




Discovering Times

Discovering Inspiring Caring Improving Achieving

Edition 10: Autumn 2022

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The start of a new year.

Well the academic year has started with a bang. 2022/23 is our very first year as a full school with pupils from 3 years to 11 years all part of The Discovery Family.

The focus this year is to increase the number of clubs that are on offer both at lunchtime and after school. It has been fantastic to start our Netball team, Wellbeing group, Coding club, Debating club, Forest School and to continue our Multi Sports. Football and Choir.

Another focus is to reinstate the PTFA and organise more events across school. Without the PTFA we are unable to organise and run events and so we need you on board. The next meeting is at 4:15pm on Tuesday 24th January in the Community Room.

We endeavour to make communication stronger and we have had positive feedback from families about the newsletter having all the information in one place rather than separate emails. Thank you to all the parents who give us constructive feedback and help us to work on improving. As one of our values, it is important that we can continue to improve.



Myself and all the staff at Discovery Academy hope you have a fantastic Christmas and enjoy the time you have with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you back on Wednesday 4th January 2023

Phase Leader Updates - EYFS

As EYFS Lead, I have been very impressed with the way that our children have approached all areas of school life this term with a big smile on their face. I have enjoyed sharing what we have been doing, as well as looking at what the rest of the school is up to Twitter.



This term I have seen both classrooms and the outdoor area filled with children completing many exciting challenges. From helping Humpty Dumpty to racing rockets being built in the playground. I have even seen Elmer the Elephant and

some Aliens visiting EYFS.

We have represented our values: Achieving, Caring, Discovering, Inspiring and Improving in a variety of ways. These were especially seen during our



Children in Need activities and during Science Day when we worked with children from other classes. It was delightful to see everyone helping each other and sharing their ideas.

I was very proud how everyone tried hard to learn the songs, actions and words during our Nativity.



Well done EYFS, it has been a busy term!
Mrs Sullivan- EYFS leader

Phase Leader Updates – KS1

What an amazing start to the school year we have had in Key Stage One! We have celebrated National Author Day, Science Day, Spanish Day, recognised the importance of Remembrance Day as well as commemorating the passing of our Queen.



Unfortunately, on 8th September, our beloved Queen passed away and on 19th September it was her funeral. To remember our Queen Key Stage One took part in a whole school memorial assembly and to look forward to the reign of our new King, we undertook some activities within our class. In Year 2 they learnt facts about King Charles, such as did you know he went to 3



different schools and his favourite sport is Polo? They then created a double page spread to represent what they had learnt. In Year 1 they created some artwork by redesigning the current coins with the King's face.

On 12th October, Key Stage 1 took part in the whole school celebration of all things Spanish! We made Spanish flags, sang Spanish songs, listened to Spanish stories and learnt how to dance the flamenco! It was so much fun!



On the last day of Autumn 1, we celebrated Science day.

We all went into our Author houses and participated in 4 different science activities across the morning. We investigated sound, electricity and light. We made lots of predictions and summarised what we found out. There are definitely lots of mini Einsteins in Key Stage 1!



Today we participated in a zoom with Nadia Shireen to celebrate National Author Day. We listened to her new story and she helped us to draw Fatcat.

On 1st November, it was National Author Day where Key Stage One recognised and celebrated all the amazing authors and books they had written. First we shared a story by Nadia Shireen who one of Author houses is named after and is also the Key Stage One Author.

A week later, we participated in a live virtual visit with the one and only Nadia Shireen! She read her new book Billy and the Pirates and then put on a draw-a-long activity

where we all learnt how to draw Fatcat one of her main characters in many of her books.

Finally, on 11th November, Key Stage 1 remembered all the people who lost their lives fighting for our country. In Year 2 they wrote a story based on the BBC Poppies animation which sees The Great War experienced by the animal inhabitants of a WW1 battlefield. In Year 1 they created their own Poppy wreaths using a collage of different materials and some children even created their own Poppy pictures at home. We then shared our reflections in assembly with the whole school. **"Lest we forget"**



Well done to everyone pupil in Key Stage One for all their hard work and achievements this term! I can't wait to see what Spring term fun will bring for Key Stage One in the new year!

Mrs Collins – KS1 leader and Assistant Principal

Phase Leader Updates – KS2

It's been a very exciting start to the year in Key Stage 2. It is the first ever time that we have had a full key stage so it has been more action-packed than ever!



One of the highlights of the term was Spanish Day. We explored the country of Spain in numerous different ways. It was clear that the children really enjoyed the Flamenco lessons they took part in and some real rhythm was on show! As well as dancing, we embedded ourselves in Spanish culture by learning some Spanish songs. At the end of the day, the children performed them in assembly and it was great to see how enthusiastic they all were during their performance.

Science Day is a day that we always look forward to and 2022's did not disappoint! The children experienced many different workshops as they rotated around their schools, working in their houses. It really was great to see all children collaborating with one another across all year groups. Each workshop had a different focus: light, sound, electricity and space. The children particularly enjoyed the electricity workshop as they explored how circuits work and how they can help us in our everyday lives.



Unfortunately, there have been some sad moments this term. As a key stage, we mourned the loss of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Although it was naturally a sad time, we made sure that we had plenty of discussions around what an inspirational lady she was. What was noticeable for us as a school was the incredible work that Queen Elizabeth did with children, particularly around promoting the value of education. As well as marking the death of our Queen, we also showed our respect on Remembrance Day for those who have fought for our country. Each class created their own piece to share in assembly as a sign of remembrance. During the assembly, Miss Oldham came into our Remembrance service to lower the flag from a local cadet unit as a mark of respect.



