

THE DISCOVERY MONTESSORI

August 18, 2020

Dear Parents

Our lives have taken a new norm with the arrival of Covid 19. The school is also getting more comfortable with the new protocols and guidelines from all the agencies that support our licensed Montessori program. The enhanced health and safety guidelines are working well as we are in our second month of a summer camp. The children and the staff are having a lovely time inside the class rooms and outdoors in our new expanded playground. Thorough sanitization and cleaning procedures are strictly followed. Frequent hand washing is practiced and closely monitored.

The school will open the three large class rooms in Fall to create more spaces for social distancing. The teachers are planning to organize the individual material for each child to use and sanitize the material more frequently. Each child will have his/ her basket of school supplies. There will be no sharing and mixed users of these supplies. The groups or the cohorts will stay in their own bubbles and that will be maintained in the out doors as well. Each class room will have two teachers and they will follow the protocols of our public health in terms of masks and shields. Children will continue receiving individual, small group lessons, as before, while practising social distancing. Montessori methodology will be maintained. There will be no circle time as sitting together but the teachers will have a morning group time while children are sitting on their assigned chairs. We are not having show and share. The books and the folders will not be sent home. There will be no hand shakes in the morning which is a tradition in a Montessori schools. We will get back to all these protocols once we are Covid free.

In our class rooms, we have always tables widely spread apart, and the number of children on each table will be limited. Work done on floor mats provides a natural separation between children. The mats will not be shared and they will be washed frequently. The teachers will contact you either by phone or email.

We advise parents to just answer the daily screening questions at the door and refrain from any other discussion. The class rooms will have maximum of 16 children plus two teachers.

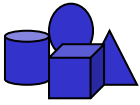
I am also enclosing a **Parent Agreement** for all families to read carefully, print, sign and bring it with you on the first day of the school. You may sign and send us a scanned copy via email before 08 September 2020.

Cohorts (children groups) will not intermix with other cohorts at any time in a day. Each classroom will have its separate washroom, whose surfaces will be disinfected frequently throughout the day. Each cohort will have a designated play area to be used as an out door learning area. Lessons and activities will be conducted outdoors as much as possible This will enhance the learning of our Nature component. There will be no contact games or sports. Children will be encouraged to be creative in finding new ways to play together while apart, and they will be supported by the staff.

The music and French classes are temporarily suspended, but as soon as we can safely start those classes we will let you know.

Snacks and lunch will be provided in the classrooms and there will be no self serve or family style serving. Children will eat at their own designated spaces.

Should any child exhibit any sign of illness, a staff member, in PPE (mask, gloves, face shield) will immediately escort the child out of the classroom. Parents will be notified and required to take the child home as soon as possible. An isolated area has been designated as the waiting area, and the staff member will remain with the children until they are picked up. A social distance of 2 meters will be maintained between the sick child and the attending staff member.



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Of course, we hope to minimize this possibility with the arrival screening; no child with visible signs of illness will be permitted to attend school. *Parents are again advised not to bring any child to the school even if they exhibit any mild symptoms.* **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please do NOT give your child medication to bring down a fever and then bring them to school

Please review the latest [Covid 19 guidelines document](#) from the Ministry of Education. All the policies outlined in this document are a part of Discovery Montessori policies under Covid 19 emergency plan.

Please note that the school will re-open after Summer break on **Tuesday September 08, 2020**. A gentle reminder to all the parents to please bring the 10 postdated fee cheques on the first day of school.

There will be no before school or after school offered at this time. The school hours of operation are 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The parents are requested to use the timing from 8:00 am to 8:30 am. for a smooth safe physically distant drop off. There are markers on the ground to observe the social practice under Covid 19. We strongly recommend that parent with their child stand on those stickers and wait for the person ahead of them in line to move. Please maintain a distance to answer the screening questions and let your child move forward get checked for the temperature via a forehead scan. It is recommended to check the temperature of your child and yourself prior to coming to school. Please visit our school [website parents portal](#) to familiarize yourself with our Enhanced Health and Safety protocols and the daily screening questions.

The school will continue to monitor the enhanced safety and health protocols and will inform you about any new changes and developments that would affect the school operation. I hope and wish that we will get through this with each others support. All the medical professionals and experts are unanimously agree that the children should return to school with all the essential new guidelines in place.

The school staff is hosting a zoom town hall meeting on Thursday August 27th at 6:00 pm and I would like to see you all in person to share our thoughts. Details of the zoom meeting will be sent to you shortly.

Thank you

Fauzia Ali