



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

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Celebration of Learning

October 2020



Headteacher Update

Dear Parent and Carers,

I am delighted to share the 1st Celebration of Learning booklet with you for 2020.

As you will see from the information shared by each Phase within school there has been a real buzz around our learning since our return to school 4 weeks ago. The children have adapted excellently to the way that school is operating and they are such a credit to each of you.

Our Recovery Curriculum is underway and the children are showing real focus within their lessons.

Online learning activities will be shared by class teachers as part of our Recovery Curriculum so please sign up to Tapestry or Showbie if you haven't already done so.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Pink
Headteacher

Deputy-Head Update

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on a few exciting initiatives that are underway in school as a result of our recovery curriculum.

In school, we have recently launched a new initiative called 'Friday Maths. This is a special maths lesson that children will be involved in every Friday in class from Y2-Y6 (Y1 will start after Easter). Children will revisit key knowledge and skills in this session to accelerate their progress and increase their confidence in maths. In all maths lessons, children are expected to apply their knowledge to reasoning and problem solving. However, Friday Maths is an additional opportunity for children to refine their problem solving skills further and complete personalised learning with their class teacher or teaching assistant. As Deputy Headteacher and Maths leader, I will be talking to the children about the work they do in Friday Maths and reflect further on their perceptions of maths lessons.

As a result of changes to our classroom organization, due to our Covid-19 risk assessment, we have adapted our approach to the teaching of Reading. Children will have the opportunity to work systematically through a revised reading process built around fluency and comprehension. Following our initial assessments when children returned post-lockdown, we are now placing an additional emphasis on teaching children to articulate answers and to improve their written responses to a wide range of question types.

Finally, I am pleased to say that after school booster groups have now started across Y6 for Reading, Grammar and Math's. These sessions are really important and are designed to close the gaps in learning that have occurred as a result of the lockdown. It has been really good to see children working hard in these groups and I know that the extra effort put in by everyone will make a big difference. I anticipate that booster groups across the other year groups will be in place very shortly.

Thank you for your continued support,

Simon Smith
Deputy Headteacher



Foundation Stage Celebration of Learning

Phase Leader Update

We have been so proud of all the children in these first weeks at school. Children and families who are new to Birley Spa have quickly become a part of the school community. As you know, FS2 and Year 1 are working together. This has been so successful with lots of opportunities for collaborative learning and for the older children to act as role models.

There is great excitement in EYFS/Year 1 phase at the moment due to our new outdoor areas. The children in FS1 now have an amazing natural environment which promotes development of the EYFS prime areas:

Physical
Personal
Social
Emotional
Communication
Language

In FS2 and Year 1 we are currently living with a building site but cannot wait to see our new natural environment with all its opportunities for learning across the curriculum.

Thank you to all the parents for your support and patience as we establish our new routines for drop off and collection.

We would love to share with you some of the wonderful learning that has been happening in school across this phase.

Thank you,
Ms Peck

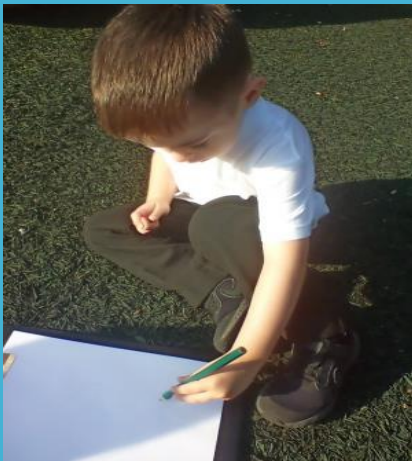


FS1 - Ducklings



We explored our new environment to see if we could find metal objects

We love to explore how water travels, using our new water slide.



Our mark making skills are helping us to improve our hand / eye co-ordination.



We have been practicing our climbing in a safe way. "Look, I did it, I put my foot here and there, I can do it." – Ivy



FS2 & Year 1 Class Whirlow, Heeley & Sheaf

In Whirlow, Heeley and Sheaf our theme is 'Being Me'. We have been learning all about what it means to be me in my family and in my school community. We have enjoyed sharing photos with one another of our special memories with our families. We have also been thinking about how we look and have used mirrors and paints to create self-portraits.

This week we have been focusing on the book 'Traction Man is here' where we have been using our inference skills to talk about what we think the book is going to be about, we have been designing Traction Man a new outfit, making Traction Man a new friend and we have been using boxes in the craft area to make Traction Man a new spaceship!

We have been working so hard with their number formation in maths, we have been practising to write our numbers to 10 and even challenging ourselves to write numbers to 20.

