

Discovering Times



Inside this issue:

Welcome Garden	1
Science week	2-4
Focus on ... Mrs Oldham	5-6
Autumn Term review	7
ICT club	8
Discovery Values	9
Reading Challenge	
School Council	10
Nativities	11



We have reached the end of a very eventful Autumn term and we are all ready for some well deserved time with our families. It has been fantastic seeing all the new Nursery and Reception children enter the Academy and grow into confident learners as well as welcome new families into Year 1 and Year 2 as well. The Christmas shows were fantastic. The staff and children worked ever so hard and I would like to thank everyone

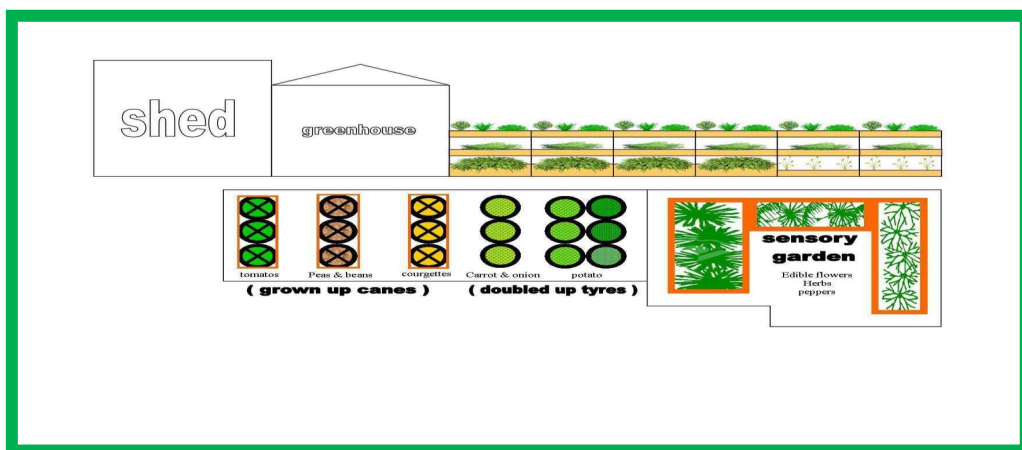
involved.

I would also like to thank each and every parent and family member for all of the positive messages and feedback that I get about the Academy, especially about the recent nativities, celebrations and events. Your support to the Academy never fails to amaze and is appreciated by all staff.

I wish you all a fantastic Christmas and all the very best for the New

Discovery Garden

We are creating our new Garden here at Discovery Academy in the EYFS playground and KS1 playground here is a plan of our design so far. The PTFA are helping to raise funds towards the garden and we have so far raised £780 profit from our Christmas Fair.



Christmas Fair

The PTFA have raised £780 profit from our recent Christmas Fair. These fantastic funds will go towards the purchase of a defibrillator and development of Discovery Academy's new garden.



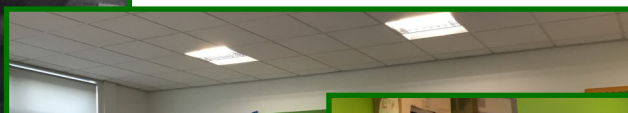
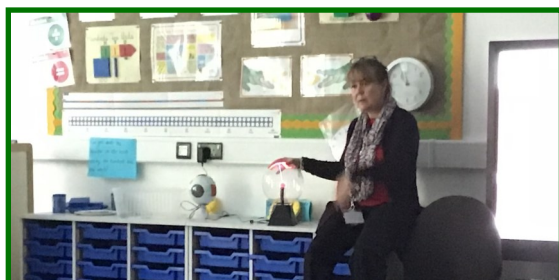
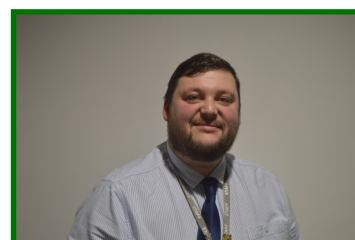
Science Week

We had the first ever Discovery Academy Science Week back in October and were impressed with some of the fantastic work that was created. We started the week with a full-blown launch party. Children all had time to visit the wonder dome and travel through the stars on an intergalactic adventure. During the week all classes spent the afternoon sessions conducting weird and wacky experiments, looking at how things work, what they are made of and most importantly how messy we could all get. This all finished with a massive house team science day on Friday. Children moved around the school in their house teams and tackled 4 big scientific questions. The children worked really hard and produced fantastic work, excellent knowledge, and some amazing scientific vocabulary.

