



Newsletter

Friday 3rd December 2021

Week 5 Term 2

Winter has most definitely arrived, and with it a noticeable drop in temperature! Let's hope that the cold weather sees off some of the bugs and viruses that seem to be circulating at the moment.

Unfortunately, cases of COVID-19 are not disappearing, and we continue to have a considerable number of cases in school. We will continue to implement the protective measures in place, including operating year group bubbles inside school.

The spread of cases is currently affecting staffing and we are managing a significant number of staff absences. Obtaining supply cover from teaching agencies is presenting challenges at the moment, as it is not just our school affected by the current rise in cases. The number of staff absences and the frequency of changes means that I am not currently able to write to parents every time a teacher is absent, but rest assured we are managing the situation in school and are determined that we will not revert to remote learning.

We do thank you for your help and cooperation at the moment. With our united efforts, I am sure we can ensure that the children will continue to enjoy school with minimal disruption.



Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Finlay Barker in Hawking Class who recently achieved his Blue Belt in Taekwondo.



Well done to Oliver Farley in Bell Class who achieved his Grade 10 in karate at the weekend – a great job Oliver!



Well done to Matty Ng in Einstein Class – Matty has just passed his swimming class test, advancing from Little Dippers to Dippers.



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Attendance

The Government expects all schools to promote the importance of good school attendance. Attendance at The Discovery School has always been high, but is currently being adversely affected by COVID-19, Chickenpox and other illnesses. Overall attendance so far for the year 2021/22: 95.69%

Best Class Attendance:

Well done Winston Class (week ending 19th November 2021) – 99.4%

Well done Bell Class (week ending 26th November 2021) – 98.7%

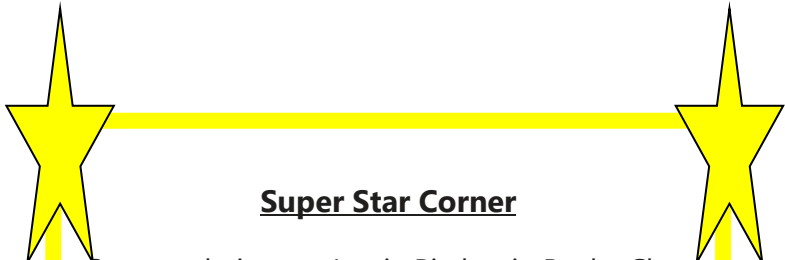
Well done Newton Class (week ending 3rd December 2021) – 95.9%



Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates for the remainder of term 2. All of the dates below, and the organisation of any planned events, will be subject to any COVID-19 restrictions which may be in place and may be subject to last minute change.

- 6th December – Year 2 Phonic Screen week
- 7th December – Parent Partnership meeting (9 a.m. to 10 a.m.)
- 8th December – Music concert outside (4:30 p.m.)
- 10th December – Christmas Dinner
- 11th December – FODS Christmas Market
- 13th and 14th December – Class Christingle assemblies
- 15th December – Christmas Party Day
- 16th December – EYFS and KS1 Carols on the playground (2:40 p.m.)
- 17th December – KS2 Carols on the Playground (2:40 p.m.)
- 17th December – Last day of Term 2
- 4th January – Start of Term 3



Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Lottie Pitcher in Peake Class who has been asked by The Birmingham Royal Ballet to perform with them in their production of 'The Nutcracker' in London, at The Royal Albert Hall between Christmas and New Year.



Lottie has also successfully auditioned for a production of Anne of Green Gables at the Peacock Theatre in London, with the London Children's Ballet.

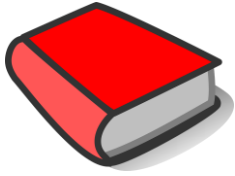


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Sweets:

We have noticed a lot of sweets being sent into school to celebrate children's birthdays. Whilst we are happy to give these out, we thought it would be timely to remind you of a preferred way to celebrate your child's birthday in school. Instead of sweets being sent into school, we suggest that you donate a children's book to your child's class book corner. We will insert a special dedication inside the front cover as a permanent tribute to your child and share the book with the class on the 'big' day. Not only is this healthier, but it is also a lovely way for your child to have a lasting memento of their birthday in school.



Kings Hill - a different ballgame:

I wanted to make you aware of a Kings Hill specific book, which may be of interest to you. Kings Hill – a different ballgame is a brief biography of Kings Hill and its community. It is filled with images of Kings Hill which were specially commissioned. It is a beautiful book and we have purchased some copies to help with the children's knowledge of local history. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, they are being sold from the Kings Hill Control Tower for £10 each. Purchases must be in cash.

All sales proceeds will be donated to Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), which is raising £22m to create a specialist Centenary Village for veterans and their families

<https://rbli.co.uk/centenaryvillage/> The RBLI is a local charity located in Aylesford.



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Super Star Corner

Well done to Tom Higginson in Hawking Class. Tom recently did his first karate grading and achieved his blue belt – moving up 3 levels in one go!



A fantastic job Tom!



Well done to Arlo Gates-Fleming in Darwin Class. Arlo has just won a medal at his first Taekwondo competition – excellent news Arlo!



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Visit by the Mayor:

The Discovery School had a visit from the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling this week. Members of the School Council, Eco-Club and Discovery News reporters greeted the Mayor and Mayoress in the main hall by the Eco-Tree. The Eco-Tree is a collection of pledges, written on leaf shaped scrap paper, that the children and adults wrote stating how they will help climate change. The Mayor chatted to the children about their pledges, the importance of climate change as well as what the Council have planned to address climate change. An informative, inspiring meeting acknowledged the children's hard work and gave them extra ideas about how they and their families can help too. After that, we had a Question and Answer session and finally, a group photo.



