



Discovery Special Academy

Autumn 2 Newsletter

Half term

As we approach the end of 2020, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during some incredibly challenging times for us all. In the lead up to Christmas we usually love to see the children exchanging Christmas cards. Sadly this year, we will not be able to do this. Instead, every child will make a card in their class to bring home.

Can I remind you again that all of the staff working at Discovery love the job that they do and none of us expect gifts from children. We know that Christmas can be expensive and the best gift we can have is to know that you are able to celebrate together.

While we can't have our usual Christmas performance or stay and share Christmas craft sessions this year, we do still have some festive events for the children to look forward to.

Already this week all children have made Christmas decorations to decorate the Christmas tree (pictures later in the newsletter).

On Thursday, the academy will be taking part in the trust Christmas concert. This will be filmed and put together with footage from all the academies in the trust. This will be shared on the website at the end of term. We will send a text with the link as soon as this is ready.

We will be having a visit from a very special person in the last week of term, although this will take a slightly different form than normal and will be held remotely.

On Thursday 17th December, we will be having our annual Christmas jumper day. Children are welcome to come wearing a Christmas jumper if they would like to. However, if they are happier in their usual uniform that is also absolutely fine.

In addition to this, we will be learning Christmas songs, doing lots of Christmas art activities and we even have an online pantomime for the children to watch.

It is set to be a fabulous end to the year and we can't wait to see the children enjoy everything we have planned.



**We must keep on
protecting each other.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT • CONTROL THE VIRUS • SAVE LIVES

Tier 3 restrictions

From Wednesday 2nd December, our area will move into tier 3 restrictions, very high. To try and help everyone understand the current restrictions, please find a reminder of the tier 3 restrictions below:

- * You must not meet socially indoors with anybody you do not live with or have a support bubble with (unless they are part of a childcare bubble for under 14s)
'Indoors' means any indoor setting, including:
 - private homes
 - other indoor venues such as pubs and restaurants
- * You must not meet socially outdoors (in a private garden or at most outdoor public venues), with anybody you do not live with or have a support bubble with
- * You can see friends and family you do not live with (or do not have a support bubble with) in some outdoor public places, in a group of up to 6. This limit of 6 includes children of any age. These outdoor public places include:
 - parks, beaches, countryside accessible to the public, forests
 - public gardens (whether or not you pay to enter them)
 - allotments
 - the grounds of a heritage site
 - Outdoor sports courts and facilities
 - Playgrounds
- * When meeting friends and family you should also follow guidance on social distancing and limit how many different people you see socially over any period of time
- * Social distancing and good hand hygiene will continue

We must all remain alert and follow recommended guidelines to ensure we are all safe.

Please contact the academy if you have any questions

01642 248333

Food bank

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we collected donations for the Middlesbrough foodbank. We were again overwhelmed at the amount of food you all kindly donated. The foodbank volunteers were absolutely delighted when they came to collect this. All of the food will be used to support families who need it most and during these uncertain times, this will be hugely appreciated.

Middlesbrough food bank is committed to ensuring that nobody has to face going hungry but they also make sure that the food people receive is healthy and nutritious, with a few treats too.



The foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups and is staffed by volunteers. As well as distributing food parcels, the volunteers are on hand to provide refreshments and a listening ear if needed.

We love to discover outside

Everyone is enjoying the new equipment in each outdoor area. This helps us develop our physical ability which helps us to think and learn. Children have already developed their confidence and coordination skills to climb over, through and balance on the different equipment. Well done!



Remembrance Day

Children across the academy celebrated Remembrance day. The children took part in a variety of art activities and listened to music during the 2 minute silence. The music and activity ideas were shared on our website so that children engaged in remote learning could also join in. The art work the children completed have been made into two beautiful displays in the academy.



Diwali

We also celebrated Diwali through dance and art too.

Diwali is an important religious festival originating in India. People often think of Diwali as a Hindu festival, but it is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains.

Diwali takes place annually and lasts for five days, marking the start of the Hindu New Year. The exact dates change each year and are determined by the position of the moon – but it usually falls between October and November.



Communication Boards



We have had communication boards made for our outdoor areas so the children can let all staff know how they are feeling and what they would like to do. This helps them with their social and emotional development and reinforces the work they do in class using symbols. All our children from EYFS to Year 5 are learning to communicate with the boards.

Tree decorating

Everyone has had a very festive time making decorations for our beautiful tree. The tree was donated by **Mario's Elmora Nurseries, Skelton** and we want to send him a huge thank you. We hope you agree it looks gorgeous.

