



EMMBROOK JUNIOR SCHOOL



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Head Teacher: Mr J Usher

6th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the current Covid-19 situation in the school and share some new guidance that all schools have received from Wokingham Borough Council.

Our case numbers following positive PCR tests is as follows:

- **Year 6 – 15 cases**
- **Year 4 – 2 cases**
- **Year 3 – 3 cases**
- **We also have a small number of children in Year 5 out of school while they await the results of PCR tests.**

It is very likely that case numbers will continue to rise, especially as more families arrange tests. As always, I'd like to thank you all for your support in arranging these tests and sharing the results with us.

Updated advice on PCR Testing:

From this week, the local authority has advised that **any children taking a PCR test should remain absent from school until they have a negative result, even if they do not display symptoms.** This absence will be recorded as authorised so no family will risk a fine by keeping potentially infectious children off school. If a pupil tests positive, they should continue to self-isolate in line with public health guidance.

Sibling PCR testing:

We have also been advised that **siblings of a child who has tested positive on a PCR test, will be asked to stay at home until they can take a PCR test on day 3-5 of their sibling's self-isolation,** even if they are not showing symptoms. **This is the advice regardless of which school the sibling attends.** (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 will be recorded as an authorised Covid absence.

Remote Learning:

We have set up remote learning on Teams for all children who need to isolate that are well enough to access the provision. Lessons are recorded so that children can choose to do the lesson at a later time if they are not able to join the live lesson. Information about this will be shared with you via year group teams. It is worth bearing in mind that this is not like the previous lockdown, where the majority of children were at home and teaching staff could focus entirely on remote provision. At present, the majority of children are in school and our teaching teams are doing their best to support both face to face and remote learning simultaneously. If your child does not have access to an electronic device at home and can

therefore not participate in remote provision, please contact the school office and we will do our utmost to support you with this.

Mitigating Transmission in School:

Given the current situation, we have made the following decisions to mitigate transmission within school as best we can:

- A return to virtual school assemblies
- Continued focus on hand-washing, cleaning surfaces and shared spaces and on ventilation within the building
- Close Contact Groups to be maintained in year groups when directed by WBC or Public Health England
- Exhibition open morning cancelled on 14th October
- Year 3 trip to Butser Farm will not be rescheduled this half term (further information will follow to Year 3 Parents)
- Year 6 trip to Sea City Museum will not go ahead in November

While incredibly disappointing for everyone, the health and well-being of the community as a whole must be prioritised.

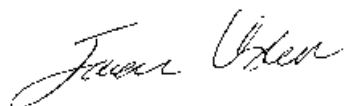
Useful Information:

Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19):

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Thank you all for your understanding at what continues to be an extremely challenging time for our school community.

Kind regards,



Mr J Usher
Head Teacher