



November 2025

# Newsletter

Term 2

As we approach the start of the festive season and head into December, we have lots of Christmas festivities to enjoy with the children. The Christmas season started early this week, when we welcomed Reverend Mark from St. Gabriel's Church to school. Reverend Mark presented a special Advent assembly to the children. The Christmas fun then continues in earnest next week, with the Year 1 nativity on Tuesday and Wednesday, followed by the FODS Christmas Fayre on Saturday. This will be followed by Christmas Dinner on 10<sup>th</sup> December, plus lots more... Included in this letter, is a run-down of all the special Christmas events planned for the remainder of this term.

Kind regards,

*T. Gobell*

Miss T Gobell  
Headteacher

P.S Only 27 more sleeps until the big day...



## **FODS Firework Display**

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent FODS Firework display – thanks to your generosity and the great work of our fantastic volunteer FODS committee, some much appreciated funds have been raised to support special projects for the children in school.



## **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 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. Attendance at The Discovery School continues to be good, which is something to be celebrated, but still remains below pre-COVID levels. As such, we will continue to do all we can to improve this where we can.

Overall attendance so far for the year 2025/26: 95.6%

## **Best Class Attendance:**

Well done Johnson Class (week ending 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025) – 99.4%

Well done Einstein Class (week ending 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025) – 99.3%

Well done Jemison Class (week ending 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025) - 100%

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



# Anti-bullying Week

On 10th November, the children began national Anti-Bullying Week. The theme for this year was "Power for Good." The week kicked off with a whole-school assembly on Monday, followed by Odd Socks Day — a fun reminder that it's great to be different and that we're all unique. The week culminated in Friendship Friday, where the children decorated a friendship stone which were linked together to form a Friendship Chain.



## Thank you!

Thank you to all the parents for the donations of Christmas tree lights and decorations – I'm sure the Christmas elves will make our school look very festive over the weekend!

Thank you also for the donations of books and teddies for the Christmas Fayre.

## A request...

We are seeking donations of any second-hand children's games that can be donated to the School for use during wet play times.

We would welcome any game in a reasonable condition, with no missing pieces.

If you can help, please can you send your donations into the school office. Thank you!

## Super Star Corner

Well done to Lottie Kemp in Galileo Class who has successfully auditioned for a part in her second pantomime! Lottie will be performing in Dick Whittington and his Cat at The Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone throughout December.





# Year One news

Year 1 recently had an exciting week learning about Guy Fawkes and the story behind Bonfire Night. The children explored the historical events of the Gunpowder Plot through an engaging workshop with Divergent Drama, where they acted out key moments and brought the story to life. Everyone enjoyed stepping into character and discovering why we celebrate with fireworks today. The children enjoyed designing and building their own rockets!



## Football News



Our winning Year 5 and Year 6 Girls' Football Team who won the Tonbridge Angels FC 2025 cup!



## Super Star Corner

Well done to Brooke Taylor has come second in her first ever gymnastics competition – a fantastic achievement!



Well done to Skylar Beaument in Nightingale Class who won 1st place in both the Floor and Vault at her recent gymnastics competition – great news, Skylar!





## Countdown to Christmas!

Please find below a list of Christmas events planned for the rest of this term:

- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December – Christmas Post Box opens**

Children can send cards to their friends across the school by posting them in the special Christmas Post Box near the office. They must put children's first and last names as well as their class on the envelope, please.

- **Year 1 Nativity - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2.15pm to 3.00pm and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 9.30am to 10.15am**

- **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – UKS2 Choir Carol Singing for the WI Christmas Lunch, 11.00am**

- Year 5 and 6 members of the choir will be performing a special Christmas concert for the Women's Institute.

- **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December – FODS Christmas Fayre, 12.00pm to 3.00pm**

Please come and support the School at this year's Christmas Fayre. The KS2 Choir will also be singing around the Christmas Tree on the playground at 12.30pm – it will be great to see you all there!

- **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – West Malling Christmas Market at the Village Hall, 12.30pm – 5.00pm**

The Discovery School KS2 Choir have been invited to sing in this local community event at 1.00pm – come and support them and browse the festive stalls!

- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner**

- **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December - iRock Music Concert (2.00pm - 3.00pm)**

This is an opportunity for the children learning to play in a band with iRock to perform to their parents and siblings.



- **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 4.30pm – 6.00pm – The Discovery School Christmas Music Concert**

The Discovery School KS1 & KS2 Choir, along with other children learning instruments in school, will be performing a selection of Christmas songs and musical numbers in the annual Christmas Concert.

- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle Services for the children**

All Year Groups will take part in a special Christingle Service in the Main Hall.

- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS Christmas Craft Afternoon (2.00pm to 3.00pm)**

EYFS will be having a festive 'Stay and Make' session which EYFS parents are invited to.

- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Class Christmas Parties (pm)**

Children can wear their own clothes to school for the day. All children will be given a paper food bag to take home on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, which they can name and decorate and then bring into school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>, filled with their own party food to eat in class. Parents will be provided with a suggested list of food nearer the time.

- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS/KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) Carols on the Playground 2.15pm start.**

Each year group will choose their own Christmas song to perform. There will also be two songs that all of the children will perform to introduce and end the event.

- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) Carols on the Playground 2.15pm start.**

Each year group will choose their own Christmas songs to perform. There will also be two songs that all of the children will perform to introduce and end the event.

- **End of Term 2 - 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

- **Start of Term 3 - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



# Year 5 news!

Year 5 had a fantastic day out at The Wildwood Trust! We toured the animals and discovered their importance in Norse mythology and culture before meeting Erik the Green, a real Viking. He taught us how to spark a fire using flint and steel, showed us Viking shield techniques, and even demonstrated his axe skills—safely, of course! We crafted our own Viking-style toys to take home, and Erik minted a special coin similar to those used in Saxon times. Our favourite animals had to be Loki the otter, Boki the bear and the adorable Arctic foxes. It was a day full of fun, learning, and fascination. One of the highlights were the compliments received from the coach drivers and Wildwood staff about the children's focus, attention and manners!



## FODS (PTA Annual Christmas Fayre

The FODS will be hosting their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The Fayre opens at 12:00 and closes at 3:30pm. As well as a range of stalls, food and drink to purchase and fun activities, the KS2 choir will be singing around the Christmas tree at 12:30pm. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!



## Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Lindsay Buck to The Discovery School, as the new Teaching Assistant for Seacole Class – welcome to team Discovery! We are also pleased that Mrs. Bailey will also be working additional days in school, as the new afternoon Teaching Assistant in Berners-Lee 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 7<sup>th</sup> November) – Citrine and Peridot Houses ★

Winning House (week ending 14<sup>th</sup> November) – Topaz House ★

Winning House (week ending 21<sup>st</sup> November) – Topaz House ★



# Year 4 News!

Year 4 recently stepped back in time for an exciting Roman Workshop where they met a Roman soldier named Cassius! The day was filled with hands-on activities that brought Roman history to life. Pupils practised Roman battle tactics, marching in formation with shields held high like real legionaries. They also took part in a mini archaeological dig, carefully uncovering hidden Roman artefacts and learning what these discoveries can tell us about life nearly 2,000 years ago. The children also enjoyed playing traditional Roman board games and then tried to write like a Roman scribe! It was a fantastic day of learning, teamwork, and fun, and Year 4 are now true experts on all things Roman!



## FODS Christmas Raffle

As part of the FODS exciting Christmas Fayre on 6th December, a Christmas raffle will be drawn, with some amazing prizes to be won!

Amongst the excellent prizes are: meal vouchers, a wine tour and tasting, a Health Club Day Pass and a hamper donated by Tesco, plus many more...

Please follow the below link to purchase tickets:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/christmas-fayre-2025-raffle>

## Super Star Corner

Well done to Jack Upton in Nightingale Class, Amy Sugihara in Nightingale Class and Henry Martin in Nightingale Class who took part in the Beavers parade and Ellie Upton in Newton Class who took part in the Squirrels parade for Remembrance Sunday in Larkfield and East Malling.





