



Discovering Times

Discovering Inspiring Caring Improving Achieving



Edition 12: Autumn 2023

In this Edition:

Phase Leader Updates EYFS/KS1 :2

Phase Leader Updates KS2: 4

SENCO Spotlight – Sensory needs: 5

Discovery Striders: 8

After School Club: 7

Nursery update: 9

Reception update: 10

Curriculum Focus -PE:11

Year 1 update: 12

Year 2 update: 13

Clubs Autumn 2023: 14

Year 3 update: 18

Year 4 update: 19

Mrs Mayers' Group: 20

Spanish Day: 21

Year 5 update: 23

Year 6 update: 24

Mrs Wong's Group: 25

Children in Need 2023: 25

Discovery Library@ 26

Wellbeing and community news :27

The start of a new year.

It has been a busy Autumn Term and this edition of Discovering Times is packed full of all of the amazing things that have taken place.

It has been wonderful seeing so many of you attend the events we have held this term: Meet the teacher; Come and Read; EYFS and KS1 Family assembly; Christmas productions and Assemblies and our KS2 Church services. Thank you so much for your continuing support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Discovery Academy for their continued commitment and hard work.

Myself and all the staff at Discovery Academy hope you have a fantastic Christmas and enjoy the time you have with families and friends. We look forward to seeing you back on Thursday 4th January 2024.



Phase Leader Updates – EYFS and KS1



What an amazing start to the school year we have had in EYFS and Key Stage One! We have celebrated Spanish Day, recognised the importance of Remembrance Day and showed our support for Show Racism the Red Card day as well as raising money for Children in Need.

On October 18th, EYFS and Key Stage 1 took part in the whole school celebration of all things Spanish! We made Spanish flags, sang Spanish songs, tasted some Spanish food, danced the flamenco and even learnt all about Picasso! It was so much fun!



On October 20th, the whole school showed support by wearing red for Show Racism the Red Card day. In KS1, this was discussed through the teaching and learning of Walter Tull and Rosa Parks and how they overcame discrimination. The children in Year 2 then made their own memorial on this day to show their support. All the children and staff have been given a badge that they can wear to school every day to show their support.

On November 10th, 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 Reception, the children watched the animation and discussed how the light and dark matched the emotions shown by the rabbit. Then the children made transient art poppies. We all then shared our reflections in assembly with the whole school. **“Lest we forget”**
[Click Here for the BBC Poppies Animation Link](#)





On November 17th, we had lots of fun celebrating Children in Need. We all went into our Author houses and participated in four different activities across the morning. We made masks, learnt songs, completed some Children in Need number activities and designed our own bookmarks.



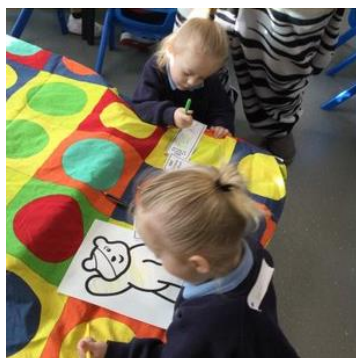
Throughout the autumn term, each class invited in the parents to come and read with their child in class. Each class has really enjoyed this session. It was lovely to watch the children share their reading and work with their parents. Watch this space for the date of the next one!



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



Mrs Collins – EYFS/KS1 leader and Assistant Principal



Phase Leader Updates – KS2

This term has been another action-packed one in KS2 with so much exciting learning taking place. Let's have a look at some of the highlights over the past few months.



Year 4 have been working incredibly hard towards their Victorious Voices concert this term. The performance took place at Rayner Stephens school on Friday 1st December and was a roaring success! The children performed the song 'Nazareth' from the film 'The Nativity'. Mrs. Oldham, who went to watch the performance, was overwhelmed with the effort and passion the Y4 children showed when singing. She said it made the hairs on the back of her neck stand up – a big well done to Year 4!

Year 5 have been studying Indian food this half-term with Mrs. Wong in Design Technology. As part of their learning, the class went on a trip to Arundale to cook the meals that they had been planning. In order to make their meals, they first went to Tesco to buy their ingredients. The children thought carefully about what they would need so that their food had the flavours that they desired. After that, it was time for the most exciting part: the cooking itself. The children were shown how to use a knife safely and cut vegetables. Next, they put all their ingredients in a pot on the hob and stirred it until perfection. They produced sag aloo, a tomato & chickpea curry, raita dip and accompanying rice. I can say from firsthand experience that their meals were absolutely delicious!



In Year 5 & 6 this term, we have had two really interesting workshops. The first workshop that the children attended was all about how to be a respectable citizen and support people in the community. Both classes asked some excellent questions and it was great to see the children building positive relationships with our Police Community Support Officers.

The second workshop that children attended this term was ran by 'Show Racism the Red Card'. The sessions helped the children look at ways of identifying prejudice and how they could seek help if these issues were impacting them. It also showed the children how they could be allies for those who had been affected by racism and how best to challenge it. I was very impressed with the maturity the children showed when speaking about such an important subject matter. As well as this, the Discovery staff also had a training session on the same day which was extremely beneficial.

SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD

As you can see, there has been lots of exciting and important learning opportunities this term and I for one can't wait to see what the Spring Term has in store.

Mr Walsh – KS2 leader and Deputy Principal

SENCO SPOTLIGHT

'Wearing those clothes makes me feel like my skin is crawling with maggots.'

This was a quote from an autistic person that was shared during some training I attended recently about autism and wellbeing. It really struck me and made me think more about the sensory needs some children are trying hard to manage every day.

Sensory needs

Our senses provide us with information and difficulties in processing and organising this information is referred to as sensory processing difficulties. People with neurological differences such as autism, learning disabilities, Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Global Developmental Delay can have sensory processing difficulties, but they can also be seen in people without any other diagnosis.



Behaviour, movement, co-ordination and concentration can all be affected by sensory processing difficulties and they can also affect self-esteem which can affect participation in activities linked to daily life, learning and play.

