



'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

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

School Re-Opening – 8th March 2021

The positive news is that all schools will be taking all children back. We certainly look forward to seeing them back at school and for them to see their friends again and start their learning all together in the classroom.

Dover Acorns will re-open as usual, but Mrs Turney will notify you of the start times and sessions for your child, based on their emotional well-being and for any new children starting.

Our Stay and Play after school club will be open from the 8th March at the normal times of 3.30pm - 5.30pm (we are allowing from 3.15pm – due to current staggered finish times). Please call the Stay and Play number: **07517 752979** to book your child in. We will still operate in class bubbles as per the School Guidelines.

I will be reviewing the School COVID19 Risk Assessment and the School Guidelines in line with latest Government Guidance, with all staff over the next few days and this will be available on the school web-site shortly. Start and finish times will be staggered as they were previously – please see the Guidelines Document for these times, which will be sent to you over the coming week.

We must continue to comply with the restrictions and keep everyone safe. In particular, we want the staff to feel safe and aim to keep the school COVID free. We are carrying out lateral flow tests and all staff have been invited to take part. I would like to say that it is truly remarkable that we have kept the school running so smoothly throughout the last year – this is down to the care, commitment and dedication of the team here at Dover Down. I am sure that you will take on board the immensity of the work they have done and the pressure they have coped with throughout this time. I do, of course realise that you as parents have had to manage home learning whilst juggling your working hours and I know how difficult and emotional this has been for many of you. From the feedback it is clear that most of the children have engaged well with the home learning and I would like to thank you for supporting them with this and for your patience. It is not an easy task and I know that many people now appreciate the job of teaching – which is truly a job of passion and vocation. I think that the pandemic has certainly made us all re-evaluate life – and has brought out the very best in human nature. Long may this continue.

Year 4

As Mrs Gill still falls into the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable category she will continue to work from home until 26th March 2021. She will continue to plan for the Year 4 class and be in regular contact with the school and our cover teacher and teaching assistants, provide live lessons remotely for Maths and English for the whole class as well as working remotely with a small group each day.

We have managed to appoint Miss Wall to teach on most days. Mrs Duncalf and Miss Waller will support the class when Miss Wall is not in school. I believe this is the best possible solution for the class.

Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 3AG

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Finally

I do hope that everyone is safe and that family and friends can support one another. We eagerly look towards seeing the end of this pandemic and starting to live without all of the restrictions – as we each receive the vaccine, although we know that COVID19 will be in our lives for a long time to come.

If, for any reason you or your child/ren are feeling anxious about starting back, we completely understand and would like to work with you to support this transition. Please contact me directly and we can discuss the situation and arrange for a gradual phased introduction back into the school routine.

Warmest wishes
Debra Brewster

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