



Discovery Primary Academy



Friday 8th September 2023

Welcome Back

How lovely to see everybody after the summer break. It certainly seems as though summer is continuing this week with the glorious weather. This week has also seen our reception children starting to experience what it is like to come to school. On Monday they will be in the academy full time. How exciting for all. Welcome to Discovery.

Attendance

It is lovely to see everyone back, however it was disappointing that the attendance on our first day back was only 73% (it should be over 97%). Moving forwards please can you ensure that your child comes to school **everyday** unless they are too poorly to be in. If they have a cold, a temperature or are feeling under the weather then please give them some paracetamol in the morning and leave some at the academy office for us to administer during the day. If there is an occasion when your child is too poorly to come in, then please ensure that you have rung the academy office to let us know.

Please also ensure that your child is in **on time each morning by 8:45am**, so that they do not miss any of their learning as lessons start promptly at 8:45am each morning. We really appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is in everyday and on time.

Drop-off and Pick-up

At the end of the summer term we trialled waiting at the front of the academy in small groups. The idea being that people could walk around with other parents to collect their child / children. This seemed to work well before the summer break so we are happy to continue with this. Could I ask that we are just careful, as we walk down the path alongside the Preschool and also along the path leading out of the academy as these areas are quite narrow. This change does mean people do not need to queue. Thank you.

Clubs

We are currently exploring lots of ways we can increase the number of clubs we have on offer. We are starting with sports clubs which includes Mrs Hovell's netball lunchtime club. Then we have Mrs Barnes who is running lots of lunchtime music clubs. As we start to offer more, we will let you know through our newsletters

- Monday - Yr. 3 & 4 Netball and Football clubs – Lunchtime
Yr. 3 & 4 Drama and Performance club - Lunchtime
Yr. 1 & 2 Multi-sports - Afterschool with Mr Burnham until 4:15pm
- Tuesday - Yr. 5 & 6 Girls Football club - Lunchtime
Yr. 5 & 6 Drama and Performance club - Lunchtime
Yr. 3,4,5 & 6 Running club with Mrs Torrens until 4:00pm
Yr. 3 & 4 Multi-sports with Mr Burnham until 4:15pm
- Wednesday - Yr. 5 & 6 Boys Football club – Lunchtime
Yr. 4, 5 & 6 Ukulele Club - Lunchtime
Yr. 5 & 6 Multi-sports with Mr Burnham until 4:15pm

Trips

As mentioned at the end of the summer term, we are looking at the trips and educational visits that the children will be involved in this year and then throughout their time at Discovery. Further details will follow in the next few weeks.

An Exciting Year

Some of you may have heard your child / children talk about Mrs Barnes and the exciting music lessons she provides each week. I am delighted to say that Mrs Barnes is now with us for three days a week and has already started to organise many exciting opportunities for the children. Below is a message from Mrs Barnes.

Music and Performing Arts at Discovery

I am delighted to become the Music and Performing Arts teacher at Discovery. I have a background in Musical Theatre, having been a professional Actress, Singer and Dancer for many years in the West End before becoming a Creative Arts specialist. Alongside my teaching time at Discovery, I work for the Peterborough Music Hub teaching music in schools across the city and I am also Head of Drama at Performing Arts School in Peterborough.

My main aim for the Creative Arts curriculum this year is to give all the children an opportunity to develop both musical and performance skills and most importantly to build their confidence whilst doing so. I have high standards and expectations of the children and the quality of the curriculum that they experience and learn from. I hope the children will find their lessons motivating, educational, inspiring, and fun. I would like to share the children's musical achievements with parents and carers through Dojo. Sending out photos and videos from within the classroom for you and (your children) to watch and discuss at home, to help our children feel proud of what they are achieving, and for you to see how brilliant they are.

This year will see all children throughout the whole academy taking part in lots of exciting events across the city. Pupils will have lots of varied opportunities ranging from Hip Hop lyrical rap workshops to Orchestral concert visits.

Dates for this term...

Tuesday 17th October - Sing Up - Year 4

For an afternoon a selected group of Year 4 students will represent Discovery at the Peterborough Cathedral, working with a composer to create a new piece of music.

Thursday 9th November -Beatles singing day- Year 5

A chance to spend the day working in a theatre and sing on the stage later that evening. A group of 30 Year 5 children will take part in the Beatles singing day at the Cresset this year. The children are going to spend the day at the venue with several other schools from across the city, finishing with a concert for parents and carers to attend later that evening.

Thursday 24th November - Ukulele concert - Year 4

Year 4 classes in turn will perform termly at an interschools concert to showcase their amazing Ukulele playing over the course of the year. Second and third concerts take place in March and July.

Watch out for later in the year...

Year 6 will be working with Xidus Pain an award-winning music practitioner and Rap lyricist in the summer term.

Year 5 has been selected by English National Opera to create an original piece of music in a nationwide project - a tremendous achievement by the children.

Lower KS2 Conductive music workshop- A two-day STEM electric making music workshop.

KS1 Theatre and Concert school trips.

Details of all these events and more (to be added) with your child's involvement will be sent to you nearer the time.

Dates for Your Calendar

Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th October 2023 - Parent evening

Wednesday 11th October 2023- Children's Photo Day

Monday 23rd October 2023 – Half Term

Sports Events at Arthur Mellows Village College (AMVC)

We are all looking forward to the following sports events this year.

Autumn Term

Y6 - Basketball.

Y4 - Athletics.

Y3 - Gym and Dance.

Spring Term

Y5 - Table Tennis.

Summer Term

Inclusive sports event

Y1 and Y2 multi sports festival at Discovery run by AMVC.

Y2 - Cricket

All these events take place during the academy day and are free!