



# Discovery Special Academy

## Newsletter summer 2020

### Hello

We want to thank you all for your continued support during our partial closure. We know this has been a difficult time for everyone, but it has been a time of real community spirit here at Discovery. Children, families and staff have worked together to make sure we all stay safe and continue to learn both in the academy and at home.

We hope you have all been keeping up to date with the website and have been using the activities posted each week, as well as watching the stories and brushing up on your Makaton skills. It has been lovely for staff to hear the positive feedback from many of you about their hard work.

**We are very pleased to announce that the government has now decided that all primary children should return to school in September.** We can't wait to welcome all children back to the academy and begin our third year of opening.

Following the guidance released last week, we want to share with you the measures we are putting into place to ensure all children and staff are able to return.

- Grouping the children in to 'bubbles'. These bubbles will each have their own playtimes, outdoor areas and toilets
- Limiting the number of children eating together at lunchtime
- Increased hand hygiene for everyone attending or visiting the academy
- Practicing social distancing amongst staff
- Increased cleaning for frequently touched surfaces and more deep cleans
- Everyone will be encouraged to follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Reducing the number of visitors on site to only those who are essential to the children's education and therapeutic entitlement
- Ensuring that pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms stay at home and go for testing
- Increased signage around the academy reminding the community of government guidelines
- All parents who bring/collect their children to/from the academy will need to continue to access through the Lilac Grove entrance
- Children and staff must not attend the academy if they themselves have symptoms, or have had contact with individuals who are unwell with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does.

### **Parents and Visitors**

In order to maintain social distance and keep everyone as safe as possible, we are not able to invite parents into the academy during the first half term unless this is for an appointment that can only be held face to face.

We are committed to supporting you and your families, but ask that communication is via phone or email where possible. Staff will continue to use the home academy communication books and keep in regular contact. If you would like to speak to a member of staff, please contact the academy and a member of the leadership team, class teachers and support staff will contact you as soon as possible when they are not teaching.

Should you have any questions, about any of the information in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the academy as we are happy to clarify any points with you.

**We thank you for your continued support and look forward welcoming you all back on Wednesday 2nd September**

## Keeping In Touch

In order to protect our community, the safety of your child remains our highest priority and all safeguarding policy and protocol remains in place. Existing collection procedures and passwords will be used. Please inform us of any change to these, or any change to your contact details.

Keeping in touch with you has always been important to us, and is even more so during this time. Here are the details of how we can keep in touch with each other:

- **Website:**  
<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/>
- **Email:**  
[enquiries@discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk)
- **Telephone:**  
01642 248333
- **Follow us on facebook:**  
Discovery Special Academy
- **Marvellous Me:**  
95% of you use this app. We use this to send messages and updates.
- **Evidence for Learning**  
This is a great way to share learning between home and the academy. If you are not already signed up, please contact us for more details.
- **Text Message:**  
Please ensure we have your current mobile number so you can receive any messages we send from the academy.

We try to use all of these platforms to reach you with information. If you are unsure how to access any of the platforms, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## Website



Staff have worked incredibly hard to keep the website up to date with new stories, songs and activities for you to share at home with your children. We will continue to develop the website in the autumn term and after the success of our additional curriculum pages, will be looking to add more of these. The class pages will be updated ready for the autumn term with new planning and curriculum outlines. We will let you know as soon as they are ready.

We will also be developing a page showcasing the new build progress and are very excited about being able to share pictures and drawings with you.

<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/>

## Continued learning

The children and staff have been very busy at the academy and at home continuing their learning



## Attendance

From September, the government have said that attendance is compulsory. As always, we will continue to work closely with all children and families to ensure attendance is high.

Good attendance is important because:

- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and poor attendance.
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically and find academy routines, work and friendships easier to cope with.
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, higher education, employment or training.

The impact absence has on attendance

%	Time off	Learning lost over a year	Learning lost over a school career
100%	None	None	None
95%	Half a day each fortnight	2 weeks	10 weeks
90%	1 day each fortnight	1 month	Over half a year
85%	1 day and a half each fortnight	Nearly half a term	Nearly 1 full year
80%	1 day a week	Over half a term	1 whole school year

**Our attendance target for 2020-2021 is 94%**

### School Meals

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, there is an increase in the cost of a school meal. A meal will now cost £2.05 per day, totalling £10.25 per week. Dinner money envelopes will be made available in the new term and we would ask that you put this in your child's book bag to bring in to the academy. We would also ask, where possible, you send in the correct money.

### Uniform



Purple sweatshirt or cardigan

White or purple polo shirt



Black sensible shoes



Grey/black skirts, pinafores or trousers



Purple and white gingham dress for the summer

### What I can wear for PE:

Pair of shorts or jogging bottoms

T-shirt

Black plimsolls or trainers



Uniform available from: [www.lollipops-middlesbrough.co.uk/school-uniform/school-uniform-lists/discovery-special-academy](http://www.lollipops-middlesbrough.co.uk/school-uniform/school-uniform-lists/discovery-special-academy)

### **Discovery developments**

We are pleased to announce that Interserve have been chosen as the construction company to build our new academy in Acklam. All staff have been involved in developing the plans for the internal layout of the academy and we have agreed and approved these ready for planning. We will be able to share these plans on the website very soon. Having found out late yesterday that a leaflet and letter have been circulated to the residents of Acklam, we have enclosed these with the newsletter and will be posting these on the website too. We have asked Interserve and the DfE to inform us whenever they send out communications to the local community so we can share these with you at the same time in future. We will also let you know when full plans have been submitted so you can look at these on the council portal.

Here is a taster of what the outside of the academy might look like!



### **Discovery diamond**

We would like to offer congratulations to all of our Discovery Diamonds this year but need to say a particular congratulations to one member of our Discovery team who won the overall trust staff diamond standard award.



Kelly-Ann has always supported our children and families with real care and dedication and this has continued throughout Covid 19. She shows a real understanding of our children's needs and knows just the right thing to say or do to provide support at just the right time, which has been so important for our children during some challenging times. Kelly-Ann is also a well-loved member of the Discovery staff team and her colleagues know they can always turn to her for support and care. Kelly-Ann has her own child with significant additional needs and a very busy life, but she has remained committed to Discovery and taken on extra hours to support us. Her daughter is due to have a major operation and Kelly-Ann is so dedicated and cares so much about her work that she has insisted on working until the day before her family have to shield. Kelly-Ann is the embodiment of care, courage, commitment and curiosity. We are very fortunate to have her on our team.

### **Staffing**

- This term, we say goodbye to Dan Burns who has worked with our Year 3 and 4 children this year. He is going to pursue his teacher training and we wish him all the best.
- Sheila McInnes will work across both Discovery and Pennyman Primary Academy next academic year. Sheila will continue to lead and coordinate our Parent and Child After School Club. And we look forward to being able to invite you back into the academy for this as soon as we are able.

### **Staffing for September 2020**

Headteacher	Miss Jennifer Duncan
Deputy headteacher	Mrs Annmarie Titchener
Business manager	Mrs Carole Tonner
Level 3 Administrator	Mr Lee Sinton
Apprentice Administrator	Miss Mae Thomas
Safeguarding, SEND and Inclusion Manager	Mr Andrew Wilkinson

#### **Teaching staff**

Reception teacher	Mrs Rebecca Hill
Reception Teacher	Mrs Tracy Hanger
Y1/2 teacher	Miss Hanna Kirk
Y1/2 teacher	Mrs Zahida Khan
Y1/2 teacher	Mr Chris Shields
Y2/3 teacher	Mrs Leanne Colebrook
Y3 teacher	Mrs Grace Brock
Y3/4 teacher	Mrs Michelle Armour

#### **Level 3 teaching assistants**

Miss Michelle South  
Mrs Nicola Noel  
Mrs Terri Lodge  
Miss Kelly-Ann Jones  
Miss Mollie MacSween  
Mrs Sian Lamb  
Mrs Kendra Hawkins  
Miss Amita France  
Miss Sarah Gibson

#### **Level 2 teaching assistants**

Miss Emma Hanlon  
Mrs Charlotte Etherington  
Miss Chloe Richardson  
Mr Anthony Sedgeman  
Miss Shauna Kent  
Miss Chloe Coe

#### **Care assistants**

Ms Julie Innerd  
Mrs Tanya Quinn  
Miss Tyler Sharp  
Mrs Joanne Breeze

#### **Lunchtime supervisors**

Mrs Kelly Nimmo  
Miss Kellie Richardson

#### **Site supervisor**

Mr Keith Harris

**Have a fabulous summer, we look forward to seeing you all in the autumn term**