

Discovering Times

Issue 6: Spring 2020



Discovery Academy

Well, this has been a term we won't forget in a hurry!



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This terms edition of our newspaper will be shorter than normal due to the fact we had to close the doors to the vast majority of you on Monday 20th March. COVID-19 has brought a lot of worry and disruption to our Academy but as usual the pupils and families have shown just what an amazing family we all are.

As the pupils and parents have got used to homeschooling, the teachers have got used to working from home. The challenges that brings have been difficult for us all but the response on PurpleMash has been good and the children should be able to complete those tasks independently or with you together. Mrs Mayers has dedicated her curriculum page to highlighting ways to keep safe whilst on line and also hints and tips to support you with PurpleMash moving forward.

Whilst the end of the term has been challenging, and we have missed our Easter festivities and Easter experience, the rest of the term was eventful in a good way! We have many pages informing you of our exciting learning and for the first time we will be making the newspaper available in the school area of PurpleMash. Please encourage the children to read it too.

Whilst at home, please take the greatest care of yourselves and each other. We can not wait to see you all again very soon.



LEXIA

Earlier this term, Children in Year 1, 2 and 3 at Discovery Academy took part in the Lexia programme. Lexia is a computer based app that helps children with reading through a series of games and challenges.

Lexia is personalised to each child's ability and takes them on a journey around the world. Where they can discover fascinating facts about the world as they travel.

The children have tried super hard with the phonics, grammar and reading activities. One Year 3 child said "I loved learning about syllables and liked how I could get stamps on my passport when I passed a level"

The children have their log in details and can access this whilst at home for a limited time.



Focus On...

Miss Brown

Who lives in your house?

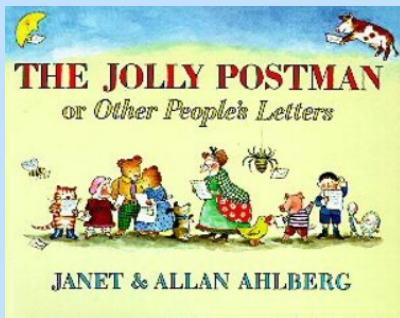
There are two people in my house—Me and my 13 year old daughter who is called Leah.

What are your hobbies?

I like the arts, especially dancing and theatre. I stage manager local productions at Hyde Festival theatre in my spare time.

Who was your favourite teacher?

Mr. Wallace who was my English teacher because he made me fall in love with reading. If I can inspire a child to read the way he inspired me I will be happy.



What's your favourite book and why?

Ohh! That is really too hard to answer. When it comes to children's books my favourite are the Jolly Postman or The day the Crayons quit. For adult books I like P.S I love you which was then made into a film or I am Pilgrim.

What is your favourite subject to teach?

It would have to be English Literature. In primary school its called guided reading but it is where you really dig into the book, the characters, the language that is used by the author.

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

Fighter pilot in the Airforce. I am a plane geek who loves flying at speed.



Why are you a teacher at Discovery Academy?

I love little people and want them to get the best out of life. I feel that the values at Discovery help children to be their very best. By coming here, I feel I'm in a school with the best teachers and staff who feel like a family I didn't know I needed so much.

ONLINE LEARNING

Mrs Mayers, Computing leader

Parents and children, we are so proud of all the fantastic learning we are seeing while you are safe at home.

In this article, I want to share some tips that I hope will help you enjoy your learning at home and keep safe while you are using technology.



PurpleMash

I hope you are enjoying the work we have sent using this. Parents, please look at the parent blog for tips and ideas. If you do have trouble loading a game, try it again later, sometimes the website can't cope with lots of users playing the same game at once. Do let us know about any problems, we will help if we can!



Twitter

Remember you can use this to share photos, videos and comments about what you have been doing. It is an easy way for us all to stay connected!

Useful Learning websites

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

(username: march20, password: home)

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>

link to lots of books your child reads at school

<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

links to Maths home learning for each Year group. We may set some of these as activities

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

activities for Year 1, 2 and 3. Daily lessons coming soon

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

useful games for all year groups

<https://app.gonoodle.com/>

fun songs and dances, includes Zumba, brain exercises and mindfulness activities

How to complete a worksheet without printing it.

