



7th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we work through day 2 of our remote learning provision we are aware that teething problems with access to remote learning continue to be a problem for some families. We know that some children have limited access to a device, with some families having only one device being shared by the whole family. We have done our best to support those families with no means of accessing the remote learning but unfortunately, we cannot offer an additional device to all children working remotely. The government has allocated us only 5 additional laptops but we are unable to order these devices until all secondary schools have received their provision. They have also informed us that primary school allocations will be done on the basis of disadvantaged areas of the country being given priority, so it may be some time before we receive even those 5 laptops.

However, we have found out that it **may** be possible to access Teams through a games console and we have shared details below of how you might be able to do this. We are aware that the functionality of Teams is limited when accessing through a games console, however this may allow you at least some access some of the remote learning provision.

To access Office 365 on your Xbox One:

1. Plug in a keyboard via the USB slot. (this can be wireless or wired, wired keyboards can be found for as little as £8.20 on Amazon)
2. Go to my games and apps.
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select it.
4. Type <https://teams.microsoft.com/> and log in as you would normally
5. You can access your work
6. To move the cursor you can use the gamepad or plug in a USB mouse.

To access Office 365 on PS4 you:

1. Go to the PlayStation browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on your controller
3. Go to library and find options for games and applications
4. Go into applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type <https://teams.microsoft.com/> and log in as you would normally
6. You can access your work

You should also find attached to this email details of our Remote Learning Safeguarding Guidelines, which outlines our expectations of how we can work together to make remote learning as effective as possible. We will keep these under review.

Teachers are working incredibly hard, not only to provide remote learning for the majority of children at home but also for the large number of Key Worker children in school. I'm sure you can appreciate this presents a significant challenge and we are working as hard as possible to ensure that appropriate provision is made.

For children accessing the in-school provision, please arrive by **9am but no earlier than 8:50pm**. Pick up time is 3pm and gates will be open from 2:50pm. Please use the pedestrian pathways when coming on and off the school site as there may be traffic moving on and off the grounds at this time. I would also like to remind parents that when **on site wearing of a face covering is now compulsory** and would ask that you maintain social distance at all times.

A local resident has contacted us to complain that they have observed parents congregating outside the school gates and while we have not noticed this, we would ask that you continue to maintain appropriate social distancing when leaving the school grounds.

For children learning in school, please remember that uniform is still compulsory and that they must bring in a packed lunch. All children entitled to free school meals have been sent a voucher for the rest of half term and the half term break. This should cover the costs of providing a packed lunch each day.

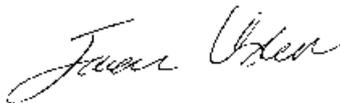
Part of our risk assessment includes keeping doors and windows open to allow for adequate ventilation. This means that the school can become cold so we strongly encourage the wearing of base layers and bringing a warm coat and gloves into school. (I'm wearing gloves as I type this!).

A massive thank you to all the parents who have sent us such supportive messages over the past couple of days. It really does make a big difference to the whole team to receive the encouragement, support and understanding of our community.

I must also say a huge thank you to all the staff here at Emmbrook Junior School who are, again, going above and beyond to support the children in incredibly difficult circumstances.

Stay Safe

Thanks.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Usher'.

Mr J Usher
Head Teacher