



EMMBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL



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Head Teacher: Mr J Usher

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to 'school'!

The first week back had a number of twists and turns which we had to accommodate - I hope that you will agree that the whole staff have been fantastic in adapting to a mix of limited onsite and online learning.

Many of the governors are also parents of children at the school and talking with them I know we are seeing remote learning in action. The offering is getting better and better. The children seem to be knuckling down to their lessons and using Teams in ways that we never thought possible. This is not by accident of course. The school has worked tirelessly on creating a learning offering that is consistent whether the children are in or out of school. The Governors are very proud of what they have done and express our thanks for the great efforts that they continue to go through to deliver schooling safely and empathetically.

You will no doubt have seen the news - the Government want us to offer physical schooling to vulnerable and Key Worker families. To maintain safety across the school, we cannot take every such child. The maths simply does not work with our current resources. The Government's guidance was tightened on Friday to encourage parents and carers to keep their children at home wherever possible.

We are therefore asking all parents and carers to consider whether you NEED to use our limited in-school service. Some of you obviously will, but some of you may be able to alleviate pressure on the staff, and help contain the risk of COVID spreading, by using the remote schooling that we are offering. Children in school are receiving exactly the same education as those at home. All children will be safer at home, as the risk of either catching or spreading the disease at school is eliminated. Please can I ask you to consider whether your home situation can be adjusted to support our need to limit physical numbers to just essential pupils.

Some homes may be lacking the technology to achieve good access to the remote learning. We are exploring several avenues to try and secure loan technology, including the Government scheme that Mr Usher mentioned in his previous letter. If a lack of

technology is your prime reason for sending your children into school, rather than using the internet-delivered curriculum, then please tell Mr Usher. We can't guarantee to fix it straight away, but we at least know who needs help once we are able.

Let me be clear - every child matters, but we have limited resources and space in the school. The remote curriculum is the same as the in-school curriculum. If necessary, we may need to prioritise places in school if we become over-subscribed (Years 3 and 4 are already busier than we would like).

I do know home-schooling is tough. Over half of the Governors are also parents at the school, so we know it first-hand. But together we can all do what we can to help reduce the pressure on the Teachers and Teaching Assistants by supporting the remote learning curriculum.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

We won't have to do this forever.

Bryan Williams

Vice-Chair of Governors