



Newsletter

December 2024

The end of Term 2 and the end of 2024 has arrived – where did the last 12 months go!

The last few weeks of term have been very busy: Nativity plays, Christingle assemblies, Christmas parties, Early Years craft afternoon, Christmas dinner, Carols on the playground, music concerts and of course our annual Christmas Fayre.

It has been lovely seeing so many of you in school; we hope you enjoyed the events and that you are firmly in the midst of the Christmas spirit!

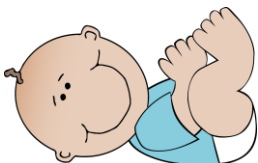
With only five more sleeps until the big day, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Kind regards,

T. Gobell

Miss T Gobell
Headteacher





Welcome back!

Welcome back to Mrs. Repsch who returned to school this week from maternity leave – we have missed you Mrs. Repsch!



Attendance

With school attendance continuing to feature prominently in the Department for Education’s (DfE) priorities for improvement, our school continues to promote good attendance as a key feature of work to support our children. Attendance at The Discovery School continues to be good, but we will continue to do all we can to improve this where we can. Look out for our ‘Attendance Newsletter’ email being sent to you today, together with your child’s attendance certificate for the Terms 1 and 2.

Overall attendance so far for the year 2024/25 is 94.9%

Best Class Attendance:

Well done to Johnson Class (week ending 29th December 2024) – 98.7%

Well done to Johnson Class (week ending 6th December 2024) – 97.7%

Well done Jemison Class (week ending 13th December 2024) – 98.7%



FODS Christmas Fayre:

Thanks you to everyone who supported the recent FODS Christmas Fayre – thanks to your generosity and the great work of our fantastic volunteer FODS committee, an amazing £2,297 was raised!



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2020-2023

www.discovery.kent.sch.uk





EYFS Christmas Stay and Make:

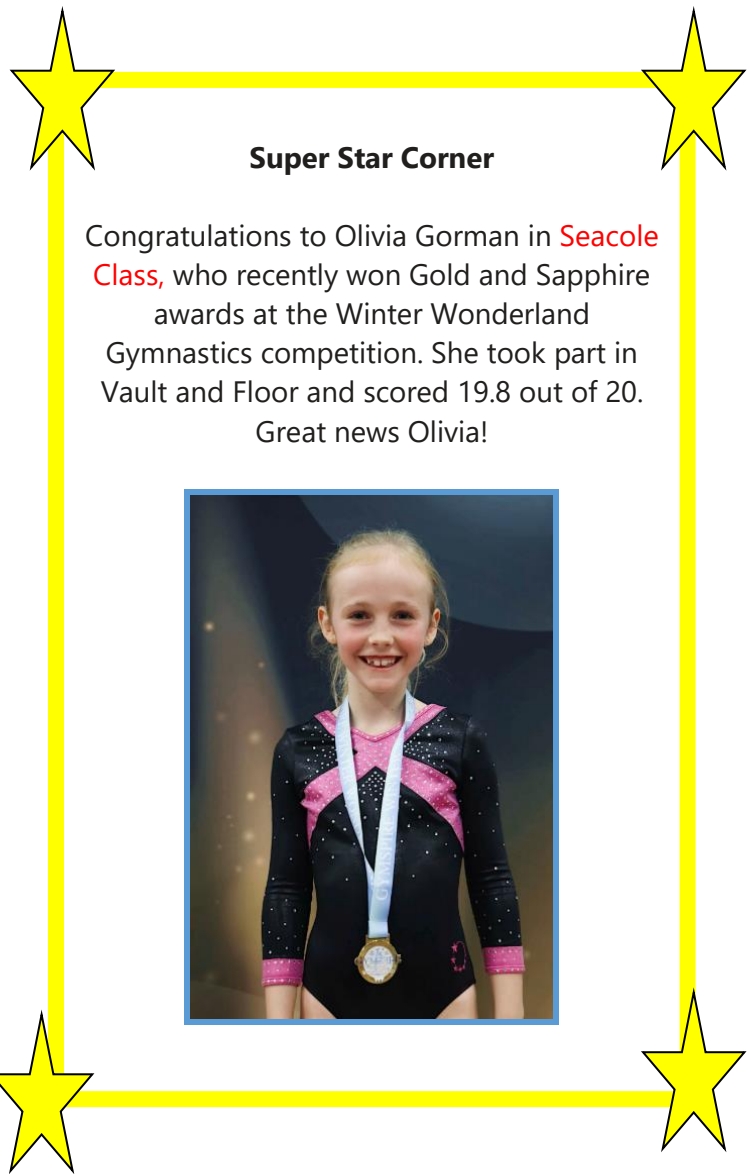
On Monday 16th December, the children in EYFS invited their families into class to join in with a special Christmas craft afternoon. Everyone had a great time!