Going back to the quote I started with, if you feel like you have maggots crawling all over you, you are not going to be able to concentrate on what you are doing. If that was how a child felt in their PE kit, they may not want to join in, but they could feel embarrassed to say why and so demonstrate behaviours to avoid PE entirely instead or purposely lose their PE kit to avoid wearing those clothes.

Children with sensory processing difficulties can be over sensitive, under sensitive or sensory seeking.

The tables below briefly outline these needs. These were created following sensory processing training that we received from Tameside's Occupational Therapy service.

General behaviours linked to sensory sensitivities

| Under responsive | Over responsive | Sensory seeking |
|--|--|---|
| Passive Tires easily Poor attention Appears uninterested Difficulties participating Laid back Easy going | Over react easily Easily dysregulated Easily distracted Anxious Sensitive Vigilant Meltdowns or tantrums May seek out calming activities May avoid loud noises | Fidgeting Always on the go Chewing Excitable Impulsive Risk taker May appear clumsy Attention difficulties Life and soul of the party |

Here is information linked to the different senses

| Sense | Under responsive | Over responsive | Sensory seeking |
|---|---|---|--|
| Vision | Unable to pick out details in visual information e.g. can't find dropped toy | Dislikes bright lights Uncomfortable in certain light | May seek out sparkly lights etc |
| Hearing | May not know volume of own voice or noise they make | Very sensitive hearing may hear very quiet sounds and be distressed by loud noise | May make or seek calming noises |
| Touch | May not notice touch or textures May not notice painful stimulus such as rubbing shoes | Light touch can be painful Sensory to textures, clothing or temperatures | May enjoy touching certain textures May find touch soothing or calming |
| Taste | Doesn't notice spice, sweetness or sour flavours | Very sensitive to subtle tastes, spice or textures of food May avoid unfamiliar foods or go off foods prepared differently | Seek strong flavours and textures May try to eat non-food items - pica |
| Smell | May not notice smells including the smell of themselves or their surroundings | Very sensitive to smells and these can trigger an emotional response | Seek smells they enjoy or associate with being safe or happy |
| Body awareness (proprioception) | May have frequent falls May be described as clumsy May not be aware of where their body is in the space around it | Not common May dislike activities that bring awareness to the body | May chew/bite clothing or objects May be very physically active or boisterous |
| Movement and balance (vestibular) | May have frequent falls May take an unusually long time to feel dizzy | Very sensitive to motion, feel dizzy or sick easily or anxious that feet are off the ground | May spin, bounce or climb for fun or to feel calm |
| Internal awareness (interoception) | Person struggles to identify internal body signals e.g. struggles to use the toilet | Every internal sensation is heightened e.g. pain, hunger, can feel intense and cause distress | Seeks ways to stimulate internal body signals May over eat/not eat Sometimes hurt themselves |

What to do if I think my child has sensory processing difficulties?

Increase your knowledge about why your child is behaving as they are. You may want to keep a diary of what you see, what sensory aspects could be the triggers e.g. noise, smell – be a sensory detective

Talk to your child about what you have noticed, how do particular sensory experiences make them feel?

Help your child regulate their behaviours – you may need to give your child resources to help with this e.g. ear defenders, a weighted blanket, chewelry



Change the environment to reduce sensory processing difficulties. Be especially aware that certain times may cause sensory processing difficulties e.g. Christmas with extra lights, sounds, different smells. Be aware that your child may dislike new places because of the sensory processing difficulties this brings.

Be aware that senses can be heightened if your child is anxious and they may require more support or adaptations than usual.

Discuss difficulties with school by talking to your child's class teacher or Mrs Mayers so we can look out for triggers and offer advice, adaptations or support as required e.g. ear defenders, ear plugs, seating a child on the end of table/line so the noise around them is less, use of fidgets, wobble cushions or wobble boards

If your child has several sensory needs that are affecting their daily life, you can discuss these with Mrs Mayers who will complete a sensory referral for you. From this you are sent an invitation to sensory processing training from Tameside's occupational therapy service. This training is video based and you can complete it in your own time. This referral also gives you a contact to use if your child's needs suddenly change or you need further advice

Scan the QR code for advice about sensory processing difficulties and particular aspects of self-care e.g. dressing, eating and drinking, toileting and toothbrushing.



Mrs Mayers – SENCO

Tameside SEND Local Offer



Discovery Striders



What a great start to running club this term.

We have a strong group of 26 striders made up of old and new runners all from KS2.

Every week our striders are keen, enthusiastic and focused this is something we take pride in.

As the dark evenings are drawing in as well as wearing our high viz vest we have invested in some light up arm bands for all our runners so we can be seen and keep ourselves safe during our training sessions.



Santa Dash

On the 15 of December we had our annual Santa dash fun run, an opportunity all our striders to put all their running techniques into practice and obviously wear our Christmas jumpers and sparkle.

Miss Goodson and Mrs Medcalf

After School Club

After saying goodbye to Mr Doolan and Ms Hodson, Mrs Bradshaw-Cooper and Miss Begum will be our new playworkers for breakfast and after-school club.

We have listened to the children and have been revamping snack time with spaghetti hoops, cheese on toast, and chocolate croissants.

The after-school club also has a range of new games including board games like chess, Jenga, and Twister, as well as knitting and crochet yarn, so there is something for everyone.

A reminder to all parents and guardians of session times:

- Session 1- till 4:30pm
- Session 2- till 5:30pm
- Session 3- till 6pm

We will continue to have movie night every Friday.

Mrs Bradshaw-Cooper and Miss Begum – ASC Team

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.



We have worked hard on listening and re-telling stories. The children have particularly enjoyed reading 'Elmer' and 'The Colour Monster'. We have talked about our feelings and shared our worries with the Worry Monster. We have made positive relationships and already developed a sense of belonging.

