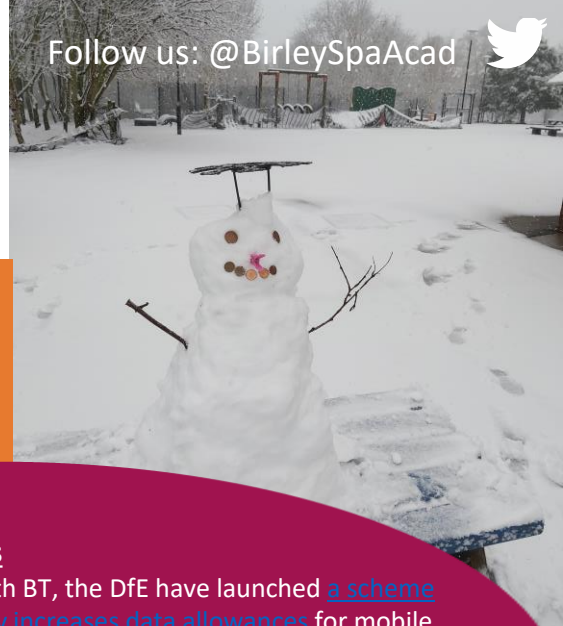




Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Newsletter

January 2021

Deputy Headteacher's Update

I would like to start my update by thanking everyone for your cooperation and understanding over the last two days. As you know, the safety and wellbeing of all children and staff is of paramount importance to us and we were left with little choice but to close the school on Thursday morning when conditions began to rapidly deteriorate. Owing to the adverse weather conditions overnight and the fact that many staff were forced to abandon their cars either on the school site or mid journey, we took the difficult decision to also remain closed to all children on the Friday. Thankfully, the weather is due to improve this weekend and, as things stand, we hope to welcome our key worker children back on Monday morning. Thank you once again for your support in this matter.

I am delighted to update you on our progress regarding our remote learning at school. It has been wonderful to see how children have responded so positively to our updated Showbie Pro Plus and Tapestry platforms. I also know that class teachers are really enjoying keeping in touch with their classes multiple times throughout each day and that the blended (live/recorded) teaching and learning is working very well. I'd like to place on record my thanks to all parents and carers regarding your support in encouraging your child to access their remote learning. This is key to enabling your child to engage fully with the extensive provision that we have put in place during these strange times.

If you require any further help or support regarding your child's remote learning please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher through Showbie Pro Plus or Tapestry. Alternatively, the school office may be able to help with any connectivity issues or problems. Thank you for your continued support,

Simon Smith (Deputy Headteacher)

Thank You

Birley spa would like to thank Jayne Mason, one of our newly appointed Midday Supervisors for taking the time to volunteer her time to help support with our Year 3 classes. We really appreciate the support that Jayne is providing to the school.

Internet Access

In partnership with BT, the DfE have launched [a scheme which temporarily increases data allowances](#) for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit:

- Three
- Smarty
- Virgin Mobile
- EE
- Tesco Mobile
- Sky Mobile

Other providers may join the scheme at a later stage.

For each request, we require the following information:

- the name of the account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

Should you like to take up this offer, please email your details to the school office, enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk

Free School Meals Vouchers

Following our recent letter to parents whose children receive free school meals, we wish to reassure you that the National Voucher Scheme will be re-introduced and school will be able to order vouchers during the week commencing 18th January 2021.

Vouchers will be ordered by the school on your behalf, therefore there is no need to contact school to order this facility. Further information can be found via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

