



Downs View

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid

I thought it would be useful to give you an update on Covid. The number of cases on all of our sites are starting to increase again. This is in line with what has been seen locally and nationally. We are taking measures to stop it spreading but we are seeing lots of linked cases within classes. We are continuing to review further measures that we can put in place to manage the spread.

If your child is a close contact we will let you know via Ping. For Downs View Life Skills College parents/carers we will let you know via email. If your child is a close contact, then please do a LFD test if they will tolerate it and be vigilant around symptoms. A reminder of the main Covid symptoms are at the end of this letter. If your child is not isolating/does not have symptoms then they can still attend school/college.

The rise in cases is having a significant affect on staffing at all of our sites. We have had to close some classes or ask pupils to stay at home this week and this will continue next week. This decision is not taken lightly as I realise how difficult this is for our families to manage. We will try to give you as much notice as possible when this affects your child. The closure of classes is only done as a last resort. I have been in touch with the local authority so they are aware of the current situation and the impact that current absence is having.

We also have a number of pupils who currently have covid and I wish them a speedy recovery. I want to thank the staff teams who continue to show resilience in these challenging working conditions. I was able to do a learning walk at school on Wednesday and it was brilliant to see the activities and learning that was taking place.

The Queen's Baton Relay

Birmingham 2022 is staging the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay an epic journey across the Commonwealth, with The Queen's Baton visiting all 72 nations and territories. The Relay began on 7 October 2021, with Her Majesty The Queen placing her message to the Commonwealth into the Baton. The Baton is now on its 294-day long journey to every corner of the Commonwealth. This collective journey will ignite hope, solidarity and collaboration.

In support of this schools in Brighton & Hove have arranged their own baton relay and on Monday 21st March it will be coming to Downs View School. On this day the children are invited to wear anything red, white and/or blue.



The Brighton & Hove baton will equally spread hope, solidarity and collaboration as it visits every school in the city.

Holi

At school/college we have been celebrating Holi and it has been really great to do some activities together again. At school we have had a visit from Wildheart an immersive theatre and playspace who have done a fantastic show about this and the children have also participated in a colour run in the playground. Look out for some pictures in the next newsletter.

Governor Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a parent/carer governor. You can be a parent, carer or a grandparent.

Many people find being a governor a very rewarding thing to do, you meet new people, develop teamwork skills and learn more about how a school works. You can also gain experience in a variety of different areas, such as budget setting, interviewing, developing policies and sitting on appeal panels.

If you are interested or would just like some more information please do contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

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.

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.