

We have an 'open door policy' and if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your class teacher. You can also e-mail me any time at [sboulton@discovery.kent.sch.uk](mailto:sboulton@discovery.kent.sch.uk).

We look forward to working as a team with you from September and we can't wait to support your child with being the best they can be!



# Welcome to The Discovery School





We hope that you are excited about your child's transition to school and we are really excited that you've chosen The Discovery School. We have put together this booklet to support you with your child's first year at school and ensure that you have as much information as possible about the exciting things your child will be doing.



## Key Events in FS

Stay and Plays - We hold Stay and Plays throughout the year. This is when you can come and spend some time in playing class with your child. Siblings are always welcome too.

Term 1 - Home visits and Phonics Information Session.

Term 2 - Parents evening and Nativity.

Term 4 - Parents evening and Forest School.

Term 5 - Story time with the parents.

Term 6 - Sports day, graduation and Teddy Bears Picnic and a school trip.

## What will my child need?

- Named school uniform - jumper, blue cardigan, grey trousers, shorts or skirt, black school shoes, white shirt, school tie.
- Named P.E. kit - red school t-shirt, navy shorts, navy tracksuit bottoms, plimsolls.
- Named water bottle.
- Named slippers.
- Named welly boots.
- Named change of clothes and underwear.
- Named coat and rain mac.
- School book bag - provided for you.



**Please name all of your child's belongings!**



The first year of school is called the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is a continuation of pre-school. We follow the same curriculum as nurseries and pre-schools and our aim at The Discovery School is to further their skills and develop a love of learning.

At The Discovery School we know how important it is for children to love learning, and we aim to nurture this love for learning in the EYFS. One way we do this is by learning through play. Your child will spend time learning in whole class sessions, group sessions and on a one to one basis throughout the day. This learning will be extended through their 'Plan, Do and Review' (PDR) sessions.

## Plan, Do and Review

Plan, Do and Review (PDR) is a very important part of our day. During this time we set up activities that will extend the children's learning from our taught sessions, encourage curiosity, promote mark making and writing, develop language skills, encourage good social skills and support children with their learning whilst making it fun and exciting.

Our teachers and teaching assistants play alongside the children and extend their learning through questioning. Plan, Do and Review is usually the children's favourite time of day! We spend time both inside and outside the classroom, playing with children from Einstein, Jenner and Newton.



## Jargon Buster

**PDR** - Plan, Do and Review - Our child initiated learning time.

**FS** - Foundation Stage

**KS1** - Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

**KS2** - Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

**Phonics** - A method of teaching children to read.

**Phoneme** - The sound a letter makes.

**Digraph** - Two letters that make one sound (e.g. 'ch' or 'sh')

**Blending** - Reading the separate sounds in a word and putting them together to read it.

**Segmenting** - Sound talking a word to spell it.

**Guided Reading** - A group of five or six children reading a copy of the same book and discussing it.



## Who's Who at The Discovery School?

Your child will get to know lots of different adults in the school. The people you will come into contact with regularly are:

Miss Baker - Interim Head Teacher

Miss Wilce—Interim Deputy Head Teacher

Mrs Boulton- Jenner Class Teacher and Foundation Stage Leader

Mrs Martin - Jenner Class Teaching Assistant


Mrs Hook - Newton Class Teacher and PHSE Lead

Mrs Flint - Newton Class Teacher

Miss Harris - Einstein Class Teacher

Mrs Braund - Einstein Class Teaching Assistant

Mrs Isitt - Foundation Stage Teaching Assistant

Any time you have any questions, please do not  
 hesitate to come and speak to any of us!

## Plan, Do and Review

The types of activities your child may do include:

- Junk modelling, e.g. making rain catchers etc.
- Painting, including colour mixing, sponge painting, pointillism etc.
- Carrying out experiments such as building ramps for cars, testing materials for purposes etc.
- Role play in our role play areas, such as airports, cafes, jungles, ice cream parlours, 'Frozen' castles etc.

We spend time planning what to do, then we go and carry out our activity. After that we review it, discussing how we could improve, what we could do differently and whether or not we enjoyed our activity. This promotes key skills that the children will need in their future learning.





## How else do we learn?

We have different taught sessions throughout the day. We will have either Maths or English. We will come together as a whole class on the carpet to learn about a new idea (for example sharing, adding, taking away, length, using full stops etc.). The children will then work in groups or one to one with a teacher to use this new skill themselves.

Their work is often practical and we take lots of photos for their 'Profiles'. Any written work is kept in their 'Learning Journals'. The activities planned always take into account children's interests and abilities and different activities are planned for different children to ensure they progress in the right way for them. This learning is also implemented during the children's Plan, Do and Review through carefully planned activities.



## Forest Schools

We are very lucky at The Discovery School, as we realise how important outdoor learning is for all children. We send our children for 5 Forest Schools sessions with a Forest Schools Ranger called Mark. We go over to the woods near to the Sports Park and we build fires, cook food, build dens, create artwork, search for animals and minibeasts and continue our indoor learning in the woodland setting. We have been fortunate enough to offer this for the last few years and we have had extremely positive feedback from parents and children.



## How can I prepare my child for school?

### Writing

Your child is not expected to be able to write when they start school. It is very helpful if they can read their own name and it is useful if they can write it too (please only a capital letter at the beginning of the name!), however, this is not a necessity.

Things that will help your child to be ready for writing are activities that encourage the 'pinching' movement, as this will strengthen their fingers. Examples of this are playing with playdough, using tweezers and pipettes, threading beads and using chalks and crayons.



## Phonics

You will also hear your child talking about 'Phonics'. Phonics is the way in which we teach children to read. We teach them through fun, play based activities in smaller groups based on their phonics knowledge. In Term 1 we will offer a Phonics Information Session for parents to attend, and previous parents have always found this to be a valuable session in helping them to understand how children learn to read. Reading is such an important activity and we always encourage parents to promote a love for books and reading at home.

Reading with your child will be one of the activities we will be encouraging as soon as your child starts school in September, and you can always make a start on this now!



## A Typical Day at The Discovery School

### Flexible Time table

8:40—8:50 Children arrive  
8:50—9:20 Linked provision  
9:20—Phonics  
9:40— BEAM—core control  
10:00—Input  
10:20—Playtime  
10:35—PDR  
10:45—Lunchtime  
12:45—Registraion and Massage  
1:00—Calendar Time  
1:15—PDR  
2:30— Dough Disco  
2:45—Today and tomorrow—reflection time.  
3:00 –Story time and getting ready for home.



## How can I prepare my child for school?

There are lots of ways that you can ensure your child is 'school ready', as well as lots of myths for you to avoid worrying about!

### Independence

When your child starts school they will amaze you at how independent they can be if you allow them to be. In order to achieve their full potential at school, it is crucial that they can do things for themselves.

- Teach your child to put their own coat on.
- Practise dressing for P.E.
- Encourage your child to carry their own things.
- Give your child little jobs to do, or instructions to follow.
- Encourage your child to dress themselves in the morning.
- Encourage your child to use the toilet without help.