Key Worker Provision

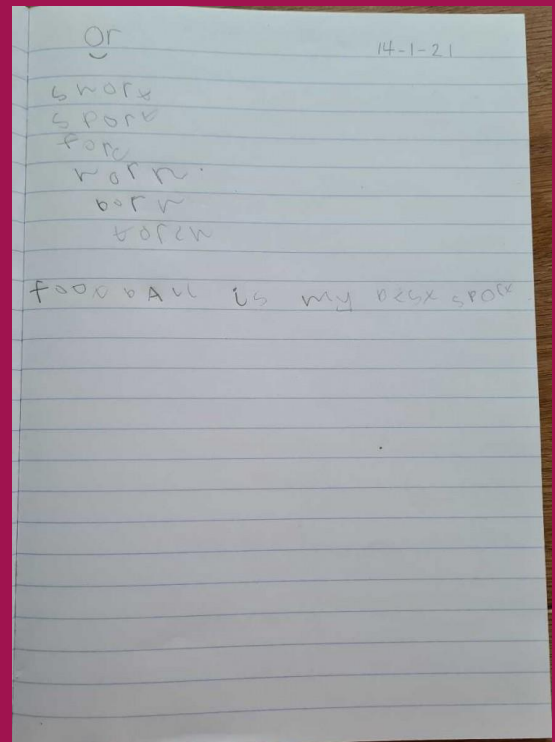
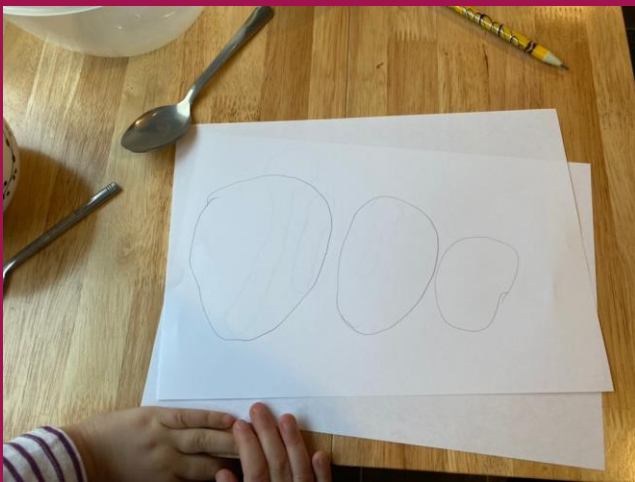
In order to tackle the new variant strain of COVID-19, it's vital that we limit attendance at school and it is hoped that if there is another adult in the household then children will stay safe at home. By limiting face to face contact, this is the greatest way to safeguard, protect the NHS and keep safe. We will be considering new key worker applications as on Monday 18th January, please note places are limited, if you wish for your child to receive a place please email enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk with a letter from your employer stating your working days & hours.

EYFS

In EYFS, we have been learning about Traditional Tales. Last week, we started with the Gingerbread Man - drawing and labelling pictures of the characters, making bridges so he could cross the river safely, our number of the week was number 8.

This week, we have read Goldilocks and the three bears - writing letters for Goldilocks so she can say sorry to baby bear and using things we find around the house to make him a new chair etc. Ordering 3 spoons from longest to shortest, our number of the week is 9. Drawing the 9 numberblock, finding different ways to separate 9 into 2 parts etc.

