



Birley Spa Primary Academy  
A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Newsletter

## 24th January 2020

“BEING THE BEST ME I CAN BE”

### A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another week full of brilliant learning opportunities in school.

Our Year 2 children enjoyed an exciting visit to Shirebrook Valley, as part of their learning—exploring ‘Who lives in the forest?’,

Jorja from Norfolk, said "Shirebrook Valley was a brilliant trip and it was great to spend time outdoors, not just in the classroom. My favourite part was the squirrel activity."

Jamelia from Endcliffe, said "I loved the trip to Shirebrook Valley. My favourite part was seeing the different areas, especially the pond!"

Following our recent OFSTED inspection, we have put together our key priorities for school improvement work. These priorities will be consistently updated, as we progress throughout the academic year. Our whole staff team are committed to ensuring our children receive the best possible provision, so that ultimately, pupils thrive throughout their time at Birley Spa Primary Academy. Our current key priority foci are;

- Reading - to ensure our pupils develop a ‘love of reading’ across a wide range of books. Ensuring that the systematic teaching of phonics is well embedded in EYFS and beyond so that pupils gain greater phonetical skills and achieve greater scores that are in line with National Averages. In order to achieve this we do need our children to read regularly at home, to enable them to practise and embed their learning.
- Learning environments that support the children’s learning and reflect positive sequences of curriculum that gives opportunities and excellent choices of resource. Having aspirational expectations for positive learning behaviours which are demonstrated by all children.
- To develop our curriculum over the whole school so that children are given numerous opportunities to acquire knowledge progressively. Our priority is providing high quality teaching and learning that allows the children to gain essential knowledge to explore deeper levels of learning and build their knowledge cumulatively year upon year. Our Senior Leaders will be supporting all staff and subject leaders to develop necessary depth of knowledge.

#### School Times KS1 & KS2:

The classroom doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am for registration, please ensure you arrive on time to provide your child with their maximum learning potential.

The end of the school day is 3:15pm. Please ensure your child is collected on time, should you be running late please let the school office.

#### Afterschool Activity Clubs:

All afterschool activities finish at 4:15pm, please collect your child promptly from the main school reception.

#### Football:

Please supervise your children at the beginning of the day, football is not to be played on the yard.

#### Home / School Planners:

Please ensure your child has their home / school diary with them every day.

#### Brass Assembly Celebrations

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers that attended the Brass Assembly on Wednesday 22nd January, it was lovely to see so many of you come to watch our children perform.

- Develop Early Years provision to ensure the environment and teaching and learning quality is consistently strong throughout Nursery and Reception.
- Raising the attendance of our children so that our attendance rates reflect national standard and that persistent absenteeism is significantly reduced.

These key priority foci will be updated regularly so please keep a look out for updates and progress.

As always we need to work together with yourselves in order to achieve our aspirations for the school community. In particular your support with the following will further accelerate our school improvement.

Ensuring your child is in school every day, in order for your child to learn and make connections within their learning they need to be in school. We need you to instil this positive work ethic in the children as it is a behaviour that is expected in school.

Listening to your child read and supporting them with their homework. Reading is the key to all other areas of knowledge and understanding. The love of reading is also so important so please take your child to the library, share audio books, share your own favourite books and encourage them to be interested in vocabulary and word origins.

Give your child the tools to succeed. Develop their resilience and encourage them to learn from their mistakes. Encourage them to find solutions to problems themselves and encourage peaceful problem solving strategies.

Over the next few weeks we will provide you with further information about how we are making the improvements to achieve the vision for Birley Spa to be an outstanding oasis of learning in our community.

Thank you to the parents who are supporting our breakfast club arrangements. If you drop your child off at school and leave them unaccompanied to come onto the premises, or they walk to school with their friends then please do not do this before 8:35am. Until this time the children are not supervised by a member of school staff and therefore we cannot take responsibility for anything that could go wrong.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Pink and Mrs Pemberton

## FS1

Ducklings class have loved following our interest this week and learning about how different people can help us. We will be continuing to learn about weather and all the colours of the rainbow. We can't wait to create our own muddy puddles next week on Welly Day.

Mrs Thomas and Mrs Clayton

## FS2

After last weeks exciting adventures when Goldilocks ate the porridge that we made for her, this week our story is Little Red Riding Hood. We will be drawing maps to help Little Red Riding Hood to find her Grandma's house, painting pictures of the characters and packing some healthy food to take to Grandma. We will be wondering whether wolves are always big and bad and finding out where in the world wolves live. Our number of the week is 12 so please ask your child to tell you what they know about 12.

