



DISCOVERY NEWS

"No one belongs here more than you!"



THE HEADLINE

Issue 5 – May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I sit down to write this newsletter and reflect on the year so far, I find it difficult to believe that we are almost entering the final half term of the school year. Where has the year gone? I'd like to thank the children for all their great contributions to the work we do here, they continue to both inspire and fascinate me endlessly. The staff, as always, go the extra mile to make Discovery the special place we know it is.

The highlights for me this half term include the King's Coronation celebrations, the festivities of Eid, the great outfits donned by our pupils on TT Rockstar's Day and witnessing on social media many of our children reading for pleasure at home. Something we are passionate about at Discovery. What has filled me with the most pride however, is having the opportunity to sit down at parents evening and in annual reviews and hear all about how happy your children are in school, how well they are doing socially and emotionally and how attending Discovery Academy has changed their lives and had such a positive impact both at home and at school. The pupils should be very proud of the determination, resilience and courage they have shown throughout their first year at Discovery. They never cease to amaze.

As many of you will be aware, it's with a heavy heart that I will be moving on at the end of this half term to take up an exciting new role in another Trust. I have loved being at Discovery. It has been a privilege to be part of something truly special and I look forward to seeing the school going from strength to strength.

I would like to finish by thanking you all for your superb support, your patience and most importantly for the confidence you have shown in the school throughout the year. Take care, have a restful half term and enjoy the summer months ahead.

Danny Ross – Head of School

Key dates for the diary – Summer Term 2

Academy closes for half term: **Fri 26th May**
Academy open for Summer Term 2: **Mon 5th June**
Pride Celebration Disco: **Fri 16th June**
Sports Day: **Thurs 22nd June**
Discovery open Evening: **Weds 28th June**
Family Cooking Evening: **Thurs 29th June (4-6pm)**
Family Picnic in Norfolk Park: **Thurs 20th July**
Academy closes for Summer: **Friday 21st July**



Thank you!



0114 479 8000



discoveryacademy@nexusmat.org



@DiscoverySheff

L1's topic this term has been 'Sunshine and Sunflowers'. We have been exploring our local community and searching for and naming different plants. We have enjoyed planning and preparing our very own picnic for our adults to share with us. This term we also got to visit Heeley City Farm and have a go at recalling our learning and planting our own seeds. We really loved visiting all the different farm animals, our favourite were the baby goats.

Heeley City FARM



Times Tables Rock Stars is an online learning platform where children can practise their times tables with their rockstar avatar. They earn coins every time you practise to buy new outfits or guitars. On **Thursday 11th May**, the whole school took part in Times Tables Rockstar's day. A day to relaunch the use of TT rockstars at home and in school.

We had 4 different activities throughout the day all based on times tables. We had a Rock Battle on TT Rockstars; finding who was the quickest at their times tables. Pupils created their own times table rap or created a fortune teller, card games and active outdoor games, all to practise our times tables. Some chose to dress up as a rock star for the day and rocked out to rock music during the activities. We all had a great time practising times tables in lots of different ways.



This term we have cooked food from around the world and made a variety of recipes from different countries; however good old fish and chips still tasted the best!

Upper school have been making recipes which incorporated the melting and boiling of ingredients, such as chocolate and cheese. All the children agreed sweet recipes are tastier.

To celebrate the King's coronation, we made some royal sponges and Layton, in true chef style did the piping and decorating.

Looking forward to next term, so the children can try out some new and exciting recipes.



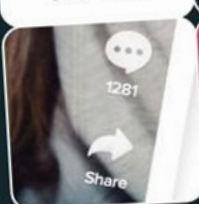


Tik Tok

TikTok is a global video community where users create, share and discover 'funny and memorable moments' via short video clips - typically about 15 seconds long. Videos can be 'spiced up' with special effect filters, stickers, music and sound clips. Currently one of the world's most popular apps, TikTok was formerly known as Musical.ly, before it was rebranded by the Chinese company that acquired it in November 2017. If your child had previously had a Musical.ly account, all of their videos and personal settings will have automatically been moved to TikTok.



AGE RESTRICTION
13+



What parents need to know about

TikTok

BEING INFLUENCED

More than one third of children aged 6-17 consider 'social media stars' to be among their top role models. There are millions of creators on TikTok, showcasing their 'talents, moments and knowledge', from singing to dancing to stunts and comedy skits, which receive thousands of likes and comments from around the world, quickly turning people into 'stars'. There is the danger that children may develop unrealistic expectations of how they should look and behave on the app in order to become the next 'star'. They may have feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem or become swayed by certain opinions.

INAPPROPRIATE SONG LYRICS

TikTok lets users lip-sync to their favourite songs and produce their own music videos. Some of the music choices contain swear words or sexual themes. So not only can children be exposed to potentially inappropriate content but they can broadcast themselves miming or singing these lyrics.

CONCERNING CONTENT

Some of the outfits and dance moves in videos can be overly sexual and provocative. There have also been reports of some users sharing concerning content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and violence.

DANGEROUS TRENDS & CHALLENGES

On TikTok, there are always 'trending challenges' and hashtags that users can copy or build upon, and sometimes, these challenges can pose risks to young people.

