



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

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to update you on the current situation at the school as things have changed since yesterday. We have 3 linked Covid cases at school so this means that we now have an 'outbreak' situation. An outbreak is defined as being when there are more than two linked cases. We also have 2 other cases in school but they are not currently linked.

In order to try and stop any further spreading we have put in additional measures at school. These measures are as follows:

- Return to class bubbles so pupils will not mix inside the building
- Staff to wear face masks in communal areas
- Limit all visits to site other than for essential reasons
- More frequent use of lateral flow tests

If your child is a close contact of a positive case then we will let you know and advise you to book a PCR test for your child if they are able to tolerate it. They are still able to attend school during this time if they are not symptomatic but we would ask you to be really vigilant around the key symptoms of Covid (details at the end of this letter).

If your child has any of the key symptoms of Covid it is important that they isolate and a PCR test is booked. They will need to isolate until the results of the PCR are received.

The Covid cases are impacting on our staffing levels and there may be times when we are unable to fully open classes. We will let parents and carers know as soon as we can using Ping. We will try to give as much notice as possible but sometimes this is difficult as it is dependent on when we get the results from the Covid tests.

I know how difficult this is for families and want to thank you for your ongoing support. All of the staff are working really hard to ensure school is as safe as possible in these difficult circumstances.

I also want to send my best wishes to all students and staff who are currently unwell.

Please do contact myself, Bea or Jackie if you have any questions.

Best Wishes

Vanessa

Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher



Covid 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.