We have been so busy!



Imogen has been working hard on forming numbers to 20!

William and Amie have been using their design skills to make Traction Man a new outfit.



Amelia has been moulding and shaping the playdough to make Traction Man a new friend.



Max and Alina did some amazing writing about their family photographs using the sounds that they have learned.



We can blend the sounds that we know to read the word 'sad'.



Phase 1 Leader Update

We have now been back at school for a number of weeks and it is great to once again have the children in school everyday and making progress with their learning. As you are aware we have had to make a number of changes to the school day and classroom environments, however all of our children have shown great resilience and taken this in their stride.

I have been very impressed with the wide range of learning I have witnessed across the phase, and I am pleased to see how engaged the children are. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of our learning from Year 2 and Year 3 with you all.

Thank you,

Mrs Unwin



Year 2 – Class Encliffe and Class Norfolk

In Year 2 we have been continuing our learning focused on our current topic 'What is unique about where we live?'. We began this topic by learning about the continents and oceans of the world and the children learnt a song to support them in remembering them. Next we moved on to learning about the UK and have since narrowed this down to learning about Sheffield and our local area. The children have identified the changes in our city and local areas over the years and can describe what it is like today.

In English, we have begun creating our own version of 'The Robot and the Bluebird' by inventing our own character and setting. We have written descriptions of these and ensured we have used a range of adjectives and expanded noun phrases to describe them effectively.

In Maths we are working on our place value knowledge where we have looked at different ways to represent numbers and deepened our understanding by comparing and ordering numbers to 100. Next week we will begin our unit on addition and subtraction.

This week we will begin setting weekly homework on Showbie. Please contact the Year 2 team if you require support in setting up or logging in.

Well done to the Year 2 children for their continued effort, keep it up!

Mrs Unwin and Miss Wilson



Phase 2 Leader Update

I must start by saying how fantastic it is to have everyone back in school. To say last year was a little different is maybe an understatement, but it is definitely nice to get back to some sort of normality within school.

Even though it has only been a few weeks since we returned, I have seen and heard about some of the amazing learning that has already taken place. There are a number of displays across school showcasing children's work and each and every child should be so proud of what they have achieved in such a short space of time already.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the amazing work our children have completed so far this term...

Thank you,

Mr Walsh



Year 3 – Class Crucible and Class Lyceum



Abbey has worked hard on her home learning this week researching how Stone Age people live and the jewellery they wore. She used her understanding of how the houses were built to build her own models out of materials she found in the outdoors. Abbey used different stones to make jewellery they might have worn in the Stone Age. The presentation of Abbey's work is great! All the year 3 team were really impressed with how she put the posters together.

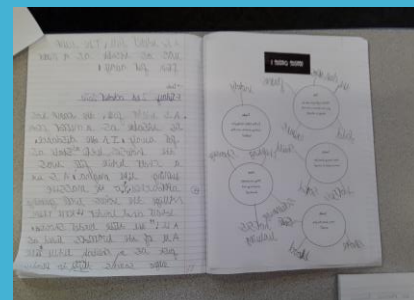
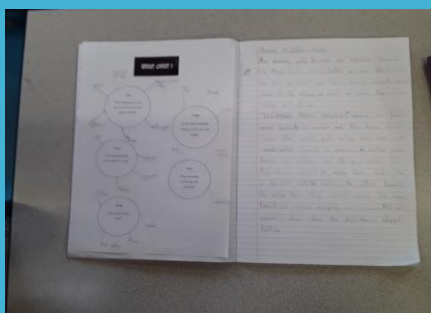
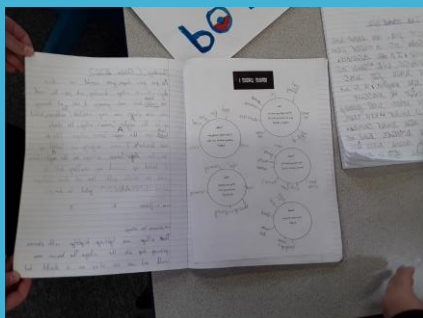
Year 4 – Class Weston and Class Kelham

This week in Year 4, we have engaged in some exciting learning which has helped to continue to challenge the children after an excellent start to this academic year. In English, the children have showcased some great drama skills during the 'immersion' process for narrative writing and in Maths the children have developed understanding of Roman Numerals.

The children also impressed all the staff with their effort and ability in our first swimming session of the block.

