

20th September 2024

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to send home a copy of our recent Ofsted inspection report. I am delighted to tell you that **Discovery Academy continues to be a good school**. Some key points to highlight are:

'Pupils know that staff are there to help them if they have any worries or concerns. This helps pupils to feel happy and ready to learn.'

'The school has high expectations for pupils' achievement. This includes for those pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).'

'Pupils try their best to live up to the high ambitions that the school has for them. They work hard during lessons and achieve well across the curriculum.'

'The school prioritises attendance. It does all that it can to support pupils and their families to attend school regularly and on time. As a result, most pupils attend well.'

'Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school.'

'Pupils who struggle to manage their own behaviour receive appropriate and effective support from the school.'

'Skilled staff provide timely support for those pupils who find reading more difficult.'

As with all inspections, areas to improve are identified. Our key areas for improvement are in the report. These key areas were discussed in much further detail between the senior leadership team, Governors, CEO and the HMI inspector during the verbal feedback.

AFI 1. The school does not provide sufficient opportunities for a small number of pupils, who find it more difficult to read, to practise their phonics knowledge. On occasion, some of these pupils do not develop fluency in reading as quickly as they could. The school should provide regular opportunities for these pupils to practise their phonics knowledge so that they can become fluent and confident readers

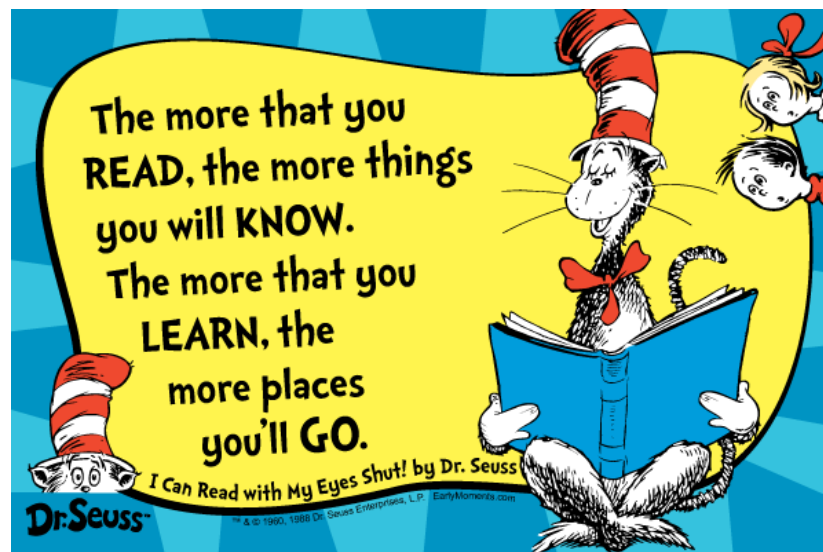
This was set in relation to discussions regarding a small number of pupils not reading at home 3 times a week as is our expectation and completing home learning each week. The inspector asked us to consider identifying times in the school day where this can be completed so that these children who do not read at home do not fall behind.

Children in Reception and KS1 complete phonics 5 times a week and read to their reading teacher 3 times a week. In addition, children are heard read 1:1 and change their reading book weekly (when returned to school). School also offer a wide range of books online.

Children in KS2 are encouraged to visit homework club on a Wednesday lunch and this would be a good place for pupils to practise reading.

The school also has reading sheds on the playground and will be looking for volunteers to listen to children to read for pleasure during lunchtime.

It is vitally important that **all parents** help us with this particular target. A small number of pupils do not receive the support at home to read 3 times a week. Providing the practise at home means your child will not require additional intervention to catch up and practise which would need to take place during the school day. Where children continue to not read at home, we will invite parents into school to discuss any barriers you may have and look at how we can support. We appreciate that life is busy but reading regularly really improves life chances of children.



AFI 2. Now and then, in a few subjects, some teachers do not choose activities that support pupils to build their knowledge securely over time. As a result, a small number of pupils do not learn as deeply as they could. The school should ensure that staff are fully equipped to design learning that deepens pupils' knowledge in these subjects.

This was something which as a school we had identified in Maths which is what the inspector saw in one lesson.

The inspector suggested that the school look at ways in which the school can ensure that those small number of pupils who miss learning, catch up so that they are not missing knowledge they need to be able to learn new knowledge and skills on their return. Missed learning, particularly in Maths, has a huge impact on the learning journey. Maths is taught daily and builds up over a two or three week unit. Discovery Academy had already signed up to access teacher training in Mastering Number and a Teacher Research Group (TRG) with the Turing Maths Hub to look at how the curriculum can be adapted 'in the moment'.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their comments and critiques in the Parent View survey. Where required, the school were able to showcase and evidence the extensive work and record keeping it does to support children not just academically but also with behaviour, wellbeing, social interactions, being active citizens, bullying, racism, online safety and other personal development areas such as attendance, punctuality, early help support and managing illnesses. The school were also able to show the varied and extensive way in which we communicate with parents through weekly newsletters, termly newspapers, parent drop ins to look at work, consultations, workshops offered, SEND review meetings and end of day conversations.

Further to this, we have now started the 'Principal Clinic' on a Wednesday morning where you are able to make an appointment with the Academy office to speak with me directly. Please use this as an opportunity to share concerns, ideas and celebrations with us.

I hope you enjoy reading the Ofsted report as much as we have and take great pride in knowing that your children attend a good school and are making good progress in line with their national peers. We are meeting our mission, vision and values daily and it is a pleasure to serve the community of Hattersley, Godley and Hyde.

Kindest regards,



Mrs B Oldham
Principal