



Thursday 3rd September 2020

Dear Parents and carers

Firstly, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support during this unprecedented time. It has been a difficult number of months for all involved but we are so happy to see everyone back in school and hope you and your children are happy with the steps the school have put in place to ensure that everyone is kept as safe as possible.

Did you know that as a result of COVID-19, pupils have missed a total of 13 weeks of learning (not including holidays)? This roughly equates to a massive 325 hours of learning time lost not to mention pupils missing their friends and school staff. As you can imagine, we are working incredibly hard to ensure that your child's learning does not suffer, and we can close the learning gap that has been created as a result of COVID-19. As a result, it is critical that your child attends school every day.

In March, when the COVID-19 outbreak was increasing, the Government it made clear that no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school. Now the circumstances have changed, and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. **School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:**

- **It is the parents' duty to ensure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil**
- **It is the schools' responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence**
- **That schools have the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct**

As part of the school's duty of care, we will closely monitor pupil attendance in school. If your child does not attend school, we will contact you to understand why. If the pupil's absence becomes regular, the school will support you to ensure that your child attends school regularly. Adults in school who might contact you regarding attendance are:

- Mrs Andrews (Headteacher)
- Mr Hayes (Deputy Headteacher)
- Mrs Brown (Parkland Attendance officer)-
- Your child's class teacher
- A member of the school's pastoral team

As a school, we understand that, as parents, you may have anxieties or concerns about your child's return and we encourage you to contact us if you have any specific concerns that you would like to talk through or any help and support that you or your child may require. Included with this letter is a parent's guide to attendance that will help you understand the school's attendance policy.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Andrews
Acting Headteacher

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A member of

Discovery Schools
Academy Trust

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