



Edition 18: Autumn 2025

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; KS2 Family assembly; Christmas productions and Assemblies, School Fair, Christmas crafts mornings and our KS2 Church services. Thank you so much for your continuing support.



This term also saw Discovery Academy achieve the Wellbeing Award for Schools from Optimus Education. We are very proud of all we do at Discovery Academy for wellbeing and the feedback we have had from new parents, transitioning into Discovery, has been lovely.

As we end 2025, three families also end their Discovery Academy journey with us as they move to new pastures. All three families have supported the school during their time in various ways; One as a parent Governor, one as our Spanish teacher and the others as PTFA members. All three families will be missed but always a part of the Discovery Family.

I would like to thank all members of the Discovery Family for their support so far this year. It has been a wonderful term. 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 Tuesday 6TH January 2026



Mrs Oldham, Principal.

Discovering writing, achieving dreams

As part of St Bede's College 150th Anniversary celebrations, they invited pupils from over 600 schools to take part in an exciting Young Writers' Competition - a Greater Manchester-wide event celebrating the creativity and individuality of the region's children.

The children of Year 5 and 6 took part in this amazing opportunity and created a number of poems expressing their voices, celebrating diversity, and uniting both Discovery Academy and St Bede's College in a shared celebration of talent.

The competition was open to all Year 5 and 6 pupils across Greater Manchester, inviting them to write a poem celebrating Manchester - its people, places and spirit. Finalists were invited to a recital event on Monday 8th December, at the College and Israel Nwonye, a Year 6 Pupil at Discovery Academy, was invited to recite his poem 'Manchester'. During the event, he was crowned the overall winner, receiving an iPad Air as his prize. Israel is extremely proud of his achievement.



"I was extremely grateful that I got the chance to write this poem. I took inspiration from Tony Walsh's "This is the place", which reflects my thoughts and opinions about Manchester and how community is brought together through teamwork and compassion.

I'd like to thank my parents who've encouraged me to keep going, my great teacher, Mr. Roberts who helped me with the editing process, and my friends, who helped me come up with some of the themes and topics.

It was truly an amazing experience to take part in the St. Bede's poetry writing competition, and I am thankful I had the chance to share my thoughts and hard work about the place we call home – Manchester."

Mr Roberts attended the event with Israel and his family.

