

# Discovering Times

Autumn 2019



Discovery Academy

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To wake up every morning and come to work knowing that you work with some of the most amazingly talented and caring staff and serve the best community, families and pupils you could ever wish for is a fantastic feeling. This term has shown just how hard we all work together to make Discovery Academy a successful

school.

This edition of our termly newspaper is full of the wonderful and exciting experiences the children receive whilst in our care. I hope you enjoy recapping some of these events and share the memories with your children.

As we approach 2020 (the year that was supposed to bring us futuristic hover-boards) it is vital that as an academy we continue to improve, develop and create young people ready for the future. We continue to work in partnership with you to do just that.

I would like to wish each and every one of you the most amazing time this holiday, whether celebrating Christmas or having well deserved time with your families and on behalf of all at Discovery Academy we wish you health, love and happiness for the New Year.



**P.S I hope you all get involved with our Christmas Reading Challenge—see page 14 for details!**

## Goodbye Chickens!

**Our lovely five hens have been rehomed.**

After almost three years we have taken to very hard decision to re-home our lovely hens. The hens are older now and so need to retire to a place of relaxation and tranquillity. We are thankful for the support from Des and all at **Hattersley Community Big Garden Project** who have created a perfect space for them to spend their final months.

**A huge thank you to all the staff, families and children who have helped look after them over the years.**



# PTFA EVENTS AUTUMN 2019

This term has been exceptionally busy for our PTFA. They have organised a **Halloween disco**, **Stay and Play events**, been **Santa's very important helpers** and organised a fantastic **Christmas Fair**.

The PTFA is such a vital part of the Academy and we are very lucky that we have a number of 'regular' supporters who volunteer their time to helping organise and plan events.

We also have a number of PTFA members who are unable to support us through giving their time, but do so by promoting events on Twitter and Facebook and also approach friends, family and their workplace to support us through donations for our raffles. No matter how members of the PTFA support us, we thank each and every one of you for that support.

The Committee of the PTFA currently stands as:

- Chair (Acting): Mrs B Oldham
- Treasurer: Ms S Oliphant
- Secretary: Miss A Clare

So far this year the PTFA have managed to raise £1000 for the Academy. These funds support the Academy in providing the 'extras' that the normal budget doesn't allow.

So far this year they have funded:

- Reading Heroes awards.
- Top up and older age appropriate books for the library.
- Annual Library software fee.
- Snacks, drinks and prizes for each class Christmas Party.
- Every child in the school to receive a present from Father Christmas.

We will be meeting in January to discuss the current finances and plan expenditure of what has been raised.

We encourage you to continue to support our PTFA and please do attend any PTFA coffee mornings, Stay and Play sessions or events in the future.

**All members of the PTFA wish everyone in the Discovery Family a very Merry Christmas and All the Best for 2020.**

# Focus On...

# Mr Walsh

WALSH

## Who lives in your house?

I live with my partner Georgia, who is also a teacher, and my newly adopted cat Ronald- which I'm pretty sure I'm allergic to!

## What are your hobbies?

I like to go and watch football a lot (more than is good for you). I go around Europe watching football quite a bit but also enjoy local games. I recently went watching Stalybridge Celtic and AFC Mossley and next on my hit list are Hyde and Hattersley. A few years ago, a few friends and I went to all 92 professional football stadiums in England in four days- it was quite an adventure! I also own over 200 football shirts and am looking to add some of the Tameside teams to my collection. When I'm not watching football (or any other sport for that matter), I like to spend time with my friends and family. We often go on walks or they just pop round for tea and I am very close to them.



## Who was your favorite teacher?

My favorite teacher at school was Mr. Shore my Design Technology teacher. I liked his lessons because he was always fair, funny and gave everyone a chance. I also liked Mr. Jackson's (my Maths teacher) lessons as he would often make a lot of the Maths we did about sport.

## What's your favorite book and why?

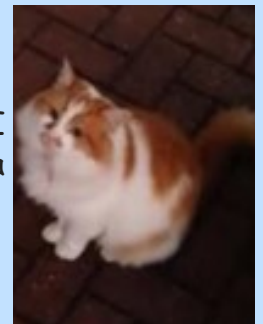
My favourite book as a child was Aliens Stole My Underpants by Brian Moses. The poems in there used to make me howl with laughter and I still enjoy them now.

