



## Emmanuel CE Middle School

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Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Headteacher's Update

I wanted to write at the end of our first week of school closure to thank you for your support and compassion at this challenging time, whilst also providing a few updates as we aim to keep in touch in the coming weeks. Our small group of children in school have worked superbly and I am hearing many accounts of our children working really hard at home. Well done to all. I do hope that you are all managing your new roles as home tutors!

### Google Classroom

Our children have made a fantastic start using Google Classroom and we very much appreciate your support in establishing routines. 90% of pupils had engaged with work set across all subjects. I must give particular thanks to the team working behind the scenes: Mr Timmins, Mr Barker, Miss Fagge and Mr Rangdale. In school, Team 1 have done a fantastic job this week. Many thanks to them and Team 2 and 3 will inherit a well-established routine. The entire EMS team have been amazing.

### Easter holiday - Independent Learning

Staff will set work for the week beginning 30th March following the timetable shared with you last week. In partnership with Trust Middle Schools we are going to produce and upload to the school website an Easter challenge. This is not compulsory. This will be a fun list for all the family to be involved in which we are also hoping to share on Twitter - more info to follow. The normal Google Classroom schedule will resume on Monday 20th April. Please also check the school website for useful links to support learning.

Below are a few reminders that we would value you considering alongside your children to ensure that we continue to approach home learning appropriately.

- Teachers cannot answer private emails from pupils to their work e-mail accounts. Please only message them through Google Classroom, about the task that they are working on.
- Children should not change their name or any other settings in Google Classroom.
- Children may change their Google Classroom image, but it should never be inappropriate or political.
- All communications should be respectful.
- With more people at home, spending longer online this will sadly mean that the risk of our children finding inappropriate material is increased. We must also guard against

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criminal activity online at this time. Please be vigilant in reviewing your child's screen time and online activity.

- When completing work; read the task instructions really carefully. Pace yourself - we expect you to do your best, but your wellbeing is important too; ask for support and take regular breaks.
- Do the schoolwork at times that best suit your family - we understand that there may be more than one person who needs access to the computer!
- Don't fall behind - you can ask teachers for help when you are working on an assignment.

### **Trips and Visits**

Unfortunately, we have had to make the decision to cancel all Summer Term trips and visits. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made in the interest of pupil and staff safety whilst giving you as much notice as possible. As part of Wimborne Academy Trust, insurances are in place that will cover costs in full. Our office team, who have worked tirelessly in recent weeks, are already working to secure refunds. These will be issued as soon as it is possible. Early indications are that this may take a little time to process but please be assured that we will make every effort to provide these refunds as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to send our very best wishes to you all. It has only been a few short weeks since we launched our updated school values of endeavour, empathy, well-being, community, curiosity and leadership. The countless examples that we have seen of pupils, families and staff demonstrating these, on a daily basis, is both heart-warming and a sign of the strength of our community in these uncertain times.

We value our part in the community and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any support or guidance in the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Rob Christopher  
Headteacher