Take a screenshot of the work you want your child to complete.

Open the screenshot in your photo gallery.

In your 'edit' tools, you should have the option to select a pen to draw/type on the photo. Use this tool to complete the work.

Save your photo.

Now you can tweet your child's work

On PurpleMash, click on the yellow work folder and you can upload the photo into your child's folder for the teacher to see.

E-SAFETY

Mrs Mayers, Computing leader

I have put our e-safety workshop in the school folder on PurpleMash, for you to read through.

Remember, the risks for children when they are online are linked to:

- **Content** - what the children can see
- **Contact** - who the children are interacting with. This can be advertising as well as other people.
- **Conduct** - online behaviour e.g. messages sent.

Useful E-Safety websites

<https://www.internetmatters.org/> help and advice about issues and how to set and manage parental controls for different devices. This website also has advice for different age groups and stories about e-safety for you to read with your child.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> a guide to the social networks children use.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/> - lots of tips and advice about how to keep children safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> information for parents and children about online safety

If you come across illegal content, such as images of child abuse, you can report this to the Internet WatchFoundation at www.iwf.org.uk.

In school, all our classrooms have posters, reminding the children to be SMART online.

- S** Safe - never share personal information to strangers online e.g. full name, address, birthday
- M** Meet - never meet with a stranger you have met online
- A** Accepting - don't open emails from people you don't know
- R** Reliable - don't believe everything you read online. Check your facts!
- T** Tell - if you are not sure or worried about something you see or that happens online, tell someone as soon as you can.



BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.



ART WEEK 2020

The Spring term started in January with our Art Week.

During Art Week the children completed 2 fantastic pieces of art in class. One will contribute to a whole school art display in the hall. The other is an individual a piece of art work following a theme that will be displayed professionally in an exhibition at school. This had been set for May but due to the COVID-19 situation will be rearranged at a later date.

Whole School Tile Display

Each class took one of the school values and create an image which represents the value. Nursery worked to show caring, Reception did inspiring, Year 1 completed achieving, Year 2 had improving and Year 3 made discovering. The tiles are all complete and ready to be made into a permanent display in the hall. They Children worked really hard on their own tile and they look fantastic!



Individual Art Work



Each year group worked around a theme to suit their learning and topics so far. The Nursery children have created some fantastic train inspired work. Reception have created art work related to homes which look incredible. Year 1 decided to create amazing trees in different seasons. Year 2 have composed African silhouette art work which looks unbelievable with the strong, bold colours. Finally Year 3 have modelled their art on pop art of in the style of Roy Lichtenstein.

Each piece of art work will be sent to Images Art where they will be **professionally** framed. Then they will be brought make to school where an **exhibition** of all the wonderful work will take place. Parents will be able to purchase the framed art work once the exhibition has finished. More details of this exciting event will follow when we return to school.

Art Week Winter Challenge

We also had 67 children who entered the Art Week Winter Challenge via Purple Mash. We have a wonderful collection of art work which can be found displayed in a large book in the entrance hall. There were some fantastic masterpieces showcasing a whole range of winter themed activities and scenes. Each child was rewarded with 2 Dojos.



Miss Owen, Art Leader

MATHS WEEK 2020

Mr Walsh, Maths Leader

The week beginning the 3rd February, we celebrated Maths Week at Discovery Academy and we had an absolute blast! Each day, we had a new focus alongside being encouraged to show all five of our school values through mathematics. During the week, the children took part in numerous activities within the classes and with other children within their houses - all of them collaborated so well and enabled each other to learn and have fun.



On the Monday, the entire school came together for a Maths Assembly to launch the week. As a school, we discussed what we believe makes an excellent mathematician and set targets of what we wanted to achieve as part of Maths Week. After the assembly, we went into our houses and started our morning of carousel maths challenges. Each challenge was run by a different teacher and had a different theme: time, calculation, place value and shape. Every house worked together as a team to help each other and all the staff were very impressed with the children's attitude.

On the Tuesday, the children stayed in their classes to work on a real-life maths project. This included things such as planning a trip and organising a party - making sure that they stuck to timings and a budget. The children worked in groups to apply their mathematical knowledge and then presented the plans to their classmates.



