

To: Parents and Carers

Date: 16 July 2020

e-mail: educationandskills@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a school year like no other. We are immensely grateful to the dedication and effort of all the city's schools in putting in place alternative arrangements since lockdown started in March and for all the work they have and continue to do in order to open safely for all children in September.

This is not how school years are supposed to end and we share the sadness at the loss of treasured memories of ending school years, saying goodbye to friends and moving up or moving on to new schools. We look forward to better times.

Thank you for all you have done to support your child's wellbeing and learning and your school during this global pandemic. We don't underestimate the task this has been and the pressure this will have caused for many families.

September – back to school

As we reach the end of term, we're sharing some key points to help you and your child prepare for the return to school in September.

- The government has stated all children must attend school from September and regular attendance will help your child reengage with learning and the school environment.
- A reminder that pupils of compulsory school age must be in school unless the reason for an absence has been agreed
- Every school is putting measures in place to make buildings Covid 19 secure
- Schools will be sharing plans for September directly with parents and this will vary from school to school
- Staff will be focussed on pupil wellbeing and learning
- A very small number of children will need to stay at home to be safe (for example, those continuing to 'shield' under medical advice or ill with non-Covid 19 conditions). These will be exceptional circumstances and schools will work with families when this is the case
- If you have any concerns about your child returning to school in September, please discuss these with your school directly

Here is some further advice:

Transport in September – a national issue and more guidance is expected in the coming weeks

- Find active ways of getting to and from the school gates such as walking, scooting or cycling.
- If you have to drive your children to school, please park a few minutes away from the school to help make the area around the school gates safer for everyone
- If your child travels by bus please remind them
 - Face coverings should be worn if they are 11 or over (exceptions apply)
 - To stay with pupils they normally spend time with in class and minimise social contact with others

Summer wellbeing support

- Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Service (BHISS) offer email advice for families. If you are concerned about your child's development and emotional wellbeing, please email BHISS@Brighton-hove.gov.uk
- You can contact a duty Educational Psychologist on 01273 293481
- The Schools Wellbeing Service runs consultation line for parent or carers concerned about emotional wellbeing and mental health issues. Email SWSConsultationLine@brighton-hove.gov.uk to speak to a mental health worker

Please visit this page to see summer activities for young people aged 11 to 19 years, and up to 25 years old if they have special educational needs: <https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/brighton-hove-youth-providers-summer-activity-programme-2020>

Year 11 and Year 13

Support is available for those moving on from secondary school or college from the Youth Employability Services

- Tel :01273 294247
- Email : youthemployabilityservice@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- www.facebook.com/yesbrightonhove

We will be living alongside Covid-19 until a vaccine is found. We're asking for your help to keep everyone safe during this pandemic. We know most pupils follow the government pandemic guidelines and we'd like you help in encouraging them to continue to do so. This is to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Deb Austin,
Interim Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning