



DISCOVERY NEWS

"No one belongs here more than you!"

Issue 3 – February 2023



THE HEADLINE

Dear Parents and Carers

This half term seems to have flown by. Our school community is continually growing and I know demand for places in September is high. I was so impressed how quickly and calmly the pupils were able to settle back into routine on their return in January. It really has been a joy to see them all progress albeit in very different ways.

We have begun changing our room layout now the children have settled into school so that they are more immersive to learning opportunities. The children have loved sitting in the different areas and it really has made an impact on their behaviour and engagement in learning. Staff continue to work very hard to meet every child's personalised needs and I know how much they benefit from the communications they have with you at home.

May I also add how nice it has been to read your comments on Twitter in particular where many families are sharing activities they are doing with their children at home that they may not have ever been able to do before. This fills us as a team with immense pride knowing our work here at Discovery is impacting positively on your family life.

As always, thank you for your continued support, have a wonderful half term break with your children and we will see you very soon.

Mrs Windle – Executive Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the mid-point of the academic year, it is uplifting to reflect upon the magnificent achievements of our pupils. The bravery and courage that they show continues to fill me with immense pride. It is a privilege to see the progress that the pupils are making, socially, emotionally and academically and to witness the work being produced in the classrooms, on Seesaw and on Twitter. Seesaw is a fantastic tool, a platform that not only supports communication between home and school, but also allows us to easily share your child's achievements. I have always been a huge advocate for technology, whether this is by using devices in the classroom to assist with teaching and learning or by using Seesaw to provide our pupils with a platform to produce work for a real audience, therefore giving them a purpose to produce their best work.

When pupils have a purpose, it impacts positively on their quality of their work. We use social media creatively to share our pupils work and the incredible 'Friday Feeling' dance moves with the world. This helps to raise self-esteem and motivation with the aim of enhancing social, emotional and academic attainment. It's just a shame my terrible 'dad dancing' shows no signs of improving!

However, most importantly, using online platforms allows us to do lots of work with the pupils to ensure they understand how to be responsible digital citizens. Pupils are constantly reminded about the many dangers that can be found online. Safer Internet Day 2023 was celebrated globally on Tuesday 7th February with the theme, 'Want to talk about it?' The day offered the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community.



Have a lovely half term and thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Tuesday 21st February 2023.

Mr Ross – Head of School



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Key dates for the diary – Spring Term 2

Trust INSET Day – Academy closed to pupils: **Mon 20th Feb**

Academy open for Spring Term 2: **Tuesday 21st Feb**

World Book Day: **Thursday 2nd March**

Coffee Morning: **Friday 3rd March**

Comic Relief: **Friday 17th March**

Academy closes for Easter: **Thursday 30th March**

INSET Day – Academy closed to pupils: **Friday 31st March**

Academy open for Summer Term: **Monday 17th April**



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place each year on 27th January, which is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

This year's theme was 'Be the light in the darkness'. At Discovery, the day allowed us to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after the genocide.

Throughout the Memorial Day, pupils learnt about the Holocaust and discussed the importance of remembering the millions of people who tragically lost their lives. During assembly, the pupils heard Arek's survival story and what it was really like to be a prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau.



LOWER 2

This half term L2 have been exploring space... but more importantly they have been learning to work together as a team. Eight pupils started their journey together in September, at Discovery Academy. They were in a brand-new school with pupils who were yet to be friends, and staff who were yet to be their second family network.

Gradually, L2 have learnt about each other, found common interests and developed real friendships. It is amazing to see that they can now work together, support each other and help each other with learning. They are developing into a little family. They don't always see eye to eye but they always repair and forgive... just like a real family.



At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they need it. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for all.

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.



4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonsafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release.

In a world where you can be anything.....

Be Kind



"Kindness is contagious!"

IT'S COOL TO BE KIND!



Safer Internet Day 2023 | Tuesday 7 February

Together for a better internet
www.saferinternetday.org



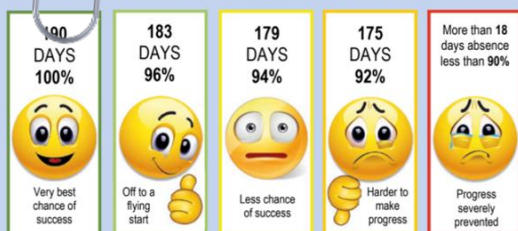
LOWER 3

Students in L3 were lucky enough to be selected to take part in the country's first ever Dragon Ball tournament! Our team listened carefully as the rules of this new sport were explained and they showed amazing sportsmanship and social skills as they played against others schools in the competition. **Go Discovery!**



Aim for 100% attendance for a better future

There are 190 days in a school year which leaves 175 days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



Give your child a better future - aim for 100% school attendance



Discovery
ACADEMY



ATTEND TODAY

ACHIEVE TOMORROW

UPPER 2

This half term, U2 have thoroughly enjoyed their PE lessons and mastering their badminton skills. It has been lovely to witness their confidence and self-esteem grow as the term has progressed. Engaged, focused and very competitive. Well done U2.

Probably a good thing the pupils have been burning lots of calories in PE as this half term's topic 'scrumdiddlyumptious' has resulted in lots of yummy treats being created. Pupils have been working hard on homemade gifts that will be coming home to parents and carers very soon!

I think it's fair to say U2 are now chocolate experts.



UPPER 1

Upper 1 have had another fantastic half term. Like Upper 2, our topic has been 'scrumdiddlyumptious' and all things delicious. We have made the tastiest dishes throughout this topic within Food Technology as well as having food tasting sessions. We have even begun to grow our own chillies. We have used our magic 12 words to extend literacy skills and use interesting words to describe the taste and texture of food.

As well as doing a lot of eating this term we have also had an amazing experience at goals where students competed against other schools and came away with a medal! We are really excited about our next topic which will be Tremors so hold on to your hats as we dive into the world of earthquakes and volcanoes.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Oh, what fun we have had in **Food Tech** this term!

The children have loved making, baking and creating lots of scrumptious treats, from bear on toast, out of this world biscuits, pizza's better than Domino's and chocolates Mr Willy Wonka would be proud of. So excited for next terms Easter Extravaganza!



Yum!



UPPER 3

U3 have had another great half term, they are now really starting to settle down into their own learning. The most pleasing thing to see is their growth in confidence and belief, not only in themselves but in each other. There will be a large focus next half term on team work and relationships and I will look forward to U3 continuing to develop in this area.



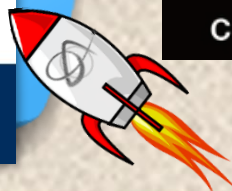
LOWER 1

In L1 this term, we have spent lots of time exploring and engaging in our new topic 'Let's explore'. We started off the term by exploring Norfolk Park and practising our social skills out in the community. We went under, over, through and in on our class bear hunt. We have also been on our first-class trip together to visit Weston Park Museum by using public transport. We are so proud of each child this term as they have shown how independent and sensible we can be when out in the community.



WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR NEW WEBSITE!

CHECK IT OUT NOW!





These are some of our top tweets from the last term.

If you have not already done so, please follow us to keep up to date with everything that is happening at Discovery.

@DiscoverySheff

