



Newsletter

Friday 11th November 2022

Term 2 Week 2

Term 2 has started smoothly and all of the children have settled nicely back into their routines. I hope you all enjoyed the half term break and the unseasonably mild weather.

A big thank you to all our helpers and our FODS team who worked so hard in organising our amazing Fireworks event on Saturday evening. I do hope you enjoyed the event.

With Christmas just around the corner (who can believe it!), the children can start to look forward to the festive events we have planned – watch this space for more details as we get closer to our Christmas events.

With COP 27 taking place, this week the children have been immersed in learning about climate change and taking care of our planet – take a look at some pictures from Protect our Planet Day.

The week culminated in a special Remembrance Assembly today. The children came together to remember the fallen and to reflect on the importance of Remembrance Day.

Next week is national Anti-Bullying Week, starting with 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday. Highlights of this special week will feature in our next newsletter.

With kind regards,

Miss T Gobell - Head Teacher

Attendance



The Government expects all schools to promote the importance of good school attendance. Following the disruption caused by the pandemic, regular attendance at school has never been more important. With this in mind, we will be monitoring attendance very closely over the coming months and comparing it to other schools nationally. Overall attendance so far for the year 2022/23 has been good at 96.4%.

Best Class Attendance:

Well done Thunberg Class (week ending 4th November 2022) – 99.4%

Well done Seacole and Jackson Classes (week ending 11th November 2022) – 99%



Thank you!

I would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to Mr. Healey and Spadeworks for donating lots of pumpkins to assist the Year 2 children with their 'pumpkin' poetry writing. Exploring the pumpkins really helped the children with their language and made teaching expanded noun phrases much more exciting!



Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set so far for November 2022:

- 12th November – FODS Firework Display
- 14th November – Anti-bullying Week
- 14th November – Odd Sock Day
- 14th November – New entrants tour at 9.30am
- 16th November – Year 6 – Horton Kirby Trip
- 21st November – Year 3 Canterbury Trip
- 22nd November – Children's Flu vaccinations
- 22nd November – Parent Consultations (Edison and Gilbert only)
- 23rd November – Parent Consultations
- 24th November – Parent Consultations
- 25th November – INSET Day – school closed to children

The Discovery School Council:

Our school councillors recently organised a Collection for the local food bank. We have received a lovely message of thanks from St. Gabriel's Church: "We just wanted to say a massive thank you for your amazing donations from the school recently. It really has made a big difference to the people we help".

The School Council will be organising their next foodbank collection for Friday 9th December.



Super Star Corner

Well done to Harvey Murrison in Goodall Class who has completed his Water Skills Level 3 and his swimming Level Stage 3 – excellent news!



Well done to Leif Taylor-Feld in Jenner Class for giving up his time to help others by selling poppies in West Malling with his Squirrel Drey. Well done Leif – you should be so proud of yourself!





Parking:

Once again, I am having to write to parents about parking within and outside of our school site.

Despite numerous reminders, some parents are still parking in the 'Drop-off Zone'. This includes whilst waiting for the gates to open in the mornings or whilst walking children to the gate.

Under no circumstances must cars use the 'Drop-off Zone' for parking. This area is in constant use, and by parking and waiting, other parents cannot use the Zone. Parents who park will be challenged by staff and asked to move on. Notices will also be placed on windscreens. We do not expect staff to be on the receiving end of verbal abuse whilst doing this. If you need to park, you must use the designated parking spaces or park outside of the school grounds.

Additionally, I have received complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate parking outside of the school grounds. Some parent/carers have been parking in residents' private car parking spaces; this is not acceptable. Please be considerate to our school neighbours. I appreciate that the vast majority of parents use the 'drop-off zone' correctly and do not cause a nuisance to residents. However, the actions of a few are causing much offence and inconvenience.



Sickness:

As we enter sickness season, please can we remind parents that if your child is absent from school with diarrhoea or sickness, then your child must remain off school for 48 hours following the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea.



Remembrance Day:

On Friday, the children came together for a special Remembrance Day assembly.

The children took part in a whole-school act of remembrance and reflected on the sacrifice so many have made for us. Mrs. Budd, one of our school governors, came into school to talk to the children about her father who served in WW2 and she showed his medals to the children. On Sunday, a wreath will be laid during the Kings Hill Remembrance Service on behalf of the children at The Discovery School.



A wreath made by the children in Gilbert Class

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 4th November 2022) – Shackleton House 😊

Protect our Planet Day 2022

On Thursday 10th November, we celebrated our incredible planet by taking part in the inaugural POP day (Protect Our Planet day). Live link-ups featured Autumn Watch presenters, conservationists, marine biologists and atmospheric scientists who taught us of the dangers of climate change, the impact it is having right now and will continue to have if nothing is done. POP '22 also highlighted the things that we can do every day to help to slow climate change and inspired us to look into careers that could make a positive difference to our planet. The day was full of inspiring talks and exciting activities, from hosting our very own version of COP 27 to creating musical instruments from recycled resources and designing works of art about the devastating impact of climate change. The children at The Discovery School once again showed what empathetic, determined and inspiring children they are.