As you probably know, we love an opportunity to dress up at Discovery Academy – and this term was no different! The children were set the task on our Children in Need Day to dress in something to make people smile, and it's fair to say they did that and then some! There were so many great outfits that gave us all a good chuckle, while at the same time raising money for a great cause. Recently, we had non-uniform days to collect bottles and chocolate for our Christmas Fair and we would really like to thank you all for the support that you have shown with this.



I'm sure you will agree, it's been another great term in KS2. I personally cannot wait for the next one, where we have even more activities planned to help the children with their learning while at the same time having plenty of fun.

Mr Walsh – KS2 leader and Deputy Principal

SENCO SPOTLIGHT

All behaviour is communication

The better we understand what a child is telling us through their behaviour, the easier it will be to support children in showing more positive behaviours and less negative ones.



It is not unusual for children to behave differently at home than at school. Sometimes children make better behaviour choices at school because they want to please and fit in. These children often mask or bottle up their feelings at school and release these when they are with their parents/carers. Sometimes this can be because the child is secure in knowing that they can safely express how they are feeling knowing that the parent or carer will still love them.

Other children can be overwhelmed by the expectations, demands and busyness of school and this can lead to the child being unable to stop themselves making the wrong behaviour choices at school, whereas at home they can cope better so the behaviours are different.

Zones of regulation is an intervention we often use with children struggling to manage their emotions, feelings and behaviours.

There are 4 zones which are used to describe how your brain and body feel. These can be likened to a traffic light

- **In the blue zone**, your body is running slow, you may need to rest or recharge. You may feel sick, tired, sad or bored
- **In the green zone**, you are 'good to go.' You may feel calm, happy and focused.
- **In the yellow zone**, you need to be cautious or slow down. You may be starting to lose control and could be feeling frustrated, silly, excited, worried, anxious or surprised
- **In the red zone**, you need to stop and regain control. You may be feeling extreme emotions such as anger, terror, aggression or elation.

The ZONES of Regulation® Reproducible E The Zones of Regulation Visual

The ZONES of Regulation®			
BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

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Within the intervention, we talk about how all feelings are ok, that we all experience all the zones at some point and that it is ok to be in any of the zones.

The red and yellow zones are not bad or naughty.

We talk about how what matters is what we do when we are in those zones and how we need to be aware about how to manage our behaviour in the different zones.

Key messages

- Our behaviour influences the feelings of those around us.
- What a person does can affect how others think and feel.
- Expected behaviours lead others to have good or comfortable thoughts about you.
- Unexpected behaviours give others uncomfortable thoughts about you
- We all have triggers. These are events that causes the person to become less regulated and more likely to move into the yellow, blue or red zone.
- Self-regulation is the ability to be able to control your body's needs and emotions to be in the state you want to be in e.g. calm and happy
- Co-regulation is when someone models with the person how they can regulate their feelings. It is important to do this with younger children.
- Problems can be big, medium or small.
- We have an inner coach and an inner critic. The inner coach is used to describe positive thoughts. The inner critic is used to label negative and self-defeating thoughts. You are in control of who you listen to.
- We can have flexible thinking that allows us to see other people's point of view or other ways to do something or rigid thinking.

The zones of regulation toolbox shows the strategies that can be used when you are in the different zones e.g. breathing strategies, a movement break, going to the calm area. The tools will affect others differently so it is important each child makes their own toolbox based on what they think will calm or alert them.

If you are concerned about your child's behaviour, please do seek support.

To find out more about the programme, click [here](#) where there is a short video.

Mrs Mayers – SENCO

School Council with Miss Goodson



Since our last school council update our councillors have been helping promote reading around school this is something that has been very successful. The councillors have also helped transform and restock the library with new books and resources. The books no longer needed in there were sold at our school Christmas fair and given to charity.

The councillors have some exciting projects coming up in the New Year, keep your eyes on the Discovery Twitter page for more details.

Running Club



Our 'Discovery Striders' running club has had a great start this term with 26 members from key stage 2 and lots more interest from other children wanting to join.

At the start of each session we have 2 safety officers who check that everyone is wearing suitable clothing and that their shoe laces are tied. We need to be safe and make sure we can be seen, so it is important that the children are wearing bright clothing or a high-visibility bib, especially now that it is getting dark earlier. We also have 2 area checkers who check that the area where we are running is safe and there is nothing around that could cause an injury.



Every week the children are really focused and eager to improve their fitness and running technique. They are beginning to understand the importance of not just sprinting off and we have been working on our stamina, speed and pace. All the children put in 100% every week and have a fantastic 'can do' attitude. They have been helping and encouraging each other and we have seen some great partnership work. We are very proud of their effort, commitment and determination, they are all amazing.

For Christmas we completed a Santa Dash, which the children were all very excited about.

Miss Goodson and Mrs Medcalf

After School Club

We have welcomed lots of new faces this term to After School Club and it has been lovely watching the older children help settle the new younger children and showing the caring value.

Arts and crafts are a favourite in After School Club, and this term our arts have focused on Autumn, Remembrance Day, Children in Need and Christmas. Look out for our art work on display in the hall windows.

Mr Doolan has also been improving our physical skills by delivering extra PE and Sport opportunities. We love it when he gets the PE and Gym equipment out.

Look out next term for new games and equipment to use based on the things you have asked for.... Santa may just deliver gifts to ASC on Christmas Day too.

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 and Nursery Rhymes



The children have been working hard to follow the daily routine and embed Mr Potato Head's class rules. We have been counting, representing numbers in different ways and linking this to shape, size and measure.

The children have loved investigating, predicting and solving problems like what happened to Humpty Dumpty.

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.



We have worked hard on listening to stories. The children have particularly enjoyed reading 'The Shy scarecrow' linking this to Harvest and the song Dingle Dangle Scarecrow.



