



Downs View

Headteacher: Adrian Carver

Warren Road
Woodingdean
Brighton BN2 6BB

Tel: 01273 601680
Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk
www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

17th April 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you have had a chance to enjoy some of the weather over the Easter break and are all well and that all those you love and care for are safe.

I just wanted to set out a couple of reminders at the start of what is my very last term at the end of my long career in SEN and Disability which started when I took up voluntary work at the age of 14! Though as some of you know, my association with SEN started in 1962 with the arrival of my brother who had Downs Syndrome, SLD and autism. It is going to be a difficult term for me but also for Vanessa in taking over an organisation during this national pandemic crisis.

These remain strange and troubled times for us all and this is certainly not how I envisaged my final months.

The Current Position

You will have seen some information circulating in the media as well as possibly receiving some inaccurate communication from taxi companies about school reopening after Easter. The Government and others are debating when schools might open but this is not imminent.

Schools, including Downs View, remain in the temporary state of childcare provider and not a normal school/college. We remain open for critical worker children only (on the days that those workers are working) and a very small number of risk assessed vulnerable children. It remains the case that home is still the safest place for you and your child as there are still very high risks of transmission. My main priority, in line with the Government, is still - **Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives**. We are all more vulnerable away from our homes and things will get worse and not better over the coming weeks. **Safety** is paramount and that is absolutely what is guiding my decision making around attendance in Woodingdean.

The Authority has issued a new risk assessment process which will be used to determine which children/young people may be considered for readmission where safety at home is at risk. This will be applied fairly across the organisation.

I know you are finding the support from teachers very valuable and that will continue. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) are constantly in touch with teachers to ensure we are aware of the issues you are facing.



Important Reminder – New Symptoms

The isolation guidance is still in force. For those pupils who were attending Woodingdean prior to the Easter break you must still adhere to the symptom guidance on return. If your child or a member of your household has had symptoms over the Easter break this will affect attendance. If any household member has symptoms that means they have to isolate for **7 days**. However that means that all other household members (including your child) need to self isolate for **14 days**. This means that if anyone in the house had symptoms in the first week of the Easter break your child will have to self isolate for 14 days which means they will not be able to attend on Monday 20th April.

If you are in any doubt about whether your child should come in please email me or your Head of Site immediately. Thank you.

Resources

Zoe Anstey who leads on extended services for Downs View and Hill Park has found some additional resources which may be useful to you. I will send them out early next week.

Finally

Stay at home, stay safe and stay well. I honestly want Downs View to return to 'normal' as soon as is possible because it is important to me, the Downs View staff and certainly you and your children that the vibrant, supportive and outstanding community that is Downs View gets back to business for all our sakes.

Take care,



Adrian Carver
Executive Headteacher

