



Mill Water School

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Friday 16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, we have had another positive case in school; this time a member of staff has tested positive on both a lateral flow test and on a confirmatory PCR test. This has resulted in our 6th form pupils and staff having to isolate for 10 days. Once again, this appears to be an isolated case, not linked to the other two pupil cases we had last week. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping your children at home. We know that this is difficult for all concerned, but we are following the exact guidance from Public Health England who are in touch with us regularly.

The knock on effect of staff having to self-isolate because of their own personal and family needs has also impacted on us, with some classes becoming difficult to manage safely. We are keeping a close eye on staffing levels, which are changing on a daily basis, and will work towards having as many children in school as we can next week, with safety being the overriding consideration. Please be aware that due to these staff shortages there may be different staff covering classes to keep them running. Whilst we are doing our best to keep staffing consistent we are aware things are sub optimal.

As a result of so many children and staff being absent, adhering to our planned activities has been challenging and we have had to cancel some events. However, we are going ahead with our M&M Theatre production on Wednesday 21st July as this is always such an enjoyable event for the children. If you would prefer your child not to attend, please let your class teacher know.

Our 2021 Leavers Event plans have also been affected. Our intention is now to hold an online event that parents can access via zoom. This will mean more families can join without any Covid worries. This is really disappointing for all concerned, but on a balance of risk it was not justifiable.

This is not the end of term we had been anticipating, but we are trying to find ways to work around the circumstances which have presented themselves and which we can do nothing about.

Our Colourscape event on Monday was overwhelmingly successful, but we are very much aware that some children missed out on this sensory experience due to self-isolation. We are hopeful that we will be able to get Colourscape to visit us again sometime in the near future. Photographs will be shared with you in our newsletter next week.

Yours sincerely

S A Pickering
Headteacher