



Newsletter

Friday 28th February 2025

Term 4

Welcome back to Term 4; I hope you all had a lovely half-term break with your children.

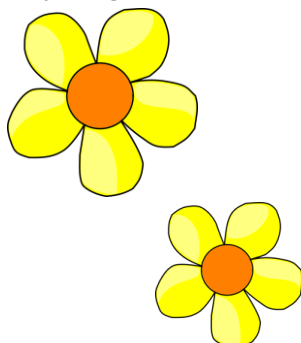
It was lovely seeing so many parents attending last week's Parent Consultations – if you were unable to attend, please contact your child's class teacher, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

The children continue to work very hard, and as always, are a credit to our school. The children have enjoyed lots of new learning and have taken part in special assemblies, school trips, workshops and special themed weeks. Among the highlights have been celebrating Chinese New Year, Ramadan and Lohri. Additionally, Year 5 has taken a trip to space, Year Two has visited Kent Life and Early Years have been learning how to dragon dance. There have also been whole school activities, with the children taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and World Hearing Day.

In this newsletter, are a few examples of what has been happening in school. Please don't forget to check our Learning Updates page on the school website for news from each year group.

Kind regards,

Miss T Gobell
Headteacher



ABSENCE



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.

Overall attendance so far for the year 2024/25 is 95.5%

Best Class Attendance:

Well done to Edison Class (week ending 7th February 2025) – 99%

Well done to Einstein Class (week ending 14th February 2025) – 99.3%

Well done to Jenner Class (week ending 28th February 2025) – 100%

Welcome:

We welcome Mrs. Chambers to The Discovery School, as our new Pupil Support Worker – Welcome to Team Discovery!



Super Star Corner

Well done to Freddie Cranmer in Jackson Class! In February, Freddie ran 28 miles for MacMillan Cancer, raising over £200 for this amazing charity – well done Freddie, we are all proud of your efforts!



Safer Internet Day

On the 11th February, The Discovery School marked Safer Internet Day with a series of engaging activities aimed at promoting online safety. We launched the week with a whole-school assembly on Tuesday, introducing the theme 'Too Good to be True'. Throughout the week, pupils participated in live lesson activities designed to raise awareness of online scams and equip them with the skills to recognise and protect themselves against digital deception. By exploring real-world examples and discussing strategies for staying safe, our school community deepened its understanding of responsible online behaviour in an increasingly digital world.

Remember:

S - Sounds too good to be true
C - Contact you did not expect
A - Asking for personal information
M - Money or trade request
Stay safe online!



Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set for the next two weeks. 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 3rd March – World Hearing Day
- Tuesday 4th March – Thunberg Class assembly
- Wednesday 5th March - Peridot and Garnet Houses non-uniform day
- Thursday 6th March – World Book Day
- Friday 7th March – British Science Week begins
- Tuesday 11th March – FODS (PTA) General Meeting at 7pm – all welcome
- Thursday 13th March – NELFT Worry Workshop for parents at 9:30am
- Thursday 13th March – SATs meeting for Year 6 parents at 9:00am
- Friday 14th March – Collaborative Schools' School Council Meeting

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 7th February) – Peridot and Topaz House! 😊

Winning House (week ending 14th February) – Garnet House 😊

Winning House (week ending 28th January) – All Houses 😊

Well done, to Peridot and Garnet Houses for being the Term 3 winners!

Chinese New Year



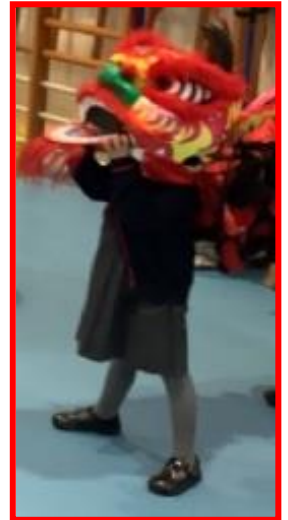
A Polite Reminder:

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, or if end of day collection arrangements change, please can you copy the school office into any emails notifying the class teacher: office@discovery.kent.sch.uk Thank you!

As part of the Chinese New Year celebrations, the EYFS children recently took part in an exciting Chinese workshop. The children learnt about the story of the Chinese zodiac animals, how to perform Chinese fan dancing and took part in a traditional lion dance, whilst wearing a real lion costume. The children had so much fun and learnt lots!

Super Star Corner

Well done, to Callum Murrison in Turing Class who has had a fantastic few months swimming for Larkfield Swimming Club. Callum has received trophies at a recent presentation evening for: 200m Individual Medley, 100m Individual Medley, 200m butterfly, 100m butterfly, 50m butterfly, 200m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke, 50m breaststroke, 200m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 100m backstroke and 50m backstroke. He also recently swam at The London Aquatic Centre in the Kent Championship Finals and is now ranked 24th in the county for his age group.



A message from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Air pollution is a problem that can affect everyone, with children being particularly at risk as their bodies are still developing.

Government statistics estimate that air pollution in the UK reduces life expectancy by seven to eight months on average and comes with an associated cost of up to £20 billion each year.

At Tonbridge & Malling Council Environmental Protection Team, we are looking to reduce the avoidable pollution generated on roads around schools and nurseries by parents leaving their engines idling while waiting to pick up their children. Attached to this newsletter are some facts about pollution and the harm it can cause children and adults alike.

Please take a look at the information below, so that together, we can improve air quality for everyone.



www.tmbc.gov.uk

Super Star Corner

Well done to Henry Martin in Attenborough Class, who has just passed his Stage 4 Swimming Level and is now in Stage 5 – great news Henry!



Congratulations to Oscar Litterick in Edison Class who recently won 'man of the match' for Kings Hill U7 FC team - Oscar saved two penalties in his first match as the team goalie!



Anti-idling facts

The average car engine stays warm for up to an hour after being switched off

A car will fill 150 balloons of pollution per min or 4,500 in 30 mins when running with the car engine on while stationary / parked up.

Air pollution within 1 meter of the ground is 60% more concentrated than 1m above ground level 1m on average of the ground

Air pollution increases in concentration and hangs around for longer during cooler weather conditions.

Effects on health from car exhausts.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) - CO reduces the ability of blood to carry oxygen and can cause headaches, respiratory problems.

Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) - react with hydrocarbons to produce low level ozone which can cause inflammation of the airways, reduced lung function and trigger asthma, and also contribute to the formation of particulate matter. It has also been shown to reduce the lung capacity of children permanently.

Turning up earlier than necessary harms:

- Your children's health from **breathing increased**

pollution from leaving your engine running.

- Your children's friend's health from **breathing increased pollution from leaving your engine running.**
- Other parents' health when walking past to meet their child from the school gate.
- The health of the residents you are parked near to, from **breathing increased pollution from leaving your engine running.**

What you can do to help

- Switch off your car engine when waiting.
- Take a warmer coat or jumper to put on.
- Listen to music on your phone if worried about draining the car battery.
- Periodically have just the fan working to blow air into the car without the engine running if you start to feel cold. Engines can keep warm for up to 1 hour.
- Walk to pick up your children, if possible
- Don't turn up early just to get a space close to the school gate.
- Learn about air pollution from pollutionpatrol.org.uk [Home - Pollution Patrol](#)
- Sign up to air pollution forecast email alerts at [Kent and Medway Air Quality](#)

