



Discovery Special Academy Newsletter Autumn 1A 2021

Welcome back

It has been lovely to see the return of children to the academy this September.

Following the new guidance, we have been able to come back without the bubble system but we are still making sure we keep everyone safe by:

- Washing and cleaning hands regularly
- Keeping windows open
- Additional cleaning every day

Discovery Special Academy Website

We understand that there has been some confusion when searching for our website. If you search for **DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY** our site should be the first one to appear. Make sure you can see our logo on the website landing page, otherwise, you are on the wrong site. We will be adding new galleries and information in the next few weeks.



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 continue to use Lilac Grove.

If you are late due to an appointment or are collecting your child during the day, we 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 (please be patient as they may be unavoidably busy with another task, they will come to the gate as quickly as possible).



COVID Update from the Government

From this term, all close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

Individuals are not required to isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- they have taken part in, or are currently part of, an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Close contacts will be advised to go for a PCR test, they do not need to isolate while awaiting the results.

Over 18-year olds not vaccinated must isolate for 10 days and are advised to book a PCR test.

Lateral Flow Device Test (LFD)

A positive LFD test will result in isolation and will need to be followed up with a PCR test. This must be taken within two days of a positive LFD test and the individual must continue to isolate until the PCR result.

A negative PCR overrides the LFD test. The individual can return to the academy, as long as they don't have COVID symptoms.

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

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.

Safeguarding Team



Your Safeguarding Team



Who can help?

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



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 Sian Lamb to the Safeguarding Team. Sian will be supporting pupils and families. If you would like to contact Sian, please ring the office and they will ask her to ring you back as soon as she can as she may be in class working with children.

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 illness, 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.
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, higher education, employment or training.

Impact of non-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

Please make sure you contact the academy if your child will not be attending for any reason or has an appointment. We ask that you don't send messages about absences through the bus escorts as these messages don't always reach us accurately. If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please contact Andrew Wilkinson or Sian Lamb to discuss these. If they are not available at the time you call, leave a message with the office and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

School Meals

A reminder about the costs of school meals for children in year 3 to year 6. 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.