



Dale Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8LP

Telephone: 01273 845892

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Emails: office@downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk
head@downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well. I am writing to inform you of the Covid 19 Lateral Flow Testing arrangements for pupils at Downlands week beginning Monday 1st March. I will write to you all next week with details of the return to school for all pupils.

The Government's current thinking is that all children should have 3 Lateral Flow Tests in school and students should have a "Negative" result in a test before returning to the classroom. This would be followed up by the subsequent two tests during school working hours. Once the three tests have been completed, the students are then deemed proficient enough to administer the tests themselves and they will be provided with kits to take home and test themselves twice weekly (we will forward more guidance on this nearer the time).

Please bear in mind that such testing is not compulsory, but seen as a part of effort to reduce transmission. If you wish your son/daughter to take part in the programme of testing, could you please complete and return the attached consent form as we are unable to test students without consent.

In order to try and get students back into the classroom as soon as possible, we will be starting on-site testing for students from Monday 1st March. Whilst the school will not be open to students other than those in the Critical Worker category, students will be able to undertake a pre-booked test. Details about the online booking system follow:

Our online appointment booking system allows you to choose your own appointment times and book into a specific testing zone. You will receive an email confirming your appointment.

Appointments are available on a first come, first served, basis. You will only be able to book one appointment on either of the five available days. If you find that you have been unable to make an appointment, please email gbarnard@downlands.org who will endeavour to find an alternative for you.

THERE IS NO NEED TO BOOK A TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN ATTENDING SCHOOL AS PART OF THE "Critical Worker" PROGRAMME.

- The booking system will be open from 26th February, 6pm, until 4th March, 8pm, when the booking system will then close. Please do not attempt to make a booking on the day of the test.
- Please visit <https://downlands.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/> to book your appointments. This will take you to the parents evening booking system. Login with the following information:

Your name:

Your email:

Student's First Name: Preferred Forename

Student's Surname: Preferred Surname

Student's Date of Birth: XX/XX/XXXX (e.g. 26/11/2005)

- It will then take you to the test booking page.
- Should any last minute changes be required to your booking please contact Nicole Godwin on ngodwin@downlands.org





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If you do not have access to the internet, or do not have a device compatible with the booking system (as listed in the Help and Support link above) please contact us for assistance on 01273 845892.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN ATTENDING SCHOOL AS PART OF THE “Critical Worker” PROGRAMME, PLEASE DO NOT BOOK A TEST. IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN CONSENT, YOUR CHILD WILL, MOST LIKELY, ALREADY HAVE HAD A TEST

If you book your child in for a test between the 1st and 5th March, please bear in mind that there are no on-site parking facilities so please wait and collect your child “off-site”. Please ensure that students arrive 5 minutes before their due appointment. Lateness will have a knock on effect to all other appointments, but also please do not send them in more than 5 minutes before the allocated slot. Students should wear a facemask and will be asked to queue, socially distanced, on the playground. We are hoping that the process will be completed within 10 minutes and students should then leave the site immediately. As this will be such a short stay on-site, students will not be expected to wear school uniform.

If you wish your child to have a Lateral Flow Test, can I strongly urge that you complete the consent form on Edulink as soon as possible (details below) and book an appointment slot for a test next week. Should you give consent and not book a test appointment, we would then need to conduct a test before your child goes into class week beginning Monday 8th March.

The Consent Form can be found under ‘Surveys’ on Edulink. The Consent Forms are vital part of the process so we ask that you complete them as soon as possible.

- Click on ‘Surveys’
- Click on ‘Consent Form – Lateral Flow Testing’
- Scroll down to complete the form

We are unable to test students without parental consent. Therefore, it is vital that you complete the Consent form if you wish your child to receive a Lateral Flow Test. Please email gwickens@downlands.org if you **do not** give your Consent.

Success in this process should mean that we can welcome your son/daughter back into the classroom on 8th March, something we are very much looking forward to. Please bear in mind that should you wish for your child not to take part in this process, they will be welcomed back at the same time as their peers and testing is not a legal requirement for attendance.

Yours faithfully

Mark Wignall
Headteacher





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