



Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Adrian Carver

Warren Road
Woodingdean
Brighton BN2 6BB

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

3rd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all staying safe and well and had a good week in the sunshine. However, I hope that you have remained socially distanced and not mixed with other families.

As I mentioned in my letter prior to the break, we will **not** be opening to a lot more pupils imminently. We are not currently following the HMGovt requirement for broader opening from 1st June and BHCC have also said that they do not feel it safe to go for broader opening for now. Safety and wellbeing are still the priority. If you feel it is necessary for your child to return to school or college you will need to submit a formal request to either me or to your site lead. Where a request is made, we will be continuing to use the agreed LA risk assessment system to decide whether a return is safe and possible.

I am not yet at a position where I can make a decision about a date for wider opening. I do want to state, yet again, that I do fully understand the implications and the stress for families in not being able to access school and college. I do honestly realise how hard lockdown has been for you all. I will gradually 'unlock' Downs View as and when I believe it to be safe to do so.

A consultation group consisting of staff, governors and parent governors will be meeting next week to assess the risks to pupils, families and staff of reopening the organisation. We will need to consider collectively how this is undertaken safely for pupils and staff (and families of all) against a backdrop of much broader freedoms in the community. I will be able to advise further on this once this meeting has taken place and will also share the risk assessment with you should you wish.

I also wanted to let you know about some good news that we have received recently. After my interview on the Today radio programme I was contacted by the Dischma Charitable Trust who offered to make an amazing £5000 donation to the Friends of Downs View. This was a very generous gift and will be used towards the improvements to the main building in Woodingdean which are not being undertaken as part of the expansion work.

We have also kindly been sent sizeable donations from the memorial funds of two people associated with the school, Sophie Kennard and Arthur Turk. We are extremely grateful to their respective families for donating this to us at such a very sad time and we send our sincere condolences to their families. The total for both is approaching £7000. Thank you.

A while ago I let you know that the Fonthill Foundation had allocated £25000 to Downs View towards the conversion of the garages to become a dedicated trampoline room. I am delighted to say that they have now allocated another £25000 which with some money from the Friends of Downs View will make the conversion entirely possible. This will be of real benefit to all our pupils.



Finally, some of our wonderful teachers and TAs have been working hard over the last few weeks setting up a Downs View YouTube channel for you to use. I would like to thank them for all of their hard work. Please take a look on the link below, it includes educational videos for pupils across the organization and pupils will benefit from a wider eLearning opportunity where they will see familiar staff. This may support them to be more engaged as well as feel more connected with the school/college and their usual routine. There are already more than 10 videos with a good range of different learning styles and outcomes including numbers, songs, attention autism, animated stories, differentiating sounds, learning signs, how to make a cup of tea and a science activity.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIMtV7GGB_cYMAJ1MCpge1q/videos?view_as=subscriber

Please stay safe and stay well.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Adrian Carver
Executive Headteacher