



Newsletter

Friday 9th December 2022

Term 6 Week 2

Goodness me, only 16 sleeps left until Christmas! How did that happen...

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term at school, now is a good time to reflect on all the successes and things achieved since September.

The children have been able to participate in a range of lovely activities in school, including taking part in workshops, going on school visits, going swimming and taking part in sports competitions – you may remember that The Discovery School has already won the football World Cup!

The children have participated in many events in school: The Discovery School Choir performed at the West Malling Christmas Festival, the Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling visited the school, the children took part in POP (Protect our Planet) 22, participated in Anti-Bullying Week and the School Council has organised a collection for the local foodbank.

There have been a number of FODS events that have been safely organised, including the Halloween raffle and the annual firework display – and we still have the Christmas Fayre to look forward to tomorrow!

With a week to go until the end of term, there is still much to look forward to. I hope to see you at some of the events planned for next week...

With kind regards,

T. Gobell

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. Overall attendance so far for the year 2022/23 has been good at 95.6%.



Upcoming dates for your diary

Please find below a list of key dates set for the rest of this term:

- Saturday 10th December - The Discovery School Christmas Fayre and Open-Air Market
- Saturday 10th December - Carols Around the Christmas Tree Community Event at Liberty Square
- Monday 12th December – EYFS Christmas Stay and Play (pm)
- Tuesday 13th December – Christingle Services.
- Wednesday 14th December – Class Christmas Parties
- Thursday 15th December – Carols on the Playground (KS2 children and parents only) 2.15pm start.
- Thursday 15th December – Year 2 trip to Canterbury
- Friday 16th December – Carols on the Playground (KS1 children and parents only) 2.15pm start.
- Friday 16th December – End of Term 2
- Tuesday 3rd January – Start of Term 3 16th



Wellbeing Award
for Schools

2020-2023

www.discovery.kent.sch.uk



Super Star Corner

Well done to Cooper Coman in Curie Class for achieving his swimming 400m distance award – excellent news!



Congratulations to Tom Higginson in Turing Class, who was recently awarded his Karate purple belt over the weekend – you should be so proud of yourself!



Well done to Lottie Kemp in Seacole Class, who successfully auditioned for the Elite Ballet Project and has been awarded a position in the junior associate class from January 2023 – great news Lottie!



Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to the annual British Royal Legion Poppy Appeal. I am delighted to let you know that The Discovery School raised £932 for this very worthwhile charity. Here is picture of James Steele and Henry Martin who represented The Discovery School at the wreath laying.

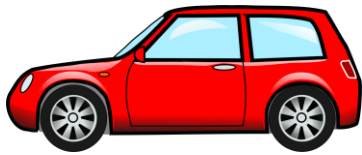


A message from The Discovery School Council

The Discovery School Council and I would like to say a very big thank you for all the food donations made to the St Gabriel's Kings Hill Foodbank. We received an amazing amount of food and toiletries which will be handed out to families in our community during this Christmas period.

Thank you so much for your continued support, it is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas!





Parking:

Unfortunately, the School has received more complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate parking outside of the school grounds. Some parents/carers have been parking in residents' private car parking spaces; this is not acceptable. This issue has now been reported to the police by our local community.

Please be considerate to our school neighbours.



Welcome:

Welcome to our newest member of staff, Mrs Lisa Riches. Mrs. Riches has joined Edison class as a new Teaching Assistant. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to Team Discovery!



Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Tips:

Winter can be a challenging time for many people. With rising costs and soaring fuel bills, this winter is likely to be harder than most. The link below provides a list of resources that people can use to get the support and advice, from help on the cost of living, ways to reduce your fuel bills, food banks and local places to go to keep warm:

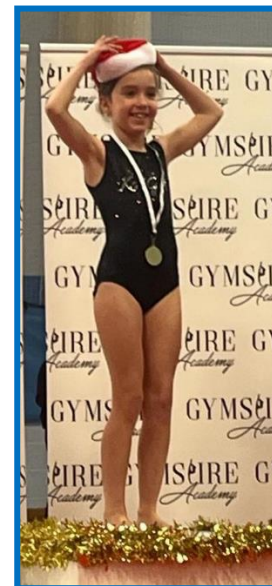
<https://westkentmind.org.uk/winter-wellbeing/>

Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Emily Cox in Nightingale Class, who recently passed her ballet and tap exams with distinction – fantastic news!