Super Star Corner

Well done to Ryley Chance in Peake Class who has been working really hard in his new team, Aylesford Colts. He has been doing a brilliant job in defence and was recently awarded 'Man of the Match'.



Super Star Corner

Well done to Anika Joshi in Hubble Class who has just achieved her yellow belt in karate.



Fantastic FODS!



We would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to our fabulous FODS PTA who raised a record breaking £5,879 at the recent firework display. We would also like to thank you for your support for the event. The funds raised will contribute to the overall cost of installing an all-weather outside sports pitch for our children to use all year round. The next big FODS event will be the Christmas Market on 11th December.



The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):

Matthew Scott (PCC), currently commissions several different services which provide awareness raising, safety advice and preventative educational inputs to children and young people in schools and other settings.

To help develop and inform this work and the future commissioning of these types of services, Kent Police are seeking feedback from a wide variety of individuals: Police, Professionals, Schools, Parents, Carers, and children.

The PCC has asked school staff to complete a short online survey asking for responses on the types of services needed, the areas of focus and delivery style:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SchoolsEngagement/>

All responses will help to inform how the PCC delivers awareness raising, safety advice and preventative educational inputs, now and in the future.



National Science Quiz:

Five teams of children from Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a National Science Quiz on Tuesday 30th November. All of the children performed really well, including answering some extremely difficult questions.

We are delighted to let you know that Team 1 (Ily Attard- Montalto, Olivia Day, Dylan Cutler and Ava Miller) has reached the semi-final, which will be held in February.

Well done to all of the children that took part – we are really proud of you all!



Super Star Corner

Well done to Jake Templeton in Hubble Class.

Jake has worked extremely hard and has achieved his Silver Trophy award at Kip McGrath, gaining 10,000 points!



Christmas Market:

Our fabulous FODS (PTA) are busy getting everything ready for our Christmas Market on Saturday 11th December from 12 to 3pm. This will be outdoors for the first time this year to ensure we are covid-safe, so please wrap up warm!

There will be lots of lovely stalls and the school choir will be singing some festive songs.

There is also a raffle, with lots of great prizes. Raffle tickets are available to purchase now and will be drawn at the market at 2pm:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/fods>

We hope to see lots of you there!



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Eco-club – COP 26

Eco-Club organised a variety of activities linked to the recent COP26. The first was for everyone to write a pledge to be greener, lower carbon or help enhance local biodiversity on a leaf shaped piece of scrap paper or recycled material. These leaves have been arranged as an 'Eco-Tree' in the main hall, as well as in Kings Hill Library. Take a look at our school 'Eco-Tree' and some of our pledges!



Have a lovely weekend everyone – only 22 sleeps until Christmas...

With kind regards,

T. Gobell

Miss T Gobell
Head Teacher



Anti-bullying Week

The children recently had fun wearing odd socks as part of National Anti-bullying Week. The odd socks were worn to symbolise that we are all unique, different and special in our own way. Across the school, lessons focused on Anti Bullying and included making handprints in the shape of a heart or wreath, focusing on the concept of saying 'One Kind Word' and creating a 'bucket full of kindness'!



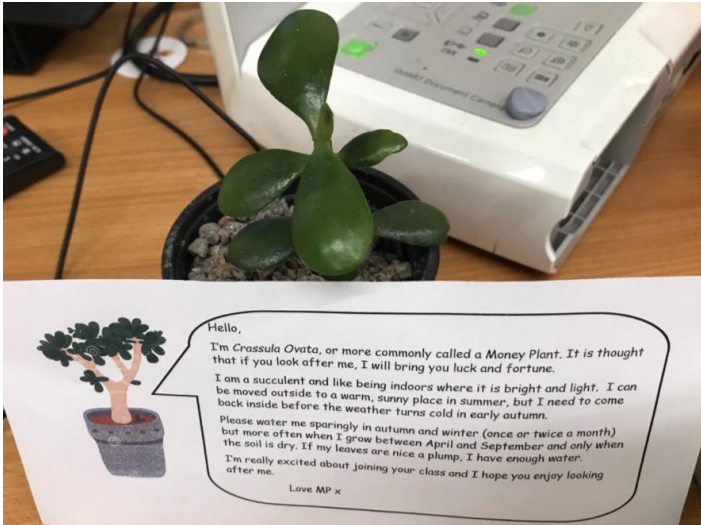
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Eco-Club News

The Eco-Club is up and running again and has been busy delivering a 'pet money plant' to every class to increase bio-diversity around the school.



(A big thank you to Mrs Chapman's mum for generously donating the money plants.)

Eco-Club also organised a variety of activities linked to COP26. The first was for everyone to write a pledge to be greener, lower carbon or help enhance local biodiversity on a leaf shaped piece of scrap paper or recycled material. These leaves have been arranged as an 'Eco-Tree' in the main hall, as well as in Kings Hill Library.

In addition, 8th November was the start of Switch Off Fortnight and Eco-Club has challenged everyone to make sure they switch off all devices and lights when not in use to save electricity. Can you rise to the challenge too?

Finally, look out for our Eco-tip in this newsletter, written by the Eco-Club, to help you live more sustainably and environmentally friendly.

Eco-Tip 1



You can save around £35 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode.

Almost all electrical and electronic appliances can be turned off at the plug without upsetting their programming. You may want to think about getting a standby saver which allows you to turn all your appliances off standby in one go.

Check the instructions for any appliances you aren't sure about. Some satellite and digital TV recorders may need to be left plugged in so they can keep track of any programmes you want to record.

Info from: energysavingtrust.org.uk

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 19th November) – Cook House

Winning House (week ending 26th November) – Scott House

Winning House (week ending 3rd December) – Franklin House



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