



Estcots Primary School,
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Headteacher
Mrs Rachel Brock

2nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I apologise for contacting you over the weekend during the Christmas break again. You will all be aware of the rapidly changing situation regarding the opening of primary schools in Tier 4 areas and the woefully inconsistent and late communication from the Department for Education.

Teaching unions are in discussions with the DfE this weekend and I will not know the implications of this for Estcots until late tomorrow afternoon or possibly Monday. Many parents have written to me and staff about the safety of returning to school whilst infection rates are so high in East Grinstead. I share the concerns you all have and am doing all I can to review and ensure that school is as safe as it can be.

Considering the speed at which things are changing and moving I have discussed with the Chair of Governors, Paul Meads my concerns and we have planned and agreed to move one of our INSET days from March 12th to Monday 4th January. This is incredibly late notice but will provide you with some certainty about Monday and enable me to evaluate staffing, respond to union action, and hear what the DfE has since decided - if anything - about Tier 4 schools.

Therefore, school will be closed for INSET training on Monday 4th January. I will write to you again and keep you up to date with any further actions as soon as I am made aware of them.

Thank you so much for your emails I have received this week. I have tried to reply to all of them, we are a lucky school to be working in such a supportive community. For all the families and parents who have already contacted me about keeping their children at home for the first few weeks of term I have replied to you stating that this absence will be authorised.

I understand that this notice is late and may be difficult to manage for some of you. I appreciate your frustrations but felt it important to take some decisive action whilst I await further clarity from the DfE.

Kind regards

Mrs Rachel Brock
Headteacher

