



# Downs View

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9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## General Information Letter

I hope you are all continuing to keep safe and well and thank you for your continued support and patience. As we approach the half term break I wanted to write to you all with some school and college updates.

Thank you for all the feedback we have had about the online learning, all of our teachers and teaching assistants have been working really hard on opportunities for fun and engaging learning. It has been lovely to see the photos that have been sent in.

As you will be aware the Government have stated that schools will not be re-opening for all pupils until at least early March. We are reviewing the situation and looking at how we can ensure a safe return for all pupils. We are still awaiting further guidance from the Government on this and will update you as soon as we can.

For those pupils that are currently in school/college there will be a late start on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. **School and college will start at 10.30am.** This is to allow us time to do the lateral flow tests on our staff and ensure that it is safe for the pupils to return. Transport have been advised of this change and will let you know the pick-up times for that day.

The infection rate is finally decreasing which is very promising and last week we received the good news that all of our staff are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. We have been offered the vaccines because we work with pupils with learning disabilities and pupils who are clinically vulnerable and extremely vulnerable. Many staff have had it or plan to have it in the near future. This is a real positive for us and provides some peace of mind. Although the majority of staff will be vaccinated we still need to continue to follow the Government guidelines and the school/college risk assessments around social distancing and respiratory hygiene for the time being.

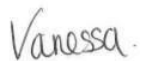
Thank you to those who have completed the survey following my recent letter regarding the timings for the school day, we have received some valuable feedback. The survey is still open on Ping if you would like to contribute to the consultation. If you have any additional questions or views that you would like to express in relation to this please email Sam Hendy on [PA@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:PA@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)



Also, as it will be unlikely that we will be completely free of the Covid-19 restrictions and therefore unable to bring big groups of staff together for training after Easter, I have decided that it will be more productive if we move the INSET day planned for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Please note that staff will not be making any phone calls to parents/carers during the break, these will resume when we return in the week commencing the 22<sup>nd</sup> February. I hope you all manage to have a restful break and I look forward to hopefully seeing you all back at school very soon.

Best wishes,

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

Vanessa Hickey  
Executive Headteacher