



# DISCOVERY PRIMARY ACADEMY

**Aspire**

**Discover**

**Achieve**

16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## **Dear Parents/Carers**

This is the last newsletter this year. All the staff, Local Governing Committee members and children would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## **Year 6 Open Afternoon**

Thank you to all the parents who came to the Year 6 open afternoon to look at the children's books. They really did enjoy sharing them with you. I think we would all agree that they have worked really hard so far this year.

## **Christmas Lunch**

On Wednesday the children and staff all came together for a lovely Christmas Lunch. Thank you to the Catering Team led by our Catering Manager Miss Wilamowska for a wonderful treat. Also thank you to all the staff who gave up some of their lunchtime to help the children cut up their food and pull their crackers.

## **Christmas Party**

On Monday 19th December we will be holding Christmas parties in the afternoon. Further details about this event will be shared by class teachers. Children can come into the academy wearing their party clothes, but please can they wear suitable shoes to play outside in. If they do want to bring in party shoes, can they be put in a bag with their name on. The children can then change into these for the afternoon.

## **Discovery's Got Talent**

On Monday morning we will be holding our annual Discovery's Got Talent. The children are currently practicing hard for their performances. I wonder who this year's winners will be and who will be judging!! Let us wait and see.

## **Foundation Stage Nativity**

Thank you to all the parents who came to watch the Foundation Stage Christmas Nativity. The children were fantastic as were the audiences. Thank you all so much for supporting your child and the teaching staff. Well done children, you were great!

## **Year Group Updates**

As usual we will be ending this half term with all the different things the children have done in their class and year group. Please find the latest news from the different classes below.

## **Foundation Stage Update**

It has been another very busy half term in Foundation stage. This half term we have learnt about the Hindu festival of Diwali, Light and dark, Nocturnal animals and People who help us. We have also enjoyed exploring the forest during our forest school sessions. The children have enjoyed playing hide and seek, looking for mini beasts and climbing trees during these sessions and we look forward to continuing these in the Spring term.

It has been wonderful to see the children's reading skills developing during our phonics this half term. We have now learnt all the sounds for the letters of the alphabet and are now practising writing and reading simple words and sentences. We have given out lots of Class Dojo points and Friday treats to the children for reading 5 times a week too!

In recent weeks we have been rehearsing hard for our Nativity play. The children have really enjoyed learning the songs and actions. We are very proud of all of them and hope you have enjoyed watching them perform this week.

## **December News from Year 1 & 2**

We are very proud of the hard work that children in KS1 have achieved in the first term of the year. In Year One the children have taken part in a full range of activities across the curriculum in Reading, Writing, Maths, History, Geography and Science.

They learned about how places in Walton and Peterborough used to look and compared them with how these places look now. They are looking forward to learning about the history of toys next term. The children went to the forest area and used their senses to describe a forest setting in their writing lessons.

The children walked to All Saints Church so they could explore the different features of the church. Reverend Paul got out some important objects and let them have a good look around the parts of the church. He answered lots of their questions and the children loved seeing inside. They have remembered a lot of the features of the church since their visit.

In Year Two the children have been learning about how to choose a balanced plate of food. They practised a new skill, following a recipe to make a pizza. They enjoyed designing and making their own rainbow pizzas - full of tasty vegetables - and then they enjoyed eating them!

They have also walked to All Saints Church as they've been learning how Christians celebrate Christmas. Reverend Paul showed them the special things that you would find in a church at Christmas time and answered their questions.

The children have been working hard in computing lessons, learning how to stay safe on the internet and how to use word processor to make documents.

They are beginning a history unit on Grace Darling, learning how her brave rescue helped to develop the RNLI.

The children have been working hard in Maths on counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10, ready to use their skills in multiplying and dividing.

They have been trying hard with their handwriting and sentence work and they are becoming confident at using expanded noun phrases to describe characters and settings in their writing.

