



Downs View

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and have been able to get out and enjoy the sunshine. We are really looking forward to seeing all of the young people tomorrow. The INSET days have been used for essential staff training needed for the start of term.

Over the summer there has been lots of building work at the school site. All of the work on the new build is now finished which is really good and work on the swimming pool is progressing really well. We hope that the pool will be open for after half-term which will be brilliant.

With the lifting of many restrictions we are also planning opportunities for parents and carers to come onto site. I know many of you have not had the chance to see the new building so it will be lovely to have you in. We also plan to return to on-site meetings but if you prefer them to be via Zoom then that will still be an option.

Covid Update

As of the 16th August guidance around Covid has changed and many of the restrictions have been lifted both in schools and in the wider community. For many people this has been really good news and they are keen to get back to normal but there are also many people for whom the lifting of restrictions will lead to an increased worry and anxiety about the risks.

At Downs View we have updated our guidance to enable sites to be safe but also to ensure that we can keep all sites open to all pupils every day. It is difficult as no-one is sure what will happen when all school/colleges open but we are working hard to make school/college as safe as it can be. There is a new risk assessment but I have summarised some of the key points below:

- We will no longer be working in bubbles but for the first 2 weeks of term we will limit interaction between different groups when pupils are inside.
- Staff will be wearing masks at their discretion.
- We will be working with all pupils to encourage good hand washing and hygiene, especially as we go into the winter season.
- There is no longer a requirement for staff/pupils to isolate following a close contact with a positive case but as many of our pupils have an increased vulnerability we have asked staff who have had a close contact to isolate until they have got the result of their PCR test. They will also do daily lateral flow tests when they return to work. We would encourage parents/carers to get a PCR test for their child before they return to school.



We will keep reviewing the measures in place and will change measures if needed. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Symptoms

If your child has any of the key symptoms of Covid it is really important that they remain at home until they have had a PCR test. If they are unable to access the test then they will need to isolate for 10 days. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> If you have problems or cannot use the online service, call 119. Lines are open 7am to 11pm.

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- **a 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)
- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- **a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell** – 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.

Website

Unfortunately we are still experiencing problems with our website. We are working hard to get it up and running again. We will continue to keep you updated. I am sorry for any inconvenience that this has caused.

If you have any questions then please email your class teacher or relevant deputy in the first instance.

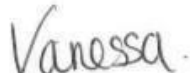
Head of Primary – Bea Freeborn – beatrizfreeborn@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Head of Secondary – Jackie Hutchings - jackiehutchings@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Head of KS5 – Juliet Hudson - juliethudson@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Head of Post 19 – Raul Ortiz – raulortiz@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Best Wishes



Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher