessions.

Free school meals over the Easter holiday

The free school meal voucher system will continue through the Easter holiday. Vouchers will be delivered by email on Friday 2nd April.

Uniform

This half-term we had a number of families contact us regarding difficulties with uniform following the lockdown. With the Easter holidays and the planned re-opening of non-essential shops from April 12th, there is a good opportunity for items of school uniform to be purchased so that we can all return in April looking smart.



Summer Term first day arrangements

School resumes for all students on Monday 19th April. Students should arrive for the normal start time and go immediately to their form room. We will return with assemblies to ensure that all students are reminded of our Covid-secure rules.

I have hugely enjoyed attending the celebration assemblies this week and signing many hundreds of certificates! I hope that all of the students who received recognition this week are proud of their achievements!

I wish you all a happy and healthy Easter.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher



