

3 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I regret to inform you that, predominantly due to winter illnesses, including COVID-19, we have high levels of staff absence at present. Agency (supply) staff are similarly affected and so are in short supply and high demand locally.

We have been able to remain fully open this week thanks to staff taking on considerable additional cover and merging some classes; unfortunately, a significant number of lessons and other operations are being affected.

However, this position is unsustainable should we have additional staff absence; and so I am writing to inform you that we are currently at risk of having to partially close the school. Should we need to do this we will ask one (or more) year groups to remain at home for the day on a rota basis, starting with year 7 and moving up the year groups each successive day, as required. We will endeavour to 'protect' year 11 as this is their GCSE year.

Please be assured that the school would only take this decision as a last resort. However, I would advise parents/carers to keep in mind that this is a possibility and have in place a plan for their child if they are required to stay at home at short notice. Work would be available for pupils asked to stay at home via the Google Classroom and remote learning websites.

As you will understand, we do not always know the full extent of staff absence and agency availability until first thing in the morning of each school day. If we do need to take a decision to partially close, we will inform you as soon as possible via the Schoolcomms system (by email).

Yours sincerely



Ms S Spivey
Headteacher, Springfield School
CEO, The De Curci Trust