

Friends of Discovery Academy School

A BIG WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES!

A huge welcome to your child and family from the Friends of Discovery Academy School (FDAS). Discovery Academy is a lovely school, and we feel sure that you have made the right choice.

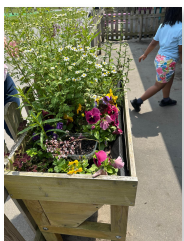
WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF DISCOVERY ACADEMY SCHOOL (FDAS)?

We are a group of parents and carers, working with a staff representative, Ms Higgins, who support the school. Mainly, our role is to fundraise to help school do some of the things that school budgets do not normally cover.

Below, we give some examples of the work we have done.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

We raised funds to send older children on a two-night residential in order to help them achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Award recently. The children had a wonderful time, achieving so many skills and developing their independence.



THE OUTDOOR AREA

We raised funds to support the development of the garden area. There is now an area where children can plant and grow vegetables. We have also developed a sensory play area which will be ready by the summer, which will include a mud kitchen and water play and sand play areas. It also contains a herb garden with strong-smelling herbs.

CHRISTMAS FUN!

We organised a Christmas Grotto with a Santa so that all of our children had the experience of a visit to and a gift from Santa. As you are probably well aware, there are many reasons why traditional visits to see Santa have not worked for our autistic children so where better to meet and greet Santa than the security of school?



HOW WE RAISE FUNDS

Mega Raffle!

We have a range of exciting raffle prizes including:

- A Sheffield United shirt signed by the players
- 4 tickets for the end of season game at Sheffield United
- 2 tickets to a Sheffield Wednesday game
- Steelers Family Ticket
- 8 tickets for greyhound racing at Owlerton Stadium
- 2 Free meals at Nando's
- £10 Meadowhall voucher
- And even more prizes!

Only £5 a raffle ticket!

We are a group of parents, grandparents and volunteers raising funds for Discovery Academy, a special school for children who have a diagnosis of Autism. All proceeds from the raffle will be used to further the education of the children, providing valuable opportunities such as educational trips. We are also developing a kitchen garden and improving the outdoor play areas.



Our generous Discovery Academy school community has given us great support. Over the last year, we have organised a successful jumble sale, ran a Christmas event where children could visit Santa's grotto and people could make their own Christmas wreaths, held a Mega Raffle, organised an Easter Virtual Duck Race and a Halloween Virtual Balloon Race and had refreshments stalls at key school events, amongst other activities. We also run an online weekly School Lottery, see below.

HOW CAN YOU HELP FDAS?

We are a group of nine parents and carers when it comes to organising an event and attending meetings, but we feel supported by a much wider group of parents and carers who help out by organising our school lottery, buying our lottery tickets, providing us with jumble, donating raffle prizes and so on. We also welcome volunteers at the events we run, such as the jumble sale.

We would love it if you could join us. We are very friendly and joining us is a great way to make new friends with people who understand the challenges you face. We meet two or three times a term at school in the daytime and we have regular contact via our WhatsApp group. We regret we are unable to offer evening meetings for people who work full time.

We send out newsletters and invitations to meetings by letter and through Seesaw. We can also be contacted at friendsofdiscovery@hotmail.com and the Discovery office staff will also put you in touch with us.

OUR NEXT MEETING

The date of our first meeting next academic year is **11th September at 10am**. Just turn up at school reception a few minutes before - or if you prefer, we can meet you for a coffee before the meeting so that you can get to know one or two of us before the meeting.

The meetings are friendly and we always have a cuppa and biscuits or cake!



SCHOOL LOTTERY!

Many of our Discovery Academy families support our online School Lottery. In addition to the weekly chance of winning £25,000, there is also our own small School weekly prize of between £10 and £20, which a Discovery family has won every week so far. Find out more at:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/discovery-academy>