



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 and Carers,

I wanted to update you on the current situation at school. We have a number of cases of Covid, both staff and pupils. This has grown over the week and is having a big impact. I have been in close contact with the local authority and with Public Health England to take advice. We are currently deemed as having a Covid outbreak and the additional measures that we have put in place will continue after half term. Staff are wearing masks in communal areas, bubbles remain in place and staff are taking additional LFT tests.

The high number of cases is impacting significantly on our staffing levels and so we have had to ask some pupils to stay at home this week. If your child has been affected by this then I want to thank you for supporting the school as I realise that this is difficult for families. I am hopeful that the half term holiday may provide a break in the transmission rates. Over the break we will also be deep cleaning the school building.

If your child has been a close contact of a positive case then you will have been informed via Ping. We would advise all identified close contacts to get a PCR test and be vigilant around symptoms (details at the end of this letter). If your child has a positive test during the holidays then please let me know via email on vanessahickey@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk so that I can let any close contacts know.

I understand that this is a challenging time for many families and I want to reassure you that we are doing all that we can to keep the school as safe as possible. Please do email me if you have any questions or concerns.

I hope any pupils, staff or family members who are ill make a speedy recovery.

Despite all of the Covid concerns I hope that you are able to enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing the pupils back on Monday 1st November.

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.