

22 September 2021

Dear Headteachers and Stanway families

I am writing with deep regret that I am cancelling this year's open week, including the taster day next Friday.

I realise other local schools have continued with their plans, but at Stanway, cases of Covid are slightly higher at this time and the risk of bringing so many external people into the school buildings does not feel wise. There is, of course, a risk to visiting families, but also to our students who would have been tour guides, and to our staff as they host visits in their classrooms.

My main priority this year is to ensure the safety of our school community and to enable the school year to continue with minimal disruption to students' learning, and to that end, I feel that cancelling these events is the only way forward. I have made this decision with Sigma Trust and through regular contact with Essex Track and Trace.

I realise this will be very disappointing to the Year 6 visitors and their families, and would like to apologise for any feelings of frustration. I hope though, that families will see how important it is in the Stanway School community to care for one another, especially through these difficult times.

I will ensure that all information, if not more than normal, is available over the next week through the school website ready for the original date of Thursday 30 September. There will be:

- A Headteacher's presentation
- A video of the school ethos and ambitions
- Drone footage around the school site
- A message from next year's Year Team
- A message about how we support reading, and
- Information and videos from every subject area

I will endeavour to work with Primary Headteachers to find ways in which my staff or I could make contact with Year 6 students or you as adults at some point in the near future.

I realise this is difficult for local families, and I offer my sincere apologies to you all, but given our present situation, I cannot open the school for visitors next week.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Jonathan Bland, Headteacher

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