# Sporting News!

## Cross-Country

Some of our Year 6 pupils recently took part in a cross-country event at Cobham Hall where they showed great determination and teamwork throughout challenging conditions. They also demonstrated our school values superbly, supporting not only each other, but those from other schools from start to finish. Congratulations and well done to the boys' team and the girls' team; all members tried their absolute best. We are also pleased to share with you, that the boy's team achieved an outstanding third place in the team event - an incredible result for their first ever cross-country competition!



## Tennis

Some of our boys proudly represented Kings Hill Tennis Club in the 9U Kent Winter Youth League. Both teams came through the box stage to qualify for the main draw, with our A team narrowly losing the final to come overall runner-up. Well done to Lucas Yu in Thunberg Class, Jiaer Chen in Hawking Class, Zeng Zi Heng in Berners-Lee Class and Jean-Luc Laubscher in Jemison Class - an amazing effort by everyone involved!



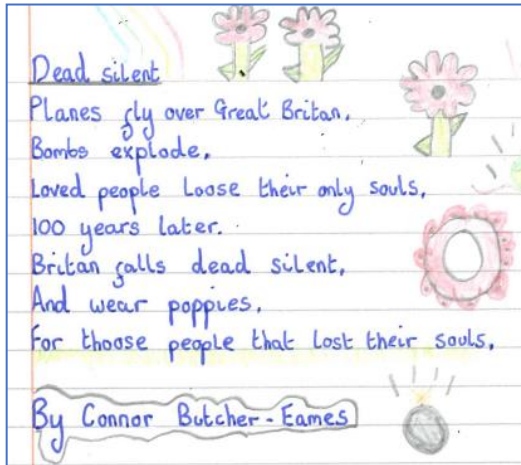
## Football

Our Year 5 and 6 Boys' football team recently took part in the Road to Wembley tournament, held at Tonbridge Angels Football Stadium. The boys got off to a flying start, breezing through their group with four wins out of five. The boys' team made it to the quarter-finals, losing on penalties to the eventual winners of the event.

A huge 'congratulations' to our Year 5 and 6 Girls' Football Team who have won the Tonbridge Angels FC 2025 cup. The girls played amazingly well as a team, defeating nine other teams on their way to winning the cup (without conceding a single goal). A fantastic achievement! They will now move on to the next round of the cup and represent Tonbridge Angels FC.



# Remembrance Day



## Lest We Forget

Families separated, babies left weeping,  
Children on their own, travelling to the underworld - afterworld,  
People in humble shelters, questioning, what went wrong?  
The only thought back then was death, lest we forget.

Soldiers with courage beating in their hearts, going to war,  
Ships gullung, powerful cannonballs sinking into boats,  
They either rise or find their gate in front,  
Down they go, lest we forget.

Pride, glory, relief, curious, confused,  
All these different emotions spinning round their heads,  
Veterans telling sad stories, did they win or lose?  
It was kill or be killed, lest we forget.

Black poppies scattered around emerald fields,  
Fake or real, the celebration for poppies with lost,  
The souls of lost relatives floating in the air,  
We must give thanks, the war is over, lest we forget.

By Jiaer,

Remembrance Day is an important day in The Discovery School calendar. Each year we remember those affected by war with a special Remembrance Day assembly and class-based learning. Each year, two children from The Discovery School also represent our school at the Remembrance Service on Kings Hill. Thank you to Olivia Coldwell and Luca Coldwell for laying the special wreath this year.



Jessica

## Remembrance

When I see the history of war,  
I remember what it means,  
Seeing the long lost voices,  
Of what it means.

Never forget those who gave up a life,  
Every soldier has a story to tell,  
From the separation they have been through,  
They might not be so well.

Poppies like bright, little lamps,  
Seem like fragile butterflies,  
As we dare to hope they will return,  
They might be left lives.

Now let that sink deep into your heart,  
And share a blissful moment peacefully,  
Soldiers should have your respect,  
And what silence means to me.

