



June 2024

Newsletter

Term 6



As we start Term 6, we also begin the countdown to the end of this academic year. As always, it is unbelievable how quickly the year has gone by!

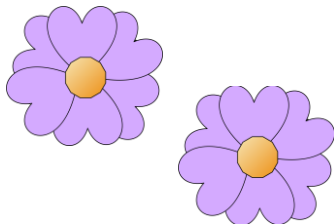
The final term of the school year is always a very busy one, with lots to look forward to. There has already been a buzz of activity in school and we are only two weeks into the new term - Year 6 have been on their residential trip, there have been school trips, sporting events, visits from outside visitors and of course, we are in the midst of statutory assessment time. There is also much to look forward to in the coming weeks, not least our annual FODS Summer Fayre on Saturday 6th July – we hope to see lots of you there!

I am also delighted to let you know that Miss Marle gave birth to her first baby on 15th May. Baby Millie arrived, weighing a healthy 7lb exactly, with mother and baby both very happy and healthy. We send them both our very best wishes and huge congratulations!

Kind regards,

T. Gobell

Miss T Gobell
Headteacher



ABSENCE



Attendance

There has been much in the media recently about the Government's drive to improve school attendance. National attendance levels are low (93%) and have not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. As such, the Department for Education (DfE) is focusing on ensuring that schools do all they can to address individual cases of low attendance. As a school, we want to work with families to ensure children can attend school when they are able to. If you need help with this, please do contact our Family Support Manager, Emma Randle (erandle@discovery.kent.sch.uk)

Overall attendance for The Discovery School so far for the year 2023/24 is 95.5% (well below expected attendance of 96%).

Best Class Attendance:

Well done Darwin Class (week ending 23rd May 2024) – 99.2%

Well done Seacole Class (week ending 8th June 2024) – 98.4%

Well done Johnson Class (week ending 14th June 2024) – 99.3%



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Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set so far for Term 6:

- Monday 17th June – EYFS trip to Godstone Farm
- Tuesday 18th June – Johnson Class assembly
- Wednesday 19th June – FODS non-school uniform day (Red, White & Blue) – in exchange for a bottle (for our Bottle Tombola at the Summer Fayre)
- Wednesday 19th June - Guitar Assembly at 9am (Invite only)
- Thursday 20th June - Key Stage 2 – French Theatre work shop
- Friday 21st June – Year 6 School Collaboration event at Kings Hill School
- Tuesday 25th June – Hawking Class assembly
- Tuesday 25th June – EYFS Sports Day
- Wednesday 26th June – Year 1, 2 and 3 Sports Day
- Thursday 27th June - Year 4, 5 and 6 Sports day
- Friday 28th June – Wacky Hair Day for a donation please
- Tuesday 2nd July – Jemison Class Assembly at 9am
- Saturday 6th July – FODS Summer Fayre
- Monday 8th July – Year 1 visit to Horton Kirby
- Wednesday 10th July – Summer Music Concert at 4:30pm
- Tuesday 16th July – Year 6 production at 6pm
- Wednesday 17th July – Year 6 production 6pm
- Thursday 18th July – I-Rock concert at 2pm
- Friday 19th July – Year 6 Fun Day
- Monday 22nd July – Open afternoon for parents at 2:45pm to 3:30 pm
- Monday 22nd July – Year 6 Prom
- Tuesday 23rd June – Year 6 Leaver’s Assembly
- Tuesday 23rd July – **End of Term 6**

Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Oliver Brett in Jemison class who has recently passed his level 5 trampolining stage – great news Oliver!



Well done to Lola Harris-Kaspera in Darwin Class. Lola recently attended the World Oceans Festival in Greenwich, which involved a six-hour walking trail through Greenwich Park; learning about our planet as she went. Great perseverance Lola!



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 June– Peridot House 😊)

Winning House (week ending 14th June – Citrine House 😊)

Congratulations to Citrine, Garnet and Topaz Houses, who were the joint value points winners for Term 5.



Quiz Club

This year, a team of Year 4 Year 5 children entered the

National Mathematics Quiz Club Championship. Amelie, Edward, Ryan & Tristan worked incredibly hard representing our school in the area heats. The questions were tough, but they persevered and showed fantastic teamwork and tactics throughout the whole competition. It was really close competition, and after working really hard, our children just missed out on a quarterfinal place. We are incredibly proud of the children who worked so hard. Very well done, Amelie, Edward, Ryan and Tristan!

Super Star Corner

Oliver Brett in Jemison Class has been working very hard – as well as passing his Level 5 Trampolining, he has also passed his Level 6 Trampolining stage! Brilliant news Oliver!