## What is your favorite subject to teach?

My favourite subject to teach is Maths. I particularly enjoy problem solving and listening to all the different ways that children get to the same answer. I love the discussions that you can have in Maths and how children can work together to get to an answer by questioning each other.

## If you could have any other job what would it be and why?

If I wasn't a teacher, I think I would have liked to have gone into politics. I like the idea of making a difference to many people but I also know being a politician isn't exactly the most popular of jobs!



## Why are you a teacher at Discovery Academy?

I taught in Birmingham for six years and wanted to move back up North to be closer to my family (and get my accent back up to strength). We loved Tameside as an area and decided that's where we wanted to move. When looking at school's to work at, I fell in love with the ethos that I saw when looking at Discovery. I was very persistent in contacting the school - ask Mrs Broughton! - and was desperate to work here. The first time I visited, I knew it was the right school for me because of the children who were so polite, kind and most importantly for me willing to ask questions and explore.



# Focus On...

## Miss Bentley-Dawson



### Who lives in your house?

I live with my 2 children, Logan is 9 and Isabella is 6.

### What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include: anything crime, be it reading novels, watching documentaries or crime related films. I love to bake (even though I'm not much good!) I also love family time, being creative, travelling to new places for days out and board games.



### Who was your favourite teacher?

My favourite teacher was my I.C.T/Physics teacher in secondary school called Mr Martin. It was him simply because he always cracked jokes, he could see potential in all his pupils no matter their ability and he always had a listening ear if you needed him.

### What's your favourite book and why?

My favourite book is the Hungry Caterpillar, it has everything; numbers, rhyme, comedy, food. And it's a huge favourite with the kids so it's always fun to read.

### What is your favourite subject to teach?

I don't have a favourite subject to teach as such. I love topic as it's always changing and interests grow as you explore something new. I do particularly like doing 'Word of the day' as the children love watching me and Mrs Mayers' rap at the end and you can see they really take in the information of the new word and apply it throughout the week. It gives you a buzz to know it's sunk in.



### If you could have any other job what would it be and why?

I always wanted to be a nurse, but I changed my mind over the shift work. So that would probably be my alternative career. I would love to care for those in need, making them better and to be able to understand what the doctor actually talks about when he's saying big words!

### Why are you a teacher at Discovery Academy?

I work at Discovery Academy because it's a home from home, a big family full of difference and uniqueness. The team get on well and are always joking around, the children are always aiming sky high, seeking out experiences to learn and develop on their own and seem to genuinely love inspiring and caring for others. Given our school ethos I think we do pretty well. Everyone wants the best for each other, staff, children and families alike and you don't get that everywhere!

# Digital Leaders

Mrs Mayers



This term I have been training children in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 to be this year's Digital Leaders.

The roles of the Digital Leaders are to:

- Promote the use of technology across school.
- Help their friends and the teachers with technology when needed.
- Encourage and talk about online safety in school.

This term, to help their friends and teachers, the children have learnt how to delete photos from the iPads and close open apps as well how to shut down the laptops properly.

Using the iPads, the children have explored the apps ChatterPix and Book Creator, thinking about how they could use these to support their learning in their classrooms. On the laptops the children have explored PurpleMash and 3D paint and talked about what they like about these programs.



The children all have a good understanding of online safety. During anti-bullying week, we talked about cyberbullying and also about how we can use technology to share kind messages with others.



The Digital Leaders have worked hard and had fun too and I am looking forward to seeing how they make a difference in their classrooms. The children will be helping me lead a special assembly on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and I will be meeting with them each half term to help them with their role.

**Don't forget!** If you have a website or app your child likes to use and think others would like it too, please tell me about it by emailing me at [jmayers@victoriousacademies.org](mailto:jmayers@victoriousacademies.org)



# Science Week 2019

We celebrated our second annual science week in late October and had an amazing time exploring the three main strands of science. We kicked things off with an action packed day of forces with Professor Bubbleworth. She introduced us all to the concept of gravity and the ways in which gravity works.

During the week we took part in lots of different activities and tested our theories out in engaging and interactive experiments from dropping eggs off the balcony in Year 2, to seeing how liquid travels across absorbent materials in Nursery.



Each class spent an afternoon focused on Chemistry, then physics and finally on biology and we finished the week with our glorious team day. The children spent time in their house teams and travelled around the classrooms completing challenges set by the teachers. We saw experiments with smarties and washing up liquid, pulling and pushing games, science puzzles and even a milk moving milk experiment!