We celebrated bonfire night and Diwali 'The festival of Light'. It was so nice to see so many parents join us at our story sessions and Diwali event.

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 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 Harrison



Reception

What a super start we have had in Autumn Term in Reception!

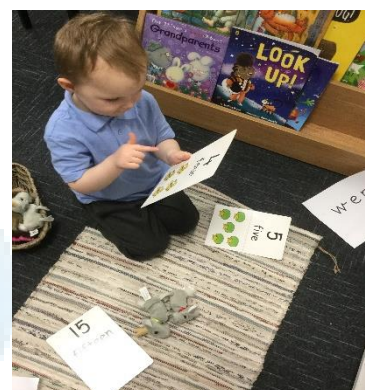


All the children have settled in well, made new friends, are learning the Reception Rules and trying hard to follow them. We always try our best to do 'Good Sitting, Good Looking for Learning and Good Listening. We have enjoyed the topics, All About Me and Light and Dark

We have been counting to, representing numbers to five then 10 in different ways and subitizing (saying how many without counting) to 3 then 5. We are getting better at naming and describing shapes, and creating our own patterns with a variety of concrete resources.

The children have loved observing seasonal changes from summer to autumn and autumn to winter. They have learnt about Nocturnal animals and animals that hibernate in winter.

We are getting really good at listening and re-telling stories. Stories we have enjoyed are Head to Toe, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Chapatti Moon, It was a Cold Dark Night and Look Up! We have talked about our feelings and shared our worries with the Worry Monster.



We have made positive relationships and we know that 'Teamwork makes the Dream Work', especially at tidy up time! 😊

We celebrated Bonfire night and Diwali 'The festival of Light'.

The children have been very busy being creative and enjoyed a mix of focused and independent activities. Miss B and I have been impressed with the fantastic home learning and amazing homework and individual reading the children complete each week.

Thank you to all our families for your support

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.



We would love to wish you all a Merry Christmas and an even Happier New Year!

Keep up the good work!

Miss Shenton and Miss Begum

Curriculum Focus - PE

At Discovery Academy, we love all things sport and this term we picked up right where we left off at the end of summer term.

In September, our mixed football team had a very impressive 8-1 win versus St. Georges (Hyde). It was the first game for many of the Year 5 children and they excelled. It was great to see the way the new team gelled straight away and it looks like we're going to have a very exciting season ahead.



The girls' team also got off to an equally impressive start. They played away against Gee Cross and after the game finished 0-0, they held their nerve in a very tense penalty shootout which resulted in a 3-2 win for Discovery. They too go through to the next round of the cup that will be played in the new year.



At the start of the academic year, Year 6 took part in two days of 'Bikeability'. This programme allows children to learn how to ride their bikes proficiently as well as having a good understanding of road safety. We were so impressed with how well the Year 6 children during the course and all the instructors commented positively on their maturity.

In PE lessons, the children have been taking part in some really interesting sports and developing some vital skills:

Year 1 - ball skills (control with hands);

Year 2 - ball skills (movement);

Year 3 - tennis (striking the ball);

Year 4 - tennis (defensive shots);

Year 5 - swimming;

Year 6 - Tri Golf.



Talk to the children about what they have learnt in their PE lessons and why not get outside and try some of the sports and skills they have been learning together. Don't forget the children also done dance and gymnastics if you fancy something where you can stay inside and warm this winter.

As you are probably aware, Discovery Academy had to say goodbye to an important part of its team recently. Mr. Doolan has been at the school for several years and has formed many great relationships with the children. He will be sorely missed by them and this was evident on his last day. Everyone at Discovery would like to thank him for his incredible commitment and dedication to PE and wish him all the best for the future.

Mr Walsh -PE leader and Deputy Principal

Year 1

What an amazing start to Year 1 we have had!

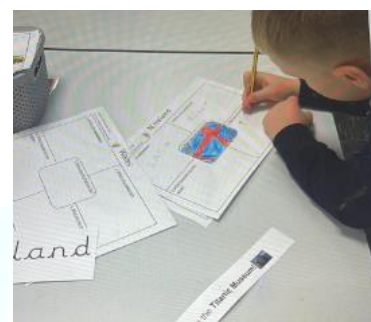
In English we have explored story settings and written a setting description based around *The Gruffalo*. Then we explored how to write a Biography about someone's life. We used our History knowledge about Rosa Parks to support our learning! After the October half term, our classroom turned into a train! We explored the different places you will see during a train ride and used this to write a short narrative!



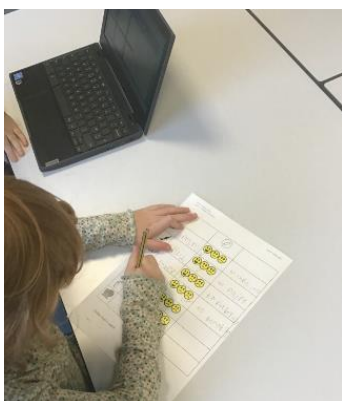
In Math's, the children have explored number bonds within 10! They have used a part whole model, ten frame and lots of counters and cubes to help them solve tricky addition and subtraction problems. We have written lots of number sentences and started to show our understanding using a number line. We have also explored 2D and 3D shapes. We have investigated the features of each shape and identified the difference between the two!



In Geography, we have explored the most important places in the United Kingdom. We have investigated the 4 countries of the UK, their flags, their capital cities and some facts about each one! The children have gone on a virtual walk of England's capital city, London. They then had to write setting description about it using their senses!



In Science, the children have investigated materials. We have explored a wide range of different materials and compared them against each other using their properties. The children had to sort and classify materials into groups of hard and soft. The children then used their knowledge of materials to conduct an experiment. They had to help our person of Interest, Alistair Pilkington, to build a house to put his Float glass windows into. The children had to test a materials wind resistance, flexibility and strength and conclude what material was the most appropriate to build a house out of and why!



