



28th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you are well and enjoying the recent good weather.

I write with an update on how Covid is impacting us in school and details on how we will respond.

Happily, we have been able to stay open to all year groups every day since lockdown was lifted, despite a number of staff being away with Covid. You may know that some schools in the City have had no option other than to keep some year groups at home and run classes remotely due to the number of cases in their settings. We have been able to stay fully open because the number of colleagues absent has been at a level that we can just about manage. However, we have been experiencing an increase of cases recently and our staffing in school is becoming more and more stretched.

The number of Covid cases is an ever changing figure and it is tricky to plan for. It is unclear how long colleagues will be away from school once they contract the virus and, of course, we have no way of knowing ahead of time how many new cases there will be from week to week.

My concern is around not having sufficient colleagues in school to staff all of our lessons. At the moment, we are able to remain fully open, but if the number of staff absent from school continues to increase, we may need to consider closing one or two year groups for a limited period.

Colleagues who are away from school, and who are well enough to do so, have been delivering their lessons remotely so that students do not miss out. This means that students have the lesson their teacher planned, in their classroom with another teacher facilitating the lesson.

Closing any year group would always be a last resort, but I thought you would appreciate some advance warning of the possibility that we may have to consider a limited and temporary closure. If we have to close to a year group the students would be expected to learn remotely from home and the teachers would set work according to the school timetable. Wherever possible, teachers would deliver live lessons.



This letter is about making it clear that any limited and temporary closure would be as a result of low staffing levels, it is not notice that there will definitely be one.

I will give you as much notice as possible should a limited closure for a year group or groups become necessary. However, I remain hopeful that we will continue to be open to all year groups on every school day.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.