



The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools



*Chair of Governors: Dr A Eyden
Vice Chair of Governors: Rev D Ridley*

*"if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible."
(Matthew: 17 v20)*

The Downs CEP School
Owen Square, Walmer
Kent CT14 7TL
Tel: 01304 372486 Fax: 01304 380471
Website: www.downs.kent.sch.uk

*Head Teacher: Miss T Leighton
Deputy Head: Ms N Luxford
SENCO: Mrs N Barnes
Safeguarding Lead: Mr M Turner*

Northbourne CEP School
Northbourne, Deal
Kent CT14 0LP
Tel: 01304 611376 Fax: 01304 621938
Website: www.northbourne-cep.kent.sch.uk

*Head Teacher: Mr M Reynolds
SENCO: Mrs K Morrison
Safeguarding Lead: Mr M Turner*

2nd March 2021

Welcome back to school – 8th March 2021

We are all looking forward to seeing all the children next week. It is fantastic that we will all be together again as a whole school community.

As you will be aware we had a number of positive COVID-19 cases that required the school to close prior to the half term break. There were 14 cases in total; many did not exhibit the classic three symptom's associated with COVID-19 (see below) and within our community, although most were moderately unwell, we did have one hospitalisation and some now have long COVID.

This does mean that the school and local community is anxious about the continuing situation. We are still in lockdown and therefore the message to stay at home and not mix with other households is still the law. The journey to school is considered an essential one but it is a come and go requirement. Arrangements should not be made for visits to each other's homes, gatherings in the park, birthday parties or sleepovers etc. until the restrictions are lifted.

There is a great deal of information in this letter. Please read it all. It is important that the information within this letter is adhered to at all times for everyone's health and protection.

Back to school arrangements:

Start of day arrangements

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 8.45am | Year 6 to enter via the Goodwin playground gate
Year 5 to enter via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park) |
| 8.50am | Year 4 to enter via the Goodwin playground gate
Year 3 to enter via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park) |
| 8.55am | Year 2 to enter via the Goodwin playground gate
Year 1 to enter via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park) |
| 9.00am | Reception to enter via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park) |



End of day arrangements

2.55pm	Reception exit via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park)
3.00pm	Year 6 to exit via the Goodwin playground gate Year 5 to exit via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park)
3.10pm	Year 4 to exit via the Goodwin playground gate Year 3 to exit via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park)
3.20pm	Year 2 to exit via the Goodwin playground gate Year 1 to exit via the lower school gate (off Blossom car park)

Reminders for drop off and pick up:

We wish for everyone to be safe and for community transmission to remain low. As such we ask that you remain extra vigilant and ensure that

- You are social distancing between other parents and staff, respecting the 2m rule
- You are wearing a face covering on our school site
- Children arrive and leave at their allocated time
- All communication with school is via text, email, phone or communicated to staff on gate duty – the office is closed to all visitors except in an emergency
- The number of adults dropping off/collecting children is limited to one person

What children need to bring/can bring to school

- Water bottle – children **MUST** bring their own water bottle to school
- Healthy snack for break times
- A school bag
- Lunch box
- Coat
- Hand sanitizer – we have plenty of hand sanitizer stations, soap and water but if you would prefer your child to use their own hand sanitizer they may bring one to school. It must be named and kept in their school bag
- Reading books will be able to go to and from school but will be rotated so books do not go from one house to another within 72 hours
- Face coverings – these are not needed in school but if your child wears one to/from school, and it is reusable, then a named plastic bag (such as a sandwich bag) needs to be provided – or take it home with you and bring it back at the end of the day.
- Year 5 and 6 may bring their mobile phone once they have completed a mobile phone agreement and are walking home without an adult. A named plastic bag (such as a sandwich bag) needs to be provided to put the phone in to before it is handed to the class teacher for safe keeping during the day.

Nothing else must be brought into school

Uniform/PE

Pupils are to wear full winter uniform (until the Easter break), including school shoes, when we return next week; however, on PE days your child will be able to come to school in their school PE kit. They will need spare shoes on PE days.

