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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

22 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Staff Absence

I write to make you aware of staffing pressures that we are currently experiencing. I want to be open with all parents and carers about the challenges we are facing this term and explain the steps we are taking to return to normal staffing levels as soon as possible.

To replace staff who left us at Christmas, we have appointed a new Head of PE, a new Assistant Headteacher, and a new teacher of Geography. They will all start after Easter.

That means that there are gaps in staffing of teaching groups for the Spring Term (January to Easter) and these are being covered by agency supply staff. This has not all been plain sailing, as whilst I have secured some regular supply staff who provide some stability, I have not been able to secure regular full time supply staff for all the classes.

Added to this, there are several staff who have not been in school for extended periods since Christmas due to illness. For the whole of last half term, the lessons of at least six teaching staff were being covered by agency staff and cover supervisors on any given day (three due to gaps in staffing and a further three due to illness). It was sometimes more than that.

The situation is much the same, this first week back after half term.

Staff in school are working hard to set quality cover work for groups and also trying to swap around which classes get the cover, so that subject specialists are delivering the curriculum as much as possible.

I want to reassure you that this is a temporary situation with staffing appointments having been made, and I very much hope that staff absence due to sickness and medical reasons will ease.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Kelly - Headteacher

