



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Newsletter

December 2020



Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents & Carers,

Pupils and colleagues have enjoyed another great week of learning here at Birley Spa Primary Academy. In preparation for the end of term please find attached Christmas diary dates and important information about our festive activities.

Christmas

Christmas will look a little different this year due to COVID-19 tier 3 social restrictions. Therefore, our staff team have been busy working hard organising exciting plans for our Christmas celebrations. Whilst we will still be holding our annual Christmas jumper day and class Christmas parties, in place of our annual Christmas production each class will be creating their own Christmas video, showcasing their Christmas singing, acting and drama skills. Please do keep an eye out for these videos being uploaded onto your child's Showbie or Tapestry before Friday 18th December 2020. We are really looking forward to sharing our performances with you!

Pupils and our staff team are all very much looking forward to our Christmas lunch on Wednesday 9th December. If you haven't already ordered your child's traditional Christmas meal please let the school office know via the gateway app.

ShowCase Video

Capturing the exciting developments which are taking place at Birley Spa Primary Academy, our team have arranged for pupils, parents and governors to take part in a exciting promotional film working with Engaging Education. This will take place on Tuesday 1st December to showcase the different elements of the school including teaching and learning areas. There will be two more films in the near future so children not taking part this time will have another opportunity to do so.



Parent Governor

A new vacancy opportunity has arisen for a parent governor. This is due to Mr Jeavons becoming a community governor. If you would like to apply please contact the school office for further information. Our Governing Body (AGB) is made up of Governors from all walks of life and many come to us through a variety of routes and with a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the School. Our governors provide a vital link between the School and the community in which we serve.

Drop off and Collection

Please can I remind parents that it is mandatory to wear a face covering in public places, this includes whilst on the school grounds.

Please also refrain from using mobile phones and vapes on the premises.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Pemberton

Executive Headteacher

Attendance Update

Some positive feedback around attendance! Since half term our overall school attendance has really improved. I would like to say a big thank you to all parents and children who have worked with us to help achieve this. Now we have proved that we can reach such an excellent level of attendance the work begins in maintaining it! Research proves that children are more likely to have Mondays and Fridays off than any other day - so please everyone, let's work extra hard to ensure that the important learning which takes place on those days is not missed!

Once again thank you for your support in helping us to reach outstanding attendance - let's now work together to ensure we fly high on this success into the new year!

Attendance Team

Water Bottles

Just a reminder, all children need a water bottle in school each day and they are to contain water only please. They should not contain juice of any kind. Water is key to hydration of the body and the brain, which helps pupils when they are learning.



Punctuality

More so than ever, due to the unprecedented time that we find ourselves in, every minute of every lesson matters and arriving to school on time is of paramount importance, as we have staggered arrival times to help us to keep contact between children at an absolute minimum. Please ensure you are familiar with your child's start and finish time and which entrance and exit your child's class will be using. We understand that occasionally, due to circumstances beyond your control, your family may arrive late to school. If this happens please remember to sign in at the school office and record your child's dinner choice.

When pupils are late to school, it is disruptive for the whole class and can be upsetting and uncomfortable for the pupil arriving late. Being late into class impacts on learning time and the child will have to try to catch up when they have missed the first part of the lesson. Children who are repeatedly late for school will also miss vital opportunities that can impact on a child's social and emotional development.

If your child continues to be late for school, our attendance team, will contact you to see if there are ways we can help you and your child to improve their punctuality.

Please remember we are here to support you with any difficulties you or your child may have. If you need assistance with this or in any other matter relating to your child's attendance and/or punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact us.

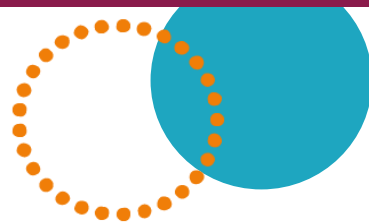
Free School Meals

If your financial circumstances have changed your child may be eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

You can easily find out if your child is eligible for Free School Meals by following these instructions: You can complete the application yourself by using the following link: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/form/schools-childcare/apply-for-free-school-meals>





KS2 Maths Quiz

If you find your-self with some free time over the weekend, why not challenge your-self to a Maths quiz? Will you be a Mental Maths Mastermind..? Don't forget to bring your answer sheet in to show your teacher how well you did. Just go to:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/maths-maths-challenge-quiz-home/zb6dd6f>