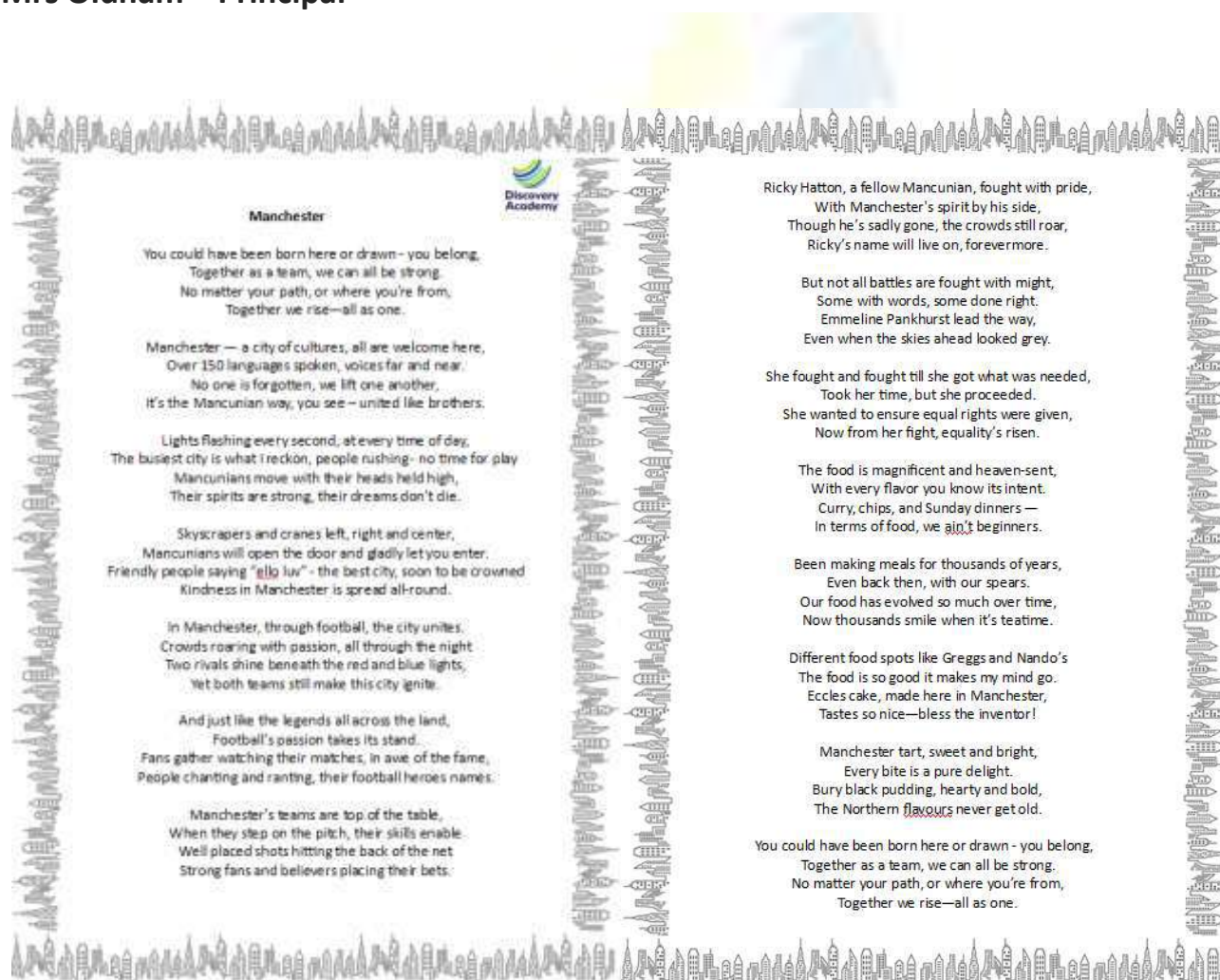
"When we began learning about Manchester in preparation for this poetry work, I couldn't have imagined how quickly the children would take these themes and run with them. Seeing

the city through their eyes was genuinely enlightening and sparked an even greater love for poetry in the classroom. After watching the incredible performances at Monday's event, it's clear that St Bede's have inspired pupils right across Manchester.

I'm incredibly proud of Israel, and all the Year 5 and 6 pupils who took part in the competition. Their confidence, creativity and pride in where they come from really shone, and the way they supported one another throughout has been brilliant to see."

This has been an amazing opportunity for the children at Discovery to write for a real purpose and celebrate their individual talents. Israel's poem was exceptional and winning this competition is such an accolade for the school and more importantly Israel, who works hard every day and pushes himself to achieve.

Mrs Oldham – Principal



EYFS Whoops-a-daisy Angel

If you were able to join us for our EYFS Nativity performance of Whoops a Daisy Angel, we are sure that you would agree that the children in Early years did an amazing job of telling the story of a special Angel. Whoops a Daisy was an angel who was always untidy, whose halo was crooked and who was always late. She never got any important jobs to do because she was so clumsy and forgetful. That was until one day the Angel Gabriel gave her a very important job to do. It was so important that there was a song about it! Whoops a Daisy had 'an important job to do, she had to Fly to Bethlehem to bring the good news'. She was so happy to get a job, that she left in such a rush she fell over and forgot to tidy herself up!



Our very own Whoops a Daisy Angel, Nina, did a great job of telling the sheep and their shepherds all about a special baby that had been born in Bethlehem. Even though the sheep would not stand still, the shepherds knew that that they had to take their wooly friends to follow the star to Bethlehem. There were also Three (Nursery aged) Kings and their camels who followed the star to the stable. They were so kind that they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the new king. We are sure somebody brought clothes and nappies later on too!



