



Discovery Special Academy Autumn 1 Newsletter

Welcome Back

Hello everyone. It has been amazing to welcome children back to the academy this term. The last two weeks have been incredible and the children have settled back into their routines extremely well. This is down to your hard work using the home learning resources on the website so children didn't forget about Discovery as well as the commitment of the staff ensuring everything was ready to welcome the children back.

Below is a reminder of the measures we have put 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
- 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 arriving at the academy

Please can we ask all parents dropping off or collecting children at the beginning and end of the academy day to use Lilac Grove.

If you are late due to an appointment or are collecting your child during the day, we now have our own doorbell. Please follow the signs from the Brambles pedestrian gate round to the edge of car park and ring the bell at the Discovery pedestrian gate. A member of the office staff will come out to meet you as quickly as they can.



Should I keep my child off?

Only children with one of the three main symptoms of coronavirus need to be kept off and tested for COVID.

1. A high temperature—this means you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back (you do not need to routinely take your child's temperature)
2. A new continuous cough—this means coughing a lot for an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
3. A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste—this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things may smell or taste different to normal

If your child has a mild cold, runny nose or is sneezing, for example, **they can come to school as normal and do not need to stay at home.**

We have published the government **Back to School** leaflet on our website. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find it

<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/parents/coronavirus-update/>

You must follow Public Health England Guidance to support your decision making, staff at Discovery are not able to make this decision for you. However, we can remind you what the guidelines are and talk you through your options. Please contact us at any time if you have any questions.

Attendance

While we understand there will be times this year when your child may need to be absent due to coronavirus symptoms, a positive test or a closure of their bubble in the academy, we will continue to work closely with all children and families to ensure attendance is as high as it can be.

Good attendance is important because:

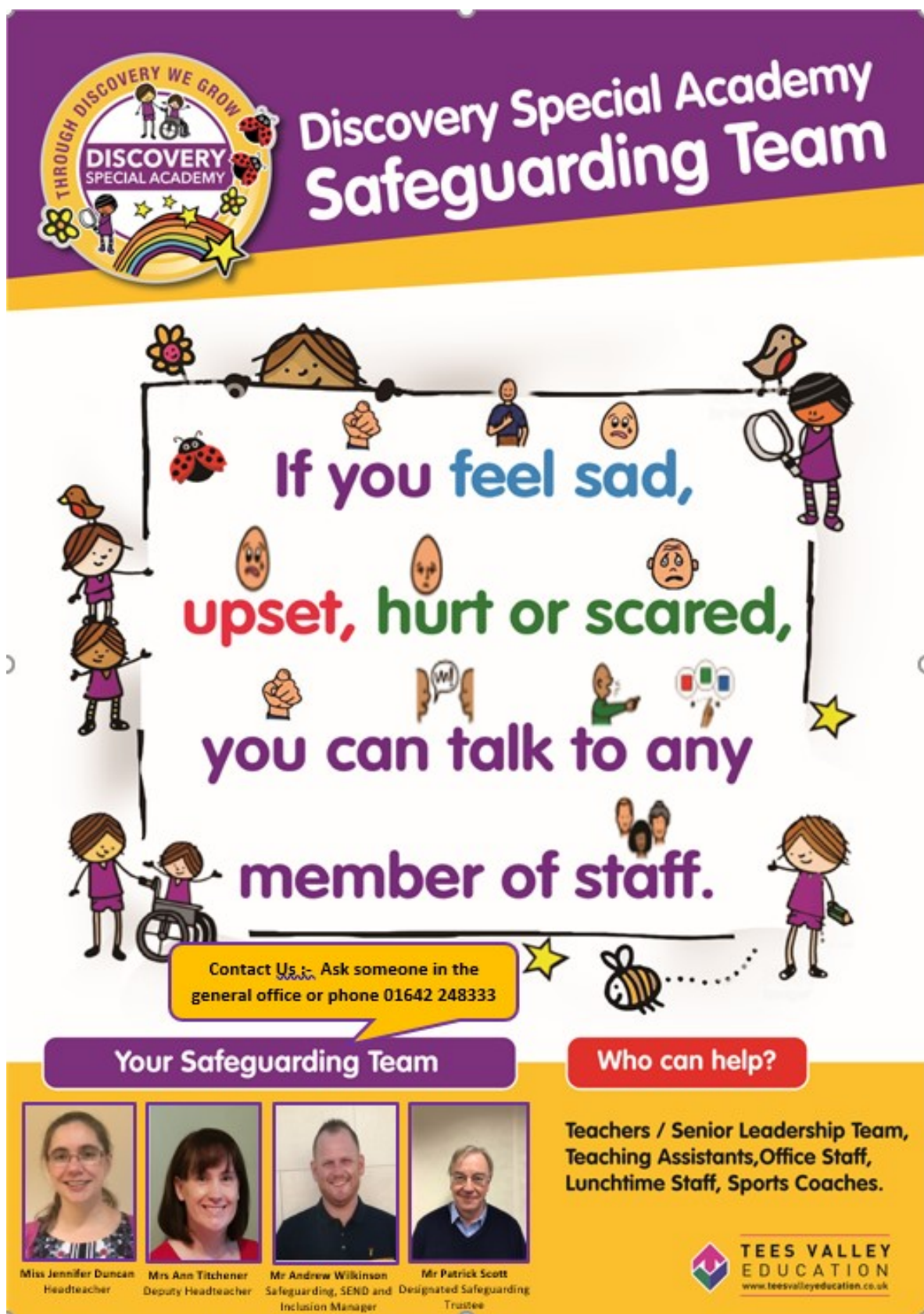
- Statistics show a direct link between under-achievement and poor attendance.
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically and find academy routines, work and friendships easier to cope with.

