



# Newsletter

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Week 3 Term 3

It hardly seems possible that we are already halfway through Term 3 – where did the time go!

Despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, the children have settled beautifully back into school. Behind the scenes, staffing continues to be a significant challenge, but we remain determined to find solutions that avoid a return to remote learning. Let us hope that we are approaching the end of the current wave of infections so that we can all look forward to a more settled time in the months ahead...



## **A message from the School Office:**

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please can we ask that you contact the school office and let us know. Although the school is no longer responsible for Test and Trace, we still have to keep a running total of COVID-19 infections and have to report the number of cases to the Department for Education and UK health Protection Agency.

Please could we kindly ask parents to give us your child's class name and full name (including surname). Lots of children have the same first name, so your child's full name and class are essential pieces of information. Thank you!



## **Attendance**

Attendance at The Discovery School has always been high but is currently being adversely affected by COVID-19 cases. Overall attendance so far for the year 2021/22: 93.89%. When excluding COVID-19 cases for our absence data, attendance is 96.4%, which is very good.

## **Best Class Attendance:**

Well done Newton and Archimedes Class  
(week ending 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022) – 99.6%

Well done Hubble Class  
(week ending 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022) – 99.4%

Well done Armstrong Class  
(week ending 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022) – 95.5%

## **Value Points**

Winning House (week ending 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022) – Scott and Franklin Houses

Winning House (week ending 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022) – Franklin House

Winning House (week ending 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022) – Scott House



Wellbeing Award  
for Schools

2020-2023

[www.discovery.kent.sch.uk](http://www.discovery.kent.sch.uk)





### Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates for Terms 3 and 4.

- 28<sup>th</sup> January – Big Garden Bird Watch
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Year 2 visit to Kent Life
- 4<sup>th</sup> February – EYFS Chinese Dragon Dance Workshop
- 8<sup>th</sup> February Safer Internet Day
- 9<sup>th</sup> February – Fire safety talk by the Fire Brigade (all year groups)
- **14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March – FODS Pantomime in school
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> March – Science Week
- 7<sup>th</sup> March – Year 5 Astrodome Visit
- 8<sup>th</sup> February – Year 1 visit to Leeds Castle
- 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Class photographs
- 29<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Consultations
- 31<sup>st</sup> March Parents Consultations
- **1<sup>st</sup> April – Last day of Term 4**

Please also find below the dates of the Staff Development Days set for the rest of this academic year and the first three dates set for 2022/2023.

- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022– Staff Development Day
- 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – Staff Development Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 – Staff Development Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022– Staff Development Day

### **Important – Date Change:**

**Under** direction from the Government's Department for Education, the school year for all schools will be shortened by one day. This is because of the additional Bank Holiday allocated to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Therefore the last day of term for this academic year will now be **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022.**

### Super Star Corner

Well done to Lucy Amos in Darwin Class. Lucy recently achieved her 10 metre swimming award. Congratulations Lucy!



Well done to Cooper Coman in Attenborough Class who was awarded 'Man of the Match' by Kings Hill Football Club Colts Under 7s, for playing brilliantly in defence – a great job Cooper!



### Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Ethan Doyle in Bell Class. Ethan was recently awarded the Karateka of the Year trophy for his hard work in Karate – a great achievement Ethan!



Well done to Tom Higginson in Hawking Class. Just before Christmas, Tom won both the Most Spirited Award and the Most Fittest pupil in the whole class – you should be really proud of yourself Tom!



### Packed Lunches

As a school, we are required to promote an ethos of healthy eating with our children. As such, please can we respectfully remind you that crisps and chocolate biscuits are only permitted on a Friday, which is also 'Chippy Friday' for the children eating a school dinner. Many thanks!



### Snowy Weather:

As we head into the coldest months, we need to be prepared for the possibility of snow.

Attached to this newsletter is a reminder of the arrangements in place, in the event of adverse weather conditions.

### Finally...



Congratulations to Halli Adcock in Jenner Class. Before Christmas, children across Tonbridge and Malling were invited to submit Christmas card designs to Mr

Tom Tugendhat, Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling, for his annual Christmas card design competition. We are delighted to announce that Halli was selected as a winner. In the last week of term, Mr. Tugendhat visited our school to present Halli with her prize. Well done Halli!

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

With kind regards,

*T. Gobell*

Miss T Gobell  
Head Teacher



## Severe Weather Conditions 2021-2022

As we approach the part of the year when colder weather is inevitable, we are writing to clarify arrangements for severe weather. If at all possible, The Discovery School will stay open during all weathers. On occasions however, the school may need to close. This will be because insufficient staff number have been able to get to school as a result of severe localised weather conditions - a large number of our staff have to travel a significant distance to get to school.

If the school has to close, an alert will be placed on our school website by 7:15 a.m. in the first instance:

<https://www.discovery.kent.sch.uk/>

After this, a message will go out on local radio stations before the start of the school day. Local Radio information is given out on:

- Radio Kent (96.7 FM, 97.6 FM or 104.2 FM)
- Heart FM Radio (103.1 – 102.8 FM)
- KMFM Radio (96.2 – 107.9 FM)

An email will also be sent via SchoolComms to inform parents of the current situation.

A list of school closures can also be found at [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk).

We will always aim to make a decision to close as early as possible on each day of potential school closure as we do not want parents and children to travel unnecessarily. However, assessing whether we have enough adults in school to open can take a while, particularly as we are a large school and most of our staff do not live within walking distance. This is further complicated by localised snow conditions and disruption to public transport.

In order to assist us in making a decision as early as possible and communicating this to you, please **DO NOT** contact the school by telephone to find out if the school is open. This blocks the phone line and hinders the school from assessing the situation.

If a decision to close cannot be made the night before, we will always aim to make a decision and inform you between 7:00 a.m. and 7.30 a.m. on the day of any closure.

In the event of school closure due to severe weather conditions, work for the children to complete will be set online.

We recognise that some parents may have difficult journeys to and from school and that you have the responsibility of getting your child/children to and from school safely. You will need to decide if the journey is safe when severe weather affects driving and/or walking conditions, but please inform the school (after 8.00 a.m.) if your child is to be absent due to severe weather conditions, so that we can record the absence correctly.

If the school should have to close during the school day because of deteriorating weather conditions, parents/carers will be informed via SchoolComms (text).



On occasions, school meal services may be affected by weather conditions, although we would expect this to be carefully managed by Caterlink. Should hot meals not be available for any reason, we will communicate this to you via SchoolComms.



In the event that we are open and have sufficient snow for the children to play with outside, wellington boots and an old pair of shoes/boots are essential! A change of socks/tights might also be useful. Unfortunately those children who do not have a change of footwear will be unable to play outside in snowy conditions.