



# Newsletter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Term 2 Week 7

The end of Term 2 and the end of 2023 has arrived – where did the last 12 months go!

The last two weeks of term have been very busy: Nativity plays, Christingle assemblies, Christmas parties, Christmas dinner, carols on the playground, music concerts and of course our annual Christmas Fayre.

It has been lovely seeing so many of you in school during the last two weeks; for those of you unable to make it in, included in this newsletter are some photographs of some of the special events that have taken place.

With only 10 more sleeps until the big day, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

Kind regards,

*T. Gobell*

Miss T Gobell  
Headteacher



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## Good Luck!

Good luck to Miss Meiners who leaves us today to start her maternity leave. We send her our very best wishes at this exciting time!



## Attendance

The Department for Education (DfE) is continuing with its drive to improve school attendance and get it back to pre-COVID pandemic levels. Attendance at The Discovery School has always been high, which is something to be celebrated, but we will continue to do all we can to improve this where we can.

Overall attendance so far for the year 2023/24: 95%

## Best Class Attendance:

Well done Edison Class (week ending 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023) – 98.7%

Well done Gilbert Class (week ending 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023) – 97.3%

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## FODS Christmas Fayre:

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent FODS Firework Christmas Fayre – thanks to your generosity and the great work of our fantastic volunteer FODS committee, an amazing £1,318 was raised for the school to spend on the children.



## Book Fair:

At our recent Book Fair, we raised £585.09 to spend on new books for our library - fantastic!



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### **Bikes and Scooters:**

No doubt Santa may be delivering some new bikes or scooters on Christmas morning. With this in mind, can we please remind parents not to let the children ride their scooters and bikes within the school grounds when we return in the New Year. With so many pedestrians on the paths, it just isn't safe. Thank you!



### **EYFS visit Costa!**

The children in EYFS recently braved the rain to go on a very important mission – posting letters to Father Christmas. The children walked around Kings Hill, following a map before

posting their letters. Their hard work was then rewarded with a Babycino in Costa!



### **Year 4 Trip to Kent Life:**

This term, Year 4 visited Kent Life to take part in a series of workshops to further their learning about the Romans. They

met a Roman Slave, a Roman Engineer and a Roman Centurion who taught them all about life in their empire. They even got to make an aqueduct and a Roman road! They marched in the formation of the testudo and got to hold shields and swords whilst they prepared for battle. A great day was had by all!



### **A message from the Governing Body**

I wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christmas is such a magical time at the school and this year has not disappointed. Well done to all of our children for being involved in the various celebrations including; amazing choir performances, music concerts, nativities, craft afternoons, Christingles and carol singing to name a few. The festive cheer has been celebrated in our local community too with the choir performing at the Landings and in West Malling's light switch on. It was great to see so many of you at our Christmas Fayre supporting the FODS and enjoying a visit from the special big man in red!

As always, it is important to recognise and appreciate the hard-working staff who make The Discovery School such a wonderful place for the pupils. Hope that you have a restful Christmas break with friends and family, looking forward to seeing you in January 2024.

Annabel Cornall  
Chair of Governors



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# The FODS Christmas Fayre



On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, The Discovery School was transformed into a winter wonderland. There were craft stalls, a giant snow globe, a snow machine, Santa's grotto and a visit from the big man himself! The afternoon was rounded off with a lovely Christmas performance by our school choir! Huge thanks must go to FODS, our volunteer group of parents, who worked so hard to ensure that the local community, our children and their families had a great time.





### Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set for the first two weeks of next term:

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 2<sup>nd</sup> January – **Term 3 begins** – all children return to school
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – New Entrants Tour at 9:30am
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January - New Entrants tour at 1:45pm
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Year 1 Africa Workshop
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Year 5 Astrodome visit

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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 8<sup>th</sup> December)  
– all four houses! 😊

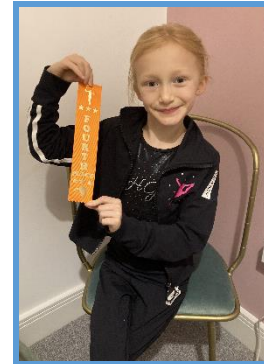
Winning House (week ending 15<sup>th</sup> December)  
– Citrine and Garnet Houses 😊

The overall winning house for Term 2 was Citrine House 😊

Well done, Citrine House – you will have non-uniform day on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Nancie Dadswell in Berners-Lee Class who finished 4th in the Kent Gymnastics vault and floor competition in Canterbury on December 10<sup>th</sup> - a massive well done!



Well done to Frank Dobinson in Nightingale Class who recently went for a trial at Chelsea FC. Frank has been offered a place on their player development team – great news Frank!

### Well done!

Congratulations to Nancie Dadswell in Berners-Lee Class. Nancie's Christmas card design was recently chosen by Tom Tugendhat, MP, as a winner in his annual Christmas card design competition. Well done Nancie!



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# Christmas at The Discovery School!

The children have been busily celebrating Christmas in school. Take a look at some of our pictures!



## A visit from Reverend Mark

Reverend Mark recently visited the children to begin our deliver a special assembly, marking the beginning of Advent. He talked about the importance of each week during Advent and what it symbolised. He also talked about what Christians do during this time in the lead up to Christmas.



## Christingle

Every child spent Monday making a Christingle, ready for our special assemblies on Tuesday. The hall looked beautiful with all of the candles lit – and the children sang beautifully!



## Year 1 Christmas Nativity

The children in Year One performed two special assemblies for parents – Baarmy Bethlehem. The children were AMAZING!



## EYFS Christmas Craft Afternoon

The children in EYFS invited their parents and carers into the classrooms to complete some special Christmas craft activities.

The grown-ups were then treated to some lovely singing!