The superstar narrators in their Christmas Party outfits used their biggest voices (with the help of the microphone) to help tell the story of the First Christmas Day. There was even a snowflake or six to be counted. Poor Whoops a Daisy found it tricky at first, but with the help of some super Maths Mastery teaching and our friend Counting Ted, she got it right in the end!

At the very end of the story Whoops a Daisy had got something right, she 'led the way and told everyone where the baby lay.' Even the very neat little angels showed their pride in Whoops and Daisy's very important job and told her that she 'was amazing'. Joseph (Matteo) and Mary (Nova) led the three cheers for our super angel and the happy new parents were pleased with all the visitors to the stable.



The children worked so hard practicing their lines and singing their songs and we are sure to thank the grown-ups at home who helped them. The EYFS children were very proud of themselves and took several bows at the end of their performance.

At the very end of our story there was time for just 'one more song' and the wonderful 80s Christmas icon Shakin Stevens led the party into the night as snow fell all around and we wished a Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Mrs Shenton – EYFS leader

KS1 Christmas Concert

Excitement has been building across Key Stage 1 this half term as children have been busy rehearsing for their Christmas Carol Concert.

The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm from the moment rehearsals began. Many pupils already knew the words to classics such as *Little Donkey and Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, and they have been working hard to perfect their timing, diction, and performance skills. Staff have been especially impressed by the children's confidence and teamwork as they support one another through each run-through. For some, this will be their first time performing in front of a large audience, and staff have praised their resilience and determination.

Rehearsals have taken place both in classrooms and the school hall, where pupils have been learning how to stand in their performance positions, wait for their cues, and use expressive voices. Some pupils have taken on roles as narrators, practising clear and fluent reading with prosody to help guide the audience through the story of

the Nativity. The children have also been enthusiastically rehearsing their actions, bringing the songs to life with big smiles and plenty of festive sparkle.

Behind the scenes, teachers and teaching assistants have been helping to prepare simple props and costumes. Children have enjoyed trying on festive accessories, adding an extra level of excitement to each rehearsal. Staff have commented on how well pupils have embraced their roles, whether singing on stage, speaking a line, or joining in with the chorus.

On Tuesday 16th December we performed a wonderful heart-warming performance filled with traditional songs, festive joy, and proud smiles from the children who have worked so hard. The concert was a celebration of community, teamwork, and the magic of Christmas through the eyes of KS1. They delivered a wonderful Christmas Carol Concert that will be one to remember!



Miss Thompson – Year 2 teacher

KS2 Christmas Church Service

Despite the rain, the festive spirit shone brightly as Key Stage 2 pupils made the journey to St Barnabas Church in Hattersley for a special Christmas visit.

Once inside the welcoming warmth of St Barnabas Church, the hard work and dedication of the children quickly became clear. The service opened with performances from Years 5 and 6, who confidently led the way with their beautiful singing and storytelling. It was followed by an equally amazing service from Years 3 and 4, who performed with enthusiasm and pride. The church was filled with festive cheer!

The children sang a wonderful selection of songs, including *No Room at the Inn* and the lively and fun *Christmas Calypso*, which had many audience members smiling and tapping along. A firm favourite for Discovery, was the song *Midnight*, which was performed with great feeling and confidence. Each song was delivered with care and joy, making the performance a memorable one for everyone watching.

Adding depth and meaning to the celebration, pupils from Years 4 and 6 took on speaking roles, retelling the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. They spoke clearly and confidently, helping the audience reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



A particularly touching moment came from the school choir, who performed *Somewhere in My Memory*, a song featured in the much-loved film *Home Alone*. Their voices filled the church, creating an emotional atmosphere that left the audience quietly captivated.

It was lovely to see so many families and friends attend the service to support the children. The church was full, and the sense of community made the event even more special. Reverend Sam and Mrs Oldham concluded the service with a heartfelt speech and shared some prayers, thanking the children for their wonderful performances and everyone for coming together to celebrate.

