



# 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)

**Further Education Provision:** Downs View Link College, Surrenden Road, Brighton BN1 6WQ **Telephone:** 01273 507719

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25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you in school on Wednesday for the spring event. The children and staff had worked really hard on their hats, t-shirts and banners so it was great that the sun came out for it.

## After School Club

I know some of you have asked about the after school club so wanted to give you an update. We are hoping to open a small after school club that will run for 3 nights a week. We have recruited a play leader to run the club but unfortunately we have not managed to recruit enough play workers to enable us to start the club at this point. For the club to run well we need a team of play workers that can be trained to support all the needs of the children attending. We really hope that we will be able to get the club open and I will keep you updated on progress.

## Mobile Phones

The government have recently issued some guidance around mobile phones. They advised that every school has a duty to create an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction so all pupils can learn and thrive. Mobile phones risk unnecessary distraction, disruption and diversion. Therefore, in line with the guidance, we will be phasing out mobile phone use in school. I appreciate this may be difficult for some of our young people so wanted to advise you of this in advance. From September no pupil will be allowed to have a mobile phone in school unless they are an independent traveller and these pupils will need to hand their phone in on arrival. I will be sending out further information about this next term. Phones will continue to be allowed at the Link College as they are young adults and we will support them around the safe and appropriate use of phones.

## New Build Update

The new build is progressing well, the foundations are currently being laid in preparation for the new classroom to be craned in over Easter. It all seems to be on track and will provide two extra classrooms at the school. This will mean that the children in Cubs class on the Coldean site will be able to come onto the school site from September.

## Absence Reminder

Just to remind you, the procedures for reporting your child absent are as follows:

*If your child is poorly or they have a medical appointment please could you contact the school/college as soon as possible and by 8am on the day of absence. It is important that you do this so that we can arrange safe staffing levels for every class. The details for reporting absences are as follows:*

**Downs View School:** 01273 601680 or please email [office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

**Downs View Link College:** 01273 507719

*Please remember that in cases of diarrhoea and sickness your child should remain off school/college for 48 hours from their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.*

# Respect Aspiration Resilience

An **aspirational** learning environment with dignity and **respect** at its core, where everyone reaches their potential through effective communication, building **resilience** and having fun.

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*If you wish to take your child out of school/college during term time then a Leave of Absence form needs to be completed. Leave of absence should only be requested in exceptional or unavoidable circumstances. The forms are available from the school/college office or your class teacher. It is important that the form is completed to avoid any unauthorised absences.*

*If your child is going to be absent from school/college then you must also contact the Home to School Transport team on 01273 293501 to let them know that their service is not required. It is not the school/college's responsibility to do this.*

The last day of term will be Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March and we will return to school and college on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April. I hope you all have an enjoyable break and eat lots of chocolate!

Best Wishes,

*Vanessa*

Vanessa Hickey  
Executive Headteacher

### **Measles and MMR Information**

Brighton & Hove City Council have released the below information regarding measles and the MMR vaccine:

#### [\*Measles and MMR information for schools\*](#)

*So far, we have not seen any measles cases in Brighton and Hove – however, the number of measles cases continue to rise around the country and abroad, mainly in children who have not had the MMR vaccine. With the Easter holidays fast approaching and possible travel being planned we are reminding everyone to be measles aware and ensure your children are vaccinated with the MMR.*

*Measles is a highly infectious disease which can lead to serious illness.*

*The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine provides excellent protection against measles, and it is free on the NHS.*

*Children are offered the first dose of the MMR vaccine at one year and the second dose at 3 years 4 months, but they can be given with as little as a one-month gap between doses, depending on age.*

#### **What should you do?**

*To see if your child is up to date with their MMR vaccine, check their red book, or contact your GP practice. If anyone has missed one or both doses of the MMR vaccine, contact your GP practice to book an appointment.*

*It's never too late to catch up on your MMR vaccination.*

[\*Find out more about MMR vaccinations on the NHS website.\*](#)

#### **Measles signs and symptoms**

*Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth.*

#### **The first symptoms of measles include:**

- *a high temperature*
- *a runny or blocked nose*
- *sneezing*
- *a cough*
- *red, sore, watery eyes*
- *Small white spots may appear inside the cheeks and on the back of the lips a few days later. These spots usually last a few days.*
- *A rash usually appears a few days after the cold-like symptoms - The rash looks brown or red on white skin. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin.*

[\*More information about measles, symptoms and actions you can take are on this 0-18 NHS website.\*](#) *information on this website is available in many languages and has the Recite me facility.*

*If you or a family member develops any symptoms of measles, contact your GP by phone.*

*Please do not go to your GP, walk-in centre, or any other healthcare setting without calling ahead, as measles is very infectious.*