



# Newsletter

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Term 4 Week 6



We have reached the end of another term and the children should be very proud of all their hard work throughout the last six weeks.

Since the last newsletter, some of the children have been to Canterbury, taken part in workshops, celebrated Science Week and Mathematics Week and enjoyed continued sporting success!

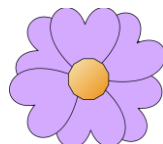
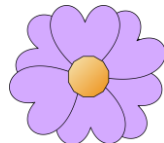
This term has culminated in our Easter celebrations, with the children welcoming Reverend Mark to school on Monday for a special Easter assembly and taking part in a fantastic Easter Egg Hunt organised by our fantastic FODS!

With the weather finally becoming a little sunnier and a little warmer, I hope you enjoy a lovely end of term break with your children!

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 94.6% (well below expected attendance of 96%).

### **Best Class Attendance:**

Well done Curie Class (week ending 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024) – 98.6%

Well done Jackson Class (week ending 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024) – 99.4%

Well done Johnson Class (week ending 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024) – 99.2%

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## Year 2 Wattle and Daub:

This week, Mrs Chapman worked with the Year 2 children, giving them a 'Wattle and Daub' experience, enhancing their understanding of how houses in 1666 were built. The wattle is the wood and stick frame and the daub is the mix of soil, hay and cow dung (year 2 used another type of soil!) used to fill in the holes. The children loved their experience and were expert weavers!



## Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set so far for Term 5:

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 15<sup>th</sup> April – **Start of Term 5**
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – National Year R 2024 Offer Day
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Edison Class Assembly at 9:00am
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Year 1 Transport workshop
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Goodall Class assembly at 9:00am
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Earhart Class assembly at 9:00am
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – BANK HOLIDAY
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Darwin Class assembly at 9:00am
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs Week begins
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – Year 6 PGL information session for parents at 9:00am
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Year 5 11+ Secondary School Transfer Meeting for parents at 9:00am
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Year 5 Sleepover
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – INSET Day – school closed for children
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – **End of Term 5**
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – **Start of Term 6**

## Thank you!



Thank you to our fantastic FODS for organising a really successful Easter Raffle and

Easter Egg Hunt for the children this week.

Despite the rain, the FODS team were really creative and managed to create 'alternative' inside hunts to match the weather. As always, we are really grateful to you all!



## **Good Luck and Welcome!**

As term 4 comes to a close, we need to say farewell and good luck to two of our staff. Miss McNicoll, Jackson Class teacher, has decided on a change of career outside of teaching, Mrs. Mitchell, one of our Key Workers, will be taking on a new role supporting families and children in Kent and Mrs. Champ who is one of our midday supervisor team members in moving onto pastures new. We wish them all well for the future.

After the Easter break, we welcome some new staff to The Discovery School: Mr. Wood will be a new Year 4 teacher and Year Group Lead. We also welcome some new teachers who will be covering maternity leave for the next year: Mrs. Price and Ms. Dunne will be teaching in Year 5 and Mrs. Coleman will be teaching in Year 3. Finally, we welcome Mrs. Catling and Miss Parrington to our fantastic team of Key Workers.

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> March) – Citrine House! 😊

Winning House (week ending 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Topaz and Garnet Houses 😊

Winning House (week ending 28<sup>th</sup> March – All Houses 😊

Well done to Topaz House – you are the overall winning House for Term 4! You will have a non-uniform day on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April!



## **Sporting News:**

Our Discovery School sports teams have had an AMAZING run of success since the last newsletter.

### **Netball Team**

Well done to the Discovery School Netball team who won the Kent Teach Malling netball tournament on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. They won all their matches; they won the last match 7-0! Not only did the children perform brilliantly on the pitch but their etiquette and manners representing the school were amazing. Thank you also to Mrs. Keeper for all her hard work in coaching the team. They all did the school proud!

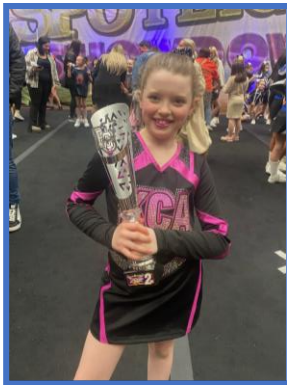


### **Football Teams:**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, The Discovery School girls' football team played against Mereworth School in the Tonbridge and Malling District Primary School League. They performed fantastically and won 13-0. The girls' team followed this up with a win at Platt Primary School on 25<sup>th</sup> March, winning the match 14-0. A particular shout out to Georgie who volunteered herself to play the second half of the match for the opposition to give them extra support. The boys' team also won their match, 5-3 against Platt. It was brilliant team performances in both games - well done!

### Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Bella Buet in Jackson Class who recently entered the Future Cheer Spotlight 2024 competition. Bella's team came second and as she was the top centre flyer, it was a very proud moment.



Well done to Oliver Bew in Earhart Class who has achieved his 10 metre swimming badge. Excellent news Oliver!



### Super Star Corner

Well done to Caedan James-Whatman who has been attending Parkour classes – Caedan has been awarded Star of the Week and has received an award for developing 7 new skills, including front flips from a bar!



### Winners of the World Book Day Wooden Spoon Competition

Well done to Leo Jones for winning the EYFS Wooden Spoon competition and Daisy Morton for winning the KS1 competition!





**Cricket:**

Some of our children have been taking part in cricket sessions recently in their PE lessons. These have been provided by the charity Chance to Shine and delivered by a coach from Kent County Cricket Club.

Cricket is a great way for boys and girls to enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle and to make new friends. Some of the local cricket clubs in our area will be running All Stars Cricket (for 5-8 year olds) and Dynamos Cricket (for 8-11 year olds) over the coming months.

This link gives information about All Stars Cricket: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>

Click here for details of Dynamos Cricket: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscricket>

Other cricket clubs in your area also run their own tailored sessions for school children - it's always worth checking their individual website for details.

**Winners of the World Book Day Wooden Spoon Competition**

Well done to Skye Older for winning the Upper Key Stage 2 Wooden Spoon competition and Freddie Cranmer for winning the Lower Key Stage 2 competition!



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**Super Star Corner**

Well done to Alexander Thomson-O'Connor in Goodall class for passing his recent Karate grading to become a 9th Kyu - Blue Belt – fantastic news Alexander!



Congratulations to Olly Farley in Jemison Class who recently achieved his Grade 4 in Karate – great news Olly!