After the final applause, it was time to wrap up and begin the wet walk back to school. Although the rain continued to fall, spirits remained high, and the children returned with smiles on their faces, proud of what they had achieved. It was a truly memorable Christmas visit.

Cooking Club

Cooking Club Spices Up Wednesday with Curry and Kitchen Skills!

This term, the School Cooking Club turned up the heat as Upper Key Stage 2 pupils learned how to make a delicious curry—while practising super-important food hygiene and chopping skills.



The sessions began with everyone washing their hands and Mrs Medcalf and Mrs Wood reminding the young chefs that **good food hygiene** keeps everyone safe. The children checked that their chopping boards were clean, tied back long hair, and washed all the vegetables before starting.

When all the vegetables were chopped, it was time to cook. The children added onions, peppers, and spices to the pan. Soon the kitchen was filled with the warm, delicious smell of curry. Everyone took turns stirring and watching as the ingredients softened and the sauce

thickened.

“I loved the independent chopping skills I learnt,” said Ryan from Year 5. “I loved it all!”

The Cooking Club hopes that the skills learned this term—clean hands, safe chopping, and careful cooking—will help pupils feel confident in the kitchen at home too.

Next term, cooking club will be welcoming lower Key Stage 2 children to come along and cook up something fantastic!

Mrs Wood and Mrs Medcalf



Discovery Academy Cooking Club is funded through TESCO Community grants.



VAT Basketball Competition



On Monday 20th October 2025, Discovery took part in the Mini Victorious Academies Trust Basketball tournament at Denton Community College. Along with 3 other trust schools, Discovery showed off some excellent basketball skills and an astounding amount of teamwork.

Discovery's team of 6 Year 6 children entered the tournament with very little basketball experience and knowledge. Despite all of this, they showed great character and development in learning the rules and working together to make effective passes to score many baskets.

The children also showed great resilience when a refereeing decision went against them. Our children carried on regardless and made sure they played to the whistle and never gave up.

As well as having so much fun, Discovery ended up losing and drawing in most of their games. However, we finished strong and in our final game we saw success. This final game was evident in how much the children had improved over the evening.

All the children taking part in the event absolutely loved playing. Every single one represented our school remarkably and showed all of our 5 school values. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity to build friendships, grow our sporting skills and celebrate what it means to be part of our Trust family.

We're already looking forward to the next Trust Competition!

Mr Tranter



Curriculum Focus

Relationships, Sex and Health Education

At Discovery Academy, we believe that Relationships (and, where appropriate, Sex) and Health Education is essential in helping children navigate friendships, emotions, safety and the realities of growing up. It is a statutory part of the curriculum and plays a key role in supporting pupils' wellbeing, safeguarding and emotional development.

Following the recent government guidance, we have reviewed and adapted our curriculum to ensure it delivers the following core themes clearly and age-appropriately:

Relationships Education

Families and people who care for me

Caring friendships

Respectful relationships

Online Relationships

Being Safe

Health Education

Mental Wellbeing

Internet safety and harms

Physical health and fitness

Healthy eating

Drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Health and prevention

Basic First Aid

Changing bodies

Our lessons follow the Twinkl PSHE and RSHE framework, which is carefully sequenced so knowledge builds gradually from year to year. Children are not taught any sexual content beyond what is required in the national science curriculum. The only additional content is a Year 6 lesson on what a sexual relationship is, including the law around the age of consent.

Health Education includes the statutory teaching of puberty and the changes children

experience as they grow. This covers both physical changes and the emotional changes children may face as they navigate adolescence.

We recognise that children sometimes ask questions that fall outside the curriculum. When this happens, teachers respond sensitively and will refer the child to a Designated Safeguarding Lead for support, in collaboration with parents and carers.

PSHE, wellbeing and personal development run through everything we do at Discovery. In Science, pupils learn how their bodies work and change; in English, they explore relationships between characters and how people manage various challenges; and in assemblies, we discuss the diverse people in our community and how we can support and respect one another. This whole-school approach ensures children always know who they can talk to when they have concerns, helps them make sense of the world around them, and continually reinforces our school value of caring.

