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Wednesday 19th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you on the impact of Covid-19 on school at the moment and outline the actions that may be necessary to address this. You will be aware from the school's communications that we have had a number of Covid cases this term but have still made every effort to continue to provide a high-quality, face to face education and a safe environment.

To give you some idea of the situation, since our return to school in January (13 school days), we have recorded **41 positive cases across the school**. As of today (19th January), the school has **34% of the teaching staff (teachers, teaching assistants and midday supervisors) absent** due to general absences or illness and isolation related to Covid-19. We have followed the procedure of investigating cases of Covid-19 and keeping parents informed of testing requirements each time they have occurred.

We have attempted to secure the services of supply teachers/teaching assistants to address the above shortfall but the growing impact of the spread of the Covid-19 virus in Sheffield means that the demand from all schools in the region for these temporary cover teachers has dramatically increased in recent weeks. This in turn has led to an acute shortage of available supply staff.

We are monitoring the situation very carefully and are having to make some adaptations in school to 'weather the storm'. In some cases, teachers are planning and providing work for the whole year group as well as providing home learning for the children required to isolate. All staff are covering additional duties across the school (playground, lunch, medical and office) which is leading to staffing inconsistencies and some disruption to the usual running of the school – none of which can be helped. There is an obvious knock-on effect in that the interventions we run and additional focused-learning groups are also being disrupted during this difficult time.

We hope that by adapting the timetables of some teachers we will be able to remain open to all children. However, **I do need to inform you of the fact that a move to remote learning, in some of the most affected year groups, may soon need to be considered if this situation worsens**. This decision would not be taken lightly and we would aim to give you as much notice as possible. The school would remain committed to providing a high-quality curriculum to all pupils whether they are in school or learning from home. We fully appreciate the impact that this will have on our young people and yourselves as parents and carers and we would not be taking these exceptional measures unless it was absolutely necessary to do so.

We will continue to communicate with you and send updates to you as promptly as possible. If you have any questions relating to this matter, please contact the school via our usual email address: enquiries@shootersgrove.sheffield.sch.uk

Kind regards and stay safe,

Mrs Louise Chadwick
Headteacher