



# DISCOVERY PRIMARY ACADEMY

**Aspire**

**Discover**

**Achieve**

[www.discoveryprimary.com](http://www.discoveryprimary.com)

21st October 2022

## Half Term

We hope that everyone has a lovely half term. Everyone has worked extremely hard this half term and we all deserve a well-earned break ready for a new half term ahead. We will see you all smartly dressed in your academy uniform on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## Being on Time

Can we all make a special effort to ensure all the children enter the academy as near to 8.30am as possible. It is embarrassing for children who arrive after the gates are closed and must enter the class after everyone else has settled.

The most worrying thing is the morning work the children miss. In the first 10 minutes of the day, they can miss a recap of the main maths key knowledge from the previous day. A brief recap of the key knowledge from the previous topic session and the subjects they have previously been taught. Essential phonics or spelling activities are also revisited in this recap session. All these quick activities occur every morning in every class every day. If your child misses these sessions, they not only miss nearly 50 minutes of teaching time each week, but they also do not have the opportunity to practice the things they have learnt over the past few weeks.

We all want the best for our children so please support us by making sure they are in on time, so they don't miss out.

## Lost Property

Please, please label all clothing so we can return them to your children. We had two tables of lost property at the front of the academy this week full of clothing including coats. I will be reminding the children about putting things in their lockers or bags if they take them off. Thank you.

## Poppy Appeal 2022

When the children return after October Half term, they will be able to buy Poppy's for this year's Poppy Appeal. Items can be purchased at lunch time or alternatively from the classroom. We recommend the following donations for the items. Zip pulls – 50p, Reflector – 50p, Silicon wristband - £1.00, Slap band - £1.50. Last year we raised £585.52 which is an amazing amount. Hopefully this year we will be able to do even better.

## Autumn Term Sports Events

Well done to all the children in year 5 & 6 who have represented the academy in sports events. Year 5 and 6 boys played football against Fulbridge Academy on the 14<sup>th</sup> October and we sent a mixed team of year 5 & 6's to Arthur Mellows Village Collage on the 18<sup>th</sup> October for a quicksticks hockey tournament. They came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the plate competition.

## Busy Term

I hope you enjoy reading the different things each year group have been doing since September. Thank you to the phase leaders for sharing all the exciting, interesting things that have been going on.

## Foundation Stage

It has been a very busy half term in Foundation stage. The children have all settled really well into their first half term and have been busy making new friends and exploring the classroom and outdoor area. Our topics this half term have been focused on the children. They have painted pictures of themselves, thought about who is in their family and looked at photos of themselves as babies and thought about how they have changed.

This week we have been thinking about the season of Autumn and have been on an Autumn walk and enjoyed completing artwork linked to Autumn.



The children have started to learn letter sounds in their phonics sessions. They are trying hard to remember all the letter sounds we have learnt so far and are beginning to put these together to read words. It has been great to see lots of the children sharing their reading books regularly at home too.

Next half term we are looking forward to starting our weekly forest school sessions and learning about the festivals of Diwali, Christmas, and Bonfire Night.

## Year 1 and 2

The children in Key Stage One have been settling into their new classes and making new friends. There has been a full range of activities across the curriculum in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science. Class Dojo is used to display the Knowledge Organisers for foundation curriculum subjects. This is to inform parents about the subjects being studied.

### Year 1

In Year One children have enjoyed learning about food and how to choose and make a healthy lunch. They practised new skills of chopping, slicing, and spreading and then they enjoyed eating the food they made at a picnic in the courtyard.

The Year One children also went on a walk around the local area to spot different features of the area such as Caverstede Nursery and All Saints Church. They enjoyed lovely weather on the day and saw squirrels and lots of autumn leaves.



### Year 2

In Year Two the children have enjoyed a walk to the post box to post their postcards, which is one of the aims on their Bucket List. They have been finding out about the history of communication and this continued with learning about books, telegrams, telephones and smartphones.

Each class has a timeline showing the parts of history they have studied. In Art lessons the Year Two children are learning about lines, shape, space and colour while producing art based on the work of Paul Klee using oil pastels.

To support the learning that takes place in our academy, each child in Year One and Two needs to read to an adult at home five times a week. Please remember to write in their reading record so we can count it! We also expect that they play on Numbots three times a week for 5 minutes each time. Please talk to your child's teacher if you need support with this.

The Race to Read reward will be won by one of the classes very soon! Numbots certificates will be awarded in class each week to the most improved players.



### Year 3

Year 3 started the year off with a 'Dress like a Rock Star' day to introduce the children to TTRS. Most of the children are continuing to use this weekly as their Maths homework and the Year 3 teachers can already see it having an impact on Maths learning after only half a term – this is fantastic!



