



# Newsletter

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Term 3 Week 6



We have reached the end of another term and the children should be very proud of all their hard work since the start of the new calendar year.

This term, the children have enjoyed sporting events and tournaments, workshops, collaborative activities with other schools in the locality, Safer Internet Day, forest school and a trip to the O2 arena!

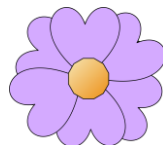
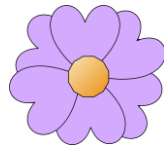
When the children return after the school break, there is lots more to look forward to, not least the annual Easter Egg hunt organised by our fantastic FODS.

I hope you enjoy a lovely half term break with your children – fingers crossed for some sunny weather!

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](mailto:erandle@discovery.kent.sch.uk))

Overall attendance for The Discovery School so far for the year 2023/24 is 94.2% (well below expected attendance of 96%).

### **Best Class Attendance:**

Well done Newton Class (week ending 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024) – 98.7%

Well done Einstein Class (week ending 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024) – 97.9%

Well done Nightingale Class (week ending 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024) - 100%

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### Girl Guiding Kent Weald:

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the Girl Guiding Association will be celebrating World Thinking Day. Traditionally, this is a day on which all Guides and Girl Scouts think of each other and celebrate the Girl Guiding Association around the world. As part of this special day, any of our children that belong to the Guides can wear their uniform or 'promise badge' to school for the day.

### Young Voices at the O2 Arena



Our Key Stage Two Choir participated in the Young Voices Concert at the London O2 Arena on 29th January. We joined with other school choirs from all over the country, to form a huge 'wall of sound' consisting of over 9000 children!

We enjoyed singing a fantastic selection of specially written songs to include medleys from Moana and the Matilda musical.

It was so exciting for the children to perform in an event of this scale; the experience will stay in their memories for a lifetime! One of the highlights this year was singing with the amazing 13-year-old drummer Nandi Bushel. She is an incredibly talented and inspirational performer. The atmosphere in the arena was electric!



### Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set so far for Term 4:

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 19<sup>th</sup> February – **Start of Term 4**
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – SEND Coffee Morning
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Collaborative Mathematics week (with Ryarsh, Mereworth and Kings Hill Primary Schools)
- Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Hawking Class Parent Consultations
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February – Hawking Class Parent Consultations
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Secondary School Year 7 Offer Day
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March – EYFS Hearing and vision tests
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March - EYFS Hearing and vision tests
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day (more details to follow)
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Partnership Meeting
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Non uniform day for £1
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Year 6 SATs meeting for parents
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March – FODS (PTA) Annual General Meeting for parents
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Class photographs
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Class photographs
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Consultations
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Parent Consultations
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Raffle Draw
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Easter assembly with Reverend Mark
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Egg hunt
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – **Last day of Term 4**
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – **Start of Term 5**



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### 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 26<sup>th</sup> January) – Garnet House! 😊

Winning House (week ending 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Peridot House 😊

Winning House (week ending 9<sup>th</sup> February – Garnet House 😊



### FODS Quiz Night -

Many thanks to our volunteer parents for giving up their time to organise another fantastic event for you to enjoy. Every event raises much valued funds for our school to spend on the children.

The next big event – and back by popular demand – is one of our brilliant quiz nights. Our fantastic FODS has organised the fun for **Friday 8th March 2024 at 6.45pm.**

Quizmaster Jill begins the quiz at 7.30pm, with some amazing prizes available for the winners! There will also be a Fish and Chips Van parked outside from 6.45pm for any hungry quizzers!

Do join our FODS for a fantastic fun night out!

### Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Olly Farley from Jemison Class who has just been awarded Karateka of the Year at his karate club – fantastic news Olly!



Well done to Millie Tevfik who competed last weekend – Millie had a very good day and placed 1st in her Paso Doble and 5th in her 4 dance.

Millie will be competing at Blackpool Tower this coming weekend for the All England Championships – good luck Millie!





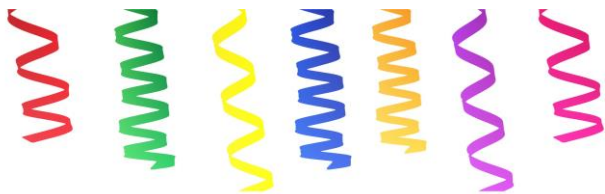
## **Football news!**

On Thursday 25th January, our boy's football team represented Maidstone in the South East Regional Football Finals held at The Longmead Stadium in Tonbridge.

We started strongly, winning three games in our group against Eastbourne, Welling and Southend, which led to an automatic semi-final spot.

Sadly, injuries and illness caught up with us and we fell narrowly short in reaching the final - to the team that eventually went on to win the whole event.

Despite this, we managed to pick ourselves back up and win the 3rd place play-off against Dartford to cap off a great day. Well done Team Discovery!



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## **Super Star Corner**

Well done to Erin Woolsey in Galileo Class - Erin started attending Jujitsu in October 2023 and this week she was awarded the Student of the Month Trophy for her hard work, dedication and positive attitude!



Congratulations to Emilia Cornall in Curie Class who recently competed in a Kent County Cup competition for trampolining. She achieved 2nd place and has qualified to represent Kent in an inter-county competition. Fantastic news Emilia!



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