We enjoyed learning about 'colours' and celebrated Diwali 'The festival of Light'. We learnt about Christianity and the meaning of Christmas. It was so lovely to watch the children perform in the Nativity and see them grow in confidence.

I am very proud of the progress the children have already made and look forward to all their achievements in the New Year!

We would love to wish you all a 'Merry Christmas'

Mrs Kirkbride and Mrs Wood



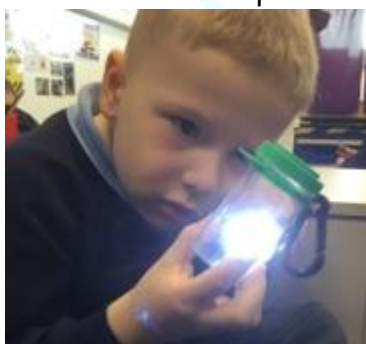
Reception

We have been pleased with the way that the children have approached all areas of school life this term.

What a term we have had! Our learning areas have seen the children blossom in confidence, as have our role play areas and drama work. When we did the retelling of Goldilocks and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Our troll voices were so amazing Mrs Hague really thought a troll was hiding under our climbing frame!



Our knowledge of Autumn has grown as we did our wellie walks and looked at the changes. We were able to share the things we saw with our friends and record some of them too! We have been pleased with how our language is developing and how we have been using it in our areas too! We impressed some of the other teachers when we could explain what diurnal and nocturnal meant. We built on our role play skills in our Space Station, we kept Mrs Sullivan amused with our alien voices.



The lead up to Christmas has been very busy and creative. Taking on the roles of elves, we have been making cards, wreaths, ornaments, reindeer dust as well as writing lists and helping Santa to make some toys in our construction area. We have also written about the adventures of our classroom elf.

Keep up the good work!



Mrs Sullivan and The Reception Team

Curriculum Focus - History ¹⁰

At Discovery Academy, History is a key part of our curriculum.

Not only because it is such a fascinating topic but also because it feeds into so many of our other subjects. During the autumn term, across the school, we study history from different races and ethnicities. This ties into Black History Month which is celebrated nationally in the month of October.

Within Year 1, the class have been looking at the impact of Rosa Parks. The children first look at who Rosa was and her upbringing, before then looking at what she did as part of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The children found it challenging to understand the treatment that Rosa received at that time and were inspired by her role in changing the status quo.

Year 2 have been looking at the life and times of Walter Tull. It's fair to say that Walter Tull is a lesser known figure when compared to Rosa Park but equally just as interesting. Walter was a professional football who played for Tottenham Hotspur and Northampton Town before joining the British Army. He became one of the first Black British officers in the army and was awarded many medals for his leadership and bravery during WWI. The Year 2 children studied the key moments in his life and then created still images from the most significant points.

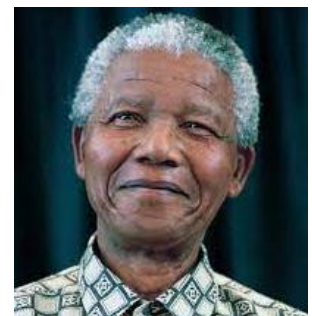


This term, Year 3 studied Martin Luther King Jr. The class looked at his life in a variety of ways such as when they created inspirational speeches based on his 'I Have a Dream' speech. They then performed the speeches that they wrote to Mrs Oldham and she was blown away with how inspirational and profound they were. One of the other pieces of work that Year 3 produced was incredible portraits of Martin Luther Jr – just look at how realistic they are!

In the Year 4 class, the children have been studying the Aborigines and Cathy Freeman. Mrs Asaturov was fortunate enough to live in Australia so she was able to share her real-life experience of seeing Aboriginal culture first hand. The children also looked the beginnings of the Aborigines and how there came to be people in Australia. They looked in detail at the different parts of tribal life and how for some Aborigines very little has changed over thousands of years.

Year 5 person of interest this term was Mahatma Ghandi. The class studied in detail how Ghandi used non-violent protest to get change within British India. The children then discussed the pros and cons of peaceful protests in a class debate. Mr. Roberts was blown away with the maturity the Year 5 children showed around the topic.

Finally, Year 6 studied South Africa and Nelson Mandela. The children were shocked to learn about how he was treated at points throughout his life. The Year 6s produced some great pieces of work identifying the key skills that Nelson Mandela had, that allowed him to be such an inspirational leader. They also compared his leadership to other key figures throughout history and analysed the merits to all different styles.



I'm sure you will agree, it's been a fascinating term of history and we already can't wait to be historians once again in January!

Mr Walsh – History leader and Deputy Principal

Year 1

Year 1 have had an exciting start to the school year.

We began Key Stage 1 with a week of learning all based around the book 'Yeti and the Bird' by Nadia Shireen (who we actually got to meet on Zoom in November!). During this time, we decorated our new classroom, explored our Forest School, and practiced our new class rules and routines



In writing this term we have built up our knowledge of sentence structure and exciting adjectives, and used our skills to create fabulous stories and engaging non-fiction texts!

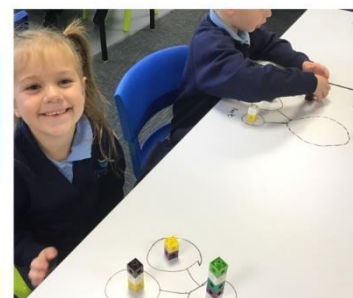


Our first story was a re-telling of the story of Little Red Riding Hood, and the Big Bad Wolf himself popped by for a visit! The children were also able to make links to their History learning while writing a biography of Rosa Parks, and the detail and vocabulary in their work was fantastic to see.

We started our Maths learning in September by revisiting and adding to our knowledge of place value, using lots of practical resources to prepare us for our work on addition and subtraction

in the second half-term.

