

14th January 2019

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to wish you all a happy new year, and to welcome the children back to school after a busy festive period. It was wonderful to see the children from all our schools spending the last week of term taking part in so many different Christmas activities – from decorations mornings and Christmas lunches to carol concerts and nativities. Moving into a new term and a new year, I thought I would take the opportunity to update you on some of the developments that have taken place in our Trust since September.

The Discovery List



You might well have come across The Discovery List with your children, which was launched in all our schools last term.

Each of the schools worked to put together fifty activities covering all kinds of new experiences and discoveries for our children, including den building, climbing a tor and worm charming...!

The list has been designed so that all children attending a Discovery school will have been given the opportunity to complete every activity by the time they have reached the end of Year 6. The activities will be covered in school time as a part of the children's learning, and have been divided up into key stages: those for Foundation and Nursery, Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (years 3-6). Once the children have completed an activity, they will receive a stamp from their class teacher.

If you have any questions about the Discovery list, please see your child's class teacher.

Parent questionnaires – what do you think?

With parents' evenings happening in all of our schools next week, it is also time for the annual parent questionnaires. This year we have reviewed the questionnaire to give parents and carers the chance to suggest ways in which your child's school can improve, as well as letting us know what the children have enjoyed so that we can continue to provide an enriching curriculum for our pupils. We really value your feedback, so please take the opportunity to fill out a questionnaire. They will be available from the school reception at parents evening, or to pick up at any other time if you can't make it.

Staff rewards

Here at Discovery, we recognise that the key element of any effective school is its staff. It is important to us as an organisation that every staff member feels part of a valued team, with an opportunity to express their views and are helped to manage their workload. If our teams are feeling good in

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themselves, they are in a better position to help improve the wellbeing of the children they work with every day.

Over the past couple of years, we have worked hard to develop a culture of wellbeing in every layer of school life. Our most recent development was the implementation of the Discovery staff reward scheme, which is run on a termly basis. The following members of staff have received rewards for displaying one of our Discovery 'behaviours':

Beechwood

Build positive relationships – Mrs Marker (HLTA)

Actively collaborate – Mr Hocking (Pastoral)

Show respect – Mr Holt (Caretaker)

Give support – Mrs White (Nursery)

Bring passion – Mrs Jutson (TA)

Oakwood

Build positive relationships - Mrs Bennison (TA)

Actively collaborate – Mrs Vowden (TA)

Show respect – Ms Wilcockson (PSA/Pastoral)

Embrace change – Mrs Olver (Cleaner)

Give support – Mrs Stonehouse (TA)

Bring passion – Mrs Wieprecht (Teacher)

Self-evaluate – Mrs Headridge (Admin)

Weston Mill

Embrace change – Mrs Spargo (TA)

Actively collaborate – Mrs Curtis (TA)

Give support – Mrs Searle (Admin)

Bring passion – Miss Carpenter

I am sure you will join me in congratulating these staff members for being such good role models for the children and their fellow team members. As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support for all of our schools and wish you the very best for 2019.

Kind regards,



Alison Nettleship
Chief Executive Officer