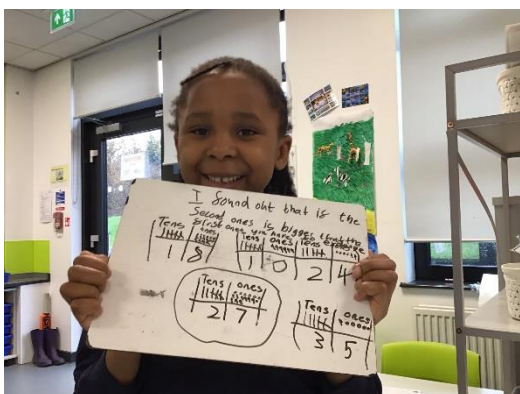
In computing, we have been recreating pieces of artwork from famous Artists using a computer program. In DT, the children have explored pulleys and levers to create 3D Christmas cards. In PSHE, we explored healthy lifestyles and learnt how to stay clean, eat healthy foods and maintain a healthy sleep cycle.

Well done Year 1, you are all Superstars – **Mr Westwood 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.

They have enjoyed discovering and learning so many new things from how to spell some of the Year 2 Common Exception Words to the significance of Walter Tull and Albert Einstein to what it is to be a hero themselves.



In Maths, they've discovered the value of numbers and have been adding and subtracting numbers up to 100. They have enjoyed using practical apparatus in Maths to explore new addition and subtraction concepts including where they need to exchange and have shown a deeper understanding of these through their reasoning and problem solving

We have had a visit from a yeti who left some snow and a letter requesting for help, 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 many science investigations and even had a visit from King Charles III and the Dragon.

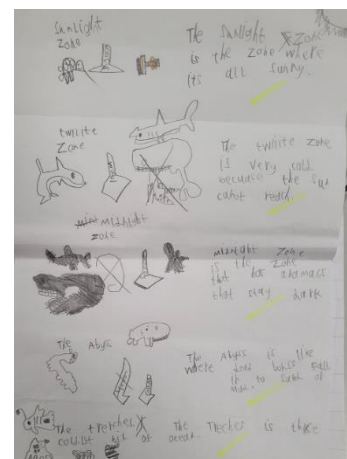


From these inspiring experiences, the children have written newspaper articles, character descriptions, stories, setting descriptions, information booklets and diary entries. They have even started to improve their written work independently by developing their editing skills.

Finally, they've learnt all about the oceans and why they are important, how to take amazing photographs in computing and composed their own tunes in music.

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

Mrs Collins and Miss Goodson



Clubs Autumn 2023

KS2 Homework Club

After some children in Key Stage Two voiced that they were unable to access Google Classrooms and Century, our online learning platform, at home, we decided to open up a Homework and Century club to take down this barrier to home learning. It has been great to see how many children value their learning by putting in the extra time to strengthen their knowledge at lunchtimes.



When attending this voluntary club on Tuesdays, the children have the opportunity to catch up on missed classwork/homework, strengthen their Times Tables knowledge on TTRS, and complete previous assignments on Google Classrooms. We are already seeing improved outcomes from the children who attend this session so would highly recommend if your child would like to pioneer their own learning.

Initially this was supposed to be a quiet workspace for the children to complete their tasks independently, but as the weeks went on, we could see the children working collaboratively, across year groups, to support each other with their century work. Although not a planned aspect of this club, it is often said that 'teaching is a great form of learning' so we have been encouraging this where we can. I have been working with the older children to model how to support other learners and UKS2 are really applying themselves to be great teachers. Of course the children have myself on hand to support where needed, but I often do not get chance with the eager older children beating me to it.



If you or your child need any support with Century, Google Classrooms or TTRS throughout the year, please feel free to contact myself or your child's class teacher and we will see how we can support you!

Mr. Roberts – Homework Helper

KS1 Board Games Club

This half term, some Year 1 and 2 children have been attending Board Game Club! Here, the children have been playing against each other in games such as snakes and ladders, connect 4, UNO and checkers. Throughout the half term, the children have learnt the rules of these games and how to play them with a friendly competitiveness against each other! It's okay to not always win, as long as you had fun playing!



Mr Westwood – Board Club leader

KS2 Arts and Crafts Club

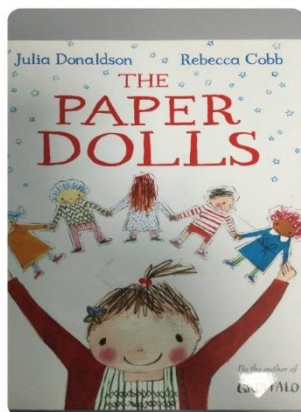
We are having a fantastic time in KS2 Arts and Crafts club making items to sell at the school Christmas Fair! So far we have made snowman key rings, tree decorations and lots of pompoms to hopefully make a wreath or 2 (fingers crossed). By selling the things we have made it will help us to purchase canvases and other extras for larger art projects in the future. As you can imagine the children have so, SO, SO many creative ideas!

Aside from our Christmas preparations we have also made Halloween decorations which the PTFA used to decorate the school disco and amazing poppy art for Remembrance Sunday. We enjoyed cutting the end of plastic bottles off, shaping them and then painting them to look like poppies. It was tricky but so much fun! We also looked at the poem 'Flanders Field' and were inspired to create our own watercolour paintings. These are proudly displayed on the KS2 landing space.



Mrs Wong – Art leader

KS1 book club



This half term children in key stage one have been enjoying a lunchtime book club with Mrs Parkinson. Children have been exploring different books in the library and even had a book hunt around the library. We have looked at non-fiction and fiction books and talked about our own favourite type of books.

We have looked at the story Paper dolls by Julia Donaldson and Rebecca Cobb. The breathtakingly beautiful story of one little girl and her five paper dolls. They were Ticky and Tacky and Jackie the Backie and Jim with two noses and Jo with the bow. We have talked about the characters in the story and even made our very own paper dolls.

