



Hove Park School
"Together We Achieve"

Nevill Campus: Nevill Rd, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7BN
Tel: +44 (0)1273 295000/1 Fax: +44 (0)1273 295009

Valley Campus: Hangleton Way, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8AA
Tel: +44 (0)1273 295002/3 Fax: +44 (0)1273 294994

Email: office@hovepark.org.uk

Mr Jim Roberts- Headteacher

25th August 2020

Dear Parent / carer,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students on September 7th and welcoming you to our school community. I hope that the online transition events have given you and your child a sense of our school and all of the opportunities they will have here at Hove Park. Here is a reminder of the link if you would like another look: <https://www.hovepark.org.uk/year-6-transition>

Since partial school closure in March, we have been careful to follow all government guidelines in taking measures to keep all members of our school community safe. Mr Roberts wrote to you in July (letter attached) and outlined the steps we are taking to make the school environment ready for full opening in September. I wanted to take this opportunity to further highlight some learning priorities.

You will know that at Hove Park School all of our teachers and students use an iPad as a tool for learning. Whilst this proved invaluable for our students learning from home, I wrote to you to explain that we would delay the beginning of the scheme for our new Year 7's. I am very keen to get your child started with the iPad but equally want them to have the chance to settle into school and get used to having a full timetable again. Therefore, I will be sending out information about the iPad scheme during the first half-term and we will look to get started with iPad learning around November. Because we are not able to meet you in large groups I will be sending out an information video so that you can see how the iPad is actually used in lessons and will then send out details of how to order and finance.

Before the Summer holidays myself and our site manager walked through every classroom and have planned a safe layout for each room. Classrooms have been 'zoned' for year groups – students in the same year group will move between classrooms but the rooms they use are only used by their year group bubble. All classrooms will be well ventilated and have hand sanitiser for use on entry and exit. We will also be encouraging students to wash their hands regularly.

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Please ensure that your child's school bag is big enough to carry exercise books to and from school. Teachers will not be collecting books in, however, there will be a 'book table' in the corner of each room. Students will be able to place their book on the table, return to their seat so that the teacher can check their work. When students have their iPad they will be able to share work with their teacher and it will be 'live marked'. We will teach your child how this works when the scheme starts.

Homework is a crucial part of learning at Hove Park School. Your child will be issued with a homework planner where they will record all homework set, you will need to check this and sign each week to confirm. Homework will also be set on Firefly.

Firefly is our online tool where we set and hand-in homework. Our IT manager, Paul Stevens has written to you explaining how to access Firefly. When your child begins to use the iPad most work and other information will go through Firefly.

Homework will be set in one of three formats; learning something ready for the next lesson, quizzes or exam questions or an extended writing piece. Please help your child to get into good homework habits from the very beginning of term; if possible provide a quiet space, encourage and show your interest in what they are doing. If your child is having any difficulties with homework please let us know as early as possible so that we can support them and help to manage any anxieties. Homework is submitted through Firefly and marked online so that you and your child can see the progress they have made.

I would also ask that you support your child by encouraging them to regularly check their equipment. Because of Covid measures we are unable to lend out equipment in lessons. This is a good opportunity to build independence for our students and for them to learn to take responsibility for a key aspect of their learning. If you are having difficulty providing any of the equipment needed, please do contact your child's year office and we will ensure that we support you.

Your child's timetable will be uploaded to Firefly on the 1st September. This will help you to ensure that they have the correct books and equipment in their schoolbag each day. The timings of the day are different for each year group (so maybe different to those with a sibling in another year group) in order to comply with distancing guidelines, this will take some getting used to and I would encourage students to check these times carefully.

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The Department for Education last week launched their #backtoschoolsafely campaign and have published information available through this weblink which may be of interest to you: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

On behalf of all the staff at Hove Park School, we are very excited to be welcoming back all of our students and working together to make this school year a fantastic year.

Below are some contacts if you have any questions.

Year 7 team	esatterly@hovepark.org.uk ebayliss@hovepark.org.uk
IT Support / Firefly issues	ITsupport@hovepark.org.uk
Attendance concerns	attendance@hovepark.org.uk

Your Sincerely,

Mrs Michelle Prentice – Senior Deputy Headteacher

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