



Discovering Times

Discovering Inspiring Caring Improving Achieving



Edition 13: Spring 2024

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Spring has finally arrived!

The days are beginning to get longer and the sun is trying to shine. Along with that the children at Discovery Academy have been showing how much they shine in a number of different ways.

Every Friday we celebrate the children and what they achieve inside and outside of school. The skills the children are learning are amazing and range from kick boxing to ballet, from Brownies to go karting. The variety of achievements is immense and I love hearing about these in our celebration assembly. Remember to send any certificates or achievements into school so we can celebrate with your child.

In school we are seeing significant improvements both academically and socially with children. Staff have been supporting children to understand more about the differences between emotions and behaviour and how we accept the emotion but not the behaviour. This means children have a better understanding of differences. Mrs Mayers' article on Neurodiversity is a good read and has a video to help parents understand this.

Everyone at Discovery Academy wishes you a fabulous Easter break and looks forward to what the Summer Term brings.

Our School dog Obi

Hi, my name is Obi. I am the new school dog at Discovery Academy. You can find me on X (Twitter) at @Obi1Wong where Mrs Wong is my personal PA and posts about my adventures in school. I am one year old and had birthday, on 5th Jan (in case anyone wants to know) and I am settling well into school life, discovering lots of new things every day. I have so many caring friends who I get to see at break times and dinner times, I have a wonderful comfy bed in the office and I get to spend time with small groups of children who are all really patient and kind to me. When I am in the office, I get lots of fuss and attention from the children who come to see me as it helps them to regulate or because they have been achieving or improving in their work. I love seeing what they have done as I find it very inspiring. It makes me so proud that I even have special paw print stickers I hand out!

Phase Leader Update – EYFS

and KS1

What a fantastic start to 2024 we have had in EYFS and Key Stage One! We have hosted a EYFS and KS1 Phonics Workshop, celebrated World Book Day, Safer Internet Day, Music Day and had a visit from the Dogs Trust.



At the beginning of the Spring term, EYFS and KS1 showcased their reading and phonics/spelling to their parents. Each class took part in a phonics or spelling lesson and then completed some activities with their parents. I would like to thank everyone who attended these workshops and the support and feedback we received on these.



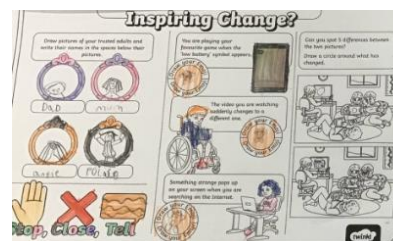
On 7th and 8th February, we celebrated Music Day across the school and alongside all the other schools in our Trust. All the children took part in a special singing assembly from Mrs Radcliffe from Tameside Music Service, then they listened to a special performance from Mrs Leigh on the flute and then listened to how Mrs Collins and Mrs Asaturov were inspired to play an instrument and why they LOVE music so much! On the Friday we had

an EYFS and KS1 Music assembly. Nursery and Reception performed a Nursery Rhyme, Year 1 showed how they could change and control their voice during a song they'd learnt from Mrs Radcliffe and Year 2 sang the song Mamma Mia and then played the glockenspiels to the music. It was FABULOUS!



On 19th February, the Dog's Trust visited us to teach us how to interact with Obi and other dogs safely. We learnt what dogs like, what they don't like and the five rules to keeping a dog happy.

During the week beginning 5th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day. In Year 1, they learnt how technology had changed over time and the dangers this then posed. They then worked in pairs to show how they can use the new technology safely. In Year 2, they discussed how to stay safe online, looked at who their trusted adults could be and how they should respond in different situations that might happen online. In EYFS, they read the story Old Macdonald had a phone and discussed about not spending a long time on a phone and how to make sure they stay safe when they are using a phone by saying "STOP and TELL A GROWN UP!".



On Friday 8th March, EYFS and KS1 celebrated World Book Day in style! Just look at Year 1's amazing costumes!

Mrs Collins – EYFS/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 Year 6 residential!

A great day that 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. The children learnt these skills in order to be prepared for their residential.



As I previously mentioned, at the start of March, Year 6 went on their 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. It's now been two very successful trips to Castleshaw Centre and all being well, we shall return once again next year.



Earlier this term, Year 4 and our KS2 choir took part in the Young Voices concert at the Manchester Arena. The excitement throughout the school was palpable for the weeks prior, 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.

As you are probably aware, Obi (our school dog) is now part of the Discovery family. He is adored by so many of the children and we are looking forward to seeing his role grow. In order for this to happen, we wanted to ensure that all the children were confident with how to behave around a dog. Earlier in the term, The Dogs Trust came in to do a workshop to show the children the importance of respecting a dog's space and how best to approach one. The instructor commented on how well all of the classes listens and each class received a certificate to show that they had passed the course. The children have already started to put what they have learnt into action with Obi.



