



September 2026

Newsletter

Term 1



I am sure you will join me in congratulating the children on their positive return to school. All of

the children have settled back into school life very well and have started the school year in a really positive way. It has also been lovely welcoming our new children, including our new Reception children and their parents, to The Discovery School.

We also welcome Mrs Trenerry, our new EYFS teacher, and Mrs Boswell, our new teaching assistant, to our school this term.

It was great seeing so many of you at our recent 'Meet the Teacher' events – hopefully you found them to be informative and a good introduction to the year ahead.

There is lots to look forward to in the coming weeks and months – coming up is our Harvest celebration and Christmas will be here before we know it...

Kind regards,

T. Gobell

Miss T Gobell
Headteacher



Attendance

No doubt you will have seen much reporting in the national media regarding the Government's continued drive to improve school attendance. The Department for Education (DfE) continues to make good school attendance a priority, with the Government placing more emphasis on parents ensuring their children attend school regularly and increased expectations that schools and Local Authorities take ever more robust steps to reduce absence levels. This includes issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for continuously condoned parental absence and the taking of holidays during term-time. Below is a link to our Attendance Policy 2026:

<https://www.discovery.kent.sch.uk/assets/Documents/Attachments/Attendance-Policy-2026-2027.pdf>

The section relating to 'Requests for leave of absence' has been updated to reflect the DfE's position on granting authorised leave during term-time. The DfE's position is that a holiday during term time is usually not considered an exceptional circumstance.

Attendance at The Discovery School continues to be good, 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 2026/27 is **96.5%**, which is the attendance target set for our school, this year.

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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 11th September – Garnet House 😊)

Winning House (week ending 18th September – Topaz House 😊)

Winning House (week ending 25th September – Citrine House 😊)

“Calling All Police Families!

This is a message for families within our school community who have a parent or partner working in the police service.

We know that police life can sometimes be busy and unpredictable, with shifts, long hours and the demands of the job affecting family life too. One of our parents is looking to start a network to provide a relaxed and friendly opportunity for police families to meet others who understand, share experiences and enjoy social activities together.

Whether you're new to the police family or have been part of it for years, everyone is welcome. We hope it will be a positive way for families connected to our school to build friendships, support one another and feel part of a wider community.

If you are interested, please contact Leila on 07794688290.

FODS Village!

FODS Village Continues to Grow!

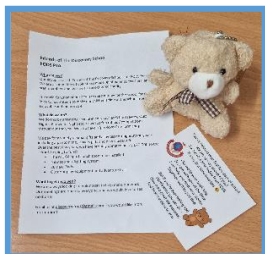
Thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of our FODS PTA last year, we have been able to continue developing our ever-expanding FODS Village, a special play village that is gradually being created for children to enjoy during break times and lunchtimes. Following the installation of our outdoor Reading House, which was funded through the wonderfully supported 'Move for Books' sponsored event, we were delighted to add two new features over the summer: the 'Imagination Station' and 'Play House'. Our next exciting projects are a Games Station and a Scooter Track.

A huge thank you to our dedicated FODS Committee for their tireless fundraising efforts and to all our families for supporting the many events held throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing lots of you at our next big event, the annual Firework Display!



WELCOME



We would like to say a big "Hello and Welcome!" to our new children who started at The Discovery School this term. We are very happy to welcome you and your families to The Discovery School. Take a look at the cute gifts that were given to all of our new Year R children, when they started school – a gift from our FODS (PTA)!



Kent Fire and Rescue Service!

Kent Fire and Rescue Service has launched a brand new YouTube Kids mini-series, 'Be Safe with Us'.

Children love watching their favourite programmes and videos, so Kent Fire and Rescue Service has created something that's both fun and educational!

The short videos are designed to help teach children important safety skills including understanding fire engines, what to do in an emergency, and the importance of smoke alarms.

They're a great way for the family to learn together about staying safe at home. We hope you enjoy them!

You can watch the videos here:

<https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/besafewithus>



Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Olive Miller in Nightingale Class, who has achieved her Red Belt in Karate - she has worked very hard in a short space of time to achieve this. Well done, Olive!



Well done to Sienna Grimshaw in Nightingale Class, who recently won the LTA 8U Girls London and South East Tour at Bromley Tennis Centre. Sienna has also been selected for the Kent Tennis 8U County Training Squad for the 2026/2027 season – a great achievement, Sienna!



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Parking and the Drop-Off Zone

Please can we remind parents not to park in the Drop-off Zone or on the zig-zag lines whilst waiting for the school gates to open. We have a number of before school activities that parents need to safely deliver their children to, as well as parents wishing to drop their children off, who cannot if the Drop-off Zone is being used for parking. With the new parking restrictions outside of the school grounds, it is more important than ever that the Drop-off Zone is kept free flowing. If you wish to park and wait for the gates to open, please use the designated parking bays or park outside of the school grounds and walk.

When parking outside of the school grounds, please be mindful not to obstruct private driveways.



Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set for the remainder of Term 1. 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.

- 5th to 9th October – School Harvest Collection
- 5th October – Black History Month begins
- 7th October – New Entrants Tour at 9:30am
- 13th October – New Entrants Tour at 9:30am
- 15th October - Kent Test result day
- 20th October – FODS Halloween Raffle draw
- 23rd October - End of Term 1
- 2nd November – Start of term 2

Scouts
Mereworth & Kings Hill

**ADVENTURE
FRIENDSHIP
SKILLS FOR LIFE**

Squirrels 4-6 years
Beavers 6-8 years
Cubs 8-10 years

Join our Scout group and be part of a fun, friendly community where young people learn new skills, make friends and have amazing adventures.

SQUIRRELS
Play. Explore. Grow.
 ✓ Make new friends and build confidence
 ✓ Try exciting activities indoors and out
 ✓ Learn new skills through play
 ✓ Go on fun adventures and explore the outdoors
 From your first meeting to your first adventure...

BEAVERS
Try. Learn. Belong.
 ✓ Beavers is the place for 6-8 year olds to discover, make friends and get stuck into exciting activities and adventures.
 ✓ Try new skills and activities
 ✓ Learn about the world around them
 ✓ Make lasting friendships

CUBS
Be Prepared. Have Fun.
 Cubs is for 8-10 year olds who want to do more, learn new skills and make a difference. It's a place to be yourself and be part of something bigger.
 ✓ Outdoor adventures and camps
 ✓ Learn new skills and challenges
 ✓ Help the community
 ✓ Make new friends
 You don't need Scouting experience, just enthusiasm!

scan and complete the form to join the waitlist

Outdoor adventures | New skills | Lifelong friendships

Mereworth & Kings Hill Scout Group | **Scouts** Mereworth & Kings Hill | #SkillsForLife
Proudly part of Scouts. Learn more at scouts.org.uk

Our local Scout Group has multiple sections (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts) for young people from 4-year-olds up, including the new Squirrel Drey for 4 to 6-year-olds. If your child is interested in being part of the Scout movement please visit the Scouts website to find out more.

The Scout Group is also looking for adult volunteers to support their expanding group. If you would like to be involved in Scouting, please email volunteering@mkhscouts.org.uk

There are many volunteer roles within Scouting, including ones which can be completed remotely.

