



3rd February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

You will recently have received notification from your child's class teacher about Parents Consultations in order that suitable times can be arranged.

There has been a handful of questions asking why as yet we have not returned to face to face meetings, with comparison to other schools that have.

In making the decision to have once again a virtual call or telephone conversation for these meetings, the overriding consideration was trying to ensure that we minimised contacts for our teachers. Last term and this have seen juggling of staff in very significant and unprecedented ways to try to ensure we have covered all absence to the very best of our ability, so as to minimise levels of disruption for your children and avoid needing to make a request for Remote Learning. This has meant staff working their days off, covering of classes for colleagues as well as then carrying out their usual role.

We are a one form entry school so even being down one member of staff has significant impact. Finding supply cover is not easy at the moment because the demand locally and nationally is great. In addition to this, it is a shared opinion amongst many parents/carers that it is preferable to have one of our own staff who is familiar to your child, cover during any teacher absence.

I would add that there is also a financial cost, because even those absences that can be covered by insurance (which not all are) we do not recoup what it actually costs.

If we had a face to face consultations, each teacher could potentially be having contact with up to sixty people and with the infection rate still so high, this is a risk we can mitigate by going virtual.

As such, the decision to still minimise contacts, was taken in order that we could try to limit the risk of teachers testing positive so that we could try to avoid potential five school day absences.

There may well be other schools who have returned to holding a face to face Parent Consultations, but their staffing situation could be very different. My duty of care is to my staff and your children. Every decision is made with consideration of many factors. If this results in some unpopular decision making, I apologise.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hurwood

Headteacher

