

23/11/21

Dear Parents/ carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to celebrating the festive season with your children over the coming weeks. I am writing to let you know that we are currently experiencing high numbers of staff absence due to Covid -19 and general winter illness. The headteachers are working extremely hard to do all they can to cover classes and year groups, with the staff we have available. Supply teachers are becoming increasingly hard to find, despite using several agencies. This is the case in all schools.

I would like to reassure you that we do all we can every evening and morning to make sure that we can keep children in school, with face-to-face teaching and it is only as a last resort that we consider moving to remote learning. This will only happen when we can't open with enough staff to ensure children's safety.

I really do hope that occasions of having to move to remote learning are minimal. However, I felt it important to make you aware of the pressures the heads are under to cover staff absence and to ask you to keep an eye on your school's methods of communications to keep you up to date with any changes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful Heads and their staff, who are being so flexible and helpful, as we constantly change rotas. The children have settled well back into school this term and we hope that as we face the winter months any changes to routines are kept to a minimum.

Best wishes

Samantha Jones

CEO and Executive Trust Leader

Rainbow MAT