



Discovery Drive Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4GJ

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Headteacher-Miss Tina Gobell

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Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It's been lovely to have all of our children back into school in the past few days. School is buzzing and the children are enjoying being back in school.

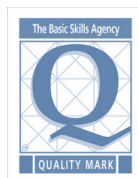
The purpose of my letter to you today is to explain to you how The Discovery School staff will be helping your child this year to "catch up" after the national lockdown.

How is The Discovery School helping the children to reconnect with life in school and my child's learning?

The reconnecting curriculum

Since returning to school, all of the children have been reflecting on their time during lockdown. We have given all of the children the opportunities to discuss their experiences, both positive and negative as well as share any worries and concerns too. We have also spent time supporting them in reconnecting with school. They have spent time learning and understanding new routines including hygiene, refreshing expectations and spending time with their peers. Teachers have been using specific stories and texts to help the children understand the nature of the world in which we currently live in. We have chosen this approach to coming back to school as we recognise that for many children, the current climate we now live in, can be very unsettling and they need to be able to understand about it to then allow them to feel safe in school so that they are then ready to learn. This approach will continue throughout term one.

During terms 1 and 2, there will be a stronger focus on maths and English across the school to help close any gaps in learning. However, we are also aware that not all children will have gaps to fill in their learning and they will continue to be appropriately challenged in their daily lessons. The wider curriculum will be taught through cross curricular lessons. The children will continue to have weekly science, PE, music, RE, PSHE and French (KS2) lessons. In line with Department for Education guidelines, from January 2021 we will be resuming a full curriculum with the children having discrete lessons for geography, history, computing, art and DT.



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How will the school help children to address any gaps in their learning?

Teachers have already begun to informally assess the children in their learning to identify where potential gaps maybe. In the coming weeks, children will be taking part in more standardised tests in reading, maths and spelling and grammar (SPaG). These assessments will be carried out in small groups with the teacher and teaching assistants and will allow teachers to specifically identify where specific gaps are in each child's learning. This will help the teachers to then plan accordingly for your child's learning in class.

Teachers are planning carefully looking at the previous year's objectives and revisiting these with children whilst accessing their current year group curriculum. This is to ensure that children cover all of last year's objectives whilst simultaneously learning this year's curriculum.

The results of these assessments will be shared with you during parent consultations in October, so that parents and teachers can work together in closing any gaps children may have.

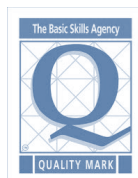
The government is talking about catch up sessions. How will this work for some children?

Most children will be able to catch up on any missed learning through high quality teaching. However, as is normal practice in school, some children will be identified as needing additional support. This year, this additional support will take place through targeted interventions both before, during and after school to help children catch up on any learning they may have lost or are having difficulties with. If your child has been identified as needing additional support, you will be informed by your child's class teacher. The length and duration of this support will be dependent on the needs of each individual pupil.

Will my child in KS2 continue to receive paper based homework?

Homework will be set on our learning platform called ClassDojo. In the coming weeks we will be training the children how to use ClassDojo and will be setting some homework through it.

Will the annual "Meet the Teacher" event be happening?



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It will, but this year it will be virtual due to the current restrictions of social distancing. The Discovery School has established its own YouTube channel and will be posting specific videos for each year group on it. These videos will contain pertinent information for the year. Following the videos, should you have any questions parents will be invited to email their child's class teacher to either arrange a telephone call or to ask their question via email. Links to the YouTube channel will be emailed out to you next week, via Parent Mail.

When will I get to meet my child's new teacher (s)?

Parent consultations are planned for the end of term one. Each parent will be given 15 minutes with the class teacher to allow you to discuss in detail how your child has settled back into school life and the areas of learning which need to be supported.

Parent consultations for term one will take place on the following dates:

Monday 12th October

Monday 19th October

Thursday 22nd October

More details about parent consultations will be coming out from Miss Gobell in the next few weeks.

Should you have any specific questions about your child's learning or want to know more about the curriculum which is being taught this year for your child, then please either visit the year group webpages or make contact with your child's class teacher.

Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Kind regards,

Miss Baker

Deputy Head teacher and Curriculum Lead