We've had another great term in KS2 with so many exciting trips and experiences. The summer calendar looks just as jam-packed and we can't wait to share all those experiences with you next term!







Mr Walsh – KS2 leader and Deputy Principal

Curriculum Focus – Maths

We love all thing Maths at Discovery! There are so many different strands to the subeject that really allow us to stretch our minds as well as problem solve!

Year 4 have been working hard to learn their Times tables this half-term. Each morning, Mrs Asaturov gives the children a challenge in order to help the children remember their tables. Then, they battle it out on Times Table Rock Stars to see if they can improve their scores. Over the February holidays, Year 6 and Year 4 battled it out to see which class could out on top. It was a close battle but eventually Year 4 came out the victors! We will continue to have more TTRS battles throughout the Year in order to prepare the children for their Multiplication Tables Check which will take place in June. Keep your eyes out for the teacher battle as that is always a

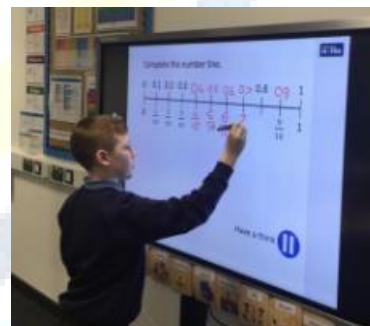
Class Average Correct		Class Total Correct	
1	Year 4	1,385	
2	Year 6	1,255	

1	 CHRISTIAN MARINK Year 4
2	 MINDY O'ROCK Year 6
3	 LINDA KIEDIS Year 4
4	 KEITH BOLAM Year 6
5	 EMILY SANCHEZ Year 4
6	 MAC SCALLIONS Year 4
7	 MARIA POWELL Year 6
8	 RICK WARD Year 6
9	 TAYLOR FORTE Year 6
10	 ALEX FERGUSON Year 6

favourite of the children's.

Mrs. Slinger has been doing some excellent work with some of our Year 2 children in our 1st Class at Number project. They have been looking at how to order numbers and how numbers connect with one another. The children also play lots of mathematical games that help them understand number. At the end of each session, a postcard is sent to a teacher to show off their fantastic Maths work. Great job Year 2.

Year 5 & 6 have been working hard on their fraction's knowledge this half-term. It's amazing to see the amount of progress the children have made using the Concrete > Pictorial> Abstract approach. This is where the children use physical representations of a fraction and manipulate them to gain their understanding. Then, they link this to a pictorial model before final showing how this relates to the written form of a fraction. Due to this, the children can now speak confidently on what a fraction is and how best to represent it. Their success has been evident in the fractions section of their end of unit assessments.



This term in Nursery, the children have been looking at comparing sizes.

Mrs Kirkbride and Mrs Harrison have been really impressed with the mathematical vocabulary the children have used in order to compare objects as well as things such as their shoe size and height. See what you can compare with the

children at home!

As you can see, children all across the school have completed amazing Maths work. We can't wait to see what they get up to in the summer!



Mr Walsh – Maths Leader

NEURODIVERSITY



Scan to watch a video

Monday 18th March to Sunday 24th March was Neurodiversity Celebration Week in the UK and across the world. In this article, I want to explain what neurodiversity is, what it can look like and what it means in school and out of school.

Neurodiversity	The concept that all human minds, brains, bodies and experiences are individual and unique
Neurodivergent	An individual whose brain and body works significantly differently to what society considers 'normal' about how brains and bodies should work, but similarly to those who share their neurodivergence from birth
Neurotypical	An individual whose brain and body works closely to what society considers 'normal' about how brains and bodies should work

Whereas in the past, these differences were seen as a problem that needed to be fixed, the neurodiversity concept accepts neurodivergent people as they are – it's ok to be different! It is also a concept that recognises the strengths of neurodivergent people, not just what they find difficult.

What does neurodiversity look like?

Here are some of the main differences neurodivergent people may have that we experience at Discovery Academy:

- Differences with social understanding and communication, senses and sensory overload, flexible thinking, information processing and understanding. This may be diagnosed by professionals as Autism
- Learning differences that may affect the skills you need when reading, writing and spelling. This may be diagnosed by professionals as Dyslexia
- Learning differences in using numbers and understanding mathematical language. This may be diagnosed by professionals as Dyscalculia.
- Differences around following instructions, controlling reactions and concentration. This may be diagnosed by professionals as ADHD
- Differences with balance, movement, gross and fine motor skills and coordination. This may be diagnosed by professionals as Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD, formerly known as Dyspraxia)

It is important to note that it is not essential that differences are diagnosed. Returning to the flower analogy mentioned in the video, you may recognise that in a patch of the garden full of Roses, your child is more like a Tulip. You may discuss this with your child's teacher and it may be enough for you to know that the teacher looks at how to care for Tulips when it comes to your child. However, at some point, you may decide you want to see if your child is really a Tulip to ensure that they can access everything a Tulip needs to grow and thrive. Also, you may want your child to be proud of being a Tulip and able to talk about why that makes them wonderful.

