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Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Return to School for all Children**

#### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

I am writing further to the Government's announcement last week, that all children will be able to return to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are so pleased that all of the children will soon be back in school - we have missed them very much.

When the government closed schools in January, it was because schools had become community "vectors of transmission" due to the numbers of adults congregating together at or near school sites. Therefore, when the children return to school next week, please may we politely remind you not to congregate at either school gate or within the school grounds. Please may we also remind you of the need to wear a face mask or covering, unless medically exempt, whilst on school grounds. So that you are aware, children do not need to wear face masks in school.

The Senior Leadership Team has spent a considerable amount of time examining the Government's latest guidance for the return to school and we have reviewed all of our protective measures to ensure that your children will be as safe as possible. Attached to this letter is an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document which should address any questions or concerns that you may have. It is important that you read the FAQ as it has been updated from September.

The arrival, pick-up times and zones are unchanged from before Christmas and are attached to this letter. When children return they will be expected to wear school uniform however, we appreciate that it may be difficult to obtain new uniform if your child has outgrown any items. Whilst non-essential shops are not open for business, we understand that your children may not be able to wear all of the expected uniform and may need to wear a suitable substitute item, this includes shoes.

#### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

You will be aware that whilst schools have been closed for most children, they have still been open for the children of Key Workers and for vulnerable children. Currently, The Discovery School has a significant number of children still attending school. In order to operate in line with government protective measures, these children have been taught in rooms across the school and not necessarily in their usual classrooms. A large amount of furniture and equipment has also had to be relocated. In order to ensure that everything is deep cleaned and returned to the right rooms, all teachers will be in school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March to reorganise their classrooms in readiness for Monday morning. To enable staff to focus on this preparation, there will be some changes to the work set for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.





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On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, the children will be set work which focuses on World Book Day. The day will follow a structured timetable, with the work set designed so that it can be completed independently by the children. This will be available on ClassDojo for the children to access. Please ask your children **not to upload** their completed work onto Class Dojo on Friday. The work should be brought into school for feedback and for sharing with the class on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

As class teachers will be focused on preparations for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and teaching assistants will be supporting the large number of children that will be in school, staff will not be available to respond to uploaded work or general posts submitted on Class Dojo throughout Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. However, there will be a staff member available in each year group, who will be able to answer questions if your child needs assistance with their work.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you all for your assistance and support throughout an incredibly challenging time. I do not under-estimate the immense amount of pressure that home schooling will have added to your daily lives as a family. Thank goodness, that at last we seem to be steering a course out of the pandemic towards brighter times ahead of us.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March!

With kind regards,

Miss T Gobell

Head Teacher