%	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

School Meals

A reminder that there has been an increase in the cost of a school meal. A meal now costs £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.

Safeguarding Team



The poster features a purple header with the Discovery Special Academy logo on the left, which includes a circular emblem with the text 'THROUGH DISCOVERY WE GROW' and 'DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY' around illustrations of children and a rainbow. To the right of the logo, the text 'Discovery Special Academy Safeguarding Team' is written in large, white, bold letters. Below the header, a large white rectangular area contains the text 'If you feel sad, upset, hurt or scared, you can talk to any member of staff.' in various colors. This text is surrounded by numerous small, colorful illustrations of children, adults, and various objects like a ladybug, a bird, a house, and a bee. At the bottom of the white area, a yellow speech bubble contains the text 'Contact Us :- Ask someone in the general office or phone 01642 248333'. Below the white area, there are two colored boxes: a purple one on the left titled 'Your Safeguarding Team' and a red one on the right titled 'Who can help?'. The purple box contains four small portrait photos of staff members with their names and roles listed below them. The red box contains text listing the roles of staff who can help. At the bottom right, the Tees Valley Education logo and website address are displayed.

Discovery Special Academy Safeguarding Team

If you feel sad,
upset, hurt or scared,
you can talk to any
member of staff.

Contact Us :- Ask someone in the
general office or phone 01642 248333

Your Safeguarding Team

Who can help?

Teachers / Senior Leadership Team,
Teaching Assistants, Office Staff,
Lunchtime Staff, Sports Coaches.

**TEES VALLEY
EDUCATION**
www.teesvalleyeducation.co.uk

Miss Jennifer Duncan
Headteacher

Mrs Ann Titchener
Deputy Headteacher

Mr Andrew Wilkinson
Safeguarding, SEND and
Inclusion Manager

Mr Patrick Scott
Designated Safeguarding
Trustee

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the academy office on 01642 248333 and ask to speak to a member of the team.

We are delighted to welcome Andrew Wilkinson to the Safeguarding Team. He can be contacted between 8:00am and 4:30pm to offer help, advice and support on a range of safeguarding, attendance and welfare issues.

Happy boxes

This year, we are developing the work we do with the children on understanding their feelings and those of others as well as how to manage their feelings.

To begin this, all children are making a happy box. Children across the academy have decorated boxes and are putting objects, books, toys and pictures (including photographs) in them that make them feel happy.

If you would like to send items for the box into school, we can add them to the children's happy boxes.



Physical health

Discovery has always valued physical health and has offered a variety of physical and sporting activities. This year, we want to offer even more. We hope to start a 'Daily Mile' (or perhaps a half mile) with some of the children and are looking at ways of increasing the children's physical activity. We will be asking the children what physical activity they do at home, such as going for walks, playing in the park and riding their bikes.

Please talk to your children about the activities they do and see if you can think about increasing their physical activity each week. Physical health supports children's growth and emotional wellbeing. It also allows them to develop confidence in themselves and grows a 'can do' attitude.



Food

We know that a lot of our children have a limited diet. We work hard to support the children to try new, healthy foods each and every day. Each morning, the children are offered fruit and at lunchtimes, we encourage children to try new foods. This means we will put a choice of vegetables or new foods on their plates, or in a separate bowl near the child, even if they don't actually eat it. By doing this, children will become more adventurous in their food choices. We encourage children to drink milk or water and we find that all the children will drink these options. No other drink options are offered during the academy day unless they are part of their packed lunch.



Please note, the academy is a nut and coconut free site. This includes all classrooms, offices and staff areas.

Look at how hard we are working already

The children are already working incredibly hard and have shown us all how much they can remember from last year and from their home learning. We are incredibly proud of them all. Here is a snapshot of what they have been doing so far.

