



Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Adrian Carver

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16th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Transition back to Downs View in September

I am writing to outline the plans for your child's transition back to Downs View in September.

This has been an extraordinary and difficult time for pupils, parents and staff and we have had to work within a changing situation with changing government guidelines. I appreciate how difficult it has been for all of our families and therefore want to ensure that the transition back to school supports all pupils' well-being and enables them to feel safe and ready to learn. In making the decisions about the transition back to school there are a number of factors that have been considered. I want to share these with you so that you understand how we will be supporting your child.

- The majority of pupils returning will have been out of school for nearly 6 months and for most of this time they will have been at home with family members. They will need time to adapt to being part of a group and re-establish relationships with other pupils and staff. For some pupils this could be overwhelming so we need to ensure that we have space and capacity to support them.
- Some pupils will be returning to new classes with new staff, classrooms and pupils and for some pupils they will be moving to new sites. We need to ensure that we are able to support pupils in these transitions. This is by ensuring that class teams can support transitions to new groups alongside welcoming their new groups. We have not been able to do this in July due to current restrictions.
- We will also be welcoming and supporting children and young people who are entirely new to Downs View which will be a challenging time for them.
- The curriculum for the new term will focus on settling pupils back into school and supporting their mental health and well-being. There will be a gradual increase in social interactions and demands as we feel if this is too sudden it could lead to an increase in challenging behaviour.
- An additional challenge we have is the ongoing building works on the Woodingdean site. It is going well but as Adrian has previously said it will not be ready for September. Essential classrooms should be ready for the start of term but we need to ensure that those rooms are safe and set up for pupils. We have also ensured that we have a contingency plan for any delays.

September Plan

School will open on Monday 7th September. Pupils will attend for 2 days a week for the first 3 weeks. This will either be Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. They will be with their new classes, teachers and teaching assistants but there will be support from their previous class teams as needed. Full time school for all pupils will start on Monday 28th September. Class teachers have worked out the days that your child will be in school and this information will be sent to you shortly.

We have a risk assessment in place to manage the additional risks from Covid. This will be updated for the start of term so that we can ensure that all risks on site are minimised. Some children of key workers and families that need provision for other essential reasons will have an individual offer that will be discussed directly with families.

If your child is starting in Reception, class teachers will be in touch to plan an individual transition for your child to ensure that they and you feel safe and secure in starting in school. We are aware that we haven't had a chance to meet them or you prior to September so will ensure that this takes place.

I hope this enables you to feel confident that we are supporting your child's well-being as they return to school. As it has been throughout this difficult period remains a changing situation. If the 'R' rate rises or there is a local lockdown in Brighton and Hove we will need to revise our offer to keep our pupils and staff safe.

It will be really important in September that we remain vigilant around hygiene and currently it is still the case that if you, your child or anyone in your household has any of the following symptoms that you **must not** send your child in to school. If your child has symptoms the week prior to attending school then they must **isolate for 7 days** from when they first showed symptoms. If anyone else in your household has symptoms the week prior to returning to school then **your child must isolate for 14 days**. It is vital that you stick to this guidance in order not to put other children/young people or staff at risk.

Symptoms:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

Heads of Sites

If you have any concerns or questions your first point of contact is the Head of Site. From September these will be:

DVW – Bea Freeborn

DVH – Jackie Hutchings

DVLC – Juliet Hudson

DVLSC – Raul Ortiz

I hope you have a good summer holiday and we are looking forward to seeing you in September.

Yours Sincerely,



Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher Designate

