



Discovery Special Academy Newsletter spring 2 2021

Full return 8th March

We are very pleased to announce that the government has now decided that all primary children should return to school on Monday March 8th .

We can't wait to welcome all children back to the academy on this day.

Following the updated guidance released to support the return, 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 still not able to invite parents into the academy unless this is for an appointment that can only be held face to face. 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.

Please can we remind you to contact the academy directly if your child is not going to be attending. Similarly, if 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.**

**We thank you for your continued support and look forward welcoming you all
back on Monday 8th March**

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
- **Telephone:**
01642 248333
- **Follow us on facebook:**
Discovery Special Academy
- **Marvellous Me:**
85% of you use this app. We use this to send messages and updates.
- **Showbie**
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 summer term with new planning and curriculum outlines. We will let you know as soon as they are ready.

Keep checking the Discovery New Build page too where we will be sharing pictures and progress of the building work.

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

Continued learning

The children and staff have been very busy continuing their learning



Attendance

From March 8th 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%

Uniform

Why not invest in a fabulous Discovery jacket? (contact Lollipops for details)



Uniform available from Lollipops:

Address: 20, Norfolk Place, Berwick Hills, Middlesbrough TS3 7PA

Phone: 01642 225827

www.lollipops-middlesbrough.co.uk/school-uniform/school-uniform-lists/discovery-special-academy

Discovery developments

The construction company have now moved onto the site and have started early ground clearance. It doesn't look like much, but it is exciting to know that work has begun! I don't think much more will happen until later in the summer but we will keep you updated.

