



Discovery News



A message from Mrs Windle...

Dear Families,

Welcome to our Easter newsletter... I hope you are well and looking forward to a holiday with your children over the Easter period. Considering the half terms have been relatively short ones they have felt very long ones, no doubt the poor weather has contributed to it. I was disappointed that we haven't had chance to do our annual colour run this half term but unfortunately the British weather has once again scuppered our plans. Keep an eye out for when this event will be rearranged in the summer term.

This half term we have had a lot of school improvement visits from the central trust team and I'm pleased to say that they have gone well and certainly supporting our next steps as a school. This term has been packed with sporting and enrichment events, my particular favourite being the football tournament that I am pleased to say the Discovery boys won, although the final was a little controversial considering it was against my other school Abbey! Some students proudly represented the school at the dance festival, having the opportunity to dance on stage watched by their peers was a huge achievement for our children. Finally, our celebration for World Book Day was brilliant- so many staff went above and beyond to dress up in their favourite character and also to you as families for the fantastic costumes your children came in with. A huge thanks for getting so involved with school and supporting us in so many different ways.

I do hope you have a joyful and calm 2 weeks with your children over Easter and look forward to welcoming you all back for the summer term.

Take Care
Mrs Windle



@DiscoverySheff



Discovery Crew Families

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



Dreamers...Believers...Achievers



E-safety

We know that the internet, and social media, can be a source of learning, community and entertainment for young people. We also know that for young autistic people who struggle to socialise safely outside the family home the internet is often a place they feel they can express themselves.

Many of our young people are in closed WhatsApp groups or Group Chats on Snapchat. We understand that this removes the immediate threat of strangers online. It does not, however, remove the ongoing demands placed on a child who is 'online' at all times. This creates a pressure for them to read, respond to and **emotionally process** message from friends and peers. This is something our young people find especially hard resulting in **emotional dysregulation** and/or **anxiety** both at home and in school.

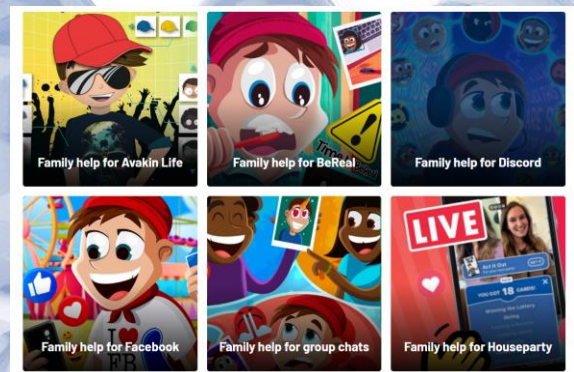
Using the internet, and social media, also demands a huge amount of **social knowledge and understanding**. We know this is something autistic young people lack and need to be explicitly taught.

Click here to access our school website's E-safety page:

Many of our young people also have ADHD and have **impulsive behaviours**. This means it is more likely that they will click, send and snap sometimes without thinking. This can lead to significant risk.

Many autistic young people can develop obsessive **interests or fascinations**. We know many of these bring them joy and happiness.

Even as adults, however, we can get pulled into unhealthy, addictive and sometimes obsessive habits online because that is exactly how apps and websites are designed. But, as adults, we are better equipped to a) know what is real and what isn't b) know when to put our phone down and c) what to do if something goes wrong.



In school we do everything we can to educate our young people on how to safely use the internet. In reality, however, they need to support at home to recall and use this learning.

For this reason we are asking that families take care to monitor their child's use of the internet and social media closely.



This half term **L1** have been learning all about dinosaurs!

This term in L1 our topic has been Dangerous Dinosaurs. We have been finding out about prehistoric animals that lived on Earth. We started off with a trip to Yorkshire Natural History Museum where we met Palaeontologists and had a talk all about Fossils. We have researched and learnt facts about dinosaurs, including the difference between carnivores and herbivores.



Dreamers...Bel...vers

This half term **L5** have been learning all about tremors!

It has been another amazing half term for L5!