Mrs Parkinson – Book club leader

EYFS Yoga Club

The Yogis have had lots of fun this half term.

We begin each session by listening to some Mindful Music for Children and practicing being calm, still and in the moment. We find a comfortable position and listen carefully. The children then think about how we are feeling in that moment and reflect upon our day at school. The children are learning to talk about their feelings and what has made them respond in that way today. We have learnt that it is ok to feel happy, excited, sad and angry. We are beginning to learn breathing techniques to help us to feel calmer.

How yoga promotes mindfulness for children



Here is some of the music the children have listened to:

[\(36\) Morning Relaxing Music For Children - Childhood Memories \(Hayfield\) - YouTube](#)

[\(36\) Relax Music for Stress Relief | Study & Background Music | Sleep Meditation Music ♡ 528Hz - YouTube](#)



When we have talked about our feelings and practiced being Mindful, we can begin our Yoga practice.

We have used Cosmic Yoga to practice breathing, yoga poses and learn stories through Yoga.

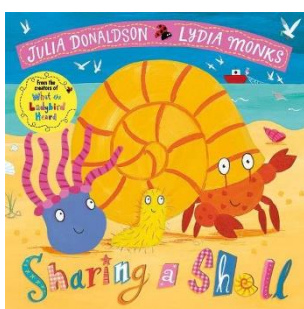
Here are some we have tried 😊

[\(36\) We're going on a Bear Hunt 🐻 - A Cosmic Kids Yoga Adventure | 4K UHD - YouTube](#)

[\(36\) 10 Yoga Poses | Cosmic Kids Yoga Compilation - YouTube](#)

We love to end yoga practice with a dance or stretch *My Name is Joe* is one of our favourites.

[\(36\) Hi My Name's Joe | Kids Exercise Song and Dance 🎵 🙌 | Cosmic Kids Yoga Disco - YouTube](#)



We end our session with a story about feelings or wellbeing and reflect about our Discovery Caring Value.

We hope you can join us next half term.

Namaste 😊

Miss Shenton – Yoga club leader

British Sign Language club

"Using British Sign Language encourages diversity and this trickles down to the wider community, helping to develop a more accepting attitude to differences." - Alysha Allen.

In a bid to foster inclusivity and bridge communication gaps, our school has proudly introduced a British Sign Language (BSL) club.

This initiative has not only enriched the cultural diversity of our school but has also empowered students with a valuable skill set that goes beyond the curriculum.

The BSL club, initiated with the goal of promoting understanding and inclusivity, has made remarkable strides in a short period. In such a short time the children involved have learnt the BSL alphabet, learnt numbers to 100 and have begun to take part in short dialogues that will support them in learning more intricate signs as we progress through the year. Not only does this empower them with a unique skill set, but it also nurtures a sense of empathy and understanding for those who communicate primarily through sign language.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE - FINGERSPELLING



 british-sign.co.uk LEARN BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE ONLINE AT WWW.BRITISH-SIGN.CO.UK

British Sign Language Greetings



The BSL club supports our school values, as we are always discovering new signs, improving our hand gestures, inspiring others to join in, achieving in conversational skills and showing our caring value to a whole community of people who use BSL as their main form of communication.

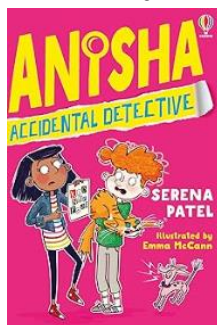
As we celebrate the achievements of our BSL club, we look forward to a future where communication knows no boundaries, and understanding is the cornerstone of our diverse community. We can't wait to continue to develop our skills and share them with our community.

Miss Crosby – BSL club leader



Year 3 *We have had a fantastic first term in Year 3.*

In English we have written fiction and non-fiction pieces, including our own version of The Three Little Pigs and writing persuasive letters to our classroom equipment.



Also, we will be completing a poetry unit in the run up to Christmas.

In guided reading we have looked at fiction and non-fiction texts and poetry. We have also been reading about Mary Anning and Palaeontologists in science. We have also been engaging well in our class novels. One of our favourites so far has been Anisha, Accidental Detective (especially the part when Aunty Bindhi's Henna doesn't go quite according to plan!)

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. We have also begun to look at making equal groups and sharing to answer multiplication and division problems. We have used counters to see the groups and have been using these resources to prove answers.

In Science, 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 observed how long it takes different ice lollies to melt.



In History 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. We wrote a diary entry from the point of view of a young girl who went to watch the I Have a Dream speech with her father.

In Geography we have been looking at the different countries and areas which make up the UK. We have used the atlas to look at cities and compass points to recognise the direction someone would travel to get from city to city. 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.



In Art, we have looked at how to use charcoal in a variety of ways. Focussing on shading and pressure and seeing how that can change our overall piece. We also looked at natural objects and how we could use charcoal to mimic shadow and light.

A particular highlight of this term has been our incredible Spanish Day activity where we walked on tomatoes like at the La Tomatina Festival, it was a much-loved activity, but very messy!

Miss Crosby – Year 3 teacher



Year 4

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

As the first term draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the incredible journey Year 4 has undertaken. The resilience and enthusiasm shown by our young learners have been nothing short of inspiring. From delving into the depths of the rainforests, mastering mathematical concepts and singing through the octaves, Year 4 has truly embraced the challenges and discoveries of this term.



In History and Geography, we have immersed ourselves in the rich culture and history of the Indigenous Aboriginals and the Amazon Rainforest. Through engaging



discussions and captivating lessons, including a visit from our own Australian Mr Asaturov and didgeridoo playing! Our students have gained a deep understanding of the world's most diverse ecosystems and the threats they face from deforestation. Year 4's

dedication to exploring global issues and wanting to make a change has been outstanding.

Linking to our Amazon topic, in science, the students have eagerly dived into the world of classification, exploring the intricate differences between invertebrates and vertebrates. Their inquisitive minds have propelled them to ask thought-provoking questions and conduct observations, fostering a newfound appreciation for the natural world.