STRANGERS CAN FOLLOW YOUR CHILDREN

If your child's profile is open, strangers can use the app to comment on your child's videos. While this isn't always sinister, it gives potential predators the ability to contact your child through the platform.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Of course, as with many apps, there's a paid element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual coins to be exchanged for virtual gifts - for example, if they like a specific video, your child can use coins to purchase emojis to show approval. These can be expensive and easily purchased - there is the option to buy 10,000 coins for £97.99 with a one-click buy button.

ANYONE CAN SEE YOUR CHILD'S CREATIONS

TikTok encourages users to 'share their passion and creative expression through their videos' and while something may seem fun at the time, videos can get in the wrong hands and cause embarrassment in the future. If posted publicly, anyone in the world can see your child's homemade music video and potentially cause bullying within personal friendship groups or even online.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

TALK ABOUT THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING

Encourage your kids to always think before they do, say, like or post anything online, explaining that their 'digital footprint' can shape their online reputation and the way that other people see them. Something they may find funny and entertaining now may impact them in the future. Talk about how to deal with peer pressure and how doing something they think will impress others could affect them.

HANDLING CRITICISM

While it's fantastic to see your child being creative and expressive and bonding with people with similar interests, they need to be aware that not everyone will be supportive online. Comments can be negative or even cruel. Make sure they know how to comment respectfully and handle negative feedback. In the app's Privacy and Safety settings, your child can decide who can react to their videos, who can comment, and who can send them private chat messages. We suggest using these settings so only their friends can interact with their posts.

SIGNING UP WITH THE CORRECT AGE

When signing up to TikTok, you are prompted to input your birth date. If your child inputs their age as 'under 13', the app will not allow them to sign up and will be locked for 24 hours. The app is intended for users aged 13+, so explain that the rating is there for a reason: to keep them protected from online dangers. It is actually possible to watch TikTok videos without even creating an account, so it's important to check if your underage child has downloaded the app to their devices.

USE THE 'DIGITAL WELLBEING' SETTING

If you're concerned about the amount of time your child is spending on TikTok, in the app's settings, you can switch on a feature called Digital Wellbeing. This includes 'Screen Management' to limit the amount of time your child spends on the app.

SET THE ACCOUNT TO PRIVATE

This means that only people who you and your child approve of can see their creations. To make an account private, tap the three dots at the top right of the screen to access settings. Click 'Privacy and Safety'. Scroll down until you find 'Private Account' and turn this setting on.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you or your child see something on TikTok that appears to be inappropriate, they can report content in different ways within the app. They can report an account, video, comment or chat conversation by simply tapping 'Report'. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is also an 'Enhanced Restricted Mode', which limits the appearance of videos that may not be appropriate for all audiences.

AVOID IDENTIFIABLE OBJECTS

To ensure that there's no way of anyone tracking your child's location or identity, make it clear to them that they should never film a video in their school uniform or near a landmark that gives away where they live.

DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES

To lower the risk of your child making accidental in-app purchases, teach them exactly what in-app purchases are and the risks of making them without permission. Tell them that they are not essential to enjoy the app and that if they want to make a purchase, they should always ask you beforehand. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is the option to disable the function of purchasing coins and sending gifts.

SOURCES: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56888888>, <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/03/17/musical-ly-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-app-your-child>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVGZ1Z043qA>, static.musicdn.com/webstatic/pdf/creatorPlaybook.pdf, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

© National Online Safety Ltd
This is not a definitive guide. Please double check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

stay safe online

ATTEND TODAY

ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Aim for 100% attendance for a better future

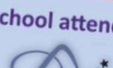
There are 190 days in a school year which leaves 175 days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



Give your child a better future - aim for 100% school attendance



Discovery ACADEMY



...YOU CAN FIND
magic
WHEREVER YOU
look.
SIT BACK AND
relax,
ALL YOU NEED IS
A book!
~ DR. SEUSS



L3 had the exciting opportunity to brush up on their snooker skills and play alongside professionals on our trip to Sheffield City Centre. Students were fantastic, they represented our school and really made us proud. We even came away with medals!



MIGHTY METALS

U2's topic this half term has been around **Mighty Metals**. To start the topic off with a BANG we went on a visit to Magna. During our visit we discovered how the Steelworks in Sheffield once ran. All pupils enjoyed the fire tornado. Pupils got to look at the steel heritage in an engaging, hands-on environment which lead us into our Design and Technology lesson in school, where as a class team we made two Ferris Wheels. They began by making a prototype out of lolly pop sticks and then for their final design the class rolled up pieces of paper and connected the pieces together using nuts and bolts. All pupils worked together as a team and enjoyed building this project.



LOWER 2

L2 have had an amazing half term learning all about our Splendid Skies. They have explored weather and how to measure different types of weather. They created interactive models of the water cycle and watched for changes. The class went to Magna to learn all about wind, fire, air, earth and water. We had an amazing day and even used public transport to get there!





These are some of our top tweets from the last term.

If you have not already done so, please follow us to keep up to date with everything that is happening at Discovery.

@DiscoverySheff



UPPER 3

U3 have had another busy half term, they have enjoyed the challenge of learning about the misty mountains and winding rivers in their topic lessons. The most pleasing thing to see is the growth in confidence and believe not just in themselves but in each other as well. As we enter the final summer half-term, I can't wait see what else they can achieve.



**HAPPY
HALF TERM
EVERYONE**

