



## Newsletter 3, Summer Term 2025

### Thank you!

Discovery Families are incredible!

Between us all, we have raised over £5,000 since we set up Friends of Discovery Academy School (FDAS) in January.

That's thanks to every single family! Whether you have donated your jumble, raced a duck or two, bought drinks at our school events or have helped organise our bigger events - we've done this together, for our amazing children and our lovely school.

Our main events - the Duck Race and the Jumble Sale – in addition to generous sponsorship of £2000 from the GRI group, plus a wonderful £800 donation to the garden from Waitrose/The John Lewis Partnership, raised most of the £5,000.

As a small school trying to raise funds, it might seem as if we keep asking our families to make contributions while the cost of living seems to go up and up. We try to be careful not to ask too often and to vary the things we ask for, but please feel free to tell us if you think it's too much.

### Visit to Chatsworth



One of the events we have successfully raised funds for is a visit to Chatsworth House and Gardens in Derbyshire by some of our children, which will be organised in the autumn. Chatsworth are going to fund the cost of minibuses to get there and back. We look forward to hearing how the children enjoy the visit.

## **The Garden Project**

The children will begin to see the benefits of our fundraising efforts next term when the first stage of the new three-year school garden project begins, and they begin to grow fruits and vegetables with Mr Page and their teachers, using plants, equipment and storage FDAS will have bought. Look out for the signs of a polytunnel being erected in a space that runs parallel to the sports pitch. FDAS is making a major contribution to the garden project and if you like gardening and have any time you would like to volunteer, please contact us on [friendsdas@icloud.com](mailto:friendsdas@icloud.com)

The garden project is becoming exciting, and we will be sending out a separate letter to tell you more about it and how you can help make it a success without too much cost involved.

## **Future Plans**



FDAS hope to contribute to a cycling project aimed at getting more of our children to learn to ride bicycles, assisted by tricycles and large-scale balance bikes. As we all know, learning to balance on a bike can be a huge challenge for many children with Autism. As part of our plans, we hope to organise a sponsored bike ride in Norfolk Park in the Autumn term – watch this space!

We are also planning to create a special Christmas Grotto in December. We are soon set to receive a very kind donation from one of our Discovery families of a lot of Christmas baubles and sparkles and we aim to make the most of these – we will keep you informed.

We will hold our first meeting of the next academic year on September on Tuesday 16th<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm – as always, we welcome any parents and carers to join us, we are a friendly bunch and also have cakes/ biscuits and a cuppa at every meeting!

## **Thanks to School Staff**

Last but not least, a final heartfelt thanks to Mrs Windle, Mr Shirazi, our staff liaison link Miss Higgins, Mrs Blakemore, Mr Barraclough and all the staff who have supported us. Whatever we have asked for – printing, letters to be sent home, tables, rooms, people's time - nothing has been too much trouble. Discovery School staff seem to value Friends of Discovery Academy School as much as we value them.

We hope that you all have a lovely summer and hope to see you at our events next year!