Well done to Heeley and Whirlow who both celebrated reaching their pom pom target with a cinema afternoon with a film and popcorn in the classroom.

Mrs Peck and Miss Warner

## Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been talking about our experience in the Wonder Dome last week and have written a recount using time openers and descriptive writing. We have made a start on our paper mache planets which we will design and paint to make our own Solar System. Also we have been designing rockets in Design Technology using our knowledge about materials to decide what will make a strong structure. In Science, we have been exploring the properties of materials sorting and grouping them by their attributes and finding out which are magnetic. In Maths we have been using out knowledge of multiples of 10 to work out number and word problems.

Mrs Allan and Miss Whitworth

## Year 2

Over the last week the children have been innovating the story of Little Red Riding Hood by changing the characters and the setting. We are going to produce a final published piece for our display.

Please ensure your child brings their reading book and home school diary to school every day.

Mrs Unwin and Miss Wilson

## Year 3

Year 3 are currently in the middle of their topic called 'Robot Rampage'. We have studied different metals and even found Iron in our cereal! We have found the Iron man by Ted Hughes fascinating and are learning how the author builds up mystery and suspense. In art we have learnt about shape, line and shade. Look out for our fabulous Iron man portraits on display in the dining hall.

Miss Gostelow and Mrs Roberts

## Year 4

Y4 would like to give a big thank you to all the parents and carers who attended this week's Brass Assembly. As you could tell, both classes have really enjoyed their cornet lessons this year and we are hoping that some of them will take it up in Year 5 and 6. Sadly, we are coming to the end of our Swimming sessions, and your child will soon receive a certificate detailing their progress since September. Finally, many thanks to all parents and carers for supporting children with their reading, spellings and times tables. We know that it's a lot to add to your week, but we really appreciate all you do.

Miss Landowski, Miss Harper, and Mr Blake.

## Year 5

In Y5 we have continued looking at our Beast Creators topic. We have planned our own mini beast hotels and are really looking forward to making them. We have sketched mini beasts and created abstract collages from these initial drawings.

We can't wait for our STEM visit to Nottingham next week, it's going to be so much fun meeting children from other schools and having a full day of hands on science.

Finally well done to Millennium for being last week's top attenders across the whole school. Keep up the good work Y5!

Mrs Williamson and Mr Jackson

## Year 6

Over the past week, Y6 have been very creative and have designed day of the dead masks. The children have taken their utmost care and concentration to produce some wonderful designs which we will be transferring onto masks this week.

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions by using our times table knowledge and in English we have been looking at writing balanced arguments.

Key date reminder - Thursday 30th January, there will be a SATs meeting taking place in Mr Walsh's classroom at 3:30.

Mr Walsh and Miss Mooney

## Dates for your diary

Mon 27th Jan—Y5 STEM Day in Nottingham

Thu 30th Jan—Y6 SATs Meeting

Mon 3rd Feb Tues 4th Feb—Y2 Mini Olympics

Fri 7th Feb - Book Fair Arrives (books on sale 10th to 13th February)

Mon 10th Feb—Safer Internet Week

Wed 12th Feb—Whole School Art Exhibition

*Thu 13th Feb—Last Day of Term*

***Fri 14th Feb—Inset Day—School Closed to Children***

Mon 24th Feb—First Day of Spring 2 Term

Thu 27th Feb—Y3 Crucible visit to Millennium Galleries

Fri 28th Feb—Y3 Lyceum visit to Millennium Galleries

Tues 3rd Mar—Y2 Butterfly House Visit

Mon 16th Mar—Y4 Cultural Arts & Music

Fri 27th Mar—Last Day of Term

Tue 14th Apr—First Day of Summer 1 Term

Wed 15th Apr—Whirlow visit to Heeley City Farm

Thur 16th Apr—Heeley visit to Heeley City Farm

Wed 22nd Apr—Y2 visit to Jump Inc.

## Last Week's Attendance Figures

**Target—96%**

**Actual— 92.2%**

R—Heeley	92.8%	R—Whirlow	96.4%
Y1—Don	93.1%	Y1—Sheaf	88.7%
Y2—Endcliffe	95.2%	Y2—Norfolk	91.7%
Y3—Crucible	91.4%	Y3—Lyceum	97.4%
Y4—Kelham	95.7%	Y4—Weston	84.1%
Y5—Millennium	95.4%	Y5—Graves	87.8%
Y6—Bolsover	94.4%	Y6—Peveril	93.9%
Shirebrook	90.0%		