



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



Newsletter

Friday 11th February 2022

Week 6 Term 3

As we approach the end of Term 3, I want to thank you all for your support and patience this term. It has undoubtedly been a tremendous challenge dealing with the unprecedented staff absence levels caused by COVID-19. The School has tried exceptionally hard to minimise any disruption caused by staff changes due to illness and self-isolation. Whilst we are hugely relieved that we managed to finish the term without having to resort to remote learning and closed classes, it has nevertheless been different for the children. We are all immensely proud of the resilience and fortitude shown by your children – they are a huge credit to you all!

Despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, there has been a more noticeable move back to 'normal' school life for the children, with many enjoying visiting workshops, school visits and clubs. Let us hope that the worst is behind us and next term brings even greater consistency and normality for the children – they certainly deserve it!



Lost Property



We currently have a large amount of lost property stored in school and we are keen to reunite items with their rightful owners. Please do try to take a look in our lost property boxes in the coming days. We have a limited amount of storage space for lost property, so anything not collected by Friday 25th February will be donated to charity or recycled.



Attendance

Attendance at The Discovery School continues to be adversely affected by COVID-19 cases. Overall attendance so far for the year 2021/22 is 93.44%.

Best Class Attendance:

Well done Pasteur and Faraday Classes (week ending 4th February 2022) – 99.3%

Well done Dyson Class (week ending 11th February 2022) – 98.4%

Value Points

Winning House (week ending 28th January 2022) – Franklin House

Winning House (week ending 4th February 2022) – Cook House

Winning House (week ending 11th February 2022) – Cook House

Well done to Cook House - you are the overall winner for Term 3. Children in Cook House will have a non-uniform day on Friday 25th February!

Super Star Corner

Well done to Ivan Kulik in Archimedes Class, he recently won two gold medals in round two of the Tonbridge SC championship for his record breaking sprints. As a result of Ivan's performance, he has qualified to represent Tonbridge SC in the Kent Junior League - congratulations Ivan!



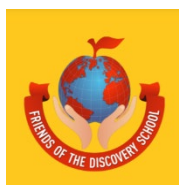
Chinese New Year "Xīnnián hǎo" (新年好):



To celebrate Chinese New Year, on Friday 4th February, the children in EYFS were lucky enough to take part in a Chinese New Year workshop. The children learned about Chinese New Year traditions and also learned a lion dance and a ribbon dance. The children had lots of fun - take a look at our pictures...



FODS (PTA) AGM:



A reminder that the FODS (Friends of the Discovery School- PTA) Annual General Meeting will be taking place in school on Monday 14th March at 7pm.

Everybody is welcome to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to review the previous year's activities, plan future events, and discuss fundraising goals and to elect new committee members.

The FODS are currently raising funds to purchase and install an all-weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for our children to use all-year round. Without the fantastic support of our volunteers, the purchase of amazing resources such as this would not be possible. The FODS really needs more support from our parent body in order to continue, so please can we encourage you to consider becoming a valued member of the team.



The Schools of Kings Hill Virtual Christmas Market:

We are delighted to let you know that, thanks to the generosity of Kings Hill residents, we have received a donation of £295 from the Schools of Kings Hill Virtual Christmas Market. This will be added to our other current fund raising for an all-weather Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Milo Martin in Hubble Class. Milo was absolutely thrilled to recently be named "Man of the Match" by his football coaches – a great achievement Milo!



Super Star Corner

Well done to Amelie Alciauskas in Hubble Class who was awarded first place in the Kings Hill Rotary Young Artist Competition for her painting of "Colours of Nature".

Amelie's artwork is now going to compete in the Regional stage of the competition, in Ramsgate – you should be really proud of yourself Amelie!





A polite message from EYFS

We know it is really tempting for little ones – but please can we ask you not to let younger children play with the outdoor equipment in Early Years at the end of the day. The outside area is an extension of the classroom and is carefully planned and set up to deliver the curriculum. If younger children play with the equipment, things end up in the wrong place or resources get lost or broken – it then takes an age for staff to clear up after everyone has left for the day. This is time after school that can be better spent planning and assessing your children's learning, so please can you ensure that children are carefully supervised at this time. We will be monitoring this over the coming weeks. If it continues, then we will have to make different arrangements for pick up time which will no doubt be less convenient for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!

A message from the Chair of Governors

I wanted to update you on what the Governing Body have been doing this term. Our fantastic Finance Committee have had their termly meeting with the School's Business Manager to evaluate how well the school is doing. Our EYFS Governor, Mrs Steele and myself visited Year R. It was fantastic to have the chance to meet the children and see all of the wonderful things they have been learning. On our visit, we saw children doing some fabulous painting for the Chinese New Year celebrations and in the outside area, an amazing fortress had been constructed from crates.

The Quality of Education Governor, Mrs Connelly met with Miss Baker to discuss how the pupils were doing with their learning. It was great to hear how hard the pupils are all working and about the progress they are making.

As Chair, I met with the School's Improvement Advisor to hear how well the school was doing, especially in ICT, which was the focus of his visit. He also expressed how polite and confident the pupils were. As Safeguarding Governor, Mrs Stringer visited the School and attended a number of meetings to monitor the School's work in supporting pupil well-being. Finally, I visited as Pupil Premium Champion to hear about how the class teachers are working really hard with the pupils to ensure that they are closing any gaps in learning.

Sadly, Mr Parrott has decided to step down as a Governor as he pursues new adventures. Mr Parrott has dedicated many years to being a Governor at the school and we are truly grateful to him for all of his hard work. I would like to thank him on behalf of the whole school community for his time and commitment.

I am excited to say that we will be shortly advertising for new governor positions. If you would like to learn more about what the role of governor entails, please feel free to email me: chairofgovernors@discovery.kent.sch.uk.

Wishing you all a great half term break!

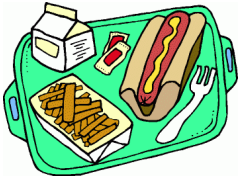
Annabel Cornall
Chair of Governors



Science Quiz:

Huge congratulations to our two teams (Aimee Mallett, Ruby Fiehn, Aiden Haliti, Ilvy Attard-Montalto, Dylan Cutler and Ava Miller) that got through to the recent semi-finals of the National Schools' Science Quiz.

There were sixteen teams from around the country taking part. All of our children did an AMAZING job – answering some incredibly challenging questions! We are pleased to announce that Team 2 (Aimee Mallett, Ruby Fiehn and Aiden Haliti) made it to the national finals which will be taking place in June. Go Team Discovery!



Year 5 and 6 School Visits:

If your child is participating in a morning secondary school tour, taster session or visit, please can you ensure that you inform the school office, including whether your child will be having a school dinner or packed lunch afterwards. Thank you!



Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates for Terms 4.

- **14th – 18th February – Half Term**
- 2nd March – FODS Pantomime in school
- 3rd March – World Book Day
- 7th March to 11th March – Science Week
- 7th March – Year 5 Astrodome Visit
- 8th March – Year 1 visit to Leeds Castle
- 21st and 22nd March – Class photographs
- 23rd FODS – Non Uniform Day - £1
- 29th March – Parent Consultations
- 29th March – FODS Easter raffle Draw
- 30th March – FODS Easter Egg Hunt
- 31st March Parents Consultations
- **1st April – Last day of Term 4**

Finally...

Welcome back to Mrs Coldwell who returned from her Maternity Leave this week!

Have a lovely half term break everyone!

With kind regards,

Tina Gobell - Headteacher