Recipe for the Weekend

If you're feeling more creative why not try making some Snowflake pretzels, the recipe is below. Please send your pictures to enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk so we can share them on twitter @BirleySpaAcad

Ingredients

200g [white chocolate chips](#) for cooking or white candy melts, plus 50g extra to make lollies (optional)
32 mini pretzels (about 45g)
white or silver sprinkles

You will need

8 paper lolly sticks (optional)



Method

STEP 1 Put a sheet of baking parchment or a non-stick tray liner on a [baking tray](#). Melt the chocolate or candy melts carefully in a [microwave](#) or in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water – don't let any water get into the bowl or allow the base of it to touch the water. Turn off the heat but leave the bowl on the pan. Add the pretzels and stir well.

STEP 2 Lift the pretzels out of the chocolate with a fork, shaking them a little so the excess chocolate drips off, then put them on the tray and in the freezer for 5 mins to set. Dip the pretzels in the chocolate again, then lay four at a time together on the tray and push them together, with the pointy ends in the centre, to make a snowflake shape. Add a blob more chocolate with the end of a teaspoon in the middle of each snowflake so they hold together when set. Before they set, decorate with the sprinkles. Leave somewhere cold to set completely – you can use the freezer if you want to speed up the process.

STEP 3 If you want to make the pretzel snowflakes into lollipops, melt the extra 50g chocolate as before and make eight well-spaced blobs, the size of a 1p coin, on some non-stick liner. Put a paper lolly stick on each blob so one end is in the chocolate, then press a pretzel snowflake gently on top and leave somewhere cold to set. *Will keep for one to two days in a cool place.*

Last Week's Attendance Figures

	Target—96%	Actual— 96.1%		
R—Heeley	96.5%	R—Whirlow	99.2%	
Y1—Sheaf	99.2%	Y2—Endcliffe	99.0%	
Y2—Norfolk	96.8%	Y3—Crucible	98.3%	
Y3—Lyceum	92.0%	Y4—Kelham	93.5%	
Y4—Weston	97.2%	Y5—Millennium	99.3%	
Y5— Graves	94.4%	Y6—Bolsover	97.6%	
Y6— Peveril	96.3%	Shirebrook	90.6%	

Special congratulations to 162 children who have achieved 100% attendance and punctuality this year.
257 children have also achieved our school attendance target of 96% and above this year - each day counts!

Birley Spa's Christmas Dates for Diary

Nov

30th

Raffle Ticket go on sale
(Bear of Sheffield & School Fund)

Dec

9th

Christmas Dinner

Dec

11th

Christmas Jumper Day -
Save the Children Charity

Dec

16th

Raffle Draw

Dec

18th

School Closes for Christmas

Bears of Sheffield & School Fund

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase from both gates every morning 8:45am - 9:15am and every afternoon 2:45pm - 3:15pm. We would be very grateful for any donations towards raffle prizes: any size prizes would be most welcome. Tickets will cost £1 each and the proceeds will be split between "Bears of Sheffield" and the school fund. Please make sure you have correct change. Please see below what prizes we have so far;

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Nintendo Switch & Mario kart Deluxe 8 Game | 2. Beats Wireless Headphones |
| 3. All Things Brownie Beautiful Voucher | 4. Photo Shoot |
| 5. Chocolate Bouquet | 6. Biscuit Selection |
| 7. FM Perfume | 8. Very Slippers |
| 9. Ted Baker Perfume Set | 10. Ted Baker Lotion Set |
| 11. Avon Perfume | 12. Body Shop Hamper |
| 13. WH Smith Vouchers £10 | 14. WH Smith Vouchers £5 |
| 15. Chocolate Christmas Tree | 16. Book of Hopes |
| 17. Decking lights | |
| And many more! | |

There will be a Christmas Post Box located outside the school office for children to post their Christmas cards in. Instead of handing out cards in class, the children will have the opportunity each day to post their cards.

They will need to be marked with the intended child's full name and class clearly marked on the front. Each Friday the post will be emptied and quarantined in the school office over the weekend. Year 6 children will then be chosen the following Tuesday to sort and distribute to each class during the lunchtime break.