We had a times table and number bond battle on Wednesday. Within their classes, the children competed against each other to find their class champion. Then the next day, everybody took part in active maths. This is where the children are given a range of maths problems that have to solve, while at the same time keeping physically active.

On our final day of Maths Week, we dressed up as rock stars and popstars to promote Times Table Rock Stars. As well as this, everybody that dressed up donated £1 to NSPCC as part of their Number Day. The children made an amazing effort with their costumes and there was an unbelievable atmosphere throughout the school. All the staff would like to say a huge thank you for all efforts that the parents and carers made putting together the children's costumes - they were fabulous! All in all, we had an incredible and memorable week!



BOOK WEEK 2020

The first Thursday of each March is World Book Day. So this year we decided to hold Book Week at Discovery Academy to really celebrate our love of reading.

Our 'Book Week' got off to a fantastic start with a family assembly where Mrs Oldham shared with us one of her favourite Roald Dahl poem 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We then celebrated February's Reading Heroes and showed everyone our lovely costumes. We were blown away with some of the creativity shown! .



Throughout the day everyone shared who they had come as and told us a little bit about their character or their favourite part of the book.



Lots of our grown-ups and younger siblings joined us for our D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) sessions on Monday and Wednesday and we all enjoyed sharing stories with each other.

We all completed lots of work during the week about books, and we even got to write some of our own! Each class has a display in the corridor showing some of the books or what they worked on!

Keep a look out for them next time you are in school!

Mrs Sullivan, English leader

Y2 Football Tournament 2020

On a bright spring morning, 8 boys from Year 2 took on the mantle of representing Discovery Academy in our first ever football competition.

We travelled to Manchester United's indoor training facility, The Cliff, with our guest coach for the day, Coach Bingham (Coach Bingham was an absolute asset!). The team looked really smart and professional in the first ever airing of our new school kit sponsored by a local firm, Envirolab.



The nerves and excitement were palpable as we got ready for the team briefing. It was a full day tournament with 6 games played in total. We scored numerous goals, some straight up corkers streaming into the net, others brilliantly assisted by teammates. The children all worked really hard and proved, despite it being their first outing, what an amazing team they are!



At the end of the day, when it was time to go home, we couldn't help but reflect on what a fantastic day it had been! The Discovery Football Team came 3rd in their first ever tournament but more importantly their behaviour was amazing and we are so proud of the sportsmanship they displayed throughout the whole day.

Even though they were unable to shake hands they demonstrated some of the finest sportsmanship I have seen. A testament not only to the training both Mr Hopwood and Mr Walsh do with the team but also to our strong school values.

Well done Team Discovery!

Miss Owen (and Coach Bingham)

Spanish with Year 3

and Mrs Kirkbride



Hola Personas,

I am so excited to say we are learning to speak Spanish at Discovery Academy!

Learning a second language like Spanish provides us with an opening to other cultures and a curiosity to deepen our understanding of the world. We have only had 3 Spanish lessons so far in year 3 and we were just getting started!

The children have really enjoyed learning about Spain. We looked at the country and identified where it is on the world map. We looked at famous people and places, talked about other countries where Spanish is spoken. The children have learnt to say their name and how they are feeling.



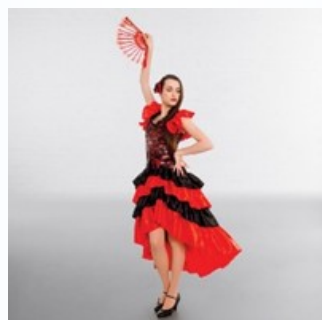
Each week we will be revisiting what we already know and building up the confidence to speak to each other in Spanish. I am looking forward to teaching the children colours, numbers, animals and helping them to speak with fluency through fun interactive games, discussions,

role play and dancing!

Addios!

Senora Kirkbride

MFL leader



After School Club

Mrs Clare, Play Leader

During the Spring term at school, the children enjoyed lots of different activities. They enjoyed making valentines card for their loved ones, flowers for Mother's Day, making dream catchers from plates, making flap jacks from scratch and decorating homemade biscuits & rice krispie cakes.



