



# ACADEMY UPDATE

For parents and carers

October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you Oakwood Primary Academy school priorities for the Autumn Term. These priorities have been reviewed in light of the changes in school education that many children experienced due to the national Covid 19 restrictions. As a Trust we will be focussing on supporting emotional well-being and targeting gaps in learning so that our children are able to make rapid progress from their starting points in September. Our curriculum provision will be reviewed regularly over the year to address any emerging learning needs.

Over this term we will be focusing on the following:

### **Strengthen Communications across the school community**

- Develop and extend communication to support relationships with new parents and re-connect with existing parents as part of the school's recovery programme.
- This will include regular information updates so that parents are fully informed of school organisation related to the return to school, staffing, teaching and learning, school events, Covid 19 updates and signposting to a range of support or resources. Information will be available on the website, through email via Parent Pay and text reminders will be sent alerting parents. (Please make sure your Parent Pay account is activated, our admin staff can help you with this.)

### **Re-engagement of learning for children**

- PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) was the focus for the initial start of term to support well-being and social interaction with the changes in place due to Covid 19.
- Our curriculum provision will be adapted to build on prior learning and address identified gaps and while there will be a focus on revisiting basic skills, the curriculum will still be thematic with a STEM focus so that links across subjects help children to develop their long-term memory so that they retain their learning.
- After school sessions for 'catch up' led by the class teacher will take place for groups of children,

### **Learning Behaviours**

- There will be a continued focus on Ready, Respectful and Safe to re-engage and embed attitudes towards learning, so that children feel safe and secure in their new learning environment.
- Appropriate adaptations will be put in place to support learning and emotional well-being. This will include a focus on building resilience, independence and perseverance to re-establish high expectations in class. Where appropriate, our Pastoral Team will support identified children.

### **How can you help your child?**

- **Reading** – As you support and encourage your child with reading at home; please take time to discuss and explain new vocabulary to deepen their understanding. Reading at home is so valuable and has such a positive impact on your child's learning in school. You could join the local library; they are great community resource.
- **Maths** - Please continue to support your child to learn number facts so that they have a quick and accurate recall of number. Many have temporarily 'lost' their number fluency. Times Table Rock Stars is a brilliant online resource you and your child can use at home to help support these important skills.
- **Writing** – please continue to support and encourage your child to think carefully about their cursive handwriting when working at home so that their presentation is the best that it can be.

These priorities will be reviewed again at the end of the Autumn Term and a further update will follow at the beginning of the Spring Term.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for on our return to school and your engagement with any learning opportunities that your child undertakes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison', written in a cursive style.

Alison Nettleship

Chief Executive Officer/Executive Headteacher

Discovery Multi Academy Trust