



Discovery News

A message from Mrs Windle...



Welcome all to our Autumn 2 newsletter.

It has been a very busy term for us all at Discovery. The children have once again settled into a long term and risen to the challenges they have faced. I am very proud of each and every one of them. I must also give thanks to the staff here at Discovery who are quite simply incredible. Thanks to their enthusiasm and passion for your children I know I lead a wonderfully talented team who all deserve a restful Christmas break.

Christmas time always creates opportunity for us to recall core memories good and bad for many of us. I know many of you will be excited to have your children at home to enjoy family time and all the traditions you have as a family. I also know some of you will not be as excited about this festive period. Christmas is a special time as it gives us all opportunity to reflect on the past year and celebrate new beginnings. Our traditions have improved this year for this period and it was joy to see the children join in for the first time with things they don't normally. Seeing our children perform in the Christmas show this year really was a highlight for me. It doesn't seem two minutes since I stood in front of new parents promising that things would get better for your child and I truly hope you feel this is the case. Your children bring my team of staff joy every day and seeing their faces at the pantomime and all the other events we have had this term gives us a real sense of pride.

I am sure you will be making personal resolutions for the new year but as a school community I truly hope we can continue to care for one another, to support each other and no matter what always choose kindness.

I know these are the resolutions that will continue to make our school a great one.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed 2024.



@DiscoverySheff



Discovery Crew Families

Check our event calendar by clicking [here](#)



Dreamers...Believers...Achievers



Updates and Notices

Staff changes

Discovery is a growing and ever-improving school. Next term we celebrate Mr Shirazi stepping permanently into the Deputy Head role. He has done a wonderful job of leading us through the last term and we know we are going into 2024 in his safe hands (and dancing feet!)

As such, with a mixture of sadness and excitement Mr Shirazi is taking a step back from his role as Science lead and teacher.

Mr Page will be taking his place in the science lab and is looking forward to getting stuck into experiments with students throughout school.

This means L4 will be welcoming a new teacher into their class team!

Mrs Wingfield is an experienced teacher who is excited to start her Discovery journey as the new term starts. I know you will all give her a warm welcome as she finds her feet and gets to know staff, students and families.



Mini-bus safety

On occasion our young people become heightened towards the end of the day. When this happens staff have to carry out a dynamic risk assessment. This includes making the decision as to whether the young person's behaviour is safe enough to use the transport provided. We have to consider the safety of the child, the driver and the other children.

If we make the decision to keep children behind in order to keep them safe there is an expectation that an adult comes to collect the child from school.





This half term **L2** have been learning all about **detectives**.

L2s topic this term has been 'Street Detectives'. We took a deep dive into the world of detectives. We explored, the role of a detective and we even learned how to take fingerprints. We had a special visit from the local police, who gave us an insight on what it is really like to be a police officer and the day to day to jobs they carry out and its not eating donuts. We really loved exploring the police car, and I think some of us were a little reluctant to get out of it.

This term L2 have come together like a little family, the pictures captured throughout this term of them working hard but always laughing and smiling. We have some great laughs in L2 this term.





This half term **U2 and U3** have been exploring the topic "Playlist".

Upper 2 have had an excellent term doing lots of exciting things in our theme, 'Playlist'. We have enjoyed all our lessons including writing poetry, making Day of the Dead biscuits, exploring the artwork of Kandinsky, playing ping pong, making Christmas decorations, baking lots of delicious food such as reindeer cupcakes and learning how to say information about ourselves in French.

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting ready for Christmas including our trip to the pantomime and learning all about Christmas in Australia for the Christmas production. We are excited to begin our new theme 'I am Warrior', exploring life as a Roman soldier. Everyone in Upper 2 hopes you all have a wonderful Christmas break.

Upper 3 looked at different musical instruments and discussed their favourite genres of music.

We created some fantastic baubles for the Christmas Fayre and sold out within minutes!