It was another amazing week and the fun didn't stop there. We also sent home some suggestions for spicing up the half term and were overwhelmed with the responses from children who had been conducting experiments using everyday equipment at home.

Well done everyone and thank you for making science week a roaring success once again.

Mr Hopwood



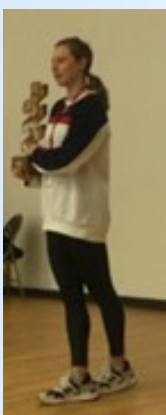
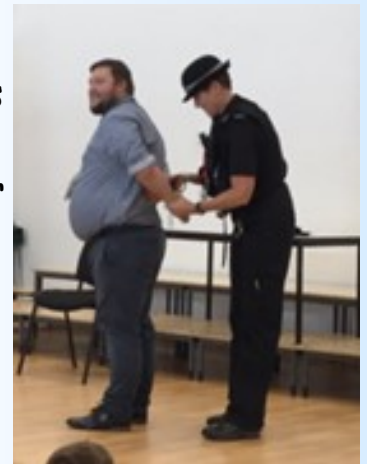
# Mr Walsh's Wonderful Words



This has been my first term at Discovery Academy and it's been an absolute blast! There has been so much going on throughout the start of this academic year that I wanted to share with you a quick overview of some highlights.

One of the things that I've learnt very quickly during my time at Discovery is that everybody loves a good chance to dress-up; no more so than on Halloween! I was blown away (and also slightly scared) by the children's costumes. At the Halloween Disco, everyone got into the spirit of thing and brought the fun and fear factor!

Another thing that I have realised during my time here is that the children get plenty of different and interesting visitors to come and speak to them. Early in the term, our local police officers came to visit us. We learnt all about how keep ourselves safe and what do if we are ever in danger. Please do not worry about the picture of Mr Hopwood; after serious negotiations we managed to get them to release him.



Another inspiring visitor that we had was Georgia Taylor Brown - who is an international, medal-winning triathlete. Georgia helped us to launch our Young Sports Ambassadors because she was once one too! She told us all about how her dedicated training regime and the sacrifices that she has made in order to compete at such a high-level. The children asked her lots of interesting questions and were very proud of such a sporting success from their local area.



The final visitors that springs to mind is when we were visited by the birds of prey. The birds were absolutely fascinating; it was a truly mesmerising experience. Another positive about the day was that the handler commented on how well the children listened and behaved.



I think my proudest moment of the term was taking the Year 3 class to the cenotaph in Godley on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. The children were very reflective about why it is important to remember and be thankful for everyone who has fought for our liberty. Not only this, but while at the service, the children were impeccably behaved and many people from the local community commented on the children's brilliant attitude; it was a privilege to be with them that day.



My first Christmas at Discovery has also been fun. The Panto Cinderella at the Plaza theatre in Stockport was amazing. Again, people commented about the impeccable behaviour of the children and Mrs Oldham was super proud that this was acknowledged. Father Christmas visited not just once, but three times. He loves Discovery Academy and just

keeps popping in whether to attend the Fair, parties or treat days. We are lucky!

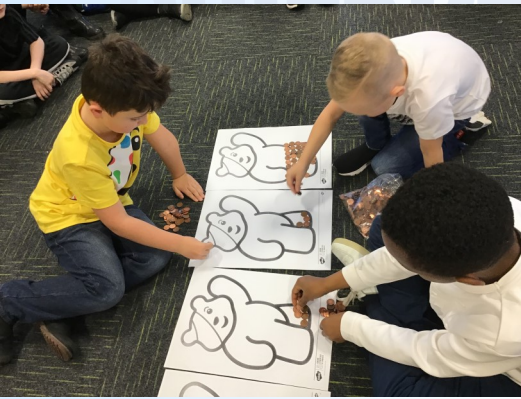
That concludes my summary for this term. There are so many other amazing things that I could have added but just didn't have the room. I cannot wait for an equally exciting term after Christmas! Hope you have a lovely Christmas.

Mr Walsh





# CHILDREN IN NEED 2019



On Friday 15th November the children and staff here at Discovery Academy swapped our school clothes for something a bit more glam' in aid of Children In Need.