In Science at the start of this term, we learned about the key skills needed to conduct scientific experiments, and used them to answer some interesting questions, including whether we can grow carrot tops from our leftover breaktime snacks!



A big highlight of our science learning was definitely the school Science Day in October, when we had the chance to team up with pupils from the whole of KS1 and EYFS and take part in lots of different scientific activities, including building electrical circuits and creating string telephones!



We have talked lots about our school caring value this term especially in our RE and PSHE learning. For Interfaith week, we discussed the ways that followers of all different faiths show care and respect for each other, and made some lovely handprints with our ideas to display around the school.

In Art, our theme for the term was 'Spirals'. We practiced blending, smudging, scribbling, and using our whole bodies to create beautiful artworks from crayon, chalk, pencil, and natural materials.



We have loved learning some useful Spanish word and phrases from our teacher Guiomar, and it was fantastic to get the chance to show off our language skills on Spanish Day! We also found out lots about Spanish culture and pastimes, including learning some funky flamenco moves!

It has been a pleasure to teach Year 1 this term – the children have settled in to Key Stage 1 brilliantly and their hard work and caring natures have shone through every day.

Well done Year 1, you are all Superstars – **Mr Sibbit, Mrs McBain and Mrs Wood**

Year 2

All the children have settled really well into Year 2 this term and their effort and commitment to their work has been commendable.



Improving

They have enjoyed discovering and learning so many new things from how to spell some of the Year 2 Common Exception Words to Walter Tull and Albert Einstein to what it is to be a hero and understanding the value and addition and subtraction of numbers up to 100.

Discovering

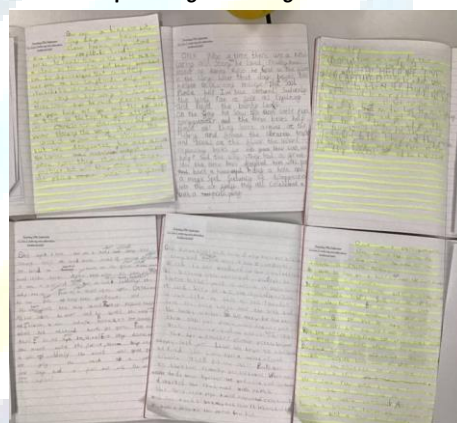


We've had a visit from a wicked wizard who took over our library and tried to swap books for games, had breaking news from a rescue mission of poor Miss Goodson, re-enacted football matches from the past, journeyed over the ocean to Grandad's island, completed science investigations, had a virtual visit from our KS1 author Nadia Shireen and visited Stockport Plaza for the Christmas Pantomime.

From these inspiring experiences the children have written newspaper articles, character descriptions, stories, setting descriptions and diary entries and

Inspiring

have started to improve their written work independently by developing their editing skills.



They have enjoyed using practical apparatus in Maths to explore new addition and subtraction concepts and have shown a deep understanding of these through their reasoning and problem solving.

Year 2 have worked super hard and I am proud of all they have achieved this term!

Achieving

Mrs Collins and Miss Goodson

Caring



SCIENCE DAY 2022

The development of Science is something we feel very passionately about here at Discovery Academy. Not only have we worked scientifically each week to develop our key scientific skills, we have also dedicated a whole day to scientific investigation alone.



In October on our Science Day, we focused on the topic of Light and Sound, with key curriculum links to Electricity and Space. From Nursery to Year 6, it was brilliant to see the different levels of learning happening across the school, from researching our solar system, creating and visualising sound, to making our own reflective keyrings.

We were very lucky to have EQUANS come in to host a Snap Circuits workshop. All the children were given the opportunity to create sirens, helicopters and even FM radios from a simple box of buttons and batteries. It was great to see children work collaboratively across year groups to support and develop each other's science subject knowledge! In Key Stage One, the children had their first introduction to circuits and even helped Mr. Sibbit fix his broken interactive whiteboard.

To help us understand light, and how it works, the children created keyrings and bracelets using reflective materials and made periscopes with Mrs. Parkinson, which we used to help us spy on what the other classes were up to.



In the sound department, EYFS and KS1 explored sounds of varying pitch, volume and length. We used scientific vocabulary to describe and sort the sounds into different categories then enjoyed a sound scavenger hunt to find as many new sounds as we could.

Science Day is a great day each year and we cannot wait to see what learning and experiences we have planned for the next one!

Mr Roberts – Science leader

Year 3

We have had a fantastic start to the year in Year 3.

In English, we have created several fantastic pieces of writing, including exciting stories based on *The Incredible Book Eating Boy*, and compelling speeches linked to our History learning about Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement. We have been using SCODE for our spelling sessions and the children are responding really well to the fun ways in which we learn spellings and this is really showing in the children's writing.



Our class novels have been *The Secret FC* by Tom Palmer and *The Great Food Bank Heist* by Onjali Q Rauf. In guided reading we have looked at fiction and non-fiction texts and poetry. We have also been reading about Thomas Edison and understanding his life and work in Science. We have even enjoyed a zoom call and workshop with the author Nadia Shireen.

In maths we have been focusing on place value, addition and subtraction. We have been working on column addition and subtraction and carrying over into the next column. The children have loved using the equipment to support their understanding. We have solved some really tricky maths concepts and the children are always challenging themselves.



In Science we enjoyed a great experience day, focusing on light, sound, electricity and the planets. In class we have been working scientifically and learnt the skills we need in order to conduct fair and accurate investigations. We used this knowledge to conduct some experiments. We looked at how changing a variable can affect the results and we watched how germs can affect bread over time. We have also been looking at light, how it travels and loved testing to see which materials would make the best reflectors.

