



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

*Headteacher: Ms T Leighton
Deputy Headteacher: Ms N Luxford
SENCO: Mrs S Mitchell
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

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

27th May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you are all well, safe and enjoying this wonderful Half Term weather!

Update on what is happening at Northbourne

As we prepare for the phased reopening of Northbourne from 1st June I thought I would share with you all the preparations and steps that have been taken over the past few weeks.

Parents of children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 have had regular communications from myself, outlining our plan for their particular year groups. I appreciate that other parents may not be aware of all that is going on at Northbourne, therefore please read on for a summary of where we are currently at in this very confusing and challenging time.

Phased reopening from 1st June

On Sunday 17th May the prime minister announced that primary schools would be asked to re-open for EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June at the earliest. Starting on Monday 18th May we began to receive guidance from the government outlining the many health and safety, logistical and operational challenges that would need to be considered to begin a wider re-opening of the school site.

"Bubbles"

We will be operating small class sizes, no larger than 15 pupils, which the government have referred to as "bubbles". Each bubble will have their own classroom with a teacher and a TA. We have managed to make sure that the 3 returning year groups will have their own class teacher, however, should the government choose to bring further year groups back over the coming weeks we will have to use our remaining teachers and TAs to take different bubble groups. At that point we will not be able to guarantee that children will have their own class teacher or TA.



What has changed around school?

In order to meet the guidelines for a phased reopening we have had to make some significant changes around the school site. The classrooms are now set up with spaced out desks, the corridors and paths around school have 2 meter markings for the adults and children to follow, the outdoor play equipment has been roped off, the school field has been marked out into different "zones" to provide each bubble with their own space to play, many of the resources have been put into storage in order to make the daily cleaning and disinfecting of the site more manageable. This is particularly noticeable in Miss Bradley's EYFS classroom. You can see some of the changes in the photographs below.



EYFS, Willow Class – Miss Bradley



Yr 1, Beech Class – Miss Roberts



Yr 6, Oak Class – Mrs Tutton



Examples of 2m markings around the site



Outdoor play area out of use

Will there be a wider re-opening in the coming weeks?

We do not currently know what next steps the government may suggest. At this time there are no concrete plans for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 to return. Whilst they are asking Northbourne to open for pupils in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6, this is not statutory, it is entirely the decision of individual families. As soon as the government make their next announcement regarding any further year groups returning to school, we will be in touch with you all.

Many thanks

Mr M Reynolds