Throughout the day children and staff took part in Pudsey related activities to raise awareness of the wonderful work that Children In Need does in our local area. We looked at local causes that were being helped by the funding. Two such clubs were Hyde Community Action which is a project that delivers a weekly programme of Sunday workshops combining discussion, games and peer support for young women in Hyde. The second worthy recipients were Tameside Titans Adapted Cycling Club which provide cycling sessions for disabled children and young people, helping them access a sport they otherwise wouldn't be able to and a chance to make new friends.



As a school this year we have managed to raise an amazing **£146.74** which is amazing as we only have 120 children.

Thank you so much for you kind donations.

# Autumn Term Review

## Nursey Update

**What a fantastic start we have had in Nursery!**

All the children have settled in well, made new friends and are working hard to follow the class rules. We have enjoyed the topics, All About Me, Nursery Rhymes, Colours and Christmas.



The children have been working hard in phonics and learning different phonemes as well as writing letters.

We have worked hard on re-telling stories and counting, representing numbers and recognising numbers in the environment.

It has been a pleasure to watch the children's confidence and caring attitudes grow during circle time discussions.

The children enjoy sharing their opinions and interests with each other and Ginger bear.



The children have recently been learning about the Christmas story and enjoyed singing, acting out the story and rehearsing for our Nativity.

We have talked about why Christmas is important to us and how we celebrate this in our own families.

The children have been very creative and enjoy focused and independent activities. I have been equally impressed with the fantastic home learning and amazing homework the children complete each week. Thank you to all our families for your support.

I am very proud of the progress the children have already made and look forward to new challenges and achievements in the new-year!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

**Mrs Kirkbride**



# Autumn Term Review

## Reception

We (Mrs Mayers and Miss Bentley-Dawson) are completely thrilled with all of the children's hard work and determination to learn new things so far. The children have been seeking out numerous challenges from the environment to try their best to discover and achieve skills and knowledge for themselves.



Our topics so far have been 'All about me', 'Space, light and dark' and then ending the term with 'Christmas'. In these topics we have explored family trees, who lives in our house, and our likes and dislikes. We discovered how to make a rocket, learnt about different stars, and investigate the Christmas story and how it all came around.



This leads us in to the brilliant Christmas play 'The Shining Signing Star' that we have been practicing. Thank you in advance for all of the incredible costumes you have all bought or created, they made our performance so much brighter.

Our focus books/favourite stories this term have been 'Goldilocks and the three bears', 'The Stickman', 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Little Red Riding Hood' and 'Day monkey, Night monkey'. We had an amazing visit from Stick Lady Love who was trying to find her husband, Stickman. We made some wonderful cards for the Troll to explain how to be caring to others and we also gave advice in letters to Little Red Riding Hood on how to keep safe and not talk to strangers.



In Maths we have explored all numbers from 1-10, looking at



how they are formed, what numbers are one more and one less using numicon, tens frames and counters. Plus, adding numbers together to create simple number sentences. We have also experimented with 2D and 3D shapes, money, weight, size and capacity. We will be moving onto 11-20 next term and trying some new things.

We had super fun seeing Olympian Georgia Taylor-Brown this term. This gave us inspiration to talk about our own dreams and what we want to be when we grow up. Our science week gave us a great chance to investigate Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. We gained excellent knowledge of birds of prey from the Birdman.



In the next term our topics will be 'Hattersley and homes', 'People who help us' and 'Transport'. We are expecting to go out into the surroundings and explore what Hattersley has to offer and discuss the importance of being a good community and not only how we help others but how they can help us. Any ideas are more than welcome.



# Autumn Term Review

## Year 1

What a fantastic start to our year together in Year 1! We have discussed all the things we have done and compiled a list of what we think the best bits are so far and what we are looking forward to doing.



During the first half term we looked closely at the season of autumn. We are in a very special setting here at Discovery Academy, which enabled us to go on walks to discover the early signs of autumn and then later in the season compare our findings. This themed flowed through several topics and we used Talk for Writing to create a text map to help us with a recount. We discovered so much from the land around us! In Art we worked hard practising our drawing and painting skills by creating some beautiful art work base around autumn and landscapes. In History we learned lots of interesting facts and information about an inspirational lady called Rosa Parks and in RE we delved into the Hindu religious festival of Diwali and discussed why it is such an important festival to Hindus.