To support the learning that takes place in the academy, each child in Year One and Two is expected 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 and 4**

**It has been a long and busy term, but Christmas is almost upon us. The children are looking forward to all the Christmas activities that we have planned.**

**Year 3 had a wonderful time Country Dancing during the Dance Spectacular at Arthur Mellows. The children danced beautifully and were extremely well behaved.**



**In Art, the children are learning how to draw facial features. They are all enjoying this and using their observational skills well.**

**In RE, the children were read 'Memory bottles' and reflected on their own memories; happy and sad. They then used their thoughts to reflect upon and understand why we commemorate Armistice Day.**

**In Design Technology the children showed their culinary skills by chopping and peeling vegetables and potatoes to make a delicious vegetable soup.**

**They also evaluated flavours by tasting a range of other soups and deciding whether they enjoyed them or not.**



**Year 4 have been busy too; they have been to Arthur Mellows for an athletics event. All the children behaved impeccably and the whole event was won by Invaders class.**

**Following on from our Science work on Sound, visitors from the Cambridge Science Centre came in to share lots of practical Science experiments and help us develop our understanding of sound even further.**



**Normandy Class had a fabulously musical morning performing with several other schools. We listened to others playing the ocarina, violins, and drums. Normandy played the ukulele brilliantly whilst they sang, and it was a special moment for everyone involved in the performance.**



## Year 5 and Year 6

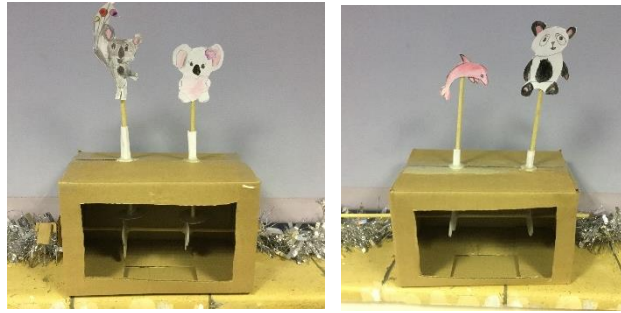
Year 5 and 6 have continued to develop their skills across the curriculum this half term, whilst also focussing on their wellbeing and wider moral issues.

### Year 5

Year 5 have worked incredibly hard this half term. In writing, the children completed research and thought-provoking debates to create a balanced argument around the question *Should zoos be banned?* The children really enjoyed questioning their original ideas and produced some excellent work. They have also completed a third-person story based on the Russian folk tale of Babushka. This festive writing included some truly outstanding descriptive writing and cultural references, and the children were so proud of their final pieces of writing.

In Geography, Year 5 have also shown great understanding of trade, its origins and development over time. The children learnt about the global supply chain and the ways in which we can all ensure that trade is fair for everyone across the world.

In DT, the children learnt about converting rotary to linear movement using cams. They designed, made and evaluated a model of an endangered animal, in order to raise awareness of these species. The children's problem-solving skills were really put to the test, and they persevered to produce effective, working models.



All three Year 5 classes continue to work hard on their 5x weekly reading and the competition between classes on TTRS is still raging on! Raleigh class also had the highest class-average score in Discovery for the England Rocks competition on TTRS, with a staggering 34,686 questions correctly answered across the week. Outstanding work!

## Year 6

During this half term, Year 6 have also continued to work hard on completing their TTRS and reading homework to support their learning across the curriculum. As a result, all three classes won the Race to Read simultaneously and were treated to a film for their continued efforts with their home learning.

To support their learning in RE, the children were lucky enough to be visited in the academy by a Buddhist Nun. She spoke about her life as a Buddhist and what this means to her, helping the children to deepen their understanding of the Buddhist faith.

In Geography, the children have compared the UK to another European country of their choosing, considering how human and physical geography affects economies and communities. To present their work, the children learnt how to use Google Docs and Google Slides during their Computing lessons.

Year 6 have also been learning about building their self-esteem and a positive, growth mindset through their work with the book *You Are Awesome*. The children are really enjoying reading this text and are looking forward to taking their copies home to keep at the end of the term.



Another fantastic half term, Year 5 and 6. Very well done! Enjoy your festive break and we look forward to even more exciting learning in the New Year.