



The Discovery School

Frequently Asked Questions for the start of the school year

September 2021

(updated 6th September 2021)

How will the children know what to do to keep them safe in school?

Even though the country has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we still have a responsibility to ensure that the children continue to adhere to the following good hygiene practices:

- Catch it, bin it, kill it
- Thorough, regular and frequent hand washing or sanitisation
- Coughing into elbow creases

We will also continue to maintain regular, appropriate cleaning regimes and ensure that occupied spaces are well-ventilated.

As the government has now removed all COVID-19 restrictions in schools, the children no longer need to operate in class or year group 'bubbles'.

What happens if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, he or she will need to self-isolate in accordance with current government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Remote learning will be provided. Schools no longer need to carry out Track and Trace arrangements, as this will be done by NHS Test and Trace. We would appreciate you letting the school know as well, so that we can keep our registers updated.

Will my child's class have to self-isolate if a child in the school tests positive for COVID-19?

This will be unlikely. Schools are no longer required to send home classes of children in the event of a positive case of COVID-19 being reported. Your child will only need to self-isolate if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

The school day

What time will school start in the mornings?

The school gates will be open from 8:40 a.m. and will close at 8:50 a.m. School will start for all children at **8:50 a.m.** Children arriving after 8:50 a.m. will be marked as late and must be signed in by an adult at the main school office.

Children in EYFS should follow the part-time transition times until the week beginning 20th September, when they will begin full-time attendance.

What time will school end each day?

The school day ends at 3:15 p.m. for all children. Parents with children in Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (except Edison Class) should collect their children from the school playground. Parents must enter and exit via the KS2 gate. Children in EYFS and Edison class should be collected from the external classroom door. EYFS and Edison parents must enter and exit via the EYFS gate, unless you have an older sibling to collect, in which case you should exit via the KS2 gate.

Children in EYFS should follow the part-time transition times until the week beginning 20th September, when they will begin full-time attendance.

Can I come onto the school site with my child?

Yes. All government COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, so parents can come onto the school site to collect their children. Though it is no longer compulsory, parents are still encouraged to wear face-masks, unless medically exempt, if visiting the school office.

My child wishes to walk home without an adult – is this permitted?

Yes, if your child is in Years 4, 5 or 6. However, you **must** notify the class teacher and school office via e-mail, giving consent for your child to walk home without an adult present. Without consent, we will not release your child so please ensure you have notified us in advance.

I need to book a holiday – what do I do?

Now that schools have returned to normal, the Government expects all children to attend school each day. Therefore, holidays cannot be routinely approved. If you need to request a leave of absence for your child, then you must make the appropriate application. For more information, please follow the attached link:

<https://www.discovery.kent.sch.uk/about-us/attendance/>

Parking and the school site

Can I use the 'drop-off' zone in the morning?

Yes! The school 'drop-off' zone will be in operation from September. However, you must not park in the drop-off zone and wait for the school gates to open. This is strictly prohibited for the safety of our children. If you need to walk your child to the school gate, then you must find a parking space outside of the school grounds or use one of the designated parking spaces if they are free.

Cars that park and wait prevent others from using the drop-off zone, causing a long queue of traffic out of the school gates. This is dangerous for children and other road users to navigate. A senior member of staff will be on duty each morning and you will be asked to move your car if you are parked.

Whilst the majority of parents always use this system fairly and respectfully, there have been occasions when individuals have been threatening or abusive to staff. If you are asked to move your car by a member of staff and then use abusive language, you will receive a written warning from the Chair of Governors. Repeated offences may result in abusive parents being banned from the school site or reported to the police.

Can I use the 'Drop-off zone' at the end of the school day?

The 'drop-off zone' is for morning use only. Cars on site can use one of the designated parking bays, but not the disabled bays (unless displaying a 'Blue-badge') or the drop-off zone for parking. This must be left clear at the end of the school day. If you come onto the school site and there is no parking bay available, you must exit and park outside the school.

Can I park on the school site?

You may park in the designated visitor parking spaces running adjacent to the car park barrier. You must not park in the disabled bays. We have children attending our school who are reliant on being able to access these spaces. Please **do not** park on any yellow lines.

Can I use the disabled parking bays?

Only if you are displaying a 'Blue Badge'.

Can my child bring their bike or scooters to school?

Yes, but children should push their bike or scooter whilst on school grounds.

Can I come to the school office?

Yes, but we would appreciate parents continuing to wear a face-mask when inside the school building.

How can I speak to the member of staff responsible for my child?

Yes. Class teachers will be available at the end of each day. If your enquiry is urgent, then you should contact the school office and we will arrange to release the class teacher. For less urgent enquires, you can also contact class teachers via e-mail between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Due to the volume of messages received, it may take up to 48 hours for a response.

Lunchtimes and break time arrangements

Can my child have a hot lunch?

Yes. You can pay for a hot meal via School Gateway as usual. The price of a school meal has increased from £2.25 to £2.30 for children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6).

Children who do not want a school dinner can bring a packed lunch from home. Please do not include chocolate bars, crisps, sweets or fizzy drinks, except on a Friday, when children may include a chocolate treat and a packet of crisps.

Where will my child eat their school lunch?

Since the removal of COVID-19 restrictions, school dinner arrangements will return to normal. This means that the children will eat their lunch in the dining hall, either before or after their playtime.

Can the children bring a snack to school to eat at breaktime?

Yes. A healthy snack can be brought from home (fruit, vegetables, rice cakes, oat bars – not crisps, sweets, pepperami etc.). Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a healthy snack via the government's Fruit and Vegetable scheme. Children can also order milk via the following link:

<https://www.discovery.kent.sch.uk/about-us/starting-school/cool-milk/>

Can my child bring a drink to school?

Yes. Children should bring a named, non-spill drinking bottle to school filled with plain water only.

What should my child bring to school each day?

Can my child bring a school bag to school?

Yes. A small bag may be brought to school, together with a water bottle, sun hat and cream (if needed) and a lunchbox. School stationary is provided so pencil cases are not needed. Children should also bring a coat or rain mac now that the weather is becoming cooler and more unpredictable.

Children must not bring toys into school, including 'fidget' toys without the prior agreement of the class teacher.

Will my child need a PE bag in school?

No. Children should come to school in their P.E. kit. A drawstring PE bag may be left in school with a pair of named plimsolls.

Children in EYFS will not need to a P.E kit until after the Autumn half-term break. They will be told which House Team they are in prior to half term.

Does my child need to wear school uniform to school?

Yes. The correct school uniform must be worn to school each day. As the classrooms will remain well-ventilated during the day, it is important that children wear a school jumper or cardigan each day.

Will my child have homework or a home reading book?

Yes. Children will bring home reading books during the week or will be directed to an online book to read. During the first week of school, all children should read a book from our online platforms. This is to enable teachers time to re-assess the children's reading levels following the long summer break. Reading books will be sent home from the week beginning 13th September. Homework will also be set from this week.

Breakfast and After School Club

Will Breakfast and After School club still be running for the children that are allowed to attend school?

Yes. Breakfast Club and After School club will be running from Monday 6th September.

What will be the operating hours?

- Breakfast Club – 7.30 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. (Monday to Friday)
- After School Club – 3.15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday)

More details about our Breakfast and After School Clubs can be found via the following link:

<https://www.discovery.kent.sch.uk/community/extended-schools/>

How do I book?

You can book in the usual way using School Gateway. It is essential that you book at least **48 hours in advance** in order for us to plan staffing. In an emergency, please telephone the school office on the day.