Fast forward to this half term and what a busy one it has been! We have worked so hard on investigating everyday materials in science and have carried out experiments to test the properties of different materials. We have designed and made a moving toy and will be evaluating the finished product at the start of next half term. In History we have looked at toys and how they have changed throughout different generations. We loved exploring toys from Mrs Sullivan's generation, Miss Owen's generation and then from this generation. We were really interested in the way that the skipping ropes are similar but the computers are completely different and have much better screens. In RE we have



looked at Christmas as a Christian festival, learnt all about the nativity story and discovered the meanings of different Christian symbols. Did you know some Christians believe that a Christmas tree represents God's everlasting love?

Next half term we are excited to start with 'Art Week', begin working on the text 'The day the crayons quit' and learning all about how humans grow and change.

Have a fabulous Christmas everyone!

Miss Owen and Mrs Sullivan





# All About Reading!

Reading is one of the key drivers in the new Education Inspection Framework for Ofsted and is something that has always been a key driver at Discovery Academy. Our recent visit from the Trust acknowledged all of the fantastic ways we promote reading across the Academy.

## Tameside Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

I am so proud of Discovery Academy for coming second in Tameside in the Summer Reading Challenge at Tameside libraries. A big well done to all the children that took part in the challenge and received their certificates. Keep up the good work and keep on reading!

## Tameside Loves Reading Volunteers

We have also had two Reading volunteers again this term. These are members of the public who have volunteered their time to read with children and give a special focus to support those who need a little extra encouragement. The Tameside Loves Reading programme is supported by the Local Authority.

## Discovery Book Club

Book club is every Friday and for all children in Years 1 to 3 during lunch time.

We spend this time doing various activities around reading whether it just be a bit of quiet alone time reading or filling in book reviews.

The author we have focused on this term is Julia Donaldson and we have enjoyed finding books written by her, researching her and reading her work.







## Junior Librarians

The Junior Librarians have been busy helping to keep the library running by scanning books and making sure all the books are put back correctly in the right places, we have also been interviewing staff around school and finding out all about their favourite books and reading habits. Keep your eyes peeled in the library for some

great recommendations by the adults too.



## Reading Heroes

Reading heroes was trailed in year three in October. The aim was to encourage more reading at home. Each time a child reads at home and the grown up made a record in the reading diary they received a raffle ticket. The idea being, the more you read, the more raffle tickets, the more chance you have of winning. In class a display of the top five readers is displayed and at the end of the month the raffle is drawn and the child receive a reading prize. Our first winner was Zach who chose a Halloween themed book.

In November Reading Heroes was launched throughout the school. On the last Friday of the month in family assembly our winners were drawn, one from each class starting with Reception. Each Reading Hero receives a card and they go to Mrs Oldham's office to choose a book.

## Christmas Reading Challenge

Keep up the reading. Books are fun! We are very excited to be hosting our first Reading Challenge of the academic year over the Christmas break and want you to get caught reading.

- Look out for the recommended reading lists being sent out of books for your child's age and try and give one a go.
- Read it together and send us a photo.
- Tweet the picture to [@Discovery\\_Hyde](#) and your teacher.
- Don't forget the hashtag [#DiscoveryLovesReading](#).

We can't wait to see and hear about all the reading you have done over the Christmas break.



# HOLIDAY DATES 2019/20

Christmas Holidays		Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2019	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	
Spring Term 1	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	29
Spring Holidays		Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020	
Spring Term 2		Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020	30
Easter Holidays		Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	
Summer Term 1	Bank Holiday Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2020	24
Summer Half Term Holidays		Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	
Summer Term 2		Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2020	34
<b>Total Pupil Days</b>				<b>190</b>
<p>Pupils are required to be in school for 190 days per academic year.            Teachers are in school for 195 days per academic year            2nd September 2019 – Academy Inset Day            3rd September 2019 - Trust Inset Day            6<sup>th</sup> January – Academy Inset Day            Additional days taken as Inset Days or Twilight sessions across the academic year.</p>				



## Hattersley Community Big Garden Project

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY OF  
HATTERSLEY

Do you like woodwork?

Are you a keen gardener?

Would you like to make new friends?

# MEN IN SHEDS

Men in Sheds is a service to support men who want to get together, share and learn new skills - all in the welcoming space of a 'Shed'. Helps to promote the community and mental health and wellbeing.



Union Close,  
Off Hattersley  
Road East,  
Hattersley

