



Friday 31st January 2025

Newsletter

Term 3

Welcome back to Term 3 and a (belated) happy New Year! I trust you all had a lovely Christmas break with your families.

The children have settled back into school very well and have been working hard.

So far this term, the children have taken part in trips to London, learnt about Chinese New Year, explored the inside of an ambulance and made a trip to Space!

We shortly welcome a new member of staff to our school team, Mrs Amy Chambers, who will be joining us as our new Pupil Support Worker. We look forward to introducing her to you and telling you more about her role when she arrives! Mrs Chambers will be working alongside Emma Randle (and Sam, our Therapy Dog), who will be changing her working hours from next week in order to focus on supporting children who struggle with lunchtimes.

There is lots more to look forward to in the weeks ahead – hopefully this will also include some warmer (and drier) weather!

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 94.6%

Best Class Attendance:

Well done to Jemison Class (week ending 10th January 2025) – 100%

Well done to Johnson Class (week ending 17th January 2025) – 99.7%

Well done Newton and Einstein Classes (week ending 24th January 2025) – 98.3%



Welcome:

We welcome Mrs. Forsyth to The Discovery School, as our new Teaching Assistant in Earhart Class – Welcome to Team Discovery!





Smart Watches:

Santa was very generous this year and some of the children have returned to school wearing new Smart Watches.

Whilst these are lovely gifts, they must be left at home if they have the ability to access the Internet or take photographs. Due to safeguarding regulations and Data Protection Regulations, these types of devices are not permitted in school.



Upcoming dates for your diary

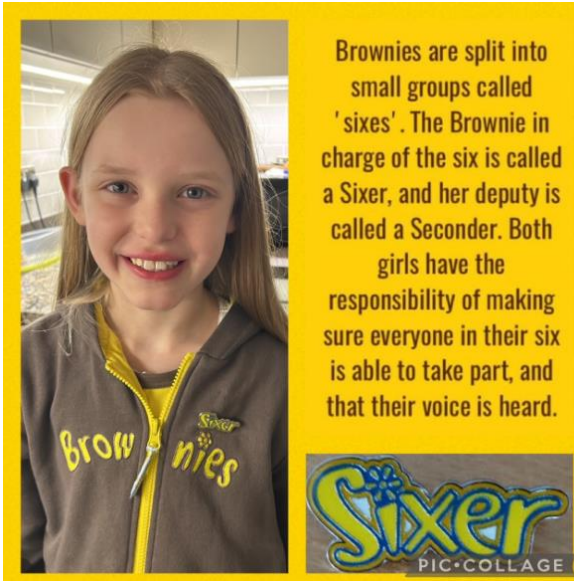
Please find below a list of key dates set for the next few weeks:

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.

- Tuesday 4th February – EYFS Chinese New Year workshop
- Tuesday 11th February – Year 2 trip to Kent Life
- Wednesday 12th February – EYFS Dress-up Day
- Friday 14th February - End of Term 3
- Monday 24th February – Start of Term 4
- Monday 24th February – INSET Day (School closed to children)
- Wednesday 26th February – Parent Consultations
- Thursday 27th February – Parent Consultations
- Friday 14th March – Collaborative Schools school Council Meeting

Super Star Corner

Well done to Hermione Marshman, who has just been promoted to a 'Sixer' at Brownies. She has worked really hard to achieve this – well done Hermione!



Well done to Matthew Ayres in Galileo Class – not only has Matthew overcome his nerves about racing in an arena, but he recently won his 800m heat and came 4th in the final ★ (against much older boys, too!) ★

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 10th January) – Garnet and Peridot House! 😊

Winning House (week ending 17th January – Peridot House 😊

Winning House (week ending 24th January – Garnet House 😊





Year 5 Visit Space!

This term, Year 5 are exploring the question, 'What is the next giant leap for mankind?' As part of our learning about Earth and Space, we had a visit from the Astrodome, which is a travelling planetarium. The experience was both breath-taking and fascinating. We had the opportunity to be surrounded by constellations, view the planets up close and have our many questions about our Solar System answered. One of the highlights was being able to hold a meteorite in our hands; holding something that had been in space made us all feel ever so small! The experience was 'out of this world' for children and adults alike!

* Did you know that before hitting Earth, a meteor is called a meteor but once it hits Earth, it is called a meteorite?*

Young Voices at the O2

Our Key Stage Two Choir travelled to the London O2 Arena last week to participate in the Young Voices Concert. We joined with thousands of other children to form a huge 'wall of sound' and sang a fantastic selection of specially written songs and medleys! Some of the most memorable moments from the concert were doing the 'robot dance' to the song 'Birdhouse in your soul' and singing 'Readers are Leaders' with MC Grammar. It was so exciting for the children to perform in an event of this scale and the experience will stay in their memories for a lifetime. One member of the choir declared that it was 'the best day of her life'. For another choir member, this was his third time at the Young Voices event but said that he 'loved it more than ever!' The parents and families who were able to come and watch the concert also had a fantastic time. One parent mentioned that The Discovery School apple logo on our specially designed banner was the perfect marker to find the children in the arena. Well done to all the children who represented our school brilliantly and sang confidently – we are very proud!

Super Star Corner

Well done, to Felita Kurian in Jackson Class, who recently won the doubles title in the Under-12 Girls category at the Kent Future Badminton Tournament. This was Felita's first tournament and she was able to secure a win - fantastic news, Felita!



A message from the Chair of Governors

The Governors had the privilege of spending a day in school on Tuesday for our Governor Visit Day. We had the chance to meet with The Diversity Council to discuss their progress on teaching the school community to use sign language. We visited lessons to see some fabulous Maths and reading in action. We had an update on how well the School is doing in their pursuit of being a sustainable school and how the food bank collections we have held are helping so many families in the local community. Our highlight was spending lunch time with all of the pupils and seeing how much fun the children have on the playground, thanks to the brilliant lunchtime supervisor team.

I am delighted to share that we currently have two Parent Governor vacancies on our Governing Body. The Governors of the School make such an invaluable contribution to the leadership of the school and I am excited to be able to add to our already excellent team.

As a Governor of The Discovery School, you will be part of a team, with an important role in the School's leadership. As a Governing Body, we have meetings throughout the academic year to evaluate the school's successes against key objectives. Additionally, we have two Governor Visit Days a year in school, where we meet with pupils and staff to discuss the progress the school is making. Below is a link that might explain the role in more detail:

https://youtu.be/mRqJ_bFipHk

As we look to grow our Governing Body, it would be great to hear from our parents/carers who have experience in Finance, Human Resources and Business, as we are particularly keen to strengthen our expertise in these areas.

If you would like to learn more about being a governor at The Discovery School, please feel free to email Annabel Cornall, Chair of Governors, at: chairofgovernors@discovery.kent.sch.uk.

Super Star Corner

Well done to Brooke Taylor in Earhart Class who has just taken part in a theatre performance called, 'All Aboard' at EM Foster Theatre. A great job, Brooke!



Congratulations to Taylor Hunter in Johnson Class, who recently participated in her first swimming gala, winning a medal in the Butterfly. Well done, Taylor!