Thanks,

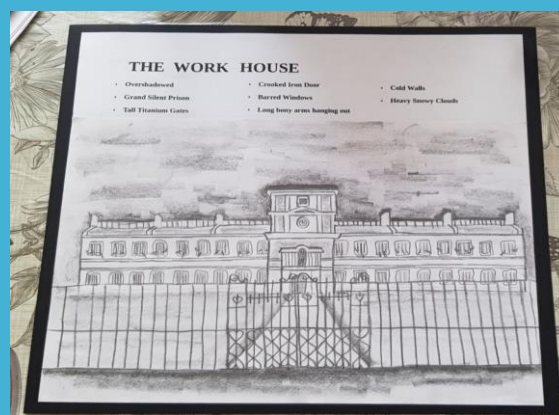
Mr Blake, Miss Harper & Mrs Williamson



Year 5 – Class Millennium and Class Graves

Our topic this half term is 'How did it feel to work down a coal mine?' This unit focusses on life down the mines and how society has changed since Victorian times. In our English lessons we have been reading the novel 'Street Child'. In this novel a young boy called Jim loses all his family and ends up living and working in a workhouse during the Victorian era. It is a very sad story.

Jorja has produced an amazing piece of art work on the workhouse. The detail in her pencil sketch is sensational. I am sure you will agree it is absolutely fantastic.



The second piece of artwork has been completed by Isabelle. We have been looking at the history of mines and the different parts. Isabelle uses a variety of materials to produce an abstract image of an mine shaft and the surrounding local community.



Well done to everyone in Y5 for a fantastic start.

Mr Jackson



Year 6 – Class Bolsover and Class Peveril

In Year 6 we have been learning about World War 2. The children have been thoroughly engaged within the topic and following on from their writing about the blitz, have now created some fantastic pieces of art work as seen below. The children used pastels to create a fiery background and then used black card to create silhouettes of buildings.

In English, the children have written a short narrative based around a film clip called The Piano. Within this narrative, they wrote a setting description of a battlefield and included relative clauses and expanded noun phrases. Some examples of this can also be found below.

I hope you are all as impressed as we are with the children's work.

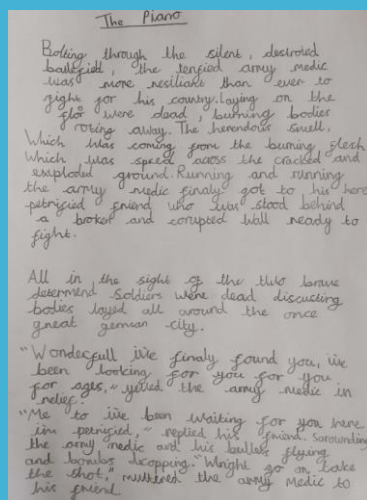
Mr Walsh and Mr Litherland.



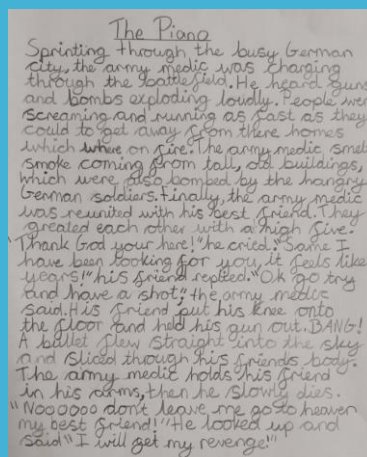
Tania E



Darcy M



Ollie P



Noah C



Liliana W-B

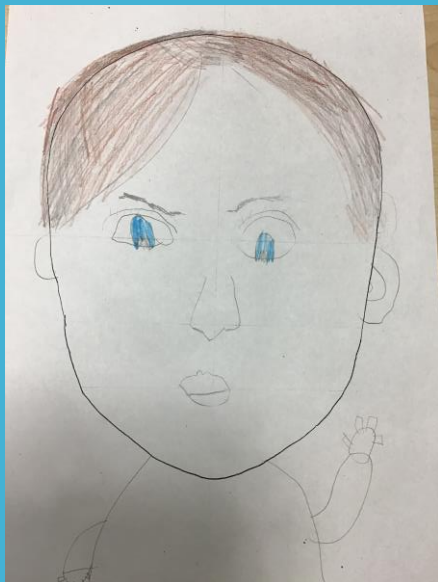


Aimee V-M



IR - Shirebrook

In Shirebrook we have completed some fantastic artwork to support our topic "Who am I?"



Andrew has drawn a self portrait.



Jamie has created a skeleton.



Alex has explored the features of a human face.

