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## Dear Parent/Guardian

Please excuse my lack of newsletter last week. It was a demanding week with several staff away with Covid and other January ailments. Indeed, the last two weeks have seen more MECE staff absenteeism with Covid than at any time since the pandemic began. Whilst we managed to cover all lessons it was a challenge and took a lot of time and energy to make sure that we were ready to go at the start of each school day. In addition, to keep the school operational, we were fortunate to be able to use several Trust staff and my senior team on the cover rota.

We are facing further absences from Covid this week amongst our staff and whilst we will endeavour to cover all lessons it may prove impossible. This situation is compounded by a lack of available agency staff. We will do our best to make an informed decision each evening about any year groups that may have to stay at home for remote learning on the following day. Please do check your e-mails each evening for any notifications regarding the next day, however if you hear nothing, please assume the school will be operating as normal.

Many thanks for your ongoing support during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Andy Hartley Headteacher