As Science Leader, I want to thank them all for showing how much they enjoy science here at Discovery.

**Well done
everyone!**

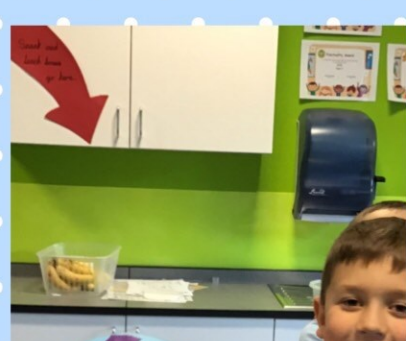
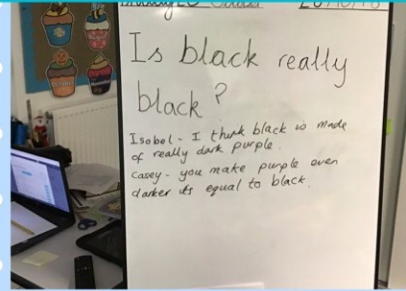
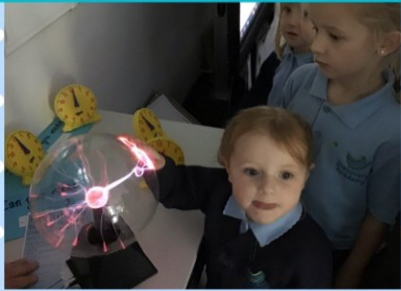
**Mr Hopwood
Science Leader**



Science Week



What an amazing science week and a fantastic finale in team science day. Well done to everyone for the outstanding level of discussions we've had. Enjoy the break and we will see you on bonfire night.

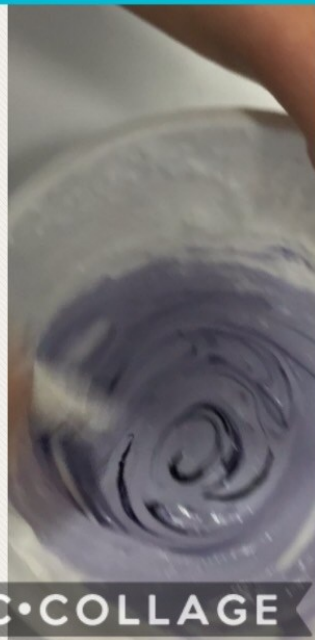
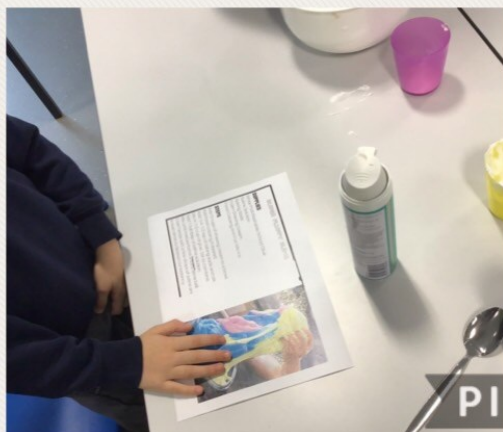


PIC·COLLAGE

Science Week



Another day another crazy science experiment here at Discovery Academy. Today we looked at chemistry, combining different chemicals we have made some fantastic fluffy foam.



Focus On...



Mrs Oldham
Mrs Oldham

Who lives in your house?

Well, there is me, Mr Oldham (real name Danny) and our daughter Caitlin. Caitlin is 16 now and so we call her a NQA... Newly Qualified Adult! We also have two dogs: Floyd who is a miniature Yorkshire Terrier and aged 8 years (56 in dog years) and Reggie who came to live with us last year after his owners passed away. We are not really sure what kind of dog he is but he is 3yrs old (21 in dog years).

What are your hobbies?

I love reading, watching films and swimming. I also love going to my caravan in Wales. If it's nice weather I also like sea fishing.

Who was your favorite teacher?