We also ensure that curriculum content is not only age-appropriate but adapted to meet the individual needs of the pupils in our care. We take thoughtful account of different family structures, additional needs, and lived experiences, and make sure every lesson is taught in a values-driven, respectful and inclusive way.

RSHE helps children build strong friendships, understand their feelings, resolve conflict and make healthy, safe choices. We hope this update has been helpful, and we welcome any questions you may have about how RSHE and PSHE are taught here at Discovery.



Nathan Roberts – PSHE lead





Wellbeing continues to take centre stage at Discovery Academy.

At the start of the term, a group of year 5 children were chosen to be wellbeing ambassadors for the school. They went to a training day along with children from other schools in the trust to learn about the importance of their own wellbeing, the wellbeing of others, and what their role as a wellbeing ambassador would look like.

During the training they took part in lots of open discussions and activities about positive and negative feelings and how this impact wellbeing, and completed tasks to equip them with the knowledge and skills they need for their new role in helping others.

When returning to school, they were all very eager to share what they had been learning and requested a meeting with Mrs Oldham to tell her about their plans for the role. They organised a school assembly to inform the other children that they were the wellbeing ambassadors and told them how they would be there for them if they needed any help.

To celebrate their new role, the children were invited to a presentation evening at Dukinfield Town Hall, where they were presented with a certificate and a badge from the Mayor of Tameside, congratulating them on completing the training and becoming wellbeing ambassadors for Discovery Academy.

Each day at school, this group of children have been putting their skills to work, helping others and consistently showing the school caring value. They are doing an amazing job as wellbeing ambassadors.

Mrs Medcalf – Wellbeing Ambassador Lead



Discovery Striders

This term all the striders have shown true dedication commitment and excellent team work, they have all pushed hard through challenges. Myself and Mrs Mayers are extremely proud of them all, even when the weathers been terrible, instead of skipping a run we got the job done indoors, staying focused and keeping the momentum going.



Our Halloween challenge this year went down well we as a group came up with a spooky circuit training session which involved lots of Halloween themed exercises including a pumpkin lift and spider walk, we had lots of fun and lots of laughs.

Our Striders have also been building up to the big Christmas event the Discovery Striders Santa Dash. This year we have decided to do things differently which includes raising money for a local charity.

After the Christmas holidays Striders are inviting year three children to join us. We look forward to welcoming our new members.

In the new term Striders will be looking at our fitness levels and working on ways to improve them we will also be looking at improving our pace and running style.

Striders have lots of ideas with regards events in the summer months including our annual awards afternoon. In the meantime, our striders will continue building endurance chasing our time goals and just enjoying being out there moving.

The Santa Dash

On Wednesday 17th December, our school running club, Discovery Striders showed all the Discovery values within one event!

The Discovery Striders **discovered** what they are each capable of when they focus on a given task. They also **discovered** how much they can achieve when they work as a team.

The Discovery Striders completed a Santa Dash around the MUGA and paths around the MUGA. Mrs Mayers measured that the length of each lap was 0.27km. The Discovery Striders ran as many laps as they could in around 27 minutes. They started

each lap with a letter and after dashing round the route, placed the letter in the postbox. Each letter was worth 27p towards charity, so the Discovery Striders had an important job to do, dashing round as much as they could to raise as much as possible!



Through the event, we saw each member of the Discovery Striders **improve, achieve, inspire** and **care**! The event showcased everything they had learnt with Mrs Mayers and Miss Goodson. We saw they had **improved** their fitness and their ability to adjust

the speed of each lap according to their energy levels. We saw them **inspire** each other to keep going; no runner was left behind and we saw the Discovery Striders slow down and speed up to keep each other motivated to **achieve**. We saw the Discovery Striders **care** if someone was struggling and also show that they can run in opposite directions **carefully** without slowing each other down. We saw the Discovery Striders **achieve** results on their own, but most importantly together!

In around 27 minutes, the Discovery Striders ran 142 laps! This means Mrs Mayers and Miss Goodson are going to donate £38.34 to charity. This amount has been matched by Mrs Oldham and others have said they will donate too. We hope to be able to donate £100.

