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Dear Parents
COVID Update

I do hope that this finds you and your families well.

I am really pleased to be able to report that the number of newly reported positive cases at school has dropped significantly over the past two weeks. It is very good to see the attendance at school continuing to rise as those previously isolating have been able to return.

As you know, we recently reintroduced a number of control measures at the school including the advice to return to wearing face-coverings in communal areas. The plan had been to review this at the end of the month.

Although the current picture at Oathall is looking better, the latest data indicates that the numbers of new cases across West Sussex remains high and notably above national averages. This is particularly the case in Mid-Sussex it would seem.

As a result, Alison Challenger, West Sussex Director of Public Health has advised all secondary schools in West Sussex to reintroduce the request for all students to wear face coverings in communal areas in schools until the end of this term. As a result it seems prudent to maintain our additional control measures until we break up in December as suggested.

I have been heartened to see how well the student community has responded to these latest impositions and I am grateful for their continued patience with it all.

I have attached a letter from Paul Wagstaff, Director of Education in which he highlights further precautions that schools should be considering as we enter the final few weeks of term before the Christmas break.

We have looked carefully at how we might manage our key end of term events to ensure we can minimise risk and safeguard our school community.

With very specific additional control measures in place, we believe that it will be possible to host our Christmas concerts as planned. This will give the children, who have worked so hard in preparation for the event, a well derived opportunity to perform (albeit to the smaller numbers now allowed). Further details on this will be published shortly.

However, after much careful consideration, we do not believe that we will be able to stage our Carols in the Barn event in a sufficiently COVID secure manner. Sadly therefore, I am afraid that this event will be cancelled this year.

I know that this will be disappointing for many of you but I feel it sensible to remain cautious as we approach the Christmas holidays.

Thank you for your continued support

Edward Rodriguez
Headteacher