



'Care for yourself, Care for each other, Care for your school. Always do your best'

Dover Down Lower School

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Headteacher: Mrs D Brewster

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LOCKDOWN JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all safe and well.

I wanted to keep in touch with you all and say thank you to all of our families for keeping to the restrictions – we continue to be COVID safe at school. I do hope that anybody who has been affected by the virus is coping and receiving support. Please let me know if I can be of any help.

Our main focus continues to be on the emotional support for children in our care as well as providing academic teaching remotely and through home learning. The live lessons have been going well and have been well received by the children – many thanks for your support at home in helping the children to access these sessions. It is also appreciated to hear your positive feedback as well as feedback in helping us to improve these sessions. The teachers have had to learn a new way of teaching and it is a learning curve for all of us. We are excited that we are now going to use Google Classroom which will improve things further. As with all technology there will be some teething problems – but please be patient with this.

Well-Being

Please remember that you can only do your best to support your child's learning. Don't put yourself or your child under pressure and only do what feels comfortable for you and your child. Children will learn through a range of activities – not just academic – nature, reading, talking and engaging in adult conversation, experiments – with cooking and setting up simple tests – find out more about science experiments for children online. When we do eventually get school open again – all children will catch up!

If you have not yet collected your child's Home Learning Book (A Maths and English book for Year 3 and 4), these are available in the entrance area by the school office, and can be collected at any time. I know most of you have these already.

If anyone needs the home learning printed out, please inform your child's class teacher and they will organise this and you may collect it from the entrance area. If you do not have access to a Laptop or Tablet, please let us know and we will try to provide a suitable resource for your child.

Children of key workers and vulnerable children

We continue to control bubbles for children of key worker and vulnerable children in a measured way to keep the risk of spreading COVID19 or any new mutation as low as possible. We will continue to keep to year group bubbles, as this way children can access appropriate curriculum

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work and it also keeps our numbers per bubble down. We are at full capacity in some groups on some days – we thank you for re-evaluating the need to send your child in to school.

I'm sure you will join me in thanking the Teaching Assistants who are covering the key worker groups – they are doing an outstanding job and we truly appreciate that this is a challenging time for us all. The teachers are doing a sterling job with the live teaching which is delivered into the classrooms, as well as into your homes – again this is very much appreciated – we all know that each of our teachers, TAs and all staff have their own family commitments to manage as well – all staff are currently working to keep the school going!

I would also like to thank the Kitchen Staff who are preparing lunches daily, the lunchtime supervisors who are coming in religiously, the Office Staff who are working tirelessly and our Site Agent and the Cleaning Team! All of who are 100% committed to keeping Dovery open!

PE has been delivered by Mr C. from Premier Sport (who has been following strict social distancing rules). The children in school have really enjoyed these lessons and the lunch clubs:

- **Wednesday – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2**
- **Friday – Year 3 and Year 4**

If your child is at home please try to encourage them to take part in physical activity either online sessions or other forms – go out for a daily walk, go on a bike ride, play an hour of footie in the garden or park, skipping; jumping; climbing – make a circuit etc. Children should be getting at least an hour a day of physical activity to keep healthy.

If a child develops symptoms whilst at school or at home

In school: Staff will put on PPE and your child will be moved to a separate area with adult supervision and you will be asked to collect them immediately. We will not be taking temperatures at school. You will then have to get your child tested for COVID19 and if the test is positive, to self-isolate for 10 days. All pupils and staff in the same class/bubble will also need to self-isolate if it turns out to be positive. If it is negative, the class will re-open, which may take up to 3 days.

At home: If your child develops symptoms whilst at home, you must notify the school and follow the same procedures with testing. If anyone in your household develops symptoms you must notify the school, get tested if possible, and keep your child at home for 10 days or until a negative test result is received.

Keep safe and well

Warmest wishes
Mrs Brewster

Headteacher

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