We have asked the Discovery Striders for their suggestions about which charity to support. Two of the Discovery Striders mentioned their dad is involved in supporting Purple Heart Wishes. Purple Heart Wishes is a UK charity dedicated to granting wishes for adults aged 18-55 who are living with terminal illnesses, aiming to create memorable experiences and bring joy.

Miss Goodson and Mrs Mayers are so very proud of all the Discovery Striders and wish to thank them all for their hard work and commitment this term. We would also like to thank all the staff, children and parents who came out to support the Santa Dash. Your support made a massive difference! Thank you!

Miss Goodson & Mrs Mayers

Curriculum Focus

Raising Early Attainment in Literacy

We have had a super turn out in our third year of implementing the 'REAL' project at Discovery Academy. The project is targeted at raising early achievement in Literacy for the children in Nursery and Reception. We are working together with families on a programme of activities following 4 key elements, Environmental Print, Oral Language, Early Writing and Books.

- Print in the environment encourages children to talk about it and helps them become aware that print has meaning.
- Speaking is the foundation for written language.
- Young children who are given the opportunity to experiment with tactile materials become confident mark-makers.
- We want children to develop a love for books and reading.



We have had fantastic parental participation so far attending our events. The children have loved seeing their parents join us in class and sharing their experiences. We acted out stories, identified logos and signs in the environment. We joined in with nursery rhymes and got crafty designing and creative using many resources.

We are looking forward to seeing all our families at the whole class events over Christmas. In the New year we plan to visit the local shops and library, hope to see you there.

Mrs Kirkbride- Nursery



SENCO SPOTLIGHT

Though I am writing this linked to Christmas, I hope you will find it useful for any celebration

Christmas is a time we often associate with joy, fun, laughter and memory making. However, for some children it can be overwhelming, worrying and increase anxiety. I hope these tips help all children and families have a relaxing Christmas.

Christmas looks different for everyone! Make a list of things you remember or notice your child struggles with at Christmas. Don't be afraid to let some things go to help your child enjoy Christmas more. Your perfect Christmas is what works for you and your family!

Routines and predictability – Write all the events your child has on a calendar so they can see how many days it is until that happens. Try to keep some familiar routines to create stability e.g. bedtime the same.

Plan rest days or recovery days. Make these days as low demand for your child as possible. If you have had a busy day seeing relatives or enjoying a Christmas activity, give your child time the next day to rest and recharge.

Prepare your child with visual cues and 'what ifs' – make a list of activities happening and/or people coming so your child is ready for the day. include 'what ifs' e.g. if it too loud, I can use my ear defenders, if I don't want to play the game, I can listen to music instead. Agree in advance a discreet non-verbal signal that your child can use to say they need a break from an activity e.g. a gentle squeeze of the hand. If you are visiting other people, ask if there is a quiet space your child can go to if they need a break.

Create a script for social



situations e.g. how to respond to receiving a gift – Thank you for my present. I'll enjoy opening that once I'm home. You could practice using teddies how your child might greet people they haven't seen for a while

Think about sensory differences – the lights, the smells, the food, the noise – these can all be too much at Christmas. Focus on your child's preferences instead of what is traditional or expected.

Don't focus too much on Father Christmas – some children worry a lot about someone coming into the house or being on the 'nice list.' You could focus less on this aspect or explain you have spoken to Father Christmas and he will do something different to reassure your child.

Christmas gifts – these can cause excitement or uncertainty. Your child may want a clue before they open the gift, to open presents without an audience or to open a few at a time over a few days.

Be kind to yourself – plan activities for you, think about your self-care, if you are calm, you can help your child stay calm.