Without a doubt my favorite teacher was Mr Wilson. He was funny, made learning fun but most of all he played a mean game of Rounders. Every Friday, if we worked hard and got all our work done, we got to go out and have a game of rounders. As an adult now I do just wonder if that was just our PE slot because there were not many Fridays where we didn't play rounders.

What's your favorite book and why?

Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes! I love how he takes the traditional fairy tales and makes them darker and funny. It was also thanks to Roald Dahl that one year I beat 'Danielle Delaney' to being the Princess in our school play. Danielle was always the lead in our primary school shows- it wasn't fair! I was so excited when I was picked. Mums and Dads, if you've ever read Roald Dahl's version of Cinderella you may see why I was picked!

Focus On

What made you want to get into teaching?

I have always loved children. When I was in primary school I loved helping the young ones but also enjoyed working with my teachers. At first I wanted to be a Nursery teacher and own my own Nursery, then a Maths teacher but I finally settled on being a primary school teacher after spending a week at my old primary school on work experience.

How long have you worked in teaching?

18 years now. I qualified from Leeds Metropolitan University in 2000.

What is your favorite subject to teach?

Maths and art. I love Maths, the way you have to work systematically and solve problems. But I love doing art, especially BIG art like willow structures, collages, laminates .

What is your background in teaching?

I started teaching in Collyhurst in Manchester back in 2000 in a really small school of 88 pupils. I then moved to a school in Blackley and stayed there for 8 years. During that time my Dad got very poorly and I decided to give up teaching full time so I could help take him to the hospital for appointments. It didn't last long! I was technically unemployed for about 3 hours when my old boss from Collyhurst who now worked in Ashton heard my news and offered me a part time job at St Peters in Ashton. When she retired I stayed on and it was here I met Mrs Burns who is now in charge of Victorious Academies Trust. I moved to Inspire Academy in April 2015 and then came to Discovery Academy in 2016!



Nursery



I am so proud of the kind, caring and resilient children we have in nursery. It has been a fantastic term and each day the children discovered something new and tried their best to improve. In January the children will change into their full PE kit and will be starting phase 2 phonics. I am looking forward to the new challenges and I know the children will rise to them too!

Autumn Term Review

Year 1



This half term in Year 1 we have really enjoyed our Talk4Writing topic. We used the John Lewis Christmas advert 'The Hare and The Bear' as a base for our story writing. We began by watching the short film and worked together to create a narrative. We looked at the characters, the setting, the story line and the deeper meaning behind the story. We looked at speech, alternative story lines, descriptive language and key features of a story. We then wrote the story and created symbols and actions that represent the words that created the narrative. We then practiced in all different styles and techniques in preparation of writing the story. We wrote a draft copy of the story following Talk4Writing with support and then edited and rewrote a final copy, completely independently. We have been little authors and are so proud of ourselves and each other. The story taught us the real meaning of Christmas and how much we value and care for one another. We want this story to spread love and happiness to all around us this Christmas and value the time we have together. Take a look at the short film and enjoy the time you have together. Merry Christmas from Year 1 x



Next term,

look out for a Spring
Term review from
Reception and Year 2

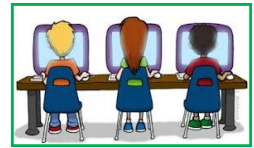


Mrs Mayers—ICT leader

**“I believe that children are the future,
Teach them well and let them lead the way ...”**

I always find these Whitney Houston lyrics inspiring and they do influence a lot that I do as a teacher.

This half term, this has meant I have led a Computing Club with Year 2 children. As the oldest children in our school, I wanted to give these children a responsibility linked to Computing. For the past 7 weeks they have been learning how to be Digital Leaders following the Purple Mash Digital Leader scheme. To become a Digital Leader, the children have had to do three things



Promise to promote the use of technology across school.

