



Be the best you can be, every day

Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The scale of the Covid 19 challenge for schools has been unlike anything we have ever experienced before. Our school leaders and staff have had to adjust to dramatically different ways of working, and like all of us, have had to balance their work and home lives in new and challenging ways.

As governors, we would like to pay tribute to and thank the Headteacher, the Leadership Team and all the staff at North Downs for their tremendous commitment, professionalism and hard work in these most difficult circumstances. They have been working tirelessly to provide comprehensive, appropriate and engaging home learning materials, in addition to teaching a number of pupils in school throughout the lockdown period.

We would also like to highlight some of the challenges the school has faced in opening up to certain year groups, whilst continuing to provide full time provision for an ever-increasing number of key worker children. This is very intensive in terms of staff hours, and it has taken enormous commitment from all in order to fulfil these obligations.

We would all like children to be back in education as soon as it is safe, but schools and governors need to operate within government guidelines and follow our own risk assessments of what is practical and possible whilst managing restricted staffing and classroom space. Therefore, as I am sure you are aware, the arrangements have been extremely complex, and the provision offered by different primary schools has varied according to the particular features of each school.

Governors and leaders recognise how important it is for the children to have some sense of closure to the school year and support with transition to their next year group. We are therefore thinking creatively to find a way that we can safely offer a transition activity to all pupils before the end of term.

The staff have really appreciated your understanding during this period, and we urge your continued understanding and patience as we move forward.

Thank you for your ongoing support for the school, and for expressing any concerns you may have in a respectful manner.

We hope that you and your families stay safe.

The Governors of North Downs Primary School

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