Useful websites for more support

<https://family-action.org.uk/get-support/>

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-we-can-help/get-parenting-support/>

<https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/what-we-offer-families> |
[Autism Centralhttps://www.childline.org.uk/](https://www.childline.org.uk/)

CHRISTMAS REMINDERS (AUTISM EDITION)



You don't have
to do what
everyone else
is doing



Take time out
in a quiet
space when
needed



You are
allowed to
say no



Noise, lights,
social stuff
and change
can be hard



It's okay to
stick with
your normal
safe foods



Be kind to
yourself



Good
emotions
can be over-
whelming too



Routine and
normality will
return soon

@ItsEmilyKaty

Curriculum Focus

International Languages Day

On Thursday 26th September, our school came alive with colour, curiosity and celebration as we marked the 25th anniversary of the International Day of Languages. With this year's theme, *"Open Hearts and Minds,"* the children across the school embraced a wide range of activities to promote positivity, global connections and a deeper appreciation for the power of language.



From the moment the day began, there was a real buzz in the air. Children arrived wearing their own clothes, proudly showing off outfits that reflected different cultures, colours and personal styles. House teams gathered together and set off on a day of discovery, ready to explore new languages, ideas and traditions.

The children in Early Years and Key Stage One enjoyed a wonderful introduction to Spanish. Their activities were chosen to spark excitement and build early confidence with a new language. The children had great fun learning numbers, colours and the names of fruits, and they especially loved hearing and exploring the Spanish version of a Discovery favourite: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. It was fantastic to see our nursery and reception children confidently moving around the school, engaging with new adults, classrooms and experiences. All the children approached every challenge with curiosity and joy.



Key Stage Two pupils also had an action-packed morning as they caroueled through activities with their house teams. They began by looking at just how vast and diverse the European continent truly is, discovering the huge variety of languages spoken across its many countries. Using this knowledge, pupils created thoughtful acrostic poems about Europe, reflecting the continent's cultures, landscapes and people.

Another highlight of the day was the creation of Passports to Europe. Pupils researched fascinating facts about different countries, such as national dishes, styles of music and dance, and, of course, famous footballers. These passports represented each child's curiosity and hard work.

To deepen their understanding of language pupils also took part in a dialogue-matching activity. This turned out to be one of the most exciting parts of the day, as children were surprised to discover that some phrases in different European languages are incredibly similar, while others are rather unique.

The excitement, teamwork and curiosity shown by our pupils was a true reflection of the day's theme!

Miss Crosby – Spanish Lead

After School Club

We are delighted to share that a new member of staff- Miss Sultana, has joined the After School Club team. Miss Sultana brings a wealth of creative arts and crafts ideas, together with the passion and enthusiasm to inspire creativity in every child in ASC.

We have moved the After School club from the small hall into two spacious classrooms, giving children more room for games and activities. Our gaming room now has the ever-popular Nintendo Wii (a huge hit with the children!), while our second room offers a cosy reading area, a craft corner, and a calm corner for anyone who would like a quieter space to unwind after a busy school day. The children are already loving the extra space and choice.

We have listened to feedback from the children and will continue to offer hot-dog Tuesdays, along with a good choice of alternatives like toast, cream crackers and fresh fruit.

As the days are shorter, we have adjusted outdoor play, so that it finishes at 4:30pm. The children are still making the most of this time and continue to really enjoy using the football and tennis equipment.

We proudly continue to choose a child from EYFS/KS1 and a child from KS2 as ASC children of the week each Friday by carefully watching the children and selecting those who have settled beautifully, consistently make good choices, and show our caring values to others. It is a lovely way to celebrate the wonderful attitudes we see every day.

We hope you enjoy the Christmas break and see you in January 2026!

Miss Begum – ASC Leader

Curriculum Focus

Phonics Workshops

This term we were delighted to welcome parents and carers to our annual Autumn EYFS and KS1 Phonics Workshops. The sessions were designed to give families a clear understanding of how phonics is taught in Reception and KS1 and how to support early reading and writing at home. It was a great turn out.

During the workshops, teachers explained the structure of our Little Wandle phonics programme, including how we introduce **phonemes (sounds)**, **graphemes (written letters)**, and **blending and segmenting skills**.

