



Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Weekly Update

As we approach the end of this half-term the number of Covid-19 cases have begun to rise at The Emmbrook. As I have been sharing with you for a number of weeks, this very much matches the picture locally.

Covid-19 Outbreak in Year 8

Year 8 have now reached the threshold for an official "outbreak" of Covid-19 (10% of the cohort). As such, I am writing a separate letter to parents of Year 8 students with information about containing that outbreak.

We do have a small number of cases in other year groups at present. We are fortunate to have retained split breaks, with year groups in managed zones, as these measures should help prevent the spread of Covid-19 between year groups.

Covid-19 Symptoms

Please be vigilant for the symptoms of Covid-19:

- Feverish
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

In my meeting today with Wokingham Borough Council they were keen to stress that most children commonly present with these symptoms (rather than the symptoms above):

- Headache
- Upset tummy
- Sore throat
- Unusually tired

If your child has Covid-19 symptoms they should not attend school and seek a PCR test.

Managing Covid-19 Cases at Home

Please continue testing twice weekly. Remember to report your results to the NHS [here](#) (and ensure that you inform us of a positive result). If your child has Covid-19 symptoms or returns a positive LFT result then please do not send them to school and seek a PCR test.

If a student takes a PCR test they are advised to remain absent from school until they have received a negative result. This absence is sanctioned and recorded as a permissible absence. If a student's PCR test is positive they should, as you would expect, continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance.



Siblings of a student who has tested positive via a PCR, are also asked to stay at home until they can take a PCR test on day three of their sibling's self-isolation, even if they are not showing symptoms. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms of the sibling or their positive PCR test if they did not show symptoms. If the PCR test is negative, siblings can return to school. If siblings are waiting for a PCR test result, this too will be a permissible absence from school. PCR tests can be accessed [here](#).

Students at home with a positive confirmation of Covid-19 or awaiting the results of a PCR test will be set work via Teams.

Covid-19 Mitigation Measures

With an outbreak in Year 8 we are taking steps to mitigate further spread. This includes enhanced sanitising and making assemblies virtual. Masks are encouraged, particularly for those individuals who are potentially vulnerable.

Black History Month in the Canteen

This Thursday the canteen will be mixing up the menu to offer something a little different in celebration of Black History Month. This will include amagwinya (savory doughnuts popular in South African townships) and umngqusho (samp, a dried and broken maize kernel, and beans with potatoes and spices). There will also be an Afro-Caribbean twist on the normal items. I'm really looking forward to it!

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 22nd October

Friday will be a non-uniform day raising money for Show Racism the Red Card. Students should bring £1 to wear their own clothes.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Returns

It was very pleasing to see the Duke of Edinburgh's Award return to the School after a Covid-induced absence for the last 18 months. Year 9 were introduced to the scheme during their assembly this week.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We are currently planning to go ahead with the open evening for our Year 11s this Thursday at 6pm. We recommend mask wearing and ask that students are accompanied by one adult.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney

Headteacher

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