

Discovery Multi Academy Trust
Beechwood Primary Academy,
Rockfield Avenue, Southway, Plymouth
PL6 6DX

T: 01752 706361
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Chief Executive Officer: Mrs Alison Nettleship
Chair of the Board: Mrs Julia Guy



15th July 2020

Dear parents and carers

As we near the end of term we would like to give you some more information regarding the readmission of all pupils to school from September. I know that you will have mixed emotions about your child starting or returning to school, if they have not been in, and hope that the following information answers many of your questions.

We have worked with the Local Authority and other Trusts in ensuring that our risk assessments and working practices are as safe as possible for our whole school community and look for your support in working with us to make the changes as easy as possible for our children. We have successfully supported over 55% of our children over the last four months in school, and I would like to thank you for your hard work and effort in supporting the home learning that has been provided for all of our children.

We have ensured that as well as structuring the schools differently in September, children will be clear about what areas of school they will be able to access, where they can play and the health and safety considerations of being in school. Please could you support us by practicing hand washing with your child, as this will be happening at least four times during the school day. Additionally, it will help us if they understand why it will be important to maintain a distance from adults in school. The guidance asks for adults to continue to maintain social distancing from children unless they require first aid etc. We will obviously talk to the children when they return but it is always helpful to have your support in explaining this also.

From September, all children are expected to be in school. The Government have issued guidance to support us in making sure that the risks of Covid-19 are reduced both to the children and staff. We are expecting your child to return on **Tuesday 8th September** with a phased start so that the children can settle into school. Children will be entering and being collected from school in the following way:

Nursery / Foundation Pupils (Forget-me-not and Snowdrop Classes)

Adults and children will enter the school grounds via the car park at the front of the school. Children will **enter** the foundation area via the blue gates to the left of the carpark. There will be a clear STOP sign and drop off line on the floor. The gates will open at **8.45am** and close at 9.00am, an adult from the school will be located there to welcome the children in. Children would then be walked through the conservatory and directed to the toilets where an adult who will guide them to wash their hands and enter the classroom.

At the end of the day, the children will finish at **3.00pm** and **exit** via the same gates. They will be brought back by the class teacher.

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If you are dropping or collecting children from more than one year group, drop or collect the eldest child first and rest assured that we will wait on the doors for you to make your way around to drop or collect the others.

Where you have children starting and finishing at different times there will be a designated waiting area on the playground and car park where you can wait with siblings.

Foundation starters (first week only):

Tuesday 8th September – 8.45am – 11.30am (collected before lunch)
Wednesday 9th September – 8.45am – 11.30am (collected before lunch)
Thursday 10th September – 8.45am – 11.30am (collected before lunch)
Friday 11th September – 8.45am – 12.00pm (including lunch)

Nursery starters (first week only):

Tuesday 8th September – 8.45am – 11.30am (collected before lunch)
Wednesday 9th September – 8.45am – 11.30am (collected before lunch)
Thursday 10th September – 8.45am – 11.30am (collected before lunch)
Friday 11th September – 8.45am – 12.00pm (including lunch)

Nursery existing pupils:

Normal nursey hours starting - Tuesday 8th September

If you are dropping or collecting children from more than one year group, drop or collect the eldest child first and rest assured that we will wait on the doors for you to make your way around to drop or collect the others.

Where you have children starting and finishing at different times there will be a designated waiting area on the playground and car park where you can wait with siblings.

No parent should cross the 'STOP' signs which are clearly marked by the doors to minimise the number of people around the entrances. Staff will be there to welcome and escort your child. It is VERY important that you support social distancing measures when bringing and collecting your child from school. Whilst we have split up the entrances to reduce contact we still have a large number of children and parents on site, and we do not want to have to limit this as a result of difficulties with distancing.

No child should come to school if they, or anyone they live with, has symptoms of Covid-19. These are:

- A new persistent cough
- A high temperature
- A change in their normal sense of taste or smell.

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Pupils will need to wear their normal school uniform, with appropriate shoes. They can bring a book bag, lunchbox (if needed), water bottle and a coat, but we ask that they do not bring in any additional items to reduce the risk of infection. This includes pencil cases as the children will be provided with all the things they need in school. Children will be able to have a school dinner, and we have ensured that this is done safely with groups split at lunchtimes to allow all to have a hot dinner if they wish. Playtimes will also be in 'groups' to minimise children playing in large numbers but will be active, with planned activities to support physical activity. The children will not need to bring in a PE kit initially.

All of our children will begin their time back at school with a period of adjustment, and support will be in place for them to talk and share experiences, as well as looking forward and celebrating being able to be at school and with their friends again. The curriculum will have a personal, social and emotional focus for the first two weeks, from which we will spend time supporting the children in developing their reading, writing and maths in a cross- curricular approach. Initially we will not be setting homework but will be encouraging our children to read daily, and all children will have a reading book in the first few days. We will not be holding school assemblies, or be able to have large groups together but are looking at ways to do this virtually. For example, we will be hosting the Heads of School 'virtual assemblies' to enable the children to feel part of the school community again. We will also not be running after school clubs initially, these will develop over time and more information will follow in due course.

If your child becomes unwell whilst at school, we will contact you in the usual way, and if your child receives any specialist support, this may continue in school. The DFE guidance is clear that they are requesting that we still have as few people come into school as possible, so we are asking that parents continue not to enter the school premises. If you have an issue or concern, please do not try to speak to your child's teacher at the door, as they are supervising the safe entrance of all children. It would be better to call or email the school, and someone can deal with your query or question as soon as possible.

We are confident that our schools have put in place the measures to support our children and staff in our return in September, and are prepared for any changes as they arise. Thank you for taking the time to read this and in supporting us and your children during this transition back to school. On behalf of the Trustees I hope that you have a relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing our wonderful children all back in September.



Mrs Alison Nettleship
CEO
Discovery multi Academy Trust