Also linked to the flower analogy, if a flower isn't growing as well as it should, the gardener doesn't change the flower, but the environment the flower is in. They may add more water. They may change the soil, they may move things that are stopping the flower grow. It is the same in school, especially at Discovery Academy.

We want all children to be their best. As stated in our Mission Statement, we want all children to 'thrive educationally and personally day after day.' It is ok to be different, but we don't want children to be struggling or to be dysregulated because of their differences. When a child is struggling or dysregulated, we will look at how we can help them. We will discuss our concerns with



you and talk to the child in order to create a plan. Sometimes a child may need something adapting, other times they may need support and, in some cases, they may need a specific intervention. We will carry out the support and then after an agreed amount of time, review whether the support has made a difference. This is known as the **graduated approach** with four steps – assess, plan, do, review. This cycle can be repeated as many times as it is needed and other professionals can be invited in to help as needed. Referrals for a diagnosis will always be agreed by parents. Our responsibility is to help and support children not to diagnose them.

What can you do at home to support neurodiversity?

- Most important is to ensure your child knows that everyone is different and that is ok!
- Encourage your child to talk to you about anything they are finding difficult or anything that is particularly upsetting them. Speak to your child's class teacher first about your concerns.
- Remember and teach your child that all behaviour is communication. For example, when lining up to come into school, a child's behaviour may suddenly change because they are overwhelmed by the crowd of people and noise around them. If they join the line at the beginning or at the end, these feelings and behaviours may change if the child feels calmer.
- Encourage your child to talk about what helps them at home or at school. We want to work together to help your child be their best.
- Remind your child about our caring value – if you were struggling in that way, what would you want someone to do for you?
- Encourage your child to be an upstander not a bystander. If they see someone struggling, encourage them to tell an adult.



If you would like to learn more about any of the neurodivergent differences mentioned in this article, please get in touch with Mrs Mayes.

Mrs Mayers – SENCO

Running Club

Our Discovery Striders running club is booming!

Miss McBain has joined us this term as we now have a group of nearly 40 pupils each week from across key stage 2.

All of the children are actively engaged in the various running club exercises we do, including the warm up activities, shuttle runs, and the log hold challenge. However, they especially enjoy it when we go out on longer runs around the estate. They all put in so much effort and show great determination not only pushing themselves but encouraging and supporting each other and working together as a team. They are improving their speed, stamina, and overall fitness levels and it's fantastic to witness their personal growth and progress as they challenge themselves to go further and faster. We are so proud of all of them!

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue fostering a culture of fitness and resilience within our school community through our Discovery Striders running club.

Miss Goodson, Mrs Medcalf and Miss McBain

Reading club

This term we have enjoyed looking at various Aesop Fable's and spend lots of time understanding the message and morals that each story teaches. Each story has a strong message at the core and teaches children about ethics and moral behaviours.

We particularly enjoyed 'The hare and the tortoise' and 'The boy who cried wolf'. The children were able to identify the moral of the story and explain why the character may have made some mistakes but also identified how they were able to fix them.



We also made our very own diorama based on each of the mentioned books. The diorama is a craft project which is created from a shoe box and allows the children to illustrate a story inside the box. This was fun for everyone, especially when we tried to make the wolf as scary as possible.

Mrs Parkinson

Nursery

We have had an exciting spring term in nursery.

We have celebrated Chinese New Year and helped to raise money for Children In Need and Comic Relief Day.



The Children have enjoyed learning about our local community, we walked to our local Library. We looked at print in the environment and enjoyed joining in with the songs and stories. We have enjoyed learning about the different occupations and thought about what we would like to do when we grow up. It was great to see so many parents join in our many events over the term.



The Children have recently been learning about how we grow. We have talked about the human life cycle and learnt about the different stages as we grow. We read Jaspers Beanstalk and then planted beans and flowers outdoors and observed the changes.



We also had a special visit from The Dogs Trust and learnt how to look after Obi and how we can be safe when we visit him.

It has been a super term and the children have worked hard measuring in maths and applying their phonics in literacy. We have listened to the Easter story and enjoyed creating lots of art to celebrate the Christian festival.



After the holidays, Mrs Kirkbride will be back in class with us and we can't wait to see what we learn next.

Mrs Kirkbride, Mrs Harrison, Miss Tate and Mrs Lamb

Reception

What a term we have had!



It has been a busy term in Reception! The children have been learning about how we change. We have learnt about human, butterfly and plant life cycles. We have enjoyed reading a range of fiction and fact books. We have recorded the seasonal changes in spring and enjoyed observing the changes on our walks around school.