Maths lessons have been a whirlwind of excitement and growth. Year 4 has fearlessly tackled the complexities of addition and subtraction, and Miss McBain and I can see their confidence and skills growing with every lesson. Times tables has been a focus over the last few months and the children have become inspired by the songs we sing to help learn them. You can often hear them being sung around the school.

Art has been a canvas for sensory exploration, with students delving into the world of sensory drawing. The creative energy in the classroom has been palpable as the children have honed their artistic skills, expressing themselves through vibrant and tactile creations.

The Spanish skills of Year 4 have expanded as they seamlessly weave through the basics of Spanish, discovering the names and uses of classroom equipment. I'm sure the children will be able to tell you what my favourite word is

(Un sacapuntas)! Their willingness to embrace a new language and culture reflects their open-mindedness and eagerness to broaden their knowledge beyond borders.



Year 4's first term has been a testament to their unwavering spirit and thirst for knowledge. Their willingness to step out of their comfort zones and push their boundaries has set the stage for an inspiring journey ahead. Please ensure that you are encouraging all Year 4 to be taking part in TT Rockstars throughout the week at home. We can't wait to see what 2024 has to offer us all in Year 4!

Mrs Asaturov and Mrs McBain

Mrs Mayers' Group

My group have been working incredibly hard on improving and achieving with their handwriting, writing, typing, reading and Maths.

This term we started by looking at the book 'Billy and the Dragon.' We used this to work on descriptions of places and characters. We then learnt about non-chronological reports and wrote or made reports about imaginary dragons, bearded dragons and dragonflies.

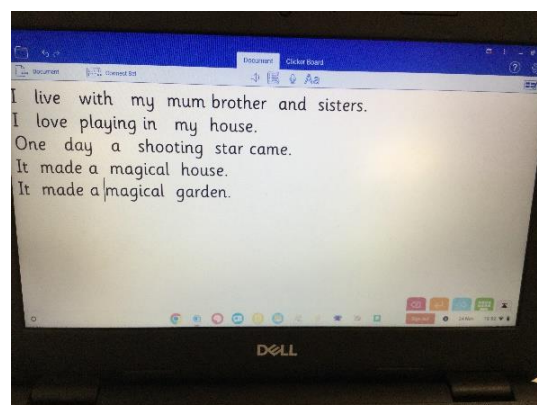
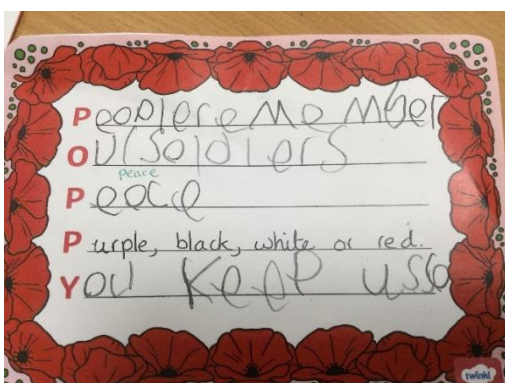
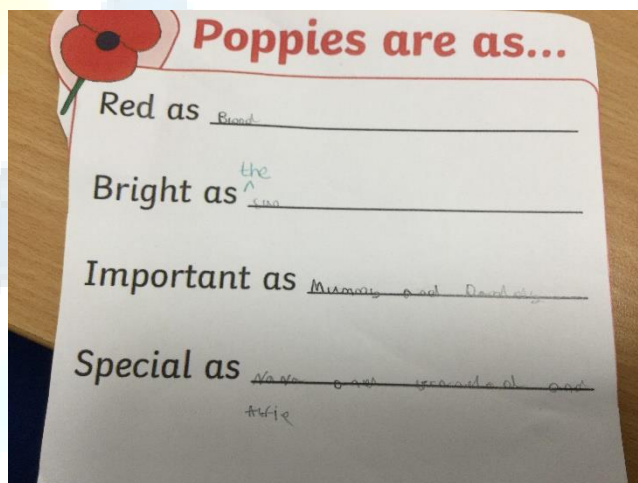
Next, we looked at poetry on a dragon theme. We explored alliteration, rhyme and similes. Our favourite dragon poem was called 'Have you seen the dragon, the dragon, the dragon' and we used this to write our own senses poem about biscuits titled 'Have you seen the biscuit, the biscuit, the biscuit.'

After half term, we continued to work on poetry and looked at shape poems, acrostic poems and onomatopoeia. We wrote shape poems linked to Halloween, onomatopoeia poems for Bonfire Night and finished our poetry work with poems for Remembrance Day. We then used a book called 'The Comet' to explore how events make a difference to feelings and wrote our own versions of this story. Before we finish for Christmas we will be writing letters and instructions.

In our Maths work we have been looking at place value, addition and subtraction and shapes.

In addition to all this, the children in my group also have support with their gross and fine motor skills as well as their social skills. The group have enjoy trying different challenges while I work with children on their own or in a small group and are improving and achieving in these areas too.

Keep up the good work! I am proud of you all!



SPANISH

What an amazing Spanish day we had.

The children loved celebrating National Spanish day. 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 in EYFS enjoyed learning about the different celebrations and designed their own fans and decorated flags



The Children in Year 1 enjoyed learning about the Spanish Artist Pablo Picasso and created their own self-portrait in a cubism style. Year 2 children created Trencadis animals inspired by the artist Gaudi.

Children in KS2 learnt about Spanish festivals. Year 3 had a lot of fun learning about La Tomatina festival which involved a lot of tomatoes! Year 4 made Spanish Puppets to celebrate Las Fallas de Valentia festival. Year 5 learnt about Las fiesta de san Fermin- bulls and used role play. Year 6 explored the Day of the Dead and decorated masks. Many families, especially those of older generations, follow traditions of honouring the family members they've lost from their lives.