On Monday 18th December, we went on a fantastic trip to Sheffield Christmas Market on the tram, we listened to the different music playing, browsed the stall, had a hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows then went on the Big Wheel to see the sights of Sheffield - Some of us enjoyed it more than others!





E-safety



We are so proud of the friendships children have built here at Discovery. We know that understanding social cues, context and norms can be challenging for young autistic people so building and maintaining friendships is something we know they have to work hard at.

One thing that often triggers conflict between friends here at school is Social Media. Messages, videos and images being sent across WhatsApp, Instagram, Tik Tok and Snapchat cause anxiety and worry for lots of young people.

One way we tackle this in school is by educating children about appropriate use of technology and safety online. We do this in ICT and as part of our PHSE curriculum.

We cannot, however control what they do on their phones (and other devices) whilst at home or in the community.

As parents and carers, however, you can support your child by taking steps to protect by using settings and filters.

We know that some children will receive new phones, consoles and tablets for Christmas. This is the perfect time to educate yourself on how to ensure your child stays safe online and to set up Parental Controls before they receive their gift.

Advice and guidance on how to do this can be found on the next page.

Due to numerous incidents involving mobile phones, photographs and videos on minibuses this half term we have made the decision that children will no longer be able to bring any devices that has a camera onto the school transport. This includes phones and tablets and anything else that can take photographs or videos.

Students **can** bring mp3 players and devices which do not allow the user to take images.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.





Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account, and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.



Special Events

Diwali

We celebrated Diwali this term and learnt all about the story of Rama and Sita.

In DT students made their own clay lamps and then we enjoyed lighting them and putting them on display outside school.



Halloween

We had a wonderful time celebrating Halloween.

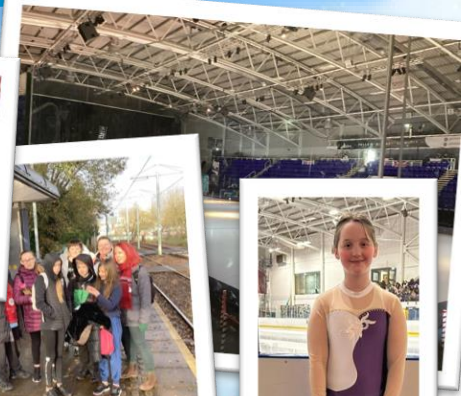
Our costumes were fabulous and our dance moves at the Halloween disco were even better!

Once again lots of you came out and joined us for our family pumpkin carving event.



Community Participation

This term our wonderful Sophia performed at ICE Sheffield and her class mates went along to support her.



Damon and Charley recently met the Lord Mayor at their snooker academy who gave them their awards for outstanding contributions to the snooker community, Stephen Harrison snooker academy MBE.



George has been getting stuck into lots of sports in the community. He has been doing junior Park Run and has joined a local table tennis club. Brilliant stuff.



Ella has been out and about with her family and ran into a bull! This is a beautiful photo Ella, we hope you had a great day!

We love to hear about our young people joining in with clubs, teams and activities out of school - send us stories of your adventures to feature in our next newsletter.

(We had so many great stories and photos sent this term - some will be saved for next time so keep your eyes peeled!

Dreamers...Believers...Achievers



Cinderella at the Panto

This term we took the children to see Cinderella at the Rotherham Civic.

Did we have a wonderful time? OH YES WE DID!

Our children's behaviour was exemplary and they managed the new environment, loud music, crowds, clapping and flashing lights brilliantly.

It was a real 'wow' moment for us as a school and we know this is just the first of many wonderful whole school trips.



The Christmas Fair

Another memory jar moment for us.

Seeing our young people work hard to plan, create and market their very own products and to then welcome so many of you into our school to celebrate.

Over 90% of you came to share the joy with us and we raised over £1000, we are so humbled by your generosity and cannot explain how much it means to us.





Our Christmas Show

Well we took you both around the world and back in time at our Christmas show!

We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we did.

Seeing children rehearse, laugh and play over the weeks that preceded the show was a joy and we cannot wait to do it all again next year.