The children have planted cress seeds and observed how quickly they grew compared to the sunflowers planted. The children have started a diary and are recording the changes as the sunflower seeds grow.

In art the children looked closely at the daffodils and created their own observational painting to represent spring.



The children recorded what the hungry caterpillar ate on each day of the week. They used different resources to measure and record length in maths. Symmetry was explored using 2D shapes.

The children have enjoyed learning about the Easter story and created different crafts to celebrate the Christian festival. They have had a lot of fun during our Easter hunt and egg and spoon challenge. We hope you all have a wonderful half term and look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Its been a great term. I have had a lovely time working in Reception and we look forward to welcoming Miss Shenton back after the holidays.



Mrs Kirkbride, Miss Slinger and Miss Tate

Curriculum Focus – Design ¹⁰

Technology

We have seen some fantastic DT work so far this year here at Discovery Academy with plenty more to come in the Summer term.



Textiles

Just before Christmas (in time for present giving) Year 6 designed, made and evaluated the amazing bags they made from recycled materials. I know several members of staff who were lucky enough to receive unique, handmade bags as gifts. In Year 3, the TRASHION topic tends to be a firm favourite and this year is no exception! As I write this the children are putting the finishing touches to their work ready for the annual TRASHION show. This is where each child can celebrate and have their creations celebrated by others as they walk the catwalk strutting their stuff!



Food

Year 3, 4 and 5 have all completed their cooking units for the year with some really ambitious dishes and meals being designed, made and evaluated. Year 3 looked at traditional British cuisine linked to their Geography learning about the British Isles.

Year 5 took a trip to Tesco for ingredients before heading to Arundale where they used the facilities there to create an Indian feast of vegetable curry, rice, Saag Aloo and a yoghurt and cucumber raita. The menu was heavily influenced by cost and the seasonality of the ingredients. Most recently the Year 4 children have researched the diet of the Mediterranean, designed a nutritionally balanced meal and then cooked it at school. There was Turkish marinated chicken and vegetable skewers served with a homemade Greek inspired flatbread and a slice of Spanish tortilla. All on a budget of under £2.50 a head!



Mechanisms

Year 1 focused on making a moving Pudsey using split pins and using the mechanism sliders. In the Autumn term they used them to make the penguins (on their very cute Christmas cards) slide up and down the mountain. Year 4 have studied CAM's and used them in models to depict parts of the water cycle. These were really tricky and the children showed great team work and resilience in making them work.



Still to come in the Summer term

Year 1 will be making 'An Afternoon Tea fit for a King' and creating a product for purpose.

Year 2 will be designing a memorial sculpture and completing their food unit all about local produce.

Year 3 will be creating a model of a natural disaster.

Year 4 will be looking at pottery linked to their History/ Geography topic.

Year 5 will be completing a unit of work around making a 3D map.

Year 6 will be completing their final food unit by creating a 'FEAST' to celebrate their journey of learning here at Discovery Academy.

Mrs Wong – Design Technology Leader

Year 1

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

In Math's, we have explored measurement. The children were presented with different units of measurement according to height, length, mass, volume and capacity! Additionally, the children expanded their place value knowledge by writing, comparing and ordering numbers up to 50! We used Base 10 to partition numbers into 10s and 1s. Next, we explored the rules of adding and subtracting numbers up to 20 using numicon, cubes number lines, number squares, number tracks and part-whole models.

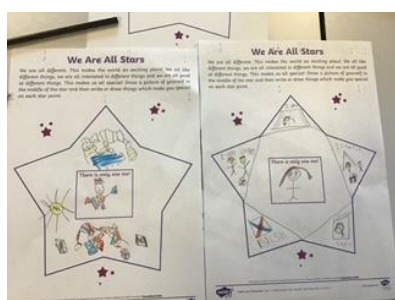


In English we have explored the classic story of Paddington and had a go at writing our own version! We couldn't not take advantage and eat some marmalade sandwiches in the planning process! Then, we explored what a non-chronological report is by investigating toys from the past. The children loved learning about how the production of toys had changed over the last 100 years! We even had the opportunity to visit Portland Basin Museum to explore toys of the past with a History Toy Keeper!



In Science, we have explored the 4 different seasons and the changes that occur during each one! We explored how the weather changes during Spring and Summer. We used tally charts and bar charts to record data from an observation about the weather! We even became Meteorologists and told a weather forecast! Additionally, we explored how weather can be dangerous and designed our own campaigns to help people during extreme hot and cold weather!

