



# Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Vanessa Hickey

Warren Road  
Woodingdean  
Brighton BN2 6BB

Telephone: 01273 601680  
Email: [office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
[www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](http://www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a good Christmas despite all of the current restrictions and uncertainties. In light of the rising cases and the new government guidance I wanted to update you on the steps we are taking at Downs View to keep all students and staff safe.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January will now be an INSET day** across all sites. This time will be used to set up testing stations at each site for staff. We plan to test staff during the day which will give us key information to plan for the coming week. This will inevitably impact on our staffing levels as staff who are positive will need to self-isolate from this point. As you will have seen on the news the testing kits are being delivered on Monday so if there are any delays then this may impact on our ability to open on Tuesday. I will send a ping out on Monday afternoon to update but need you to be aware that school could remain closed on Tuesday so would ask that you make contingency plans. If there are a high number of staff that need to self-isolate this will also impact on our ability to fully open going forward but I will keep you updated.

As I am sure you have seen on the news the testing is for secondary schools and not primary at this stage but as we are one site at Woodingdean I need to put the same measures in place for all staff. There are also current staff shortages in Primary.

## Extremely Clinically Vulnerable Students

As we are now in Tier 4 then any student that is extremely clinically vulnerable needs to stay at home. Whilst we are doing what we can to keep school as safe as possible the safest place is at home. Teachers will support with home learning and will be in regular contact.

## Pupil testing

At this stage we will not be testing pupils as we are aware of the potential challenges this brings for our students but this will be reviewed as we gain a greater knowledge of the testing procedures. We will then review if this is possible.

I recognise that the last year has been very challenging for all our families and I want to thank you for your ongoing support. Hopefully the end to this difficult time is getting closer as the vaccine is starting to be rolled out. It is important that we all work together to stop the spread of covid so if your child has any symptoms then please keep them at home until they have had a test and are feeling better.

If you have any queries then please email me [vanessahickey@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:vanessahickey@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

I will keep you updated as soon as I have any further information.

Best Wishes for 2021.

*Vanessa*

Vanessa

