



Downs View

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all continuing to keep safe and well. We are really looking forward to full opening from Monday with the majority of students being back at school and college. I want to thank you for your support over this term as I know that it has been very challenging for all of our families. It has been lovely seeing the students returning this week and we have used this time to support those that have found it hard to adjust back into school. I also want to extend a big welcome to the Hollingdean students that have moved over to the Woodingdean site. I hope that in the summer term we will be able to have all families on-site so that you are able to see the new school site. Locally the Covid rate is continuing to fall but it is still important that everyone continues to follow all the guidance. Please find below some updates ahead of the fuller opening.

Return to School and College/Transport

As I advised last week, from Monday 8th March all pupils will be able to attend school/college full time. For some individual pupils we will be putting in place a more phased return to school to support them and you will already have been contacted about this. Also, just to remind you there will not be a home learning offer as education will be delivered on-site. For the small number of extremely clinically vulnerable pupils that are still shielding then we will be in touch about individual learning offers.

If your child has school transport then arrangements will be the same as usual. The transport team will have let you know if there are any changes to pick up times. For those parents and carers that bring their child to school please can I ask you to maintain clear social distancing at all times whilst on-site.

Please can you ensure that if your child has emergency medication that this is sent into school/college with them on their first day if we do not already have some on-site.

Site Risk Assessment/Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests

The school/college risk assessment continues to be a dynamic document and has been updated as of the 1st March. The updated version can be accessed on the school website on the below link.

<http://www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk/about-us/coronavirus-covid-19/>

As previously advised the majority of staff have been offered the vaccine but we will continue to follow the government guidelines around social distancing and respiratory hygiene and we will continue to wear face masks when moving around the school and in communal areas. Staff are not wearing them within their bubbles as we don't want to limit their ability to communicate with pupils but there may be some exceptions to this based on staff's individual vulnerabilities.

We will also be continuing with the Lateral Flow Device Testing for staff to help identify any asymptomatic cases and reduce potential transmission. The staff will now be taking this voluntary test at home.



Also, as advised in my last letter we will not currently be carrying out LFD tests on your child/children in school/college but home testing kits will soon be available for our families. We will write to you separately about this and whether you would like to take up this offer when we have received the tests.

Possible Covid Cases

If there is a suspected case at school/college for a pupil or a member of staff we will only send home that person and not anyone else until we get a positive test result. We will always let parents/carers know if there is a possible case in their child's bubble. If a positive case is identified within a bubble then all contacts will be traced and they will need to isolate for 10 days in line with PHE guidance. This may impact on staffing levels and there may be occasions when we will need to send pupils home due to not having safe levels of staff available. We will do our utmost to minimise this.

It is really important that you remain vigilant around hygiene and it is still the case that if you, your child or anyone in your household has any of the Covid-19 symptoms listed at the end of this letter that you adhere to the government guidance and that you do not send your child into school/college.

Therapists

We are really glad to be able to welcome back most of our therapists next week to on-site working and they will continue to support their pupils as they did prior to the Christmas break with additional protective measures in place. Unfortunately in order to ensure that we keep Covid secure we will not be having any additional visitors, including parents, to any of our sites at the moment but we will keep this under review.

If you have any questions or concerns about the return to school next week our Deputy Heads are available to help, so please do get in touch with them in the first instance.

We will continue to keep all measures and procedures under review and will inform you of any significant changes. Your support and understanding during this time has been much appreciated.

I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Best wishes,



Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher

Coronavirus Guidance

If your child has had symptoms they must **isolate for 10 days** from when they first showed symptoms. If anyone else in your household has had symptoms **your child must isolate for 10 days**. It is vital that you stick to this guidance in order not to put other children/young people or staff at risk.

Symptoms:

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