

Dear parent/carer,

The government have recently confirmed that schools will close as normal during February half term. Office staff will be available to take calls about incidents of confirmed positive COVID19 cases **on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th February** from 9:00am until 2:30pm.

- You only need to inform the academy of a positive case where symptoms occur within 48 hours of the confirmed case being on the academy site (Saturday 13th February and Sunday 14th February).
- In these cases, senior leaders will contact close cases and advise them to self-isolate.
- Where a staff member or pupil develops symptoms more than 48 hours after being on the academy site, the academy does not need to be contacted (e.g. symptoms start on Monday 15th February).

Please remember, if your child is unwell and has any potential symptoms of COVID, or has been with someone who has tested positive, please keep them off school until they have been tested or completed isolation.

The government have also confirmed that families are still able to apply for the winter hardship fund through the local authority over half term. If you got a text message voucher to help over the Christmas break, and you're still eligible (based on the local authority records), you do not need to apply again. The voucher will be sent automatically.

If you have dependent children who live with you, and you did not get a payment over the Christmas period, and you think you may be entitled, you should complete an application form (link below). There are two different Covid Winter Grants available, depending on whether you're getting Council Tax Reduction or not. Please make sure you apply for the right one.

<https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/community-support-and-safety/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-winter-grant-application>

If your child is not going to be attending or there is any important information you think we need to know about your child such as appointments and medical issues, please can we ask that you ring the academy on 01642 248333 and speak to a member of the office team, their class teacher, or the pastoral team.

Please don't pass messages through bus escorts as sometimes we don't get the message, or we get the wrong message.

There are lots of resources and some amazing galleries to view on our academy website.

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

Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this time



Jennifer Duncan, headteacher