Parents in Reception and Nursery had the opportunity to join in with practical activities, mirroring those the children experience in class—such as sound-sorting games, oral blending activities, and simple decoding tasks. Many parents commented that seeing the strategies in action helped them feel more confident about supporting reading at home.



It was also great to see parents joining in with nursery rhymes and actions, as they are extremely valuable to support early language and communication development, build confidence and prepare children for reading and writing as they get older.



In Year 1, parents watched and took part in a typical phonics lesson, and were introduced to the key terminology children learn, such as digraphs, trigraphs, tricky words, and blending. It was also a good opportunity to share information about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and we worked together to blast those tricky alien words.

It was great to get so much positive feedback from parents about our in-class reading rewards charts too and to know that there is so much reading going

on at home. It is hard to choose just one Reading Hero each half term, so it's a lovely way to celebrate reading and to give something back to the children for all their efforts.

Thank you to everyone who attended our workshops and engaged so enthusiastically. We hope they have strengthened the partnership between home and school as we work together to develop children's early reading and literacy skills. We look forward to seeing you all for our 'Come and Read' sessions in the Spring where you can snuggle up with your child and read a good book in our classrooms or school library.

I also wanted to say a very big WELL DONE to the children that took part in the Summer Reading Challenge at Hattersley Library this year. It really is a worthwhile event to take part in and keeps the magic of reading alive whilst school is closed. The sense of achievement on the faces of our children says it all!



Throughout the year each class will attend a trip to the library and will get an opportunity to join up if they are not already a member. Please visit the library and encourage a love of reading whenever you can.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Stokes



The PTFA is an important part of Discovery Academy and helps enrich your child's school experience. Since September 2025, the PTFA have organised a colouring competition, Halloween tuck shop, Christmas fair, Singing at Tesco's and Cauliflower card Christmas gifts with all funds going back into the children.



Christmas fair

This year's Christmas fair has been a huge success with a focus on all money going back into the school for the children. Every class had a stall so they could sell their own calendar. Stalls also included playing games like ring toss, hook-a-candy cane and snowman alley as well as the ever popular bottle and chocolate tombola. Thank you to everyone who donated, helped out or volunteered to make it a success. This year we raised over £1170. This is the most we've ever raised as a school! Thank you!

Halloween Tuck shop

At the end of October, the PTFA hosted a Halloween tuck shop. Again this was roaring success raising £188. There was chocolate and sweet bags, crisps and drinks as well as stationery packs and slime pots!

Cauliflower Christmas gifts

This year was the first year we tried something new... the cauliflower Christmas cards and gifts. Every child had great fun designing their own Christmas picture in class. These were sent home for the parents to order if they wished. They look absolutely fantastic and it has raised an additional £230 for school.



Free events

Due to previous events that had been organised last year, we were able to run our Key Stage colouring competition at Halloween. We had so many entries, it was such a hard decision. The EYFS winner was Otis (Nursery) The KS1 winner was Sophie (Year 1), the LKS2 winner was Sophia-Grace (Year 3) and the UKS2 winner was Katie (Year 5).

Upcoming events

In 2026, we will organise Easter egg Hunts, sponsored read-a-thons, outdoor cinemas, a Valentines Tuck shop and colouring competition, apply for grants plus many more!

This will all be put into organising free events as well as developing the outdoor area at the back of the school making it a more purposeful area that is fun, stimulating and safe for the children to play in.

Feel involved

As a parent or carer in our school you're already a member of the PTFA. Every parent is welcome to our meetings and we love to see new faces. Please consider coming along to our meetings or volunteer an hour of your time at an event – it really does make a difference!

It's not just for Mums

Everyone is welcome, grandparents, aunts or uncles and it's especially important to have Dad's and male carers represented as male role models are crucial in children's upbringing. Dad's can bring different skills, they can bring a different perspective and they can bring other Dads to help out!



If you are interested in playing a part in the PTFA in September, no matter how big or small role you can take, please contact Mrs Collins on ecollins@discovery.victoriousmat.org who will be able to assist you in this.

Mrs Collins – Deputy Principal