Students kicked things off with a trip to Grindleford; the way they dealt with new experiences and change in the community was wonderful to see. We planned our route, used public transport including the train and used our money handling skills to buy food. It was 'life skill learning' at its best! In our 'tremors' topic, students have developed their knowledge of rocks, volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and their impact on humans and the environment.

We had another successful innovate event, where students hosted their own printmaking workshop for parents. They shared their knowledge of the land artist Andy Goldsworthy and monoprinting skills.



This half term **U4** have been learning all about creepy crawlies!

This half term Upper 4 have continued their journey this term with their focus topic of beast creators. They have worked hard and learnt new content and the term was finished off with an amazing trip to Tropical World in Leeds.

Upper 4 have also taken an exciting step on their language learning journey this term. Their attitude to learning in their French lessons on Fridays has been both impressive and inspiring. They have taken this new challenge seriously and have gone out of their way to help and support each other.





World Science Day

On Wednesday 13th March all of #DiscoveryCrew took part in a science-filled day for British Science Week.

Despite the lack of sun, lower crew enjoyed making sundials as well as experimenting with photography paper and learning about the life-cycle of insects.

Upper crew got stuck in constructing and testing marble runs, timing themselves sprinting and learning about the history of the universe! Thank you to everyone who helped put on a great day.

#DC Maths Day

On Friday 26th January, the whole school participated in DC Maths Day.

We looked into how maths can be linked to different subjects within school within our house teams.

From Food Technology to P.E, Art to DT, we experienced six amazing different activities that linked with time, measurements, money and shapes.

We had a chance to earn some house points and work with others within our house team to solve problems.

We even had a visit from our amazing mascots, Daisy Dreamer, Archer Achiever and Billy Believer.





Girl Power Day

For International Women's Day we celebrated our wonderful young people by coming together to celebrate #GirlPower.

We shared a lovely lunch together, played games, did face paints, collages and finished off with a disco.

Our children were kind, supportive and inclusive all afternoon and it was beautiful to see them being celebrated for their strength, resilience, kindness and uniqueness.



Special Events

This Red Nose Day, we celebrated and raised awareness in our teams. We wanted to come together, spread joy and have a fun day in school.

Lower School had a very creative day and took part in biscuit decorating, creating habitats for the noses, t-shirt and slime designing.

Upper school focused on team work and completed different sports challenges, collage making and red nose baking.





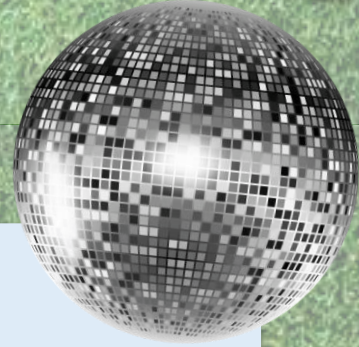
Youth Sport Trust

This term marked the first Nexus inter-school football tournament and we entered a team from Lower School.

The boys displayed excellent teamwork and played with quality and as a result they won the tournament.



Dance Show



This half term a group of our children took part in a dance workshop and went on to perform on stage at The Academy Theatre in Barnsley.

The way they worked together and supporting each other was beautiful to see and we hope to see them perform together again soon.





Understanding Autism

As a restless school we endeavour to constantly grow and develop our understanding of the research around autism and the way it shapes the lives of our young people. This means as a staff we are constantly learning more.

Many of our #DiscoveryCrew families have years of experience when it comes to understanding autism whereas some of our families, having recently got a diagnosis for their young person are still on the learning journey.

We have shared some simple resources on our website to support those of you who are taking those first steps into understanding life with autism. Clicking the image below will take you to these pages.



At the moment we have shared information around these six areas. Please do let us know what is and isn't helpful and feel free to ask us to add additional resources on certain topics that you think would be useful.

Communication

We recently carried out some Family Voice. We cannot thank you enough for taking the time to complete this.

79% of you felt that school's communication is strong.

We do, however, always look at how we can improve. Following some feedback and follow up conversations we have put in place a communication calendar within school which we hope will mean that more families get the messages they need with plenty of notice.

