

# Friends of Discovery Academy School

## Newsletter



### One Year Old!

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since we set up Friends of Discovery Academy School. Whether you have helped run events, baked cakes, donated jumble, bought virtual balloons and ducks, helped in the garden or supported our refreshments stalls at events, between us we have raised **£8000** in our first year! No pressure, then, for next year!

Thank you to all of you, and all of the Discovery Academy staff, for your fantastic support. Together, we are amazing!

### WHAT HAVE WE BOUGHT?

Quite a lot of the money raised has gone on the school's new garden which is coming along nicely. You might spot the polytunnel outside, surrounded by raised beds with winter vegetables planted up. We've also bought lots of startup equipment-, shelving, tools, gloves etc. Work has begun on a sandpit for the younger children and recently we've been working with KidsPlantTrees who donate fruit trees to schools. KidsPlantTrees are very excited about working with Discovery because they have identified that school has, "...an area on a steep bank where jays have distributed oak trees. This is one of the best enclosed wildlife areas I have seen close to the city centre."



### CONGRATULATIONS, CHERYL!

An FDAS committee member, parent Cheryl Hinchcliffe, has recently won a Sheffield City Council 'Special Recognition' award for her voluntary work in her children's school gardens- Arbourthorne Primary School and Discovery Academy.



A big thank you to the following for donations this year:  
Annie's; Asda;  
Chatsworth; Direct Shop & Sew; Food Warehouse; GRI Group; Pagets; Sainsburys; Sheffield Town Trust; Spar; Tesco; Waitrose.

## CHRISTMAS FUN DAY!

As you know, our Christmas Fun Day is **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December**. We still have a few afternoon slots left to visit our special SEN/ autism trained Santa in his grotto, without queuing. Every child gets a gift. It's just £10 per child to see Santa.

If the children are a bit old for Santa why not bring them along to make a lovely Christmas wreath with you? We have some beautiful ribbons to put on them, kindly donated by Annie's of Abbeydale Road and Direct Shop & Sew in Attercliffe.

Book for Santa and wreath-making at: [friendsofdiscovery@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofdiscovery@hotmail.com)

We have something for all the family, with a sensory bus outside school, a children's Christmas craft area, a Christmas café with amazing cakes and special Christmassy drinks and much more.



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

We are also working with the staff team who are running the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Sheffield Town Trust have given us £2,000 towards the residential where 27 of our older children work towards achieving the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award over two days. We're currently waiting to hear from two similar applications we've made to local charities, so fingers crossed.

The children themselves are also working hard to raise money for their residential trip and they will be selling things they have made at our forthcoming Christmas Fun Day.



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR FRIENDS OF DISCOVERY ACADEMY SCHOOL?

We will be repeating some of our most successful events next year, such as our jumble sale and the Easter virtual duck race. We also plan to have a fun and exciting Summer Fayre! In addition, one parent recently suggested that we run our own school lottery which many schools are beginning to do across the country. So, just watch this space!

Our very first Annual General Meeting is being held in the New Year- **January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10,00am**. We will have a little celebration of course, and everyone is invited to come along.! Bring along your fund-raising ideas or just yourself. Whether you have been able to attend before or not, you are very welcome.



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM THE FRIENDS OF DISCOVERY ACADEMY SCHOOL!**