Congratulations to Henry Martin in Darwin Class who has passed his Stage 3B swimming and is now in Stage 4 – great news Henry!



Year 6 Residential

The Year 6 Discovery School children recently returned from their fantastic PGL residential at the beautiful and sunny Osmington Bay, brimming with excitement and stories to share.

Over the weekend, they embraced a variety of thrilling outdoor activities, from abseiling down towers, jumping off trapeze podiums to Dragon Boating on the shimmering sea down at Weymouth quay. The stunning coastal scenery served as a picturesque backdrop for their adventures, fostering teamwork and resilience.

Evening campfires and group games added to the camaraderie, leaving them with unforgettable memories and a newfound togetherness.

As the children stepped off the buses upon returning back to Kings Hill after an action-packed three days away, their faces were lit with joy, and their conversations were filled with plans to tell their families all about their incredible experiences on the residential. We are already looking forward to next year's trip!





Visit by students from Varendonck College

On Thursday 23rd May, The Discovery School hosted a visit from students and teachers of Varendonck College in the Netherlands. The purpose of their visit was to learn about our school, develop their English speaking and listening skills and to share with us information about their home and school life. The morning started with our fantastic Year 6 Prefects presenting an assembly and speeches for the Dutch students, followed by a comprehensive tour of the school. After this, all of Year 6 were treated to a presentation from Varendonck College students, where they learnt about their region in the Netherlands, as well as Dutch customs and culture. After a morning of sharing and presenting, all children enjoyed a game of 'kick rounders' on the field, followed by a picnic lunch and socialising. Our children thoroughly enjoyed learning from our Varendonck visitors. They relished the opportunity to ask questions, make new friends and even learn some of their language! So we say 'bedankt' to our Dutch friends and wish them a safe journey back home.



Year 5 Sleepover

On Thursday 23rd May, our Year 5 children enjoyed a fun-filled sleepover in school. The children enjoyed a fish and supper, followed by games and a film, before bedding down for the night in our school hall. After a good night's sleep, breakfast was served before being collected to enjoy the half-term break. A great time was had by all. Special thanks must go to the staff who gave up a night's sleep to ensure the children had a great time!



Football News

On Saturday 18th May, our girls' and boys' football teams took part in the Tonbridge and Malling District Football Tournament hosted by Mascalls School. Our children played brilliantly throughout, with the teams finishing in 2nd and 3rd place overall – well done Team Discovery!



Netball Team News

The Discovery School Year 6 girl's netball team recently took part in an all-day district netball tournament. Thirteen local schools took part in all. The team played brilliantly as a team and won all their matches throughout the day to reach the semi-finals. They won their semi-final 4-1 to take their place in the tournament final. In the final game, they played Roseacre, with a really close game ending of 5 - 5. The game then went to extra time and a golden goal, which Roseacre scored. The Discovery School finished the day coming 2nd out of thirteen teams, playing in really hard weather conditions, which is an amazing achievement. We are so proud of them and we definitely have some future netball stars in the making!



Don't forget!

On Wednesday 19th June, the FODS will be holding a non-school uniform day in exchange for a bottle for our Bottle Tombola at the upcoming Summer Fayre. The theme for the day is red, white and blue!

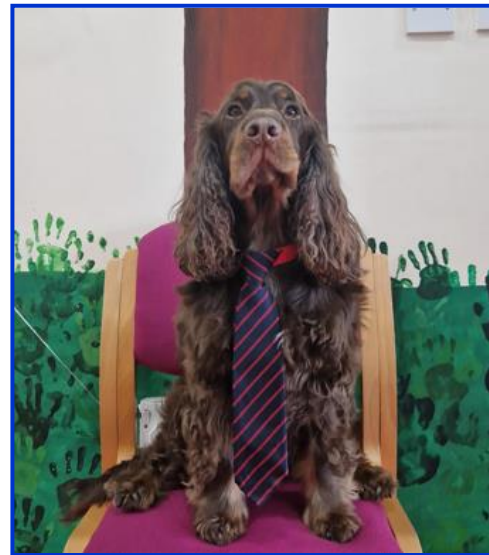
Introducing Sam!



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We are delighted to introduce you all to Sam, The Discovery School therapy dog. Sam has been introduced to all of the children and is often seen walking around the school grounds with Emma, our Family Support Manager. Sam is fully trained and qualified as a therapy dog, and has already started working with some of our children. Welcome to Team Discovery, Sam!



Born Free News!

The Discovery School has made an appearance in the latest issue of Born Free's 'Hear the Roar' magazine! We have a whole page dedicated to our school, featuring the Eco Council and the Pledgehogs that each class made. You can access an online version of the magazine using this link:

<https://www.bornfree.org.uk/resource/hear-the-roar-issue-10/>

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