



# EMMBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL



Emmbrook Junior School, Emmbrook Road, Wokingham, RG41 1JR • Tel: 0118 978 4940  
Email: [admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@emmbrook-jun.wokingham.sch.uk) • Web site: [www.emmbrookjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.emmbrookjuniorschool.co.uk)  
Head Teacher: Mr J Usher

8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

It's been quite a week. Things have moved very quickly from the conversations that the Senior Leadership Team were having on Sunday regarding how we could increase the controls and mitigations for a whole school return as planned for Tuesday. By Monday our original INSET plans were out of the window and we were in discussion about how we could open the school at all, given the advice staff received from the various professional unions. Then with little warning the country was moved into lockdown and we were required to organise remote provision for most children.

So how have we ended up here? We have been incredibly lucky over the past term with no year group bubbles having to close; this may be down to lack of testing and some children being asymptomatic or it could be due to the controls we had in place. Many people, myself included, will be frustrated that we have had to go into lockdown again. The government's own numbers may give an indication as to why we are in this position.

In the last 7 days:

400,640 people have tested positive; 4996 people have died following a positive test and 22,608 people have been admitted to hospital. These numbers are all an increase on previous weeks. \*

At the time of writing this message a total of 2,889,419 have tested positive and 78,508 people have died within 28 days of a positive test. \*

I'm not sharing these numbers to scare or shock anyone but to demonstrate why many parents and staff are so anxious. I know there are challenges with home learning and we are working as hard as possible to overcome technical issues with our remote provision, while at the same time providing for our Key Worker and Vulnerable children group at school. This means we have to limit the numbers of children who are attending school. Not only to reduce the anxiety that staff are feeling and reduce the chances of transmission for the children who are in school, but also for our frontline health care workers.

I'm sure you're aware that teaching remotely is not an easy option for teachers and support staff. It is much more stressful and challenging in many ways than face to face teaching and I am filled with nothing but admiration for the way the staff have responded to this unprecedented situation.

Thank you for your incredible support and understanding. I know that the majority of our families are working just as hard at home so that children can access remote learning, either through rigorous scheduling of limited devices, ensuring that children are logging on and helping children with their learning. We know this is not easy for you at home either and we thank you for your efforts and enthusiasm. You are doing a great job!

We continue to be uplifted by the messages of support from our community.

Stay Safe. Thanks.

Mr J Usher  
Head Teacher