



11th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

High staff absence currently at Wellesley Park

I am writing to let you know that like many schools, Wellesley Park is currently experiencing high staff absence and this includes the teachers.

As you will be aware, the World Health Organisation has indicated very clearly that this new variant is very transmissible; meaning that it spreads very quickly. The significant increased rates of COVID within our local community as well as nationally, in part, explains the high number of absences. You will appreciate that due to confidentiality reasons, the reasons for staff absences are not shared.

It is important to explain how challenging it is at the moment and that we are doing all we can to try and avoid classes being sent home and reverting to remote learning at home. There are currently severe shortages in terms of supply teachers and we do not have a surplus staff to cover at Wellesley Park. This means that whilst we are experiencing high staff absences and with limited supply teachers available, we will need to find alternative solutions:

- This could mean on occasion a class with a smaller number of pupils may join with another class.
- There may be both familiar internal staff covering a class or a supply teacher.
- There may also be occasions where due to severe staff shortages and lack of agency staff, a class is split across all the other classes for the day.
- To revert to remote learning for specific class/year groups.

I appreciate some of these scenarios are not ideal, however, these are extremely challenging times. We are trying to avoid wherever possible having to send classes home or move to remote learning. I cannot at this time give you a guarantee that this won't happen, but assure you that face-to-face education remains our priority.

I would like to politely request that if you are not already, that you establish regular testing within your household, especially if you child is unwell or displaying symptoms of COVID to help break any chains on transmission.

I ask for your understanding and support at this difficult time. I assure you that we continue to do our very best to continue a high quality and safe education for all.

Best wishes,

Mrs Wilkins
Headteacher



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Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Tolerance, Responsibility, Excellence

Wellesley Park is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children and expects all staff to share this commitment.