Overall we all had a fantastic day learning about different cultures. We enjoyed trying tasting the delicious Spanish lunch of Paella and Papas picante including churros as a tasty dessert. It all went down very well.

We would all like to thank Guiomar our Spanish teacher for her inspiring lessons.

Mrs Kirkbride

MFL Lead Teacher

Discovery Academy Choir



The Discovery Academy choir has been putting in a tremendous effort, working tirelessly to perfect their songs for the upcoming Young Voices event. It's been inspiring to see the dedication and enthusiasm the children have shown as they practice day in and day out, striving for perfection.

I am especially proud of our Year 4 students who recently participated in the Victorious Voices event and delivered an outstanding performance. Their hard work and determination were evident in every note they sang, and their talent shone brightly through their harmonious voices. Their

performance of 'Get on Board' also showed their talents and determination, and many of the KS2 staff couldn't believe how well they did!

As we gear up for the Young Voices event, the excitement is palpable. The children have been rehearsing with unwavering focus, fine-tuning their vocal skills and learning intricate choreography to complement their singing. It's evident that their commitment and discipline have elevated their performance to new heights.

The dedication of our choir members is a testament to their passion for music and their unwavering commitment to excellence. I have every confidence that their performance at the Young Voices event will be nothing short of extraordinary, showcasing the depth of their talent and the fruits of their hard work.



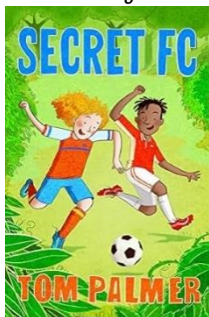
Year 5

We have had a fantastic start to the school year in Year 5.

We have already had two really exciting trips. We visited the Buddhist centre in Manchester where we learnt all about meditation, we even practised some meditation techniques. We then went to do some cooking at Arundale primary school. We walked up to Tesco and bought all the ingredients to make a delicious curry. We worked hard evaluating our curry and even let some of the other teachers have a try. It was lovely to see how the children engaged and showed our school values on both these trips.



In English, we have created several fantastic pieces of writing, including exciting stories based on the book *Gorilla and Float*. We have produced some compelling persuasive letters linked to child food poverty and child labour. We were so invested in the end child food poverty campaign by Marcus Rashford, we collected donations of food (thank you to all those who donated to this great cause). Mr Clare came in from the local food bank to explain how our donations can help families in the local community. We have written some fantastic biographies and poems this term too. The creativity and vocabulary of the children's writing has blown us away, and we can't wait to see what they write next!

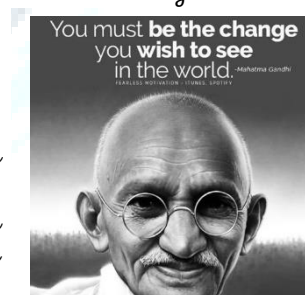


Our class novels have been *The Secret FC* by Tom Palmer and *The Great Food Bank Heist* by Onjali Q. Rauf. In guided reading we have looked at fiction and non-fiction texts and poetry. We also performed a wonderful poem in assembly to the rest of the school.

In maths we have been focusing on place value, addition and subtraction and really focused on fractions. Year 5 have been looking at converting improper fractions to mixed number fractions. Their knowledge of times tables and division has really helped them with understanding fractions. We have looked closely at inverse operations in maths.

In Science we enjoyed some fun investigation, like growing our own crystals and we even did some bottle flipping. This was a fun lesson for year 5. We have also looked closely at forces and made our own parachutes and boats to test the effects of air and water resistance. Everyone loved throwing their parachutes off the balcony.

In our History lessons we have been learning about Mahatma Gandhi and the fight for India's independence. The children completed some wonderful non-chronological reports exploring the reasons why Gandhi was influential in India's independence. In Geography this term we have been looking at rivers and focused on the River Ganges. We have explored the water cycle, the workings of a river and looked at lines of latitude and longitude. The children loved drawing the earth's invisible lines on a balloon.



Year 5 have been making Mrs Parkinson smile in computing with their great sense of humour and imagination. Children have been learning how to record and edit their own videos effectively. The content in the videos was amazing and they used all the techniques they have been taught.

Spanish has been fun this term too, we have learnt new vocabulary about the weather, the days and months of the year and also learnt how to count to 31. This has really helped us say the day, date and month of the year.

Year 5 are also becoming fantastic swimmers. The move to Copley swimming baths has been really positive and the progress children are making in swimming is fantastic. We even had a group learning life saving skills by swimming in their clothes. We can't wait to see the other groups do this soon.

Mrs Parkinson – Year 5 teacher

Year 6



Year 6 have hit the ground running this year

So far, we have explored a range of topics including: South Africa and the Apartheid in History, the world of 2D-to-3D art influenced by Lubaina Himid, and creating a greener future, looking at how we can live sustainably in Geography! It has been a packed year so far, with much more to come, so have a read on to look further into what we have been up to!

When **discovering** the history of South Africa, we have learned what it was like to live at a time with such disunion and segregation. The children discussed what skills Nelson Mandela had, which supported him to become such an influential leader. We have also journeyed to ancient China when exploring 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman in our reading and English lessons. From this, the children produced their own version of a story, which tackled stereotypes put onto a range of different people within different cultures. Throughout all of our writing this year, we have discovered a wide range of exciting and ambitious vocabulary that we have been using to engage the reader in whatever we write.

From the get go, Year 6 have been **achieving** great things this year! At the very start of year 6, we had the opportunity to have Active Tameside come to school to support us in gaining our Bikeability awards. The children blew us away with their sensible and caution attitudes when learning how to cycle safely on the roads. It is delightful to see all the achievement the children have been receiving outside of school, from football trophies to race medals, Year 6 continue to inspire each other to be the best they can be, even with a little friendly competition from time to time.