EYFS visit Costa!

The children in EYFS recently braved the winter weather to go on a very important

mission – posting letters to Father Christmas. The children walked around Kings Hill, following a map before posting their letters. Their hard work was then rewarded with a Babychino in Costa!



Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Olivia Gorman in **Seacole Class**, who recently won Gold and Sapphire awards at the Winter Wonderland Gymnastics competition. She took part in Vault and Floor and scored 19.8 out of 20. Great news Olivia!



Upcoming dates for your diary



Please find below a list of key dates set for the first two weeks of next term:

A full list of dates for the full year has been emailed to all parents and carers. Please contact the school office if you have not received this.

- Monday 6th January – **Term 3 begins** – all children return to school
- Wednesday 8th January – New Entrants Tour at 9:30am and 1:45pm
- Friday 10th January – NELFT assembly for children (emotional health)
- 14th January – Astrodome visit with Year 5
- 15th January – Closing data for EYFS applications to start school in September 2025

Value Points

All of the children have been working hard to uphold our school values of Honesty, Kindness, Perseverance, Friendship and Respect.

Winning House (week ending 6th December)
– Citrine House 😊

Winning House (week ending 13th December)
– Peridot House 😊

Winning House (week ending 20th December)
– Garnet House 😊

The overall winning house for Term 2 was Peridot House - you will have non-uniform day to celebrate, next term!

Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Lucas Yu in Seacole Class, who has just passed his ABRSM piano Grade 3 practical exam, with a merit. Lucas also recently took part in his first LTA tennis tournament at a London & South East Tour 8U event – managing to win every one of his eight matches!



Well done to Sidney Lyons in Attenborough Class, who won the Maidstone Bookworm competition. Sidney received a hamper full of books presented to him by the mayor!
Well done Sidney!



Eco-Council News

Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Myla Park in Jackson Class.

Myla will be appearing on television on Christmas Day, not once, but twice! She will be appearing on BBC One, voicing one of the school fish in the animation, Tiddler. Then in the evening, she will be appearing in Call the Midwife, with part two being screened on Boxing Day. Myla was also recently announced as the new singing voice for Peppa Pig! Wow – you have been busy, Myla!



Recently, as part of a drive to minimise the impact of discarded rubbish on our local wildlife, our School-Eco Council members were busy litter picking within the school grounds. This huge group effort culminated in a community litter pick. The children also completed a tally chart for each piece of litter picked up. Some of the items found were; drink cans, string and crisp packets, but the most frequent forms of litter were sweet wrappers! Yuck!



School Choir

Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Olivia Minieri in Edison Class, who has achieved her 100-metre swimming badge. Great news Olivia!



Well done to Myra Bindra in Galileo Class, who recently achieved her Yellow Belt in Karate – great news Myra!



The Discovery School Choir was invited this year, to record a couple of Christmas carols for the Wealden Talking Newspapers. This is an organisation that produces and records weekly audio news and magazine features for the visually impaired in East Sussex. Since the pandemic lockdown it has become an annual tradition to produce a Christmas Special of words and music, featuring Christmas memories from their many volunteers. Mary Wilce, a regular reading volunteer and Talking Newspapers editor said, "I am very proud that my daughter is continuing the primary school teacher tradition and leads The Discovery School Choir. We are looking forward to listening to their recordings of 'Away in a Manger' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'...thank you Choir and Dr Wilce-Cordner!"

Finally - A message from Sam our therapy dog!



Have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!