

# The Downs Primary School and Nursery

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## The Downs School News – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure you have all been watching the news and have your own views on the government's decision to ask schools to take more children in, starting with Year 6, Year 1 Reception and Nursery. Below is a link to government advice for you to read.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Also attached with this newsletter is a letter to parents sent on behalf of Clare Kershaw, Director of Education for Essex County Council.

We want you to know that we are following guidance and the advice available and therefore making plans accordingly. We also understand that many of you will be very anxious about the next steps, as are our staff. At this point in time we are making plans so that our staff and your children can still social distance. As you can imagine, there is no way we can accommodate the classes returning in the same way they were before this pandemic.

We have therefore taken the decision that should we be asked to open the school to more children from 1<sup>st</sup> June, it is likely to be a part time provision that we provide. If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 you would have received an online parent survey detailing some additional information about this. You will then have the time to make your own decision about your child attending school from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please keep in mind this is your decision and you may change your mind as further information becomes available. We will also still be aiming to provide work in the same way we have been for children in these year groups whose parents decide to keep them at home and not send them to school.

Children who are in year groups who are not returning (years 2, 3, 4 and 5) will continue to have work set for them each week in the same way they have been and will be emailed daily by their class teacher.

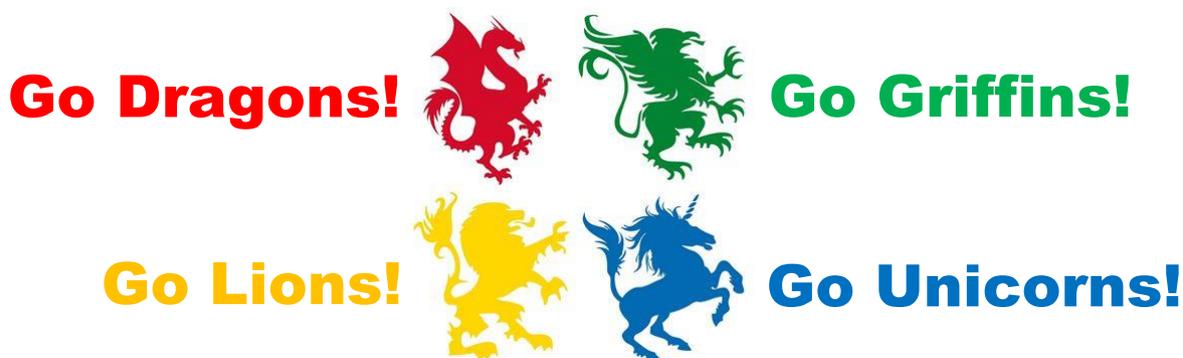
In addition, the supervision that we have provided throughout this time for the children of key workers will continue, on a full day basis, from 9.00am to 3.00pm.

Just to reiterate, these are challenging times for all of us and we will do our best to plan accordingly and update you as soon as we know more. Guidance changes on a daily basis and 1<sup>st</sup> June is still a long way off.

These continue to be difficult times for everyone. If you feel you are struggling and would like some support or advice, parents can go to West Essex Mind for mental health support, including the Zoom Online Support Groups and the free online Intro to Anxiety course - <https://www.mindinwestessex.org.uk/news/coivd19-support/>  
<https://www.mindinwestessex.org.uk/news/free-covid-anxiety-course/>

On a lighter note: just a reminder that we are asking for children to send in their portraits – we have made a power-point showcasing some of the ones we have had so far. We could not fit them all on, so this is Part 1 and Part 2 will follow when we get even more portraits – we want to see everyone! This is now on our website news - [www.downsschool.com](http://www.downsschool.com)

House leaders are in a fierce competition for their teams to win their video competition – remember to send in pictures of anything in your house colour. Who will win?



House Leaders will also be growing their own sunflower from seed, so the children can see them grow. They will send photos through Twitter @TheDownsPrimary



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank The Downs staff who have continued to work either in school or at home during this difficult time. National Thank a Teacher Day is being held on 20<sup>th</sup> May (it does include all school staff) – more information can be found at <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/>

As always, stay safe and well.

Kind regards



Ms Jeanette Allen  
Headteacher

*Please note that you use all websites and content at your own risk. Resources made available through the lists are subject to third party terms and conditions and copyright law. Access to resources is in most cases free of charge, but it is your responsibility to check whether you have to pay to view and/or copy specific content contained within the resources.*

*It is your responsibility to monitor your child's use of any of these websites and their suitability for your child.*