A few weeks ago, the children from Year 6 had a full day where they explored the impact that racism, where the children were asked to create something that would help inspire others to not only think about their actions, but hold each other accountable for their discriminatory behaviours. Year 6, along with Year 5, created some brilliantly **inspiring** artwork, posters and short plays, which explored the impact racism can have on anyone, and how we can tackle it in school and out in the community. The children listened to each other and showed great amounts of respect and tolerance of the thoughts of others.



There has been a lot of **improving** taking place so far this year also. Year 6 have been working hard on consolidating all of their knowledge from Key Stage Two. We have been revisiting previous learning in maths and delving deeper into the mathematical processes including: place value, fractions and the four main operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Additionally, Year 6 have been working hard to further improve their reading and writing skills. The children have tackled many texts this term and have asked inquisitive questions and explored the use of a wide range of literacy skills including: figurative language to add flair to our stories, active and passive voice to create an eerie level of suspense in our twisted fairy-tales, and proper use of punctuation to ensure our reader has a great time reading our stories, letters and postcards.

It has been amazing to see how **caring** Year 6 have been this year. Whether it is supporting other classmates through a challenge in class, or supporting younger children in school and out in the community. Our house captains have certainly stepped up to the role this year too and have been supporting other year groups on days such as Children in Need, where we work in our school houses to explore the importance of charity.

Mr. Roberts has been astonished by how Year 6 have been applying themselves so far this year and cannot wait to see what the rest of the year holds!

Mr Roberts Year 6 Teacher

Mrs Wong's Group

This term as well as English and Maths, we have been working on our phonics, handwriting and typing skills. In English we have looked at a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts which have had a focus on emotions. We really enjoyed reading the books 'Barbara throws a Wobbler' and 'Ravi's Roar' because we got to talk about and use a range of strategies that can help us when/ if we feel dysregulated. In Maths we have focused on addition and subtraction before moving on to multiplication and division which we will continue next half term. Mrs Wong is very pleased with the progress we are making and our hard working attitude to learning.

We are feeling very fortunate in our morning group due to having a much improved working space. We have got new tables and new chairs which fit into our space perfectly. The classroom is looking so much more spacious and we have much more room to move around in our lessons. We are loving having a row of laptops at the back of our classroom for easy access to Lexia, TTRockstars and the assisted technology we use.

Children in Need

In November we supported Children in Need by celebrating the power and impact of positive relationships throughout the school years. We came to school dressed as our unique and wonderful selves with many children following the 'spotacular' theme. We raised an amazing amount of money for a great cause and we are so thankful for all the donations we received.

During the day we split into our house teams and took part in a variety of activities including codebreaking, arts and crafts, writing poems, singing and we even took part in a burpee challenge. The house captains and vice captains were on hand showcasing their fantastic leadership skills and helping the other children complete the tasks and activities.



A great day was had by all with everybody joining in and having fun whilst raising money for charity and demonstrating our caring value.

Discovery Library

The Library is ever growing thanks to parents' book donations. We also have new displays showing books from around the world, which has been sending our imaginations on wild adventures. In addition to this, the Library now has a new lunchtime book club held by our Year 5 teacher, Mrs Parkinson, who is actively helping promote reading for pleasure.

Our Discovery Library continues to promote reading for pleasure with hundreds of books for all age groups, and with designated sections for educational books, both fiction and non-fiction, Early Years books, as well as books linking to our key curriculum of cultural diversity, the value of education and the role of women throughout history. Not forgetting to mention the range of books we have from our House authors – Tom Palmer, Nadia Shareen, Onjali Q Raulf and Rachel Bright.

This makes it a lot easier for everyone to find a book to enjoy.

Aside from the traditional library values, we also promote the various additional educational events that occur including our recent anti-bullying week, where we had posters and various activities in there to promote anti-bullying behaviour, and sharing acts of kindness with friends, ensuring that our Discovery values are shining, even when immersed in a good book.

The National Literacy Trust states: 'Sharing a book with a child is fun. It's a time for affection, laughing and talking together. And it can also give children a head start in life and help them become lifelong readers.'

Reading is a great way for children to escape the real world and visit somewhere imaginary. It could be space, a superhero universe or the world of their favourite football team.

Making time to regularly read with your children can help them to:

- Feel calm (regulate their emotions).
- Boost their mood.
- Improve memory

That's why we want everyone, from little ones and teens, to parents and grandparents, to read for just 10 minutes every day! Take 10 with us and see where it takes you!

KS1 book recommendations

The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems – "It has lots of facts and the best bits are the moon, jelly and apples."

Little Lost Dinosaur – "It has a happy ending and the dinosaur got lost."

KS2 book recommendations

The Accidental Diary of B.U.G by Jen Carney rated 4 ½ stars

World's Worst Class Joanna Nadin – "I would recommend this to a friend#



Well-being and Community News

Fuel 4 Fun Holiday Camps & Christmas Parties

For more information and bookings for these holiday provisions and Christmas events please see our website:

<https://eequ.org/tamesidefuel4fun>



Find your local Warm Welcome Hub to visit this winter

Tameside's friendly Warm Welcome Hubs offer a range of facilities. All have disabled access and some have free parking, and are child friendly. Many hubs have spaces to work, charge electrics and read books.

Find the right Warm Welcome Hub for you at www.tameside.gov.uk/helpinghand

www.tameside.gov.uk/helpinghand

Do you need some advice on the cost of living?

Come and visit Helping Hand at the stalls to get more advice and information or email communications@tameside.gov.uk

South Family Hub
 Friday 8 December
 10am – 12pm
 Old Road, Hyde, SK14 4SQ

CHRISTINGLE

Grab an orange with sweets on it
 Sing some carols
 Hear a story of hope
 Feel really Christmassy!

WANT TO COME?

- You need to book a ticket
- Scan the QR and book
- Limited spaces, so hurry!
- It's all completely free

24TH DECEMBER 2023

4:00PM

ST BARNABAS CHURCH

ST BARNABAS
HATTERSLEY