Well done to Iris Jeffs in Thunberg Class – Iris has just competed in her first ever gymnastics competition and achieved 1st place!



Adventures in School!

Year 5 had lots of fun during Viking Day! We were visited by a time-travelling Viking, who taught us all about his life and adventures! The children experienced how to write in runes, played Viking games, learned how to make a shield wall and immersed themselves into the lives of the Vikings!



Year 3 have been thinking about the ways that Christians, Muslims and Hindus worship. With this in mind, we enjoyed day at Canterbury Cathedral learning about how and where Christians pray. We were amazed by the intricate detail of the stained-glass windows and even had the opportunity to design our own. In addition, we enjoyed dressing up as knights, monks and archbishops to retell the unfortunate story of Thomas Becket's life. What a fascinating day in a beautiful setting!

Year 4 got to travel back in time to Roman Canterbury where they became archaeologists for the day! They were able to see a real-life Roman mosaic and a hypocaust, left from the ruins of a Roman villa. The children were set the challenge of using catapults to fire foil balls at mock Roman buildings to knock them down - some of them were more successful than others but they all enjoyed having a go! At the end of the day, they were able to make Roman coins which they imprinted with a Roman figurehead to take away with them as a souvenir.



Adventures in School!!

KS2 Forest School - The children cooked pizzas outdoors, over a campfire at school. The activity encouraged the children to try something different that they might not otherwise have done. The children had a great time entertaining each other, singing campfire songs and performing whilst the pizzas were cooking.



Year 2 sewing day - We investigated how Christmas Stockings are made. We designed and made our own stockings using a running stitch and evaluated them. We were lucky enough to have lots of parents and adult family members to come and help us – it was such a lovely day.



Year 6 had a fabulous day pretending to be evacuees at Horton Kirby! We arrived at our 1940s school, before being introduced to the Head Master: Mr Tanner! We experienced a '1940s-style' lesson whereby we learnt how to convert between pennies, shillings and pounds, how to perform first aid, and how to identify ally planes and German planes. We then wrote a postcard home to our mums back in London. Suddenly, the air raid siren went off and we had to quickly make our way to the air raid shelter! In the shelter, we sang WW2 songs and continued our learning, just as the real evacuees would have done. After this, we played some 1940s playground games before having our lunch.

In the afternoon, we embarked on a walk around Horton Kirby, looking out for the buildings that were actually there during WW2! We listened to different real-life stories of the children that lived in the village before playing a game of 'pooh sticks'.



FODS News:

The recent FODS Fireworks raised an amazing £4,882.21 for our school fund – that's great news! The FODS next big event is happening tomorrow – the Christmas Market and Fayre! The fayre is open from 11am to 2pm. We hope to see lots of you there!

Thank you to all of the FODS volunteers for their continuing hard work in raising much appreciated funds for our children.



Football Trading cards:

With all the World Cup football matches currently being shown on TV, it is understandable that the children are excited. However, the children need to leave their football trading cards at home; these are causing a lot of arguments at school – especially when they go missing and are lost.



Introducing....

Our new Sports Leader and Football Coach, Mr. Scott Wagstaff. Scott works every lunchtime with our children and coaches the UKS2 football team every Friday. Some of you may be familiar with Scott's name, having played professionally for Charlton Athletic, Bristol City and Gillingham, amongst others. When he is not coaching our children, Scott currently plays for Tonbridge Angels. Our children are very lucky to be benefitting from his skills and experience. Welcome to The Discovery School Scott!

Super Star Corner

Congratulations to Halli Adcock in Goodall Class. Halli and her dancing team recently won three awards at the Hot Shot competition – brilliant news!



Well done to Selma Ben Abdelijelil who has just achieved her 10m swimming certificate – great news!

