



# Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Vanessa Hickey

Warren Road  
Woodingdean  
Brighton BN2 6BB

Telephone: 01273 601680  
Email: [office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)  
[www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](http://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 last week and we are now deemed as having a Covid outbreak. We have therefore put additional measures in place. Staff are wearing masks in communal areas, class bubbles have been reinstated, staff are taking additional LFT tests and we are limiting on-site visitors.

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).

Unfortunately, this will impact on the activities that we had planned to celebrate Christmas and we will no longer be able to have a Christmas performance. We will still be celebrating though and more details will follow.

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 currently ill make a speedy recovery.

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.