



EMMBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL



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Head Teacher: Mr J Usher

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the large number of communications you have received from us over the past couple of weeks. I understand that, as busy parents, you may not always have time to read through all the letters we send, but I strongly believe that it is important we share any information that you might need, even if sometimes it may not seem relevant to your child. We are working hard to develop and improve our communication strategy, with the aim of ensuring that vital messages are not missed. I thank you for your patience with this.

That being said, I would like to share with you the words of one of my fellow Head Teachers, as the sentiment is something that I very much agree with and the message is important for all to understand:

It is nearly a year since we began adjusting to living with COVID-19 and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the successes over the last year. I am concerned that the media are constantly referring to how damaged children will be, calling them the COVID Generation. I think this is unfair to children and families, in terms of what has been achieved and this does not help the wellbeing of either you or your children. Everyone has had to adapt and do their best. Children, parents and staff have worked incredibly hard to maintain a good quality of education whilst showing tremendous resilience. Our children will have developed skills that they would not have necessarily have developed, without Remote Learning opportunities. Children have had to learn in a different way, and have been amazing and they have also had to like their own company, which is often a skill children lack. Of course, being in school is undoubtedly the best place for children, but I wanted to challenge the doom and gloom I regularly read when referring to children. We will work hard, and we are totally committed to supporting every one of your children, but I do not agree that they are the lost generation as quoted this week in the media. This is scaremongering, and written by journalists, who in my view have no idea just how amazing children are. Please be reassured will monitor carefully how our children return and we will utilise funding appropriately to support them in every way.

We have now published our [updated risk assessment](#) on our website, in which we detail the controls we will have in place to reduce the chances of transmission. I would like to thank the staff and governors with their support in putting this document together. As with all our previous risk assessments it will be continually reviewed and updated in the light of what we learn moving forwards and how the situation both nationally and locally changes.

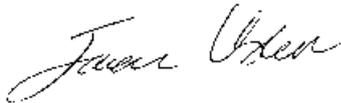
You should have received the menu for hot packed lunches. Your children will be able to order school meals in the usual way when they come into school each day. Please ensure that you have sufficient credit on your child's ScoPay dinner money accounts.

We have been made aware today that families with children in school (or a family member who works in a school) can order free rapid lateral flow test kits to be sent to their homes. You can order kits to test your household, childcare bubble or support bubble. This is not

compulsory or part of our risk assessment but may offer some relief for those concerned about family members who are asymptomatic. You can order test kits here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. Please note that if anyone in your family is displaying symptoms they should book a PCR test at a local testing centre.

Finally, we are aware that many of our Year 6 children will have found out which secondary school they will be attending from September. While, for most, this will be a cause of excitement and joy, others may not have been allocated to their first choice and so we ask that you are sensitive and considerate when discussing this on social media or otherwise.

Many thanks – Stay Safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr J Usher', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Usher
Head Teacher