In History, we explored how toys have changed throughout living memory. We explored how toys of the past were made from natural materials such as wood and clay, and were often hand made. We then explored how the invention of plastic changed how children's toys were produced! We had the chance to create a Toy Time Capsule and write a letter to go inside it for 50 years into the future! The children had the chance to ask different people about their favourite toys and compared them to their own favourite toy at home. Finally, the children had to create a Toy timeline using their knowledge of Toys of the Past. They then used this to help the History Time Keeper find his missing toys during our Portland Basin Museum Trip.

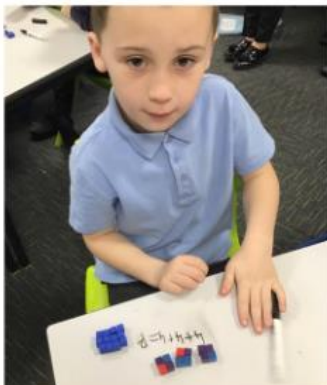


In computing, we have been exploring what a keyboard is and how we use one. In Art, we investigated Bird Art in the style of 3D sculptures. In PSHE, we explored how to look after our friends and how to take care of our local environment!

**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, been down to the forest school area and experienced our own Djembe drum session. Click [here](#) to see our performance. From these experiences we have written our own story, recounts, character descriptions, trip advisor reviews and wanted posters!



In Science, Mrs Wong and Obi very kindly visited us to teach us all about how to look after an animal. We found out Obi only has 2 meals a day, needs exercise and lots of love so of course we had to stroke him! We have also investigated the importance of hand hygiene. We made predictions, completed observations and recorded what we had found out.

What an exciting start to our History topic we had! First we visited Manchester Airport where we learnt all about the history of flight, the different roles at an airport and 3 different airplanes including the Concorde! Back in class, we studied the Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart, Alcock and Brown and Bessie Coleman and why they are significant to the history flight.



We compared how airplanes were and how these people 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 and then we moved onto exploring expressive art. In Music we have learnt how to play the glockenspiel, learning about the rhythm, pitch and beat and in assembly we performed Mamma Mia. Click this [link](#) to listen to our performance. In



Expressive painting using primary and secondary colours in Year 2 today.

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.

Everyone has worked so hard this term and I can't wait to see what the Summer term brings!

Mrs Collins and Miss Goodson



Mrs Mayer's group

This term we started by looking at the book 'Not So Little Red Riding Hood' by Michael Rosen. We used this book to work on descriptions of characters, wrote extra scenes based on the text and wrote an alternative ending. We then learnt about explanation texts and wrote an explanation text for Not So Little Red Riding Hood about how to look after a dog. We have also been looking at the book 'The Magic Bed.' Through this book we have looked at setting descriptions, used a dictionary to find words and we have planned and written our own versions of this story. We have finished this half term by looking at performance poetry and enjoyed learning and performing our own versions of Michael Rosen's poem 'Oh dear!'



In our Maths work we have been looking at place value, addition and subtraction, money, multiplication and division and length and height. We wondered whether we might get metres of snow, but were disappointed when the snow that fell wasn't even measurable in centimetres! Within their learning, the children have individual targets to work on, especially to improve their spelling, reading and Maths fluency.

In addition to all this, the children in my group also have support with their motor coordination and their social skills. In the first half term, my group had a weekly cricket session which was lots of fun and I was impressed with how their throwing, catching, batting and fielding skills improved.

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

Mrs Wong's group



In English we have looked at a range of both fiction and non-fiction texts focusing on writing our own 5-part story inspired by 'The Dragon Machine', instruction writing, poetry, a character description and a diary entry both inspired by Harry Potter. The writing stamina and idea sharing of this group has really improved and the Children's hard work is really impressing both Mrs Wong and their class teachers.

The instructions unit was a big hit with the group as for their independent write they decided to use what they know and wrote about how to walk a dog. Obi LOVED this as the children needed to ensure they had a thorough understanding of the subject which meant he got to spend a lovely morning walking with the group!

Another hit has been the character description and diary entry units as this was based on Harry Potter. We are still reading the second book in the series together at the moment. The children improved a diary entry based on Harry's point of view of an event before independently writing a diary entry of the same event but from Ron's point of view.

In Maths we have completed our second unit on multiplication and division before focusing on length and perimeter, fractions (the first of 2 units) and mass. We have been continuing our daily Flashback 4's which have been really beneficial in embedding our knowledge and recapping previous learning. Fractions can be really tricky but we worked together as a team and helped one another to stay focused.

The work we did around emotions in Autumn and the work we do both in class and in this group around emotional literacy and strategies to help if we feel dysregulated has been evident in lessons. The children are supportive of each other, more understanding of each other's needs especially when dysregulated and celebrate each other's achievements whether that be a great idea, the use

Year 3

We have had a GREAT term!

We had great fun on World Book Day and everyone enjoyed reading our graphic novel, 'The Investigators' by John Patrick Green. We really enjoyed all of the activities that we did during the day, including our cosy, hot chocolate read and trying pomegranate as part of a descriptive writing activity.