We have also enjoyed playing outside and making the most of the lighter nights, along with lots of colouring, playing with the playdough and exploring our creative construction side with the Lego & bigger bricks. Playing active games like "What time is it Mr wolf?" has also been great fun and we have even played these during lunchtime, being leaders in the game.

We like to make sure the After School Club room shows what we have been doing and so we have created two new displays. Our Values display reminds us of how we should behave and work together. We have also created a new flower display that all the children were part of by decorating a flower and then putting a picture of themselves in the middle. We created this so that we can see that like in a garden,



"EVERY CHILD IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF FLOWER, AND ALL TOGETHER MAKE THIS WORLD A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN."

Extra Curricular Clubs

RUNNING CLUB

What a great start we have had in running club!

We have 28 members and still some more children wanting to join. Every Friday after school we all meet in the hall where Joseph our safety officer checks all running shoes making sure laces are tied safely and our bib monitors (this changes weekly) give out the bibs so we can be seen and be safe. Before we leave, we check if anyone has any injuries and if we are all ready then off we go.

On the way down to the mugger we warm up our bodies ready for the run. We then slowly do a few laps around the mugger remembering not to race or sprint off. Once we are warmed up we do some interval training and to finish off we run up the hill towards the top school gates and back down.

Even though the children moan about running "up" they all crack on with it and feel a sense of achievement at the end!

I am so very proud of all our runners every single week they all put in 100% improving their techniques and attitude they are all amazing.

Upcoming events

Before the COVID-19 situation, we were planning a Race for Life to be held on the grounds of the school. This was planned to be 3 miles of running or walking all the children from Running Club taking part. If this event was successful we would then be looking at holding it for the whole school from 2021. We will endeavor to keep to these plans and so will keep Running Club parents updated once we return to school.

Miss Goodson, Running club leader



Sports Ambassadors

Mr Hopwood, PE leader

Sports Ambassadors Hit the Ground Running!

Back in December, which feels like a life time ago now, some of our Year 3 class attended Tameside's Young Ambassador training. The role of a Young Ambassador is to be a role model for sport and activity within their schools. Since then our 3 ambassadors have been working hard developing activities that will keep all children engaged and moving during break and dinner times.



We are very pleased with the work that has been done and are very excited to announce that we have organised different activities that aim to keep children active during play and dinner times. We have moved equipment from the MUGA up onto the playground so that children can play football and basketball and we are using our sporting equipment so that children have bat and ball games, hula -hoops and ground based games to play also. Lots to keep them engaged and active.

We have also arranged for playground markings to be painted on the ground so that children know what games are being played and where. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this has been delayed. Each play and dinnertime our ambassadors will be in charge of setting up different games and being role models within them. Finally our wonderful mid-day assistants are also developing some great games that are very easy to set-up and great fun for all ages to play.



All of this is so important to the health and physical wellbeing of the children. At Discovery Academy we are committed to providing children with engaging activities that keeps them fit and healthy, engaged during play and dinner times and also challenges them appropriately.

Easter Word Search



Easter Word Search



V U D Q N B S N A E B Y L L E J Z N
W R O W P F L J H W A H X E U G E K
F B U N N Y A D E Z M C D T R P P C
L C Q K K B M A K F A F R A A M V B
C M K R O O B A F X L F Y L B R T C
H F F C M N S I R I H N T O B Y O D
I S I H C N E R F B V W J C I U I Y
C D D G Y E I E O U A J G O T E R E
K X Y M E T P S N M E P S H G T I X
S T T H S S Y E G G S K H C W Y R E
L E J G G B W H T N I C A Y H K T C
I K V D N G M C J U G U U K N S Z Z
D S Y M I E V X S A O E G N I R P S
O A H I L W F B T O B T J D G B E D
F B W X K E R X C D N I Q K M L Z X
F N B I C E A S T E R E G G Y F C L
A G B F U W Z N D Q S I Z Q N O Q A
D R Q Z D I I A O F F U N X G J I G



BUNNY
DUCKLINGS
BONNET
BASKET
CHICKS



DAFFODILS
EASTEREGG
HYACINTH
SPRING
EGGS



LAMBS
IRIS
JELLYBEANS
RABBIT
CHOCOLATE