History was Year 3's first topic where they went back 5000 years and learnt all about the Stone Age, followed by the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. The children demonstrated how much they had learnt about the prehistoric settlements once we started our Geography topic and applied their knowledge to it. They are currently still applying their learning as they are creating stories imagining they are Stone Age dwellers and explaining what life was like for them - roasting deer, catching wild boars with spears, and whittling sticks to create tools. We are very much looking forward to the Stone Age coming to DPA in March next year for the Year 3s... details to follow!



Year 3 welcomed our local vicar into the academy so that he could lead the learning about and celebrate the Harvest Festival. The children loved baking the bread and their classrooms smelled wonderful! Did you enjoy eating the bread as a family? In RE, Year 3 have been learning why people wear special clothes and looked at traditional clothes used in various religions.

Year 3 are working extremely hard to practice active listening skills in class and getting better at following instructions, but this is something that could be further practiced at home as well as TTRS and reading at least five times a week too.

## Year 4

In Curriculum lessons, the children have worked on History, Geography, Science and RE.

In History, the children learnt about the Ancient Maya; they were fascinated to find out that, because of them growing cacao, we now have chocolate.

We went on the journey of a river in Geography and enjoyed learning lots of new vocabulary and finding out about the river Nene and other rivers around the world. The children were able to review last year's learning about the Egyptians when they found out more about the river Nile. They enjoyed finding out about the water cycle and how water is constantly being recycled, even if it might take thousands of years.

In Science they learnt about states of matter and investigated solids, liquids and gases. Jelly was made to investigate changes made when heating and cooling and the children measured temperatures inside and outside using thermometers.

In RE the children explored Judaism and how and why Jews celebrate Sukkot, which is the Jewish festival of Harvest. They finished their learning by building shelters in the classroom.



Many children are reading 5 times a week and completing their TTRS sessions which is exactly what we want but, even in Year 4, not everyone is managing this. So, well done if this is happening in your house but please can we make a real effort over half term and into the rest of the year to make sure that this is done every day so that all children are achieving what is expected of them.

## Year 5

Year 5 have settled well into their first year of Upper Key Stage 2 and have worked incredibly hard across a range of curriculum subjects. To begin the term, the children have focussed on formal writing, creating their own letters of application for the position of Academy Councillor. Linking to Black History Month, the children have then written biographies about Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space. Year 5 have persevered to include a range of new sentence structures and key vocabulary in their writing and have produced some outstanding work.

In history, all three classes thoroughly enjoyed learning about 17th century London and the impact of the plague and the Great Fire of London on society. The children particularly enjoyed learning about the strange 'cures' prescribed by the plague doctors (dried toads, anyone?) and people's fear of pointy-shoed men, who were believed by some to have caused the plague!

Having learnt about the structure of Tudor houses and how these helped the Great Fire of London to spread, the children then designed and built their own model houses in Design and Technology. New skills of sawing and gluing were challenges that were overcome, and the children constructed and decorated some outstanding models. These beautiful structures were then used in a recreation of Pudding Lane itself, which, to the excitement of the children, caught fire once again! The children were thrilled to watch the way in which the fire spread so easily between houses and helped to deepen their understanding of their history learning.



In science, Year 5 have completed a range of experiments in their learning about the properties and changes of materials. They have particularly enjoyed a long-term investigation into the evaporation process on brine - in which the children have observed salt-crystal formation - and a (very messy) investigation of irreversible changes involving vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, balloons and some very wet teachers! They have also investigated the most efficient ways to separate substances and mixtures.

All three Year 5 classes continue to strive for their 5x weekly reading and Raleigh class enjoyed a 30-minute games treat this week as a reward for being the first class to reach 100 reads. TTRS tournaments have also created fierce competition between classes – well done to all those children completing your 50 sessions weekly and deepening your maths fluency as you practise.

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a reflective start to the year, as they have written some excellent autobiographies, with a focus on creating cohesion and maintaining the correct tense throughout. They have also considered how eating out-of-season food can impact the environment, the arguments from which they have used to create their own discursive texts.

Meanwhile, in maths, the children have revisited and reviewed the four main operations and have continued to work hard with their Times Tables Rockstars.

In history, Year 6 have studied the inciting incidents for the outbreak of WWII, its impact on society and how it changed the role of women on the Home Front. Following the wartime theme, the children learnt how to make a prototype emergency 'grab bag' in their Design and Technology lessons. Sewing skills were new to most of the children, yet they used both blanket and back stitch to great effect on their projects.

Outside of the classroom, Carpathia have also enjoyed their delayed Year 5 summer trip to Ferry Meadows to practise orienteering, where the children had a fun time exploring and problem solving. Carpathia were also the first Year 6 winners of the Race to Read, with a prize of playtime snacks. Goliath, meanwhile, have been swimming on Friday afternoons and have made great progress. The rest of Year 6 are certainly looking forward to their turn at the pool in the coming weeks.

Have a lovely half term everyone!