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 all about ourselves. The ideas from the children are engaging and the vocabulary of the class is always getting improving!



In maths this term we have looked at fractions and how to find fractions in different ways, looking at number lines and bar models, before looking at finding equivalent fractions. We then moved on to length and perimeter and how we can measure in different units.

In science we have investigated what our bodies need to be healthy, how our bones work and how our muscles relax and contract to help us to move objects. We also investigated if the length of a femur has an impact in how far we can jump. We have then moved on to understanding forces, looking at what objects we push and pull to make them move. We have looked at how magnets move and the pull force they have on magnetic materials.

In our history lessons we have been learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We were shocked to see how people used to live and how it changed so much throughout the times we have studied. We were also inspired by Boudica, who was a Celtic female warrior, who fought against the Roman army to protect her land and her people. We then looked at Celtic shields and how they were decorated to show respect to the Gods.



In geography we have been looking at climate change. We have been able to identify the equator, the northern hemisphere and the southern hemisphere and what human activities are contributing to global warming. We then discussed the impact that this is having on different parts on the world. We have then thought about what we can do to support the development in Manchester, especially Hattersley and the surrounding areas that we all live in.

This half term we have been exploring one of our favourite computing units so far. We have loved looking at databases and how we separate objects in them using closed questions. We were surprised to discover the online platforms that can be used to make a branching database and loved making our own in pairs.



Miss Crosby, Miss Slinger and Miss Rhodes have been blown away this half term and can't wait to see what discovering, improving, inspiring, caring and achieving we will do in the summer term!

Year 4

Blooming into Spring!



The main highlight of this term was our fantastic opportunity to participate in Young Voices at the AO Arena. It was an exhilarating experience for our talented students to come together with thousands of other young voices and create beautiful music. We sang our hearts out, showcased our singing prowess, and revelled in the electrifying atmosphere. It was an unforgettable event that left us all buzzing with excitement.

During the term, we embarked on a journey back in time to Ancient Greece. Our explorations focused on the lasting influences that this incredible civilization has had on our modern world. We delved into various aspects, including democracy, the arts, literature, and mythology. In English, we wrote dramatic myths, drawing inspiration from the rich tapestry of Greek legends. Through this, we discovered the profound impact Greek culture still holds on our lives today.

Following this we focused on the interesting Mediterranean area of the world. We explored why this region has become such a popular trade hub and holiday destination. Through our inquiries, we unravelled the historical significance of this vibrant area and explored the cultural diversity it offers. Our discovery journey enlightened us on the pivotal role the Mediterranean has played in shaping our world today.

Our mathematical skills were put to the test as we engaged in a friendly competition with Year 6 in a Times Tables Rockstars tournament. Brimming with confidence, we emerged victorious this time, triumphing over our older peers.

In science, we explored the intricate workings of the digestive system, studying its various parts and functions. We even had the chance to create our own faeces models, which were both educational and amusing! Additionally, we delved into the states of matter, investigating the properties and behaviours of solids, liquids, and gases.



Exploring the digital realm of computing, we immersed ourselves in the world of podcasting. Our lessons revolved around creating and editing our very own podcasts. As we delved into this dynamic medium, we learned about the importance of appropriateness when sharing information online, helping us foster a deeper understanding of digital safety.

In conclusion, the previous half term has been nothing short of remarkable. From musical



performances to mathematical triumphs, Year 4 has been brimming with learning, excitement, and growth. We look forward to the remainder of the academic year eagerly, **with a strong focus on our times tables knowledge, keeping up our winning streak**

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.

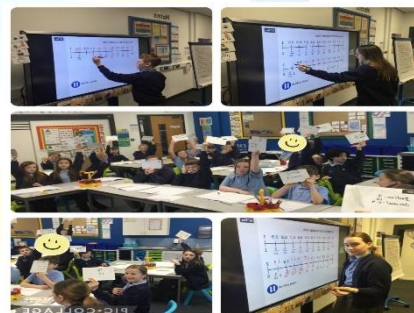
The children have developed their skills, not only reading, writing and Maths, but have worked hard becoming more conscious geographers, inspiring artists, and thoughtful team players.

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. We then read 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross MacKenzie. Year 5 have really loved the suspense that the story brings and wrote their own version.



We celebrated World Book Day by dressing up and also reading a class novel from Rosie Jones. The book is called 'Edie Eckhart and the friend mission.' This book focuses on friendships, bullying and understanding differences and ways to be kind.

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. We have looked at decimals, percentages and fractions and worked hard on converting them. The children have shown massive amounts of determination in these topics and the improvements we have seen has blown us away.



We have been discovering a lot in science this term. We started looking at living things and their habitats and understood the lifecycle of mammals and other animals and plants. Through a range of experiments and investigations, the children have learnt about a range of different materials, their properties, and why they are used for specific jobs.

