



Discovery Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4GJ

T: 01732 847000

Headteacher - Miss Tina Gobell

Deputy Headteacher - Miss Jenny Baker

E - office@discovery.kent.sch.uk

Website - www.discovery.kent.sch.uk

Friday 14th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing Issues

I am writing to keep you informed of the current challenges the School is facing in terms of staffing.

Since the return to school, there has been significant number of staff having to self-isolate due to their confirmed COVID-19 status. We currently have nearly half of our teachers absent, with numbers increasing on a daily basis. This is a situation being replicated in schools everywhere, resulting in a severe lack of agency supply staff being available. As a School, we have only been able to secure the services of two supply teachers, despite calling a huge number of agencies.

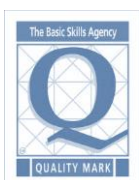
We have been managing the situation so far with the kind assistance of our part-time staff working over-time. The situation today, when further staff notified us that they were unable to attend work, resulted in some classes having to be supported by experienced teaching assistants working in pairs and supervised by a senior member of staff.

I realise that this situation is not ideal, but please be assured that we are doing all that we can to keep the school open in the face of such significant staffing challenges. It is our continued aim to do everything we can to avoid having to close some classes, resulting in an inevitable return to remote learning. In the meantime, please be assured that your children's education and welfare remain our highest priorities.

We thank you in advance for your support and understanding in what are less than ideal circumstances.

Kind regards,

Miss T Gobell
Head Teacher



2020-2023