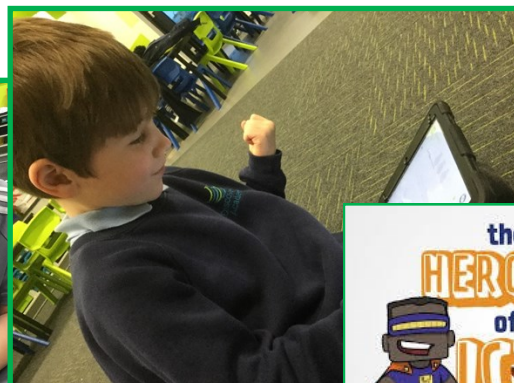
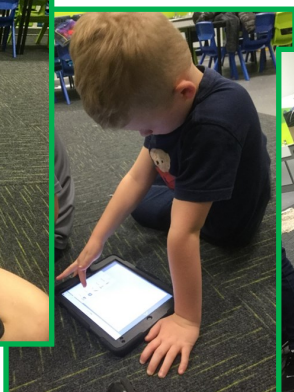
Promise to provide help to their teachers and peers when needed.

Promise to be an advocate for online safety in our school.

The 5 Year 2 children who have worked with me, have definitely earned their certificates. Each week they have helped their teachers by deleting photos from the iPads. They have tested out different apps, giving me their honest opinion of them and letting me know how they would be useful as well as who should use them. We have talked lots about staying safe online and talked about Cyber-Bullying when it was our Ant-Bullying week. In February it will be Safer Internet Day and our Digital Leaders will be helping me lead the assembly that day.

The children have also had lots of fun in their Computing Club and have shown our school values really well. They have been caring to help their teachers and care about online safety, discovered how new apps, improved and achieved through playing apps such as the Doodle apps and inspired each other by sharing their work within the group.

Next half term, it is the Year 1 children's turn to participate in my Computing Club, then Reception children will be invited to have their turn. I look forward to developing the confidence of these children and exploring with them how to use the iPad and laptops to enhance and enrich their learning.



Discovery Values

Mission

It is our mission to provide an educational journey and experience that is second to none, to be a beacon in our communities and to leave our children and families with the lasting impact of a fulfilled potential and a lifelong love of learning. In providing excellent educational services we aim to become the school of choice in our local area and provide a place where children can thrive educationally and personally day after day.

Vision

We believe in aspiration for all. This means nurturing, supporting and developing every aspect of every single child in our care. We want to create a world where the sky is the limit for all of our pupils; building pathways for all and focusing on personal and academic success and eventually progress to successful employment.

Values

We have a wonderfully supportive ethos at Discovery Academy which ensures that our pupils are well behaved, hardworking, friendly and kind. All characteristics that we believe make for happy and successful children.

Our values are:

Discovering – finding out about our world we live in;
Inspiring – making somebody else want to do something positive;
Caring – looking after each other and thinking about others;
Improving – getting better at things because we keep trying; and
Achieving – getting something by working hard for it.



Reading challenge winner



A big well done to our Reception winner for winning the reading bingo challenge.

The next challenge is out! Complete the reading tasks and fill in the stocking. Return it to school by Wednesday 9th January 2019 for a chance to win the next prize.

Merry Christmas and Happy reading



Exciting news!!

In January 2019 we will be officially launching our Discovery school council.

Our members have already been carefully selected from year one and year two by a voting system, each child in year 1 and year 2 put forward their reasons why they would make a great school council member and what qualities they could bring as a member. The

whole school then voted for who they thought fitted the role best. This was an exciting process and votes were very close!

We would like to welcome our council members and wish them good luck with their new role in 2019, we look forward to the involvement you will have to Discovery Academy's future.

Our Members are;

Year 1 Harry, Lewis B, Laycie & Bobby P

Year 2 William, Lola, Elise & Paisley



The role of a School Council Member:

- You will attend regular fortnightly meetings with other School Council Members from each class.
- You will take ideas and suggestions your class have to discuss at School Council Meetings.
- You will bring back ideas, information and suggestions to your class and encourage your class to listen, discuss and share their views and where necessary, vote on actions that need to be taken.
- You will help to organize charity events throughout the year.
- You will encourage the pupils in your class to be aware of their school environment and to respect and care for it.

Specific qualities needed to become a School Council Member:

- As an individual, you may bring lots of additional skills and abilities to this role in particular, however to be a successful School Council member you need to :
- Be reliable and proud of our school and want our school to be the best it can be.
- Listen carefully to the views of others and take on board their ideas.
- Represent the majority view of your class, even if you don't agree !
- Commit time to this role.