



RE: Staff absence update

28th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for your ongoing support. The pandemic that we have faced together has been a marathon rather than a sprint, and 2 years on we are grateful to be back to face to face learning with enrichment opportunities once again running. This return to 'normal' is partly made possible by the continued compliance and diligence of staff, pupils and their families, so thank you for playing your part in keeping schools a safe learning environment for all.

The threat of Covid19 sadly remains very real, and so it is vital that we continue to follow guidance to protect each other. There are still measures in place that significantly reduce the risk of spreading the virus, for example regular hand washing and wearing face coverings in areas where social distancing is not possible. Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) is also an effective way for us to protect ourselves and the community from Coronavirus.

Since the start of this academic year we have consistently been experiencing higher than normal levels of pupil and staff absence. We are doing all we can to deliver high quality face to face learning for all, however it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the cover for absent staff. With other schools in the same or similar situation as us, and with all schools trying to access the same limited pool of local supply teachers, we face the possibility of not being able to source the cover staff needed to continue to deliver face to face learning for all. For the safeguarding of our young people, it could become unsafe for us to have all pupils on site without an adequate number of teaching staff to supervise children and deliver lessons. Should staffing become a concern we may face the difficult decision to instruct a year group to temporarily remain at home and not attend school site, but please note that this decision would not be taken lightly and we are currently doing all we can to avoid having to implement this measure. If it is the case that any year group temporarily needs to remain at home and not attend school site for a short period of time, this will be communicated to parents and carers via our usual channels.

Please can we at this time, ask that all parents and carers ensure that they have provided us with up to date contact information, and wherever possible please ensure that you have downloaded the SIMS app and regularly check our website and social media pages for updates. As always our team will be working hard to keep our whole school community well informed of any new information and guidance as and when that may occur, but this can only be done effectively if we have current contact information for all families.

Please contact us if you have any questions or queries, we are here to help. We very much hope that if we continue to work together we can end this term as positively as it started, and all enjoy a safe and relaxing Easter break in two weeks time.

Diolch yn fawr.

Ms Ceri-Ann Morris
Headteacher