In our History lessons we have been learning about Martin Luther King Jr, the activist who campaigned for Civil Rights and we linked this with our prior knowledge of Rosa Parks. The children completed some wonderful non-chronological reports exploring the reasons why Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks were so influential in the civil rights movement. We linked this with our English work and wrote and performed some inspiring, thoughtful and passionate speeches. Mrs Oldham had the pleasure of listening to some of these speeches and she was very impressed.

In Geography this term we have been looking at the different countries and areas which make up the UK. We have used the atlas to look at the surrounding seas and rivers. We have linked this to our DT sessions where we have looked at different foods from across the British Isles. We used our skills to order and prepare food to make a tasty dish of our own.

We have been exploring the techniques and shades we can make with charcoal and produced some wonderful art work of Martin Luther King Jr using the techniques we learnt. We have been looking at how we are connected in computing and looked at animation and even created our very own animation on the iPad. We have talked a lot about internet safety.

Mrs Parkinson and Mrs McBain



Year 4

What a great first term we have had in year 4.

All the children have settled in really well to year 4 and we have concentrated on building our confidence and belief in ourselves and each other. This has led to all the different personalities being able to shine through in the classroom.



We began our term learning about the Aborigines. We learned about how they share their culture and stories through songs and speech, which the children were very interested in and were able to have a great debate whether this was a good way to share their culture. We also had a visit from our very own Australian, Mr. Asaturov. The children came up with some creative and thoughtful questions to gain an understanding of the Aboriginal culture within the current Australian lifestyle.

Most recently, we have been looking at the Amazon, with a focus on deforestation. The children have found some interesting facts that we could not believe, such as: Every minute 5 football pitches worth of the Amazon Rainforest are cut down and destroyed! The children have taken a strong interest in this topic and we have sent Cadbury's letters voicing our concerns about the rainforests and how this can be changed in the future. This led to a discussion on how we can make changes in the classroom to help with the environment as a whole, with a focus on recycling.



Many of the children in year 4 have shown a love for being creative. I have been so impressed by the talent and devotion shown within the KS2 choir by our very own year 4s! We were able to perform in front of other schools from the Victorious Academies trust family and they did themselves and the school proud. We also have many budding artists and creatives. We have made Cam toys this term, which has shown the children's determination, concentration and resilience when using new skills.



The beginning of year 4 has been a mixture of emotions where we have welcomed a new friend this half term, and said 'goodbye' to another. Mrs Asaturov and Mrs Medcalf have loved seeing the children grow and see their progress through this term. We could not be prouder of each child and can't wait to see this develop further in the coming term!

Mrs Asaturov and Mrs Medcalf



SPANISH



What an amazing Spanish day we had.

The children loved celebrating National Spanish day on the 12th October. Everyone looked fantastic wearing the traditional Spanish colours. We learnt to dance the traditional Flamenco dance. We listened to traditional stories in Spanish. The children enjoyed learning about the different celebrations and designed their own fans and decorated flags.



The Children enjoyed learning about the Spanish Artist Pablo Picasso and created their own self portrait in a cubism style.



In KS2 the children enjoyed playing lots of Spanish game that they previously made and the teachers learnt new vocabulary too!

We enjoyed tasting the delicious Spanish lunch of Paella and Papas picante including churros as a tasty dessert. It all went down very.

We finished our day with a whole school assembly to share our art work, songs and dances we had learnt throughout the day.

We talked about our favourite games and what we enjoyed most.

Overall, we all had a fantastic day learning about different cultures and appreciated our Spanish volunteers who helped to make the day a success.



Mrs Kirkbride

MFL Lead Teacher

Year 5

Our first term back has been a busy one!

So far, Year 5 have explored a broad range of topics including: rivers, the subcontinent of India and lifecycles. It's been a delight to see how the children have improved already this year and we cannot wait to see what our future in Year 5 holds.

There has been a lot of **discovering** so far. Throughout our History topic of India, we explored the influence the British Empire had on India from 1857. We discussed and debated the key points of this relationship between the two countries and the children shared their own views on what mistakes were made. We carried on this debate-like conversation into our R.E. lessons, where we discussed the key question 'If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?'. The children are really testing Mr. Roberts with interesting and inspiring questions.



Mr Roberts has not been the only one **inspired** by our work this year! Recently, we have received twitter replies from Daniel Miyares, the author of our focus text 'Float', and Onjali Q. Rauf, an author we are so inspired by that we named one of our house teams after her. Being allowed to have these interactions has really encouraged the children to put their all into their writing. We have planned, drafted, written and edited a wide range of text types, including stories and newspaper articles, and have worked hard on developing our passion for writing.

Improvement has been a key focus in Year 5. We have been working hard in all our lessons, linking ideas to what we already know and what we hope to learn in the future. In Maths, we have worked hard to recap and improve our knowledge of the four main operations, deepening our understanding of mathematical concepts and have learnt how to approach tricky Maths calculations with newer, more efficient methods. Year 5 have also worked hard in our PSHE lessons to develop key life skills such as working as part of a team, resilience and determination and have even spoke with local police about anti-social behaviour.



Throughout these last three months, the children have **achieved** so much. So far, we have seen trophies, medals and certificates from a range of different sports and activities. In the classroom, we have achieved many group goals: growing plants from seeds and plantlets in Geography and Science, creating wonderful 3-D maps in Art and cooking an amazing tasty meal in D.T. We have also tackled a lot of personal achievements with our

reading and writing across all lessons

Our **caring** value has been shown massively this year also. We have been supporting others in lessons and around school and have worked hard on our friendships. On days such as Science Day and Spanish Day, the children have worked remarkably well with children from other year groups to help learn dances, make periscopes and build circuits to solve problems.

We cannot wait to see the children carrying on growing and developing throughout Year 5.

Mr Roberts and Mr Westwood

Year 6

We have had an excellent start to year 6!

In English we have been looking at improving our writing to create excellent independent pieces. My personal favourite book that we have read so far this year is, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. This is an excellent adventure story about a young girl who wants to break away from the stereotypical expectations in rural China and wants to be a firework maker herself. As part of this unit we have had many opportunities to be creative with a choice of vocabulary and even make names for our make-believe fireworks. The children have already made huge improvements to their writing and I can't wait to see what's next.

In maths, we have looked at: place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions. The children have worked really hard to understand some very tricky concepts, but we all know that to be mathematicians we need to learn the most efficient way to work out calculations (even if they can be difficult to understand at first!)

The children were really intrigued to learn about Nelson Mandela and how he fought for the rights of black people in Apartheid South Africa. We also discussed why not all historical sources can be trusted and the reasons why. This led to some thought-provoking conversations and how we can ensure everyone feels valued in our society.

In our working scientifically unit, we looked at the work of the Wright Brothers. We were really intrigued to find out that they used kites to test out some theories. This led to the class thinking about what an effective material is for a kite. We then did an experiment to test the suitability of different materials. The children loved making the kites and flying them to find out which materials were the most suitable.



Geography this term has been focussed on how we can make Earth a more sustainable planet. We began by looking at the devastating effects that climate change has had on our world and then discussed what some climate change activists are doing to make changes all over the world. This has allowed the children to show their caring value and some fantastic speech writing!

This term has been full of learning opportunities. We were really inspired by the village author visit we took part in for Author Day and gained some excellent tips from our author, Hayley Hoskin. A very clear message from Hayley was that we should never give up and the hardest part is getting the ideas down on paper! We also had a very interesting visit from some local police officers who spoke to us about anti-social behaviour and how we can be supportive and caring members of the community. There were a lot of messages to take away from this talk, especially as we are becoming more independent and walking to and from school on our own. The police officers even stayed to talk to the children in the playground and even had a kick about with the football team.



Well done Year Six for all your hard work this term!

Miss Crosby and Mr Doolan

Discovery Library

What an exciting time for our Discovery Academy Library!

With the help of the PTFA, the Library has had an exhilarating new makeover. This has helped provide a stimulating and invigorating environment for the children to discover reading for pleasure.

The makeover has been greatly appreciated by all - especially the children! Everyone has loved the curious and exciting adventures that our new books have taken them on. We even had our very own live story take

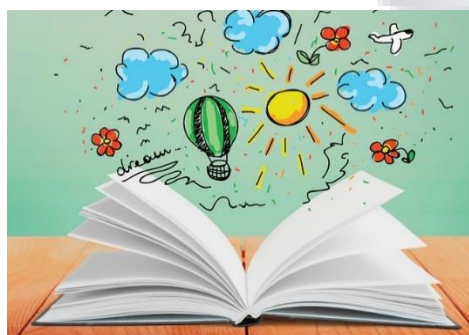


place in the library. The Librarian was kidnapped by the Evil Wizard of Werneth Low; but was then rescued by a pack of heroic wolves that saved the Library from being turned into a games swap shop. They used their wits, skills and cunningness to defeat the evil wizard and restore the Library to its former glory. {Disclaimer: No one was harmed in the making of that story!}

The new layout of sections for Fiction, Non-fiction, Young Readers, Magazines, Cultural Diversity, Value of Education and Role of Women has made it a lot easier to find a book for everyone to enjoy. We also have special focus sections which have displayed books for Poetry day and also Black History month. This has now been changed to Celebrations and Author Day and will be changed with each new topic, keeping the Library and entrance to the school fresh and exciting.

Year 2 Tweet

"immersing ourselves into the enchantment no matter what nook or crannie we are sat in"



On our display boards, we have various messages and recommended reads from authors we have read or had interactions with such as Chrissie Sains, Guy Parker-Rees, Daniel Miyares, Korky Paul, Matt Goodfellow and Holly Webb to name a few. These interactions are bringing inspiration to our young story tellers and future budding Authors.

So, from everyone at Discovery Academy thank you for all your support with the PTFA because without your help we wouldn't have this new and invigorating space.

Recommended reads for the half term by students from KS1 and KS2.

Yr1 – Giraffes can't Dance by Giles Andrea "It's funny because the Giraffe can't dance."

Yr2 – Beast Quest by Adam Blade (Any of them) rated 5 stars "exciting adventures"

Yr3 – Truth Pixie by Matt Haig rated 5 stars "It teaches kindness"

Yr4 – Dog and Cat by unknown "It's a great read and a great bedtime story. "

Yr5 – Georges' Marvellous Medicine rated 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ stars "Amazing, unpredictable, indescribable, Marvellous"

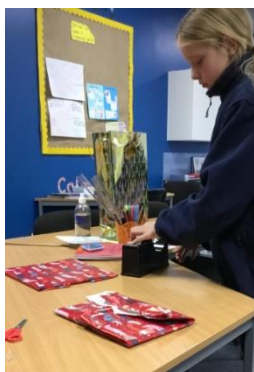
Yr6 – Midnight Gang by David Walliams – rated 4 stars "Just my style. LOL Totally awesome"

"The more that you read, the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." — Dr. Seuss

Reading Champions

This term the Reading Champions have been hard at work inspiring and improving reading across the school. We began with creating reading posters to encourage children to read more and to inform children and staff about the many benefits of reading. The children researched many benefits of reading and one child found out that, 'If you read one book a week then by time you are eleven you could have read over five-hundred and fifty books!' We were all shocked by the number but agreed that it shows how important reading is.

Since returning from the half term, the children have been inspired by Author Day and different celebrations from around the world. We went on a hunt in our school library to find a variety of books to put on our entrance and library displays. The children found many interesting and knowledge-rich books for the displays and thought about how important it was to make sure that every front cover was visible so children could be inspired to read them.



As a group we have also begun to read a variety of books to do book reviews on. We discussed how other people's points of view can influence what people want to read. The children have been writing some excellent book reviews for a variety of fiction and non-fiction books to share with the whole school!

We also set up the reading Christmas Advents for each of the classes to enjoy a story each day.

Well done Reading Champions on always showing our Improving, Inspiring, Discovering, Caring and Achieving Values.

Miss Crosby – Reading Champion Teacher

Author Day

On the fourth of November, Discovery Academy celebrated Author Day.



Mrs Sullivan @ksullivan_mrs · Nov 4

Reception had a great time celebrating Author Day. We talked about authors we like, listened to Micheal Rosen read his stories and poems and tried to be authors ourselves! #discovering @dawson_bentley @Mayers_Mrs @Mrshague2 @Year2Discovery



Nursery and Reception both watched an inspiring video by the author of, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', Michael Rosen. This inspired the children to think of some excellent vocabulary and how actions can help them to tell an interesting story.

Years one, two and three took part in a virtual author visit by Nadia Shireen. Nadia read one of the most loved books to the children and explained how characters in her stories are based on people (and animals) in her own life! Then all the children took part in a live drawing class to draw 'Fat Cat'. All the children had a fantastic time!



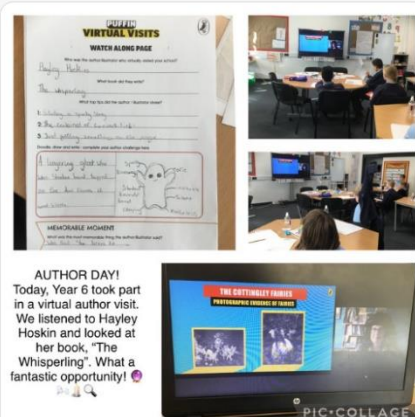
Mrs Parkinson @MrsJParkinson · Nov 11

This morning we had the pleasure of a zoom visit from @NadiaShireen, thank you. Year 3 had fun drawing Fat Cat. @PuffinBooks



Discovery Academy year 6 @discoveryyear6 · Nov 4

Year 6 has had a fantastic #authorday we loved our virtual author visit from @HayleyHoskins and can't wait to read more of her work! #inspiring #improving



AUTHOR DAY!
Today, Year 6 took part in a virtual author visit. We listened to Hayley Hoskin and looked at her book, 'The Whisperling'. What a fantastic opportunity!

Years four, five and six had a virtual author visit from Hayley Hoskin who discussed her newest book, 'The Whisperling'. Hayley shared some of her top tips for writing a spooky story. Her most important tip, that will support the writing ability of all our children, was to just start writing and then you can edit your ideas later. The

children were really interested in the writing process and had a go at writing something spooky. We then sent tweets to Hayley, who even said that she wanted to magpie some of our fantastic ideas for her future work!



Mr Roberts - Year 5 @DiscoveryYear5 · Nov 4

Year 5 had a spectacularly spooky #AuthorDay today! We jumped on a Zoom with Hayley Hoskins, author of 'The Whisperling', and began planning our own spooky story, remembering to blend the spooky with the real!



Well-being and Community News

The Together Centre, 287 Birch Lane, Dukinfield SK16 5AU

Tel: 0161 366 1987 or by email to
Leanne.bold@thetogethercentre.org.uk to book!

Every Mon – Fri: 9.00 – 3.00 Together Community Library
FREE

Monday's in Dec:

11 – 12pm Fuel for the Future Ecotherapy Workshop with a FREE Lunch for the Elderly and Pre-School Children **£1.00**

Tuesday's in Dec:

11 – 12pm Autumn Walks with a FREE Lunch for all! (Doggies Welcome) **£1.00**

1 – 2pm Me Time Peer Support Wellbeing Programme for Mummies including a FREE Onsite Creche for their Little Ones.
FREE

Friday's in Dec:

11 – 12pm Flourishing Friends; Mums and their Little ones Allotment Activities with a FREE Lunch **£1.00**

Warm and Toasty Sessions

 <p>WARM WELCOME SPACE</p> <p>FREE • WARM • WELCOMING • SAFE</p> <p>visit www.warmwelcome.uk</p>	
<p>Free Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Juice Toast, Beans, Soup, Fruit Toast, Join Us For Company and Friendship</p>	
<p>The United Church Union Street Hyde SK14 1ND</p>	<p>Wednesdays 10.30-2.30 All Welcome</p>

Space for the community in Hope Christian Centre, Mottram for a few hours each Thursday from 9.30-11.30am Come along and share our warm space.

The FESTIVE WINDOW TRAIL

19TH NOVEMBER – 6TH JANUARY
A festive town centre partnership to celebrate businesses, creativity & people of Ashton-under-Lyne.

www.intameside.co.uk/whats-on/festive-window-trail

Northern Lights
Tameside Christmas Celebration

<p>Ashton Library 1</p> <p>Tameside One, Market Place Tel: 0161 342 2029 Website: tameside.gov.uk Artist: Phantasmagoria Website: phantasmagoria.space</p>	<p>Ava Beauty 4</p> <p>10 George Street Tel: 0161 425 6841 Website: avabeautysalon.co.uk Artist: Sarah Blackwell Website: tinyurl.com/36s78fpc</p>	<p>Sincerely Yours 7</p> <p>10 Market Avenue Tel: 0161 344 1021 Website: facebook.com/sincerleyours Artist: Gordon Banks Website: gordonbanks.com</p>	<p>Café Mozaic 10</p> <p>19 Warrington Street Tel: 0161 344 5552 Website: tinyurl.com/22rderp3 Artist: Helen Dodsworth Website: helendodsworthart.wixsite.com/illustration</p>
<p>Rouge Fabrics 2</p> <p>84 Penny Meadow Tel: 0161 330 9171 Website: rougefabrics.com Artist: Carma Mason - Playground Design Website: playgrounddesignstudio.com</p>	<p>The Petman 5</p> <p>Endeavour House, Stamford Street Tel: 0161 330 9171 Website: thepetman.co.uk Artist: Ruth Taylor Website: scruffydogcreations.co.uk</p>	<p>New Shu 8</p> <p>13 Market Avenue Tel: 0161 343 6445 Website: newshu.co.uk Artist: Katie Mason Website: cargocollective.com/kvm</p>	<p>Phantasmagoria 11</p> <p>Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street Tel: 07989 529 964 Website: phantasmagoria.space Artist: Phantasmagoria Website: phantasmagoria.space</p>
<p>Decisions 3</p> <p>10 Fletcher Street Tel: 0161 344 1615 Website: decisionsclothing.com Artist: Claire Louise Mather Website: @DrawnByStitch</p>	<p>Grade A 6</p> <p>3 Market Avenue Tel: 0161 339 1777 Website: gradeajewellery.com Artist: Annette Cobley Francis Website: annettecobley.co.uk</p>	<p>Cameron's Tea and Coffee Shop 9</p> <p>25 Market Avenue Tel: 0161 222 9292 Website: tinyurl.com/bd7zvsfp Artist: Caroline Coates Website: behance.net/cc190</p>	<p>Local Studies and Archives 12</p> <p>Cotton East Street, OL6 7BY Tel: 0161 342 4242 Website: tameside.gov.uk/localstudies Artist: Gemma Lacey & David Armes Websites: gemmalacey.co.uk & redplatepress.com</p>

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

IN TAMESIDE

TURN OVER FOR THE TRAIL MAP →

Tameside South & Longdendale Foodbank office details

Telephone
07901 786905

Address
Hattersley Baptist Church
Melandra Crescent
Hattersley

SK14 3RB

Project manager details

info@tamesidesouthlongdendale.foodbank.org.uk

Curriculum Focus – PE and Sport

In P.E this term, each class has worked to a high standard and have shown improvement and development in a wider range of skills.

KS1 have been working on ball skills with the use of their hands, leading them to learn more about activities which require those skills such as Netball and Basketball, and why those skills taught can be implemented when playing such games. The children have shown the ability to dribble with control into open spaces, passing accurately with a chest or bounce pass and have also been looking at improving their sending and receiving skills, improving their catching, meaning they are now able to track balls and react quicker which has allowed them to do more games which requires them to work as a team.

Years 3&4 have been introduced to Tennis this term and have made excellent progress. From learning about holding the racquet correctly, to improving their fundamental skills such as close control, to learning about the technical aspects of the game and when is best to use that specific shot and how you can win a point. The forehand and backhand shot have been two important elements of the game which the children have all shown improvements on and have been challenged with the introduction of the net, which has allowed them to improve on the technique enabling them to become more accurate and giving them the ability to score points.

This term year 5&6 have been working on counter balancing in Gymnastics, which they have flourished at and have been able to create routines with the use of different apparatuses, where they have established excellent balance, flow and creativity in order to challenge themselves and create excellent routines in groups. Since September a number of children in year 5 & 6 have also been lucky enough to go to Hyde leisure pool, improving on a wide range of important skills. The

improvement has been clear to see this term, as each child has shown more confidence in their surroundings, as well as in their own ability when being asked to complete 25 meters unaided.



Afterschool sports clubs this term have been Multi sports for year 1,2 & 3, while years 4,5 & 6 have had Dodgeball club. KS1 have been introduced to the fundamental skills in a wide range of sport skills and activities and have shown good development in a good variety of skills, they have also been lucky to have had a couple of playleaders from Year 6, who have assisted myself and have had the chance to teach them games, which all of

the children have absolutely loved, and have enjoyed having them helping them.

KS2 have been working on their Dodgeball skills, leading to their development in throwing, catching, dodging and working as a team, contributing in the children becoming more confident in their abilities. Year 4 were lucky enough to be chosen to represent the school in a Dodgeball festival this term, against other members of the Victorious trust, where they excelled and was a great representation for the school.



Well done everyone! I look forward to awarding more PE stars next term.

Mr Doolan – Sports Coach



Discovering Inspiring Caring Improving Achieving

Term and Holiday Dates for Academic Year 2022/2023

Term / Holiday	Inset days Children not in school	First Day	Last Day	No of Days
Autumn Term 1	INSET DAYS Thursday 1 st and Friday 2 nd September 2022	Monday 5 th September 2022	Friday 21 st October 2022	35
Autumn Half Term Holiday		Monday 24 th October 2022	Friday 28 th October 2022	
Autumn Term 2		Monday 31 st October 2022	Friday 16 th December 2022	35
Christmas Holiday		Monday 19 th December 2022	Monday 2 nd January 2023	
Spring Term 1	INSET DAY Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	Wednesday 4 th January 2023	Friday 17 th February 2023	33
Spring Half term Holiday		Monday 20 th February 2023	Friday 24 th February 2023	
Spring Term 2		Monday 27 th February 2023	Friday 31 st March 2023	25
Easter Holiday		Monday 3 rd April 2023	Friday 14 th April 2023	
Summer Term 1	BANK HOLIDAY Monday 1 st May 2023 BANK HOLIDAY Monday 8 th May 2023	Monday 17 th April 2023	Friday 26 th May 2023	28
Summer Half Term Holiday		Monday 29 th May 2023	Friday 9 th June 2023	
Summer Term 2	INSET DAYS Thursday 27 th & Friday 28 th July 2023	Monday 12 th June 2023	Wednesday 26 th July 2023	33
			Total Days	189
Pupils are required to be in school for 190 days per academic year.				