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'. In design and technology, we have started to design and make our own places of worship which is linked to our RE topic. We have enjoyed a great visit from The Dog's Trust which inspired us to handle Obi and other dogs in the correct way.

We have a lot of interesting learning planned for our summer term and can't wait to explore some new ideas about space, pioneering women and computer coding! We can't wait to visit Jodrell bank to learn more about our science topic, space.

Well done Year 5 – Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Medcalf

Year 6

We have had a very busy term in Year Six!



Throughout our spring term, Year 6 have delved deep in their learning and achieved a range of great things since returning after our Winter break! Both in and out of the classroom, Year 6 have been working on strengthening their key teamwork and social skills in preparation for their move up secondary school, and have worked well within groups to develop their communication skills and emotional awareness.

Year 6 have been diversifying their learning this term. Through self-research, note-taking and independent reading, Year 6 have been **discovering** new information about a wide range of topics, including: Baghdad in 900AD and the Himalayas in Humanities; evolution and the respiratory system in Science; and debates of life after death in R.E. The children are working hard to build key self-learning skills this term and have learned about the diverse and interesting world we live in.

In school and at home on Century, our online learning platform, the children have been working brilliantly to consolidate their key learning in preparation for the upcoming end of Key-Stage SATs. The children have been completing past SATs papers with determination and have **achieved** great results. We have worked with the children to analyse what the paper is asking of us, so the children are best prepared for May. Outside of the classroom, Year 6 have **achieved** many great things this term. On our residential to The Castleshaw Centre in Delph, the children got the opportunity to work together to climb through streams and waterfalls in the Ghyll Scramble. It was amazing to see how the children celebrated each other's achievements on this trip and worked as teams to complete tricky tasks for the first time.



A key area where Year 6 have been **improving** this term is with their writing. Through exploring a range of texts such as *'The Journey'* by Francesca Sanna and *'Kensuke's Kingdom'* by Michael Morpurgo, Year 6 have gathered a wide range of key writing skills and have applied them to their own story writing with incredible setting description, not to mention the **inspiring** persuasive speeches regarding the inequality of girls' education around the world. It has been amazing to see the great writing Year 6 have produced this past term and we look forward to continuing to build on this with great vocabulary and descriptive writing.



Year 6 had a very **inspiring** World Book Day this term. We spent the morning in our school houses, all named after inspirational authors, and worked in a range of activities, from reading with hot chocolate by the 'fire', to role-playing some cherished childhood stories. The children were all aboard the reading train and spent the afternoon designing the characters for our own super hero stories, linking to *'Onyeka and the Secret Superhero'* by Tola Okogwu, which was our free World Book Day book.

Just before we left for our residential, Year 6 got to re-instate their 'mini-medical' achievement, just like regular first aid training. Roger came back and revisited what we should do in an emergency situation and how to carry out effective CPR. We also spent the afternoon learning how to handle burns and broken bones, which we luckily did not need to use during our trip! To further develop our **caring** value, on Safer Internet Day, the children explored what dangers may be present on the internet and learned what to do if they encounter something that makes them feel uncomfortable. The children showed great maturity when exploring these challenging topics and we hope to continue these conversations in the future.

We have a lot planned for the children's last term at Discovery Academy and look forward to continue to share your child's amazing achievements throughout the rest of the year! – Mr Roberts

World Book Day 2024

Everyone came dressed as their favourite book character and had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day at our school! The day was filled with exciting activities that brought the magic of books to life.



We kicked off the day by organizing activities within our house groups. Each group participated in various engaging tasks that celebrated the power of storytelling and ignited our students' passion for reading. One classroom was transformed into a cozy haven for hot chocolate story time. Students settled down with a warm cup of cocoa as they listened to captivating tales read by our amazing teachers. The enchanting stories transported them to different worlds and inspired their imaginations. In another classroom, the spirit of World Book Day was brought to life through drama activities. Students enthusiastically portrayed characters from their favorite books, showcasing their dramatic skills and bringing stories to life on stage.

Inspired by Tom Palmer's captivating book, "D-Day Dog," our students participated in activities prepared by the Dogs Trust. They learned about the incredible bond between humans and dogs and how to be a responsible dog owner.

For our Key Stage 2 students, we organized a virtual author visit with Emily-Jane Clark. She shared insights into her book, "The Beasts of Knobbly Bottom: Rise of the Zombie Pigs," captivating our students with her storytelling skills. The interactive session allowed our students to ask questions and understand the process of creating a thrilling story.

Our Key Stage 1 and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) students had the pleasure of a visit from Sean Perkins. They were enthralled by his storytelling and engaged in exciting activities related to his books. This special visit sparked their imaginations and fostered a love for reading from an early age. Under the guidance of Mrs. Parkinson, our Book Club members embarked on a creative journey. They worked together to create unique dioramas based on their favorite stories.

