



Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Vanessa Hickey

Warren Road
Woodingdean
Brighton BN2 6BB

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

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and I hope you are well. I am sorry to be writing on a Sunday but as I am sure that you are aware the situation around Covid is changing at pace. Following my letter on the 31st December I am writing to update you on the current situation at Downs View. Firstly I want to make it clear that Downs View is not closing but we need to put additional measures in place to keep pupils and staff safe.

Due to the high number of staff who are affected by Covid either through infection or the need to self-isolate I have made the difficult decision to limit the number of pupils on site from Tuesday 5th January for 1 week. The school and college sites will be open only for pupils of keyworkers and for families who need additional support. All other pupils will be supported by their staff teams virtually and with resources to be used at home. Currently in Brighton and Hove there is a rising infection rate and we all need to work together to help to get the virus under control. At this moment I am not confident that I can provide a safe school/college environment for your children.

I really hope that this is a short term measure. From Monday we will be setting up testing stations in school and college so that we can begin staff testing. Although this may lead initially to more staff shortages it will support us in keeping school and college as safe as possible. Testing also means that we are in a different position to last March and it will enable us to get more pupils back into school safely and quickly. Once I have a clear picture of the number of staff who are fit and able to work then I hope to be able to welcome more pupils back to school and college.

I recognise that for many families this will be difficult news to receive and I want to reassure you that class teams will be supporting you and your child remotely if they are not able to be in school. Monday 4th January is an INSET day so class teams will be in touch on Tuesday 5th January.

If you will need a school or college place this week as you are a key worker or have additional support needs then please can you email your Head of Site (please see the email addresses below) with the following information by **Monday 4th January at 11 am**.

- Name of child
- Key worker status
- Additional needs
- Days needed

We will then confirm provision for pupils of keyworkers and other families by tomorrow afternoon.



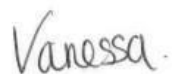
Thank you for your ongoing support in these very challenging times.

jackiehutchings@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

beatrizfreeborn@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

juliethudson@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vanessa".

Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher