



# Discovering Times

*Discovering Inspiring Caring Improving Achieving*

## A term of firsts.

### Edition 11: Spring 2023

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It has been 8 years since I joined Carillion Academies Trust which became Victorious Academies Trust in 2019, starting at Inspire Academy and moving over here to open Discovery Academy a year later. Throughout those years we have seen Discovery Academy grow, not just in the numbers of pupils and families, but also grow within the community, the trust the local authority and beyond.

As we end the Spring Term, I have been reflecting on how much we have changed. Starting with just 29 pupils all aged 3 – 5 years in September 2016, to now having a school of 208 pupils and three different schools on site, the change has been immense and continuous. I am proud of every member of the Discovery Family and how they have supported us.

For those of you who have children in Year 5 and 6, you will have noticed the changes over the years the most. However, you will have all noticed that as we have grown, systems and structures have had to change. The way we do things has had to change. I now have more people supporting me in leading the school and having different areas of the school to lead. As a result, you have had to evolve and change too. I would like to thank every single member of the community who has shown their support, patience and understanding whilst adapting to those changes.

Summer 2023 brings us many firsts. Our first experience of Year 6 SAT's assessments. Our first experience of supporting transition out of the school to high school. The spring term brought us our first experience of taking children on a residential. It also brought us our first experience of Strike action. This was a tricky time for all of us: Staff, parents and pupils. Again, the Discovery Family showed understanding and empathy as well as support (regardless of personal view) and again I thank you for that. Just like a family, we sometimes have disagreements. Sometimes we don't get it all right. But the last 7 years have been some of the best in my career and Discovery Academy continues to be a very special place.

So, next term we will be saying good bye to our first Year 6 and celebrating the end of our first full year as a full community.

**Everyone at Discovery Academy looks forward to what the Summer Term brings.**

# Phase Leader Updates - EYFS



I continue to be impressed with the way that our children have approached all areas of school life. As I see the children challenging themselves in the learning areas, I am always pleased with their 'have-a-go' attitudes and was overjoyed when I overheard someone who was struggling with using their scissors say 'I can't do it **yet!**' Something that we have been working on this term.

EYFS were lucky enough to have some visitors last half term. A veterinary nurse and a nurse and our school cook talked to us about their jobs; showed us some items they use in their work and explained how they help animals and people in our community. We also impressed them with the questions we had thought about and asked them.



This half term we have been discovering about human, animal and plant life cycles and have been impressed with how we have transferred our new vocabulary into the areas.

We have also enjoyed days where we could dress up such as World Book Day and Red Nose Day and had fun times when all of EYFS could work together and complete activities.



**Mrs Sullivan- EYFS leader**



# Phase Leader Updates – KS1

What a fantastic start to 2023 we have had in Key Stage One! We have celebrated World Book Day, International Women's Day, Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day and Red Nose Day.



On 7<sup>th</sup> February, it was Safer Internet Day. In KS1 we recognised and discussed the importance of how to stay safe online by creating our own posters and learning a song..

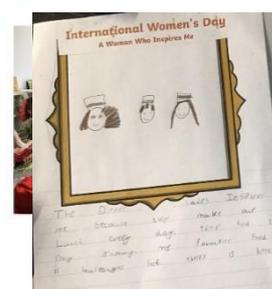
On the week being 6<sup>th</sup> February, Key Stage 1 took part in the whole school recognition of Children's Mental Health week!! We read a book about a magic window which helped us understand what to do if something upsets us. Then we created a poster to show how connecting with other people makes us feel happy. Finally we participated in some yoga to help clear our minds.



On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, KS1 celebrated World Book Day in style! Just look at the amazing costumes! During World Book Day, KS1 took part in an Author workshop with Jane Preece, then Year 2 participated in a draw-a-long zoom with author Swapna Haddow and illustrator Sheena Dempsey and Year 1 took part in a zoom with author Emma Perry.

We also visited our fantastic Discovery Library to share stories in many 'nooks and crannies'. After that we used the book You Choose Your Adventure to create our own stories and then presented them in a comic strip.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, it was International Women's Day where Key Stage One recognised and celebrated all the amazing women in the world. We discussed past and present women and their significance to us now. From this we then wrote about which women inspire us. After this we learnt "Fight Song" to represent all the women who have had to fight in their life so they can be #Achieving #Inspiring #Caring #Discovering #Improving



Finally on 17<sup>th</sup> March, Key Stage 1 dressed up in funny clothes to raise money for Red Nose Day. We had so many hilarious outfits from odd socks, to clothes on in the wrong place to funny costumes.

Well done to everyone in Key Stage One for all their hard work and achievements this term! I can't wait to see what Summer term fun will bring for Key Stage One after Easter!

Mrs Collins – KS1 leader and Assistant Principal

# Phase Leader Updates – KS2

Spring Term is always an exciting term at Discovery Academy: the children now know their teachers well; there are lots of exciting days and activities taking place; we have had many visitors come into school; and this year we even had our first Year 6 residential!

A great day that Year 5 & Year 6 had this term was when they did their mini-medics course. The children learnt First Aid skills that would help them in the real world and practised delivering CPR on a dummy. It was impressive to see how seriously the children took the training and the pride that they had in the new skills they possessed. The instructor spoke so positively about the children's behaviour and attitude – they were a real credit to themselves and the school. It was such a success it's definitely something we will look to do again in the future.



This year, our KS2 choir took part in the Young Voices concert at the Manchester Arena. The excitement throughout the school was palpable, with many rehearsals taking place. On the night, the choir were absolutely incredible and their passion really shone through. Mrs Collins and Mrs Asaturov said they couldn't have been prouder of the choir and the effort that they put in. The children spoke to their classes about the concert the day after and it was clear to see that they were beaming with pride at what they had achieved.



At the end of February we took the Year 6 children on Discovery's first ever residential. We went to the Castleshaw Centre near Delph for 3 action-packed days and I think it's fair to say, the children made memories that will last a lifetime! Over our time there, we took part in numerous activities: orienteering, teambuilding games, shelter building, campcrafts and the highlight for many which was the ghyll scramble. It was lovely to see the children bonding and working together to help one another and achieve their goals. The staff at the centre had nothing but kind words to say about the Year 6 children and are eager for us to return next year.



Sports have a big role to play at Discovery Academy and this term has been no exception. We have had numerous football matches already this year, our netball team has been practising hard this term and the Discovery Striders continue to show their athletic capabilities during the colder, darker months.

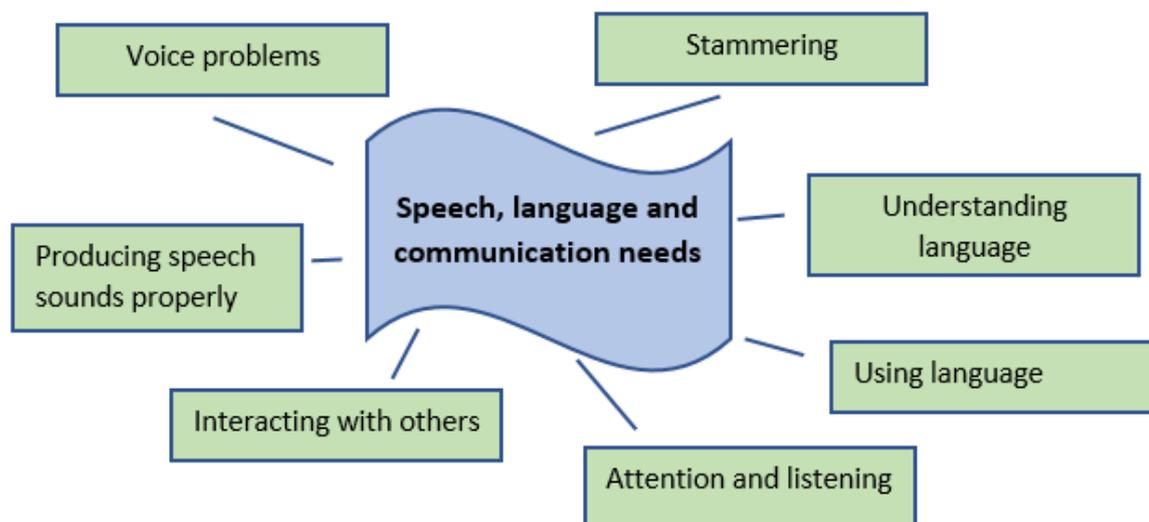
Another sporting highlight has been the Sporting Festival that some Year 3 and Year 4 children took part in at the end of the term. They played lots of different games over a fun-filled afternoon and all the children showed great teamwork throughout.

Once again, it's been another incredible term at Discovery Academy and we can't wait for the next one, where we already have plenty more exciting learning opportunities and experiences planned!

**Mr Walsh – KS2 leader and Deputy Principal**

# SENCO SPOTLIGHT

## What are Speech, Language and Communication needs?



### Top tips to develop communication

- Don't pressure children to talk
- Reduce anxiety if possible
- Use visuals to support understanding
- Give the child time to respond to comments/questions
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Create opportunities for communication e.g. to ask for something
- Offer choices
- Break down instructions
- Play instructions games e.g. Simon says
- Make sure you have the child's attention before giving spoken information
- Do not interrupt a child or finish sentences for them

### Top tips to develop language

- model language
- give specific feedback
- teach new vocabulary in different ways e.g. visual, act out,
- use visuals to support understanding
- follow the child's lead during play. Repeat back what they say and add an extra word e.g. child says 'car,' you reply 'yes, a blue car.'
- Set up opportunities to learn new words e.g. visit a new place, look at books
- Play listening and attention games
- Offer choices e.g. Would you like milk or water?

### Top tips to develop speech

- speak slowly
- model how to say words in your speech
- play sound games
- use visuals to support understanding
- do not ask the child to repeat what they say
- check hearing has been tested

## Why are speech, language and communication important?

Speech, language and communication are especially important for

- reading
- learning
- making friends
- understanding and controlling emotions or feelings.



## What do we do at Discovery Academy?

- This is currently the largest area of SEN need at Discovery. Over 50% of the children on the SEN register have some form of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).
- In January all teaching staff received training linked to SLCN and all teaching staff have achieved or are working towards their universal level certificate for SLCN. Teaching staff in the Early Years and Year 1 have received training linked to Wellcomm, a resource we use in Nursery, Reception and Year 1.
- Children in Nursery are screened using Wellcomm at 3 ½ years old. Children in Reception are screened using Wellcomm when they start Reception. Wellcomm assessments start at the child's age and if the child finds this section difficult; with a score in the amber or red ranges, we screen using earlier stages until they obtain a score in the green range. This information is shared and discussed with parents and children receive intervention as appropriate. The Wellcomm interventions can take place in the areas in the classroom, so the children develop their language and communication skills in a meaningful way.
- For speech sound difficulties, we use an intervention programme called Speechlink. After assessing a child by asking them to name pictures noting the sounds they say, Speechlink provides us with a report and interventions we can use to support children.
- We also have other interventions linked to specific difficulties including emotions, past tense, sequencing and many more.
- Where we feel we need more or specific support for children, we will discuss and complete with parents the referral form for speech and language needs.

## What can I do if I think my child has speech, language or communication needs?

- Scan the QR code to see where your child should be using typical ages and stages. On this website you can also access the **child's progress tracker** by clicking on the **information and support** tab at the top of the page.
- <https://tamesidechildrenandyoungpeople.nhs.uk/advice-information-and-resources/salt-advice-library> Visit this link for advice and resources to help with speech and language including visuals and activity boards. There are many videos demonstrating activities and lots of useful advice.
- If you have any concerns about your child's speech, language and/or communication, please speak to your child's teacher or arrange to meet Mrs Mayers (SENCO)



**Mrs Mayers – SENCO**

# PTFA Update

The PTFA have met to discuss plans until the end of the school year.

Discussions were had about holding a Summer fair to celebrate the end of a great school year. If you are available to help in anyway of setting this up, we would love to hear from you. We are not asking for you to attend every meeting but if you could attend one to help with discussions that would be hugely appreciated. If you can't make a meeting but can help in any other way, please email Aimee - [aclare@victoriousacademies.org](mailto:aclare@victoriousacademies.org)

**Next meeting is Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 4.30pm**

Thank you for your support

Discovery Academy PTFA



## Running Club

Our 'Discovery Striders' running club is going strong with 30 members from key stage 2 coming each week, and Miss B also joining our group this term.

Safety is always a focus of our sessions. Every week we ensure we are wearing suitable clothing and footwear, and that the area we are running in is clear and free from anything that could cause an injury. With safety in mind, we have also started working on looping back. This is when the runners at the front of the group run round to the back ensuring the group stays together and nobody is left behind.

Every week we have been working on our stamina and looking at ways to improve our fitness so we can go on longer runs. We started to incorporate skipping into our warm up to help build our fitness levels, with some children even taking up the 100 skips a day challenge in February. All the children have a fantastic attitude and are extremely focused, putting in 100% effort every week. 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!

**Miss Goodson, Mrs Medcalf and Miss Begum**

## 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.

# Nursery

We have had a brilliant Spring Term we have learned about the Season Winter and seen the changes in the weather. The children have loved going on welly walks feeding the birds and used their senses to describe what they had seen and felt outdoors. We felt the slippery ice and watched it melt into a liquid. We walked on the crunchy grass and felt the freezing wind.



We explored our local community to find out what 'Hattersley is like'. We learned about the different types of homes and building in our area we visited the local One-Stop shop where we were able to learn about the value of money and bought some chocolate.

We have enjoyed learning about the different occupations and roles of people in the community. We had special visits from a Vet a Cook and Caretaker. We recalled facts about their jobs and enjoyed role-playing what they do. We dressed up as a Vet and showed our School value 'Caring' for all of the animals. We have been keeping fit training on our Police Academy assault course and enjoyed role-playing as Teachers. We have been working so hard in our Phonics lessons and loved our Zoom stories with Simon from Tameside Libraries.



During Spring term two we have learnt about human growth, the lifecycle of plants and animals. We discussed the changes we make from babies to becoming elderly. We planted and observed the changes as our plants have grown. We looked at farm animals and matched babies to their mothers. We have looked at the signs of spring and noticed the changes in the environment and talked about the life cycle of a frog. We celebrated red nose day and loved dressing up. The children enjoyed learning about Easter and did a cracking job for our Easter competition. We hope you all have a wonderful Easter and look forward to an exciting summer term.

**Mrs Kirkbride and Mrs Hague**

# Reception

## What a term we have had!



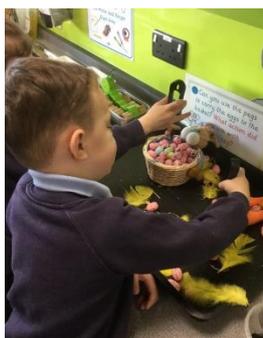
Our knowledge of Winter has grown and we even got to play out in some snow! We got to learn about our local area and had a walk around it. The best part was we all got a treat from One Stop when we visited and learnt about coins and the value of money. We learnt about how people help us in our community and had several visitors who shared what they did in their roles.



We met an author called Jane Preece, who read her books to us and inspired us to write our own stories. We had great fun making up our own adventures using the book 'You Choose Your Adventure'. We even got to take our own copy of the book home to have more adventures! A big thank you to Mrs Collins for getting us this book

Looking at how we change was fun! We got to look at some of Mrs Sullivan's things she had as a little girl. Did you know when she was little there was only 3 channels to watch on the television and computers and mobile phones had not been invented? We were amazed by this!

Discovering about the life cycle of a butterfly and a plant was great fun because we were able to plant our own seeds using soil and we made sure we watered them so they would germinate and grow. We are looking forward to watching our sunflowers grow very tall.



The lead up to Easter has been very busy and creative and we enjoyed taking part in the Easter experience – thank you Mrs Mayers. Lots of our children also entered the PTFA Easter competition. Thank you so much for all the support from the grownups and the entries were fantastic.

Keep up the good work!

**Mrs Sullivan, Miss Begum and Miss Slinger**

# Curriculum Focus - Geography

**Geography is a subject that we are incredibly passionate about at Discovery.**

We want the children to have a great understanding of the world around them and be able to talk with confidence about all the different geographical features on our planet.



This term, Year 1 have been exploring all the weird and wonderful weather that takes place on the British Isles. To begin their topic, the children have looked at the impact of all the different types of weather and why each and every one of them is crucial. The children then looked at the role of meteorologists and why they are so important before having a go at being weather forecasters themselves; it's fair to say we have our very own little Carol Kirkwoods!

In Year 2, the children have been studying the city of Lagos, which is the largest city in Nigeria. They looked at this fascinating and vibrant metropolis, with an enormous population of 16 million people. The children then compared the megacity of Lagos to the other less populated areas of Nigeria. It was evident that the city of Lagos has really sparked the interest of the Year 2 class, with many of the children saying they would like to visit in the future.

Year 3 have been studying the topic of 'Our Precious Planet'. They have looked in detail at the impact that humanity has on the future of our planet and what we can do to reduce that. We have been so impressed with the conscientious attitude they have shown to tackling global warming and they even wrote some excellent campaign poems to address the issues.



In History this year, Year 4 learnt about the Ancient Greeks and Romans. They have built on their knowledge in Geography this half-term by looking at the Mediterranean. The children have looked at why this sea has been able to sustain so many civilisations and why it continues to play such an important part in trade between 3 continents.

This term, the Year 5 children have been exploring the city of London. They have looked at the human geography of London and how such a vast city is able to move millions of people each day with its incredible transportation system. They have also looking at the impact of tourism on London as it is one of the most visited cities in the world. The children have examined both the positive and negative impact that this can have. Many of the children have spoken about their desire to go and visit in the future and who can blame them!

Finally, Year 6 have been looking at how the Peak District, which they visited on their residential, and how it compares to mountain ranges around the world, particularly The Himalayas and The Rockies. They have researched the different features of mountain chains and what causes them to be at drastically different heights. As well as this, the children also experienced some real-life application of geographical skills when they had a day orienteering around Castleshaw Reservoir.



As you can see, there has been so much variety this term in geography and we encourage you to talk to your children about all they have learnt – they are so passionate about the subject

**Mr Walsh – Geography leader and Deputy Principal**

# Year 1

## What a fantastic Spring term we have had in Year 1!

In English we have explored the Paddington book series and had a go at writing our own version! We even had a nibble on some marmalade sandwiches. Then, we explored what a non-chronological report is by investigating toys from the past. The children had never heard of an Etch-A-Sketch before! After half term, the children came back to a surprise... The classroom had been turned into a magical kingdom full of wands, witches' hats and fairy lights. We even watched Mr Westwood perform a magic show.



In Math's, the children expanded their place value knowledge by grouping numbers in 50s and writing numbers up to 50! We used Base 10 to group and partition numbers into 10s and 1s. Next, we explored the rules of adding and subtracting numbers up to 20 using number lines, number squares, number tracks, numicon, cubes and part-whole models. Further, we investigated how to measure height and length using rulers, tape measures and metre sticks!

In Science, we have planted our own sunflower seeds and watched their growths throughout 6 weeks. We also explored different types of trees, fruit and vegetables and wild VS garden plants. Then, we began learning about everyday materials and conducted an experiment. We tested materials to find out which one was the best suited to make an umbrella with. We made predictions, conducted a methodology, recorded our results and written a conclusion- very scientific!



In Geography, we put our meteorologist hat on and predicted the weather. We had a go at planning, writing and performing our own weather forecast! We used weather symbols and a map of the UK to present our weather report! We then explored weather patterns and recorded the results in a tally chart and a bar chart. We also explored the dangers of extreme weather and created a poster campaign to warn against the potential risks! Some of us campaigned against floods, some draughts and others tornados!

In computing, we have been exploring what a keyboard is and how we use one. In Art, we investigated the Art style of Emma Burleigh and produced some wonderful paintings. In PSHE, we explored how to look after our friends and how to take care of our local environment!

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



# Year 2

## What an amazing Spring term we have had in Year 2!

In Maths we have been learning how to multiply and divide. We got rid of the word 'times' and use 'groups of' instead. We have investigated what makes a number odd or even. We have even had time to compare numbers using the greater than, less than and equal to signs. Cheekily, we wrote on the tables but don't tell Mrs Oldham!



In English, we have had dragons in our classroom, our classroom trashed by Monsters, participated in many drama activities and experienced our own Djembe drum session. Click [here](#) to see our performance. From these experiences we have written our own story, instructions, character descriptions, trip advisor reviews and wanted posters!

In Science, we have planted the most successful beans and completed an investigation into the conditions needed for cress. We made predictions and completed observations on the plants as they grew. I think some beans are still growing at home! In the second half term, we have been studying microhabitats and investigating minibeasts and their habitats so went to the forest school area for this.



In History, we studied the Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman and why they are significant to the history flight. We compared how airplanes were and how they have contributed to how we fly now. We acted out how the Wright Brothers became famous, read Amelia Earhart's novel and wrote a diary entry as if we were her and discussed how reliable evidence about the events were.

In Art we have been making our own tools to paint with using natural sources such as leaves and sticks. In Music we have learnt how to play the glockenspiel, learning about the rhythm, pitch and beat. In Computing we have been practicing our typing skills using typingclub.com learning that the f and the j have a bump on to help us touch type and find the middle of the keyboard.

**Excellent work Year 2 – we are proud of you! Mrs Collins and Miss Goodson**



# EASTER EXPERIENCE 2023

**Experience Easter is a privilege to lead each year.**

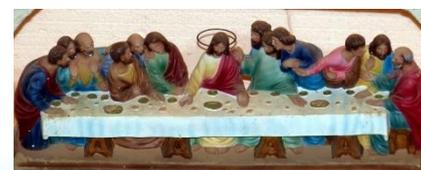
The children hear the Easter story then explore themes and feelings linked to this story through reflective and creative activities. It is a wellbeing activity as much as an RE one.

This year there were be 5 activities based on different parts of the story which was experienced by children from Reception to Year 6. The Nursery children created their own artwork based on the symbols of Easter.



1. **Palm Sunday.** Here the Jews were hopeful that Jesus would overthrow the Romans and change things for the Jews. The children reflected on their hopes and dreams by writing or drawing these on flowers or butterflies.

2. **The Last Supper.** This was Jesus' last meal with his friends and through this meal he showed how much he loved and cared for them. The children were able to take some bread if they wanted to and reflected on who their friends are and how they show they care about them.



3. **The Garden of Gethsemane.** Here Jesus realised how hard the next part of his journey was going to be and prayed for the world and himself. The children were given some clay and used this to help reflect on how hard life can be, just as the clay is hard to manage at first. We then explored that as they squash and squeeze the clay it becomes easier to work with and link this to our lives, thinking about how when we work through difficult times, especially with the help of our friends, things can get easier.



4. **On the cross – Jesus dies.** We used this part of the story to think about people who are suffering. The children threaded beads onto a piece of cord, thinking about people they know and places where there is suffering. They thought about how they can care for others.



5. **The Empty Tomb.** Christians believe that death was not the end for Jesus and that three days later he rose from the dead. Christians believe this is an amazing act of unconditional love. The children were invited to create a piece of colourful artwork representing the cross or a heart as part of their painting.

There were lots of photos on Twitter about Experience Easter and may your Easter basket be full of joy, happiness and peace, today and always.

**Mrs Mayers, RE leader.**

# Year 3

**We have had a GREAT term!**

We had great fun on World Book Day and everyone enjoyed reading the class novel 'The boy with wings' by Lenny Henry. We really enjoyed the visit from the author and illustrator, Jane Preece. We loved her story 'Oliver Lum and the bubble gum'. We have even enjoyed a zoom call and workshop with the author Maisie Chan.



In English, we have written some fantastic persuasive brochures and adverts and written our own story based on 'The Stone Age Boy'. We have written our very own calligram poem on climate change and the creativity and vocabulary of the children's writing has blown us away.



In class we have been reading the classic 'Stig of the Dump'. We have worked in guided reading to compare the characters and understand differences in the times. We have even been looking at Stone Age recipes. The children were not keen to try nettle soup.

In maths we have been focusing on length, perimeter, mass and capacity before moving onto fractions. We have been really impressed with the children's understanding of fractions. We even started to look at equivalent fractions.

In Science we have conducted some further investigations. We have been looking at the human body and muscles and then we looked at plants. We conducted an experiment to see what a plant needs to grow well. We didn't give one of the plants any water, we put one in the freezer and one in a dark cupboard. After 1 week it looked like the plants had died but Year 3 have managed to revive them! We are pleased to have some beautiful flowers growing nicely in Year 3 now.

In our History lessons we have been learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We carved our very own tools using a stick and a piece of soap. The children could not believe how hard it was to carve a tool. We really enjoyed learning about the changes throughout those times and the children have written a fantastic diary entry from the perspective of a Stone Age child. Some were shocked to learn that in the Stone Age they didn't have WIFI.

In Geography this term we have been looking at climate change. We have been able to locate the equator, northern and southern hemispheres and understand human and physical features. We linked our Geography work to our English writing and the poems on climate change are amazing. We have discussed lots about how we can make a difference.

We have been exploring the techniques used for sewing. Who knew that Year 3 were amazing at sewing. We created some beautiful pieces of Stone Age art, inspired by Hannah Rae and Alice Kettle. We have been looking at desktop publishing and database branches in computing. I was blown away by their presentations they all made using a desktop publishing programme.

We can't wait to see what the summer term brings.

**Mrs Parkinson and Miss McBain**



# Year 4

## Mamma Mia, here we go again!

We have had a fabulous term in year 4. A highlight, as you may have guessed, was our Music topic – Mamma Mia and the music of ABBA. The children really enjoyed listening to the uplifting songs and dissecting the music to try and hear the four voices and all the instruments involved. This ended with a performance that was posted to our twitter page. The children also loved discussing what the songs meant and realising songs have a story behind them.



We have been dreaming of warmer days while looking at the Mediterranean. We have discussed why the Mediterranean area is so important and why we think it is so populated. The have realised it connects 3 continents within a short distance and how this would have been important for trade and travel throughout history. We have also discussed why it is so popular in the modern day. The children located many places they have been to on holiday, or where relatives have visited/lived. We discussed how it the climate and close

proximity make it a popular travel destination for many people around the world.

Within computing, we have been discovering how we can use technology to log data. We learned how this can make gathering information, such as, temperature and noise level, more efficient. We then moved onto making our own podcasts! We have even recorded a snippet of our own in small groups. The creativity has been outstanding and I cannot wait for the future when we will be able to download the amazing new podcasts by the Discovery Alumni from the class of 2025!



We have also taken part in an online author visit with Tameside Libraries. Robin Scott-Elliot sparked our interest including: spies, acrobats, runaways and beginning our own journey to become an author. We then continued to dive into writing our own myths and learning about Greek mythology with Theseus and the minotaur and Daedalus and Icarus – who left us a special message in our classroom to help spread the news of his son's tragic death. Following the myths, we have gotten lost in the world of dragons and Vikings with 'How to Train your Dragon'. The question we put to you is: Book..... Or film? We are trying to convince everyone how books are the most important, but we understand a film can be great too (even with less detail)!

Along with all this fun we've been having, we have been working our socks off to improve our Maths skills, including our multiplication, division, lengths and perimeter. We have started a TT Rockstars competition challenge within the classroom and love seeing each other improve! Don't forget to keep rocking out at home with TT Rockstars to improve your skills so we can all reach the top of our guitar!



Finally, we – Mrs Asaturov and Mrs Medcalf – want to say how proud we are of the effort and resilience shown by the children day in and day out within year 4!

# Discovery Nifty Netballers

To begin, this is the first netball team that Discovery Academy has had. The children all came into the club with little knowledge and skills... BUT with a positive attitude and a drive to learn a new sport and new skills.

The children have been able to learn the 7 positions that are in a netball team and where these positions are allowed on the netball court. They have also learned to pivot, which was a tricky skill to begin with, but is now beginning to become second nature to them.



Another skill they have been improving is their passing, which they are now proficient in! We are continuing to develop these skills and are taking part in mini games between ourselves, which are improving week upon week. We are hoping to get some friendly games in the diary in the future to help the children build confidence and practice these skills with other schools.

We are incredibly proud of all the netballers, you would not know that they are all new to the sport, they've shown great netball skills, fantastic teamwork and amazing determination... even in very cold weather!!

**Mrs Asaturov and Mrs Parkinson**

**Netball Club is open to boys and girls in Year 3 -6 on a Tuesday and must be booked in advance.**



# Discovery Football

Sports have big role to play at Discovery Academy and this term has been no exception. We have had numerous football matches already this year, for both our mixed and girls team, and put in some excellent performances. The squad are committed to improving and attend practice each week. It has been fabulous seeing so many stars emerge and means we are able to have a varied team each match, keeping our opponents on their toes

The best match (in my opinion) was our 2-1 victory over St. Mary's Primary, where the team not only played so well but also showed excellent sportsmanship. I was extremely proud to lead a team who were able to deal with the competitive part of the sport with compassion, humour and good grace.

**Mr Walsh**

**Football Club is open to boys and girls in Year 5 -6 on a Thursday and Friday lunchtime. See Mr Walsh if interested in joining**

# Year 5

**Our spring term in Year 5 has been full of discovering and achieving.**

Through our topics of Vikings and settlements, namely London, the children have explored what life was like living in different moments in time and place, all whilst making amazing comparison to our own lives.

The children have developed their skills, not only reading, writing and Maths, but have worked hard becoming more conscious geographers, **inspiring** artists, and thoughtful team players.

In English, Year 5 have been exploring a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction. One book the children really sunk their teeth, *or claws*, into was 'Beowulf' by Michael Morporgo. Through roleplay, reading different versions of the story, and vocabulary building, the children produced some amazing continuations of the popular story and wrote and performed some fierce Viking warrior battle cries.



In Maths, our focus this term has been fractions, multiplication and division. While building on our knowledge from previous years, Year 5 have been gathering and **improving** their Maths skills, working towards being even more efficient mathematicians. The children have shown massive amounts of determination these topics and the improvements we have seen has blew us away.

We have been **discovering** a lot in science this term. Through a range of experiments and investigations, the children have learn about a range of different materials, their properties, and why there are used for specific jobs. Following this, we have recently been exploring forces and have investigated air resistance, gravity and friction, with the children exploring their own independent variables to test how they each force acts under a range of circumstances.



Through our wider curriculum, the children have explored key issues people have faced in the past, and are currently facing in the present, including the roles of women in history, the positive impact cultural diversity has on our lives, and how important education is to our own development. In RE we have been learning about how some people pull on religious guidance to decide what is right and wrong, making great links to our PSHE topic of a 'living in the wider world'. It's amazing to hear the conversations the children are having both in and out of the classroom relating to

these important topics and seeing the comparisons being made between 'then' and 'now'.

We have had many exciting experience days this past term as well. Year 5 got became **caring** 'mini-medics' in February when we were joined by Roger from Reach Aid and Active Tameside. We learned the correct actions to take in an emergency situation and got to practise how to give CPR and use a defibrillator. The children showed great maturity when handling these tricky situations and asked some brilliant questions which helped even Mr. Roberts learn some new things about our bodies. We also had a book-tastic World Book Day in March where we gained some inspiration from Jane Preece, who answered our questions about the process of drafting, writing, editing and publishing a book.



We have a lot of interesting learning planned for our Summer term!

**Well done Year 5 - Mr Roberts**

# Year 6

## We have had a very busy term in Year Six!

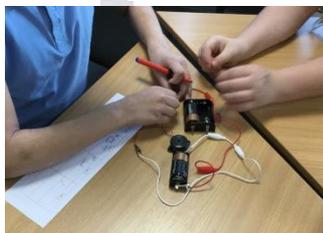
In English we have focussed many of our writing pieces around our residential trip; writing to persuade others that residential are beneficial to children in their last year of school, a diary entry about our Ghyll Scramble activity and a activity review from our bush craft day. The children worked really hard to set the scene and to write in detail using their senses.



We have also looked at a range of books in English this term. My favourite being, 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna, which discusses the life of a family of refugees and how they were able to travel to a safe placed. An excellent quality that year six has learnt this term is how to show the reader an emotion instead of telling them how a character is feeling. This will continue to support our fictional writing throughout the year. I can't wait to see what they will write next!

In maths, we have looked at: perimeter and area, and fractions, decimals and percentages. The children have worked really hard to understand some very difficult concepts and how to find equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. We have all used different strategies to work out the answers and have been successful in applying them across different scenarios.

The children were really intrigued to learn about Baghdad in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century and how it became a beacon for learning. We then discussed the differences between Baghdad and London at the time and were shocked to find out that London was very different to how it is today!



In Science we have been learning about the circulatory system and electricity. In our circulatory system unit, we looked at the different components of blood and how they keep us healthy. So, we could visualise the different parts, we made our own blood in plastic bottle (quite messy but lots of fun!) the children have also enjoyed investigating electricity and discovering the

History of the battery.

Geography this term has been focussed around different mountain ranges. We began by looking at how mountains are formed and how they differ from each other. The children were very interested to see how people climb the mountains and just how high the summits were!

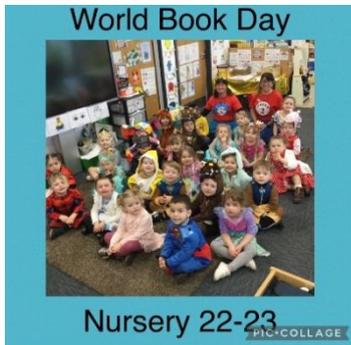


The residential trip has been a real highlight for our class this term. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn skills that can't be taught in the classroom and strengthen our team working skills. The Ghyll Scramble activities at Dovestone Reservoir really pushed us all to our limits but showed that perseverance and a positive attitude can allow you to achieve anything!

**Great work Year 6 - Miss Crosby and Mr Doolan**

# World Book Day 2023

**World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading.**



It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading. The National Literacy Trust's 2022 Annual Literacy Survey has revealed that one in five children in KS1 have no books of their own at home. Which just brings home the importance of this day.

World Book Day has its benefits such as increased vocabulary, heightened empathy, and improved concentration, making reading vital for children. But it also provides an opportunity for many children to own their first book, which is something special in itself.

The theme this year for World Book Day was CREATIVITY; and what a wonderful display of creativity we had. Everyone looked amazing. We had, super heroes, princesses, animals, villains, Teachers, inspirational people and characters, magical and mystical and some fantastic book characters.



The day was filled with lots of fun activities to promote reading for pleasure as well as some down time; to enjoy reading their books in our school Library.



We also had the great honour of meeting an inspiring local Author and Illustrator Jane Preece who spent the day with us and read some of her books as well as answering all our intrigued minds on how to become an author. It took Jane 6 months to write and illustrate her book Oliver Lum and the Bubblegum which can be purchased from Amazon. Her passion though is drawing and illustrating and you can find some of her work on twitter @janesartstory or on Instagram @janelisillustration.

**Our Discovery Team would like to thank all of the Discovery Families that helped make World Book Day as magical and inspiring as it was. Everyone had a fantastic day and you are very much part of that day to thank for.**

**Miss Crosby (Reading Champion teacher) and Mrs Collins (English Leader)**

# Wellbeing and Community News

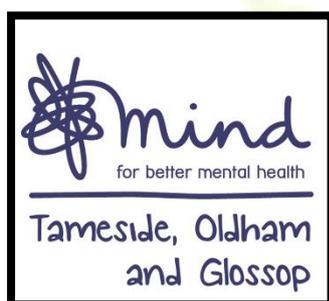
## Upcoming activities

- Sporting Memories group – Every Thursday 1 – 2:30pm
- HEAT Litter picking session for all on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April with Hattersley Health Champions
- HRH Coronation Garden Party Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at Hattersley Projects



## Offers of support

**Food bank:** For those that may need food or essential supplies. Ring 07901786905 to collect from St Barnabas Church on Friday mornings 9-11am.



**TOG Mind walk-in:** Opened in February 2023 at St Barnabas, Hattersley. Helps families with children aged 8-18years that need to explore mental and emotional health support.

# 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 rackets and bats leading them to learn more about activities which require those skills such as Tennis and Cricket, and why those skills taught can be implemented when playing such games. Making excellent progress. From learning about holding the racket/bat correctly, to improving their fundamental skills such as close control, The children have shown the ability to dribble with control into open spaces, striking accurately at targets and also then learning to hit the ball when it is bouncing towards them.

Years 3&4 have been introduced to Goalball, a team sport developed for blind or visually impaired players, in which a ball containing bells which make a sound when in motion is thrown at a goal at the opposing team's end of the court. This has led the children to learn new skills also be more reliant on their listening skills, in order to respond to the ball, as well as their communicating skills.

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 challenging themselves creating excellent routines in groups. Since September 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, has each child has shown more confidence in their surroundings, as well as in their own ability when being asked to complete 25 meters unaided.

After school sports clubs this term have been Multi sports for year 1,2 & 3, while years 5 & 6 have had Cricket club., learning about the fundamental skills such as batting, bowling and fielding. 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.

4 members of Year 3 & 4 were lucky enough to be chosen to represent the school in a Multi Skills festival this term, alongside 2 play leaders from year 6, who ran a station teaching goalball to other children representing other members of the Victorious trust, where they excelled, learnt new games and was a great representation for the school.



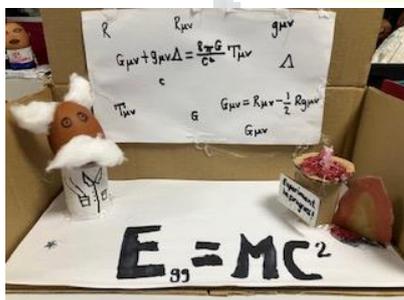
**Mr Doolan – Sports Coach**

# PTFA Easter Competition

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who joined in the Easter competition.

1<sup>st</sup> place winners







*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 <sup>st</sup> and Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	35
Autumn Half Term Holiday		Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	
Autumn Term 2		Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	35
Christmas Holiday		Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	
Spring Term 1	INSET DAY Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	33
Spring Half term Holiday		Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	
Spring Term 2		Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	25
Easter Holiday		Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	
Summer Term 1	BANK HOLIDAY Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 BANK HOLIDAY Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	28
Summer Half Term Holiday		Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	
Summer Term 2	INSET DAYS Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	33
			<b>Total Days</b>	<b>189</b>
Pupils are required to be in school for 190 days per academic year.				