The Key Stage 1 Book Club members crafted a wonderful diorama based on the classic tale of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." Their attention to detail and creativity truly brought the story to life in a three-dimensional display.



The Key Stage 2 Book Club members showcased their skills by creating a mesmerizing diorama based on the timeless fable of "The Tortoise and the Hare." Their diorama captured the essence of the story, highlighting the moral lesson it conveys.

To wrap up our World Book Day celebrations, our entire school came together to sing a specially adapted version of George Ezra's hit song "Shotgun." The lyrics were cleverly modified to celebrate our love for books and the joy of reading.



We are immensely proud of all the students who actively participated and embraced the spirit of World Book Day. It was a magical day filled with stories, creativity, and a vibrant celebration of the written word. Let's keep this enthusiasm for reading alive throughout the year!

Wellbeing and Community News



The Together Centre at Loxley House, 287 Birch Lane,
Dukinfield, Tameside SK16 5AU

t: 0161 366 1987

30th March 2024 Breakfast with The Easter Bunny. £7.95 per Child/£4.95 per Adult. 10.00 – 11.30AM

2nd – 10th April 2024 Children’s Wild Adventurers School Holiday Club. £10.00 per day. 9.00 – 12.00PM.

2nd – 10th April 2024 Children’s Lunch Delivery Service. FREE. 9.00 – 12.00PM

3rd April 2024 Community Easter Fair. FREE. 10.00 – 12.00PM

28th April 2024 Preloved/Vintage Fair. FREE Entry. 10.00 – 12.00PM

EVERY SATURDAY

10.00 – 12.00PM Children’s Minibeast Ecotherapy and Multisport Wellbeing Session for Children; 5 – 11 Years! FREE.

10.00 – 11.00AM Together Pantry Food Bank – No Criteria! £3.50.

Do you need to access school uniform for your child or someone you know?
Do you have surplus school uniform in a good condition you would like to donate?

WELL-DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

School Uniform Project

Please contact our office on 0161 339 7924 or email us on:
nlc@newlifetameside.org.uk

Hattersley JAM POT MUSIC PROJECT

What's Happening ?

RU aged 8 to 16 yrs and interested in music?
Join us @Hattersley Jam pot music
TUESDAYS in March - 16th 23rd 30th and April - 21st 28th
Time: 4.30 6.30 Location: St Barnabas Church

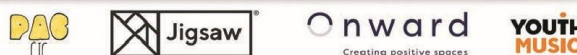
Ready to Get Started ?

Limited spots available. For more information contact us:
Tel: 07519987667
Email: Mark@pac-cic.co.uk

Follow us on social media
Facebook @PACcic - Twitter: @pac_cic - Instagram: @pac_cic

mind
for better mental health

Tameside, Oldham
and Glossop



Curriculum Focus – Music

Discovery Academy takes great pride in the achievements of our pupils and the success of our music curriculum. We believe that music is an essential part of education, fostering a love for the arts and providing a platform for self-expression. At Discovery Academy, we boast of having strong singing skills and we aim to carry these talents into the children's instrumental playing as well. It is essential to nurture the connection between singing and playing instruments, and we are dedicated to developing this bond in our music curriculum.

Having showcase assemblies and welcoming parents has been absolutely amazing for staff, children, and parents at Discovery Academy. It has been a delight to hear and see what everyone has been up to during their music lessons in class, whether it be singing or using a musical instrument. Children discussing what they have learned, being brave enough to stand up and perform (some even performing solos!) has been fantastic to see. The children have truly made us proud with their incredible musical talents.



One of the highlights has been the opportunity to have everyone come together and sing in our singing assemblies. Witnessing the enthusiasm and active participation of the children has been a true spectacle. When Mrs. Ratcliff visited for a singing assembly, it was a sight to behold as the children eagerly got involved and even volunteered to showcase their solo performances. We also had a special assembly where Mrs Collins and I discussed how we got into music and had a special guest – Mrs Leigh – perform a Disney song for us on Flute!

The choir and year 4 members had an unforgettable experience with Young Voices. The concert was a resounding success, with enchanting singing, synchronized actions, and an overall unforgettable stage experience. The children thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their musical abilities on such a grand scale.

A select group of talented children had the incredible opportunity to perform at the Stoller Hall. This experience was nothing short of extraordinary for them. It allowed them to truly explore their potential and grow as musicians. We believe in providing such unique opportunities to our students, enriching their musical journey.

Through our music curriculum, we are committed to exposing all our children to a wide range of musical genres. We believe that this exposure helps them develop an appreciation for different styles of music and nurtures their creativity.

We look forward to continuing to nurture musical talent for years to come.

Mrs Asaturov, choir leader and Music Leader