Your child also needs to be wearing clothes they can manage themselves. Staff cannot do up zips or tie shoelaces so please dress the children appropriately. So if your child is yet to learn how to tie their shoe laces please do not buy lace up school shoes.

Please remember to name everything.

We would recommend that your child changes out of their uniform as soon as they get home at the end of the school day.



Lunches

Hot meals will now be available to **all** pupils who request one.

Please pay for your child's meals in advance, either weekly or termly. Please pay on a Monday for all meals you intend your child to take during that week.

When all pupils return on Monday 8th March, we will be on week three of the menu. Visit whole school meal's website <https://wholeschoolmeals.co.uk/menu-for-primary-schools/> to see the menu offer and to pay online.

Breakfast club

We will continue to have to limit the number of places we can offer and also operate a **priority, pre-booked and pre-paid** booking system. The maximum number we can accommodate at this time is capped at 30. If we are oversubscribed, priority will be given to key workers. Non-payment will result in the place being withdrawn and offered to another family. The booking form is now available on our school website: About Us/Breakfast club and places must be booked a week in advance. Children attending breakfast club, regardless of year group, should be brought to breakfast club door by an adult and handed over to a member of breakfast club staff.

Communication

Any communications and messages for school staff will need to come via a phone call, text or email as staff cannot be available for conversations and queries at arrival or departure times. All visits in to the school need to be by pre-arranged agreement/appointment. Health checks will be in place at the office for all visitors.

Health

The main symptoms of Coronavirus remain the same

- **High temperature**
- **A new continuous cough**
- **Loss/Change to your sense of smell or taste**

However, our positive cases experienced none of these symptoms but had some of those below instead

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Sneezing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting – 48 hours
- Diarrhoea – 48 hours

If your child is displaying **any** of the above symptoms or is **generally unwell**, please keep them at home as a precaution and book a COVID-19 test. You must follow the guidance from the government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-and-not-send-your-child-to-school>.

If we have to take the decision to close a class/year group bubble due to a possible/confirmed COVID-19 case, we ask that you keep all siblings connected to this year group at home for the same self-isolation period.

COVID-19 Testing – Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus (COVID-19) do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil you can get a twice-weekly test:

- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online



More information about how you can collect/order home testing kits can be found here
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_source=1%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Staff will be testing twice a week and we hope that families will test twice a week as well. This will help to identify coronavirus in those without symptoms and reduce the transmission rate by reducing contact quickly.

DFE Laptops

These were loaned out to families during this lockdown and will be due back when we return on the 8th March. In order to avoid too many visitors to the office, Miss Leighton will be in the Blossom car park Monday morning to collect in the laptops (unless raining).

Assignments

Finally, after many hiccups along the way, we were able to send out username and passwords for Microsoft Teams last week. As well as the assignments set by class teachers, I am asking you to visit your child's Microsoft teams account with them to complete a back to school form. We wish to celebrate the children's lockdown achievements when they return but also to be aware of anything that may have proved a challenge during this time so we can best support transition back into the school routine. This form can be found in your child's class General Channel (please complete one for each child).

Collective Worship – Lent

In the Collective Worship channel within Teams, you will be able to access a couple of recorded whole school worships. Please watch the Lent one and look at the accompanying activity with your child. It would be great if every child could complete the "Acts of Kindness" sheet. This is due to be completed by 31st March, and you may need to think back to half term, to be able to complete all 40 Acts of Kindness squares.

Spring is on the way, mornings and evenings are lighter, the vaccine rollout is at an amazing pace and we have a road map to a journey's end, so it all feels very positive and encouraging but we are not there yet. COVID remains prevalent and within our local community. So we ask everyone to follow the national guidance and the information within this letter. We will continue to review how we operate in light of changing guidance, local transmission rates and in liaison with other schools. We thank you for your continued support and understanding in what continues to be a very different way for a primary school to function.

One final note – now is the time to get back into a bedtime routine, otherwise Monday morning might prove to be a shock for some!

Happy back to school day is **Monday 8th March 2021**. See you all at the gate!

Yours sincerely

Miss T Leighton
Head Teacher

P.S. With all pupils back on site, we will celebrate Comic Relief day on 19th March, but within our bubbles. More details to follow shortly.