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth & Mrs Dhani



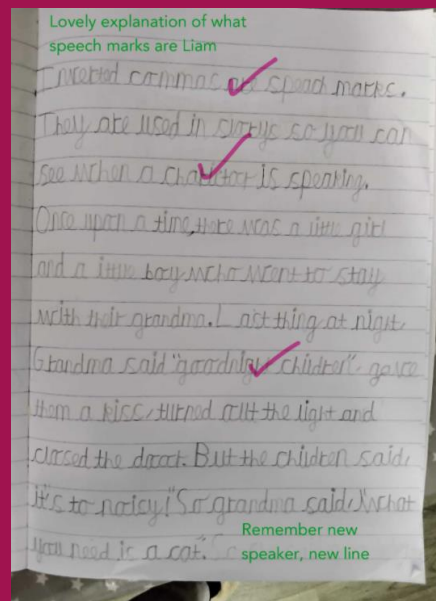
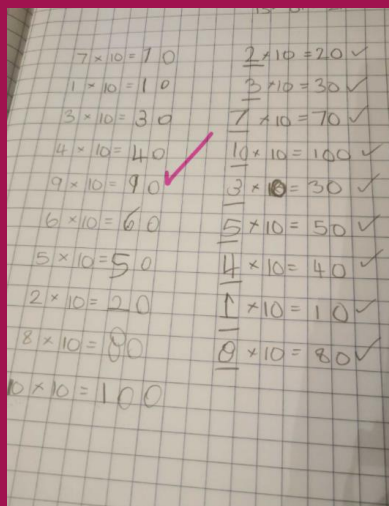
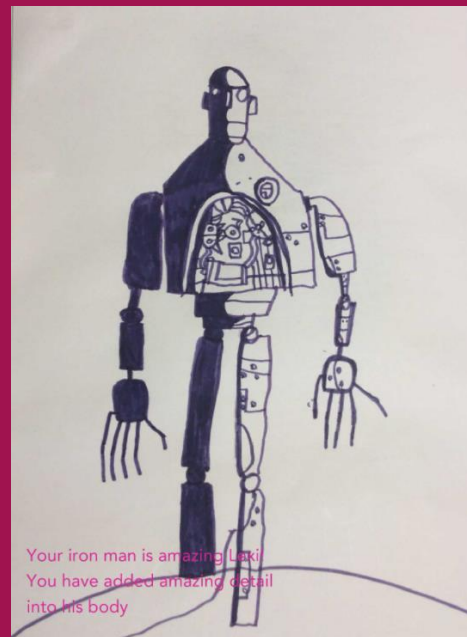
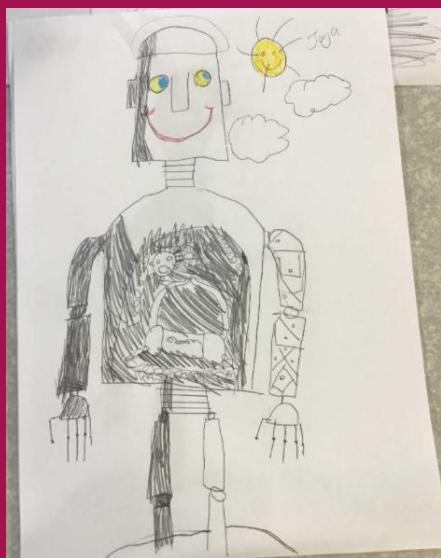
Mrs Unwin & Miss Willson



In English and reading, children are studying the Iron man by Ted Hughes. The children have immersed themselves in the first few chapters of the story by completing activities such as thinking about the similes Ted Hughes uses to describe the Iron man. Using this descriptive language technique from the text, children wrote their own similes whilst the children in school also made a life size chalk drawing of him. Children have videoed themselves reading aloud the part of the Iron man where he falls off the cliff and falls to pieces. They changed their voices and even added sound effects with pots and pans.

In art, children have been drawing portraits of the Iron man using different shading techniques. Children have also studied the art work of illustrator Chris Mould and drawn images of the Iron man using his expert advice. The children used lines and shapes to add detail to the Iron man.

Mrs Roberts & Miss Gostelow



Year 4 have started to enjoy exploring our new topic 'Under the Sea'. The children have produced some great work based around the book 'Floatsam' and have worked hard to understand the key events during the story.

In maths, the children have engaged well in live lessons based on fractions and started to develop good levels of understanding.

During topic sessions, the children have established a good understanding of oceans around the world and understood the different levels that make up the ocean. Alongside that, the children produced some great work during a live art session last Friday.

Mr Blake, Miss Harper & Mrs Williamson

10. To apply our knowledge of *Sumner's* to improve our understanding of the text.

Paragraph 1.
There are lots of different surfaces in the ocean/sea.

Paragraph 2.
At the top surface of the sea is plenty sun and heat.

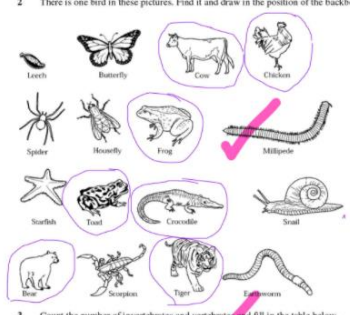
Extra challenge.
There are 5 different layers in the ocean.

Find the invertebrate WORKSHEET

Name Olivia Ledger Class Weston Y4

Look carefully at the pictures below.

- Circle all the animals that are invertebrates.
- There is one bird in these pictures. Find it and draw in the position of the backbone.



3 Count the number of invertebrates and vertebrates and fill in the table below.

Type of animal	Number found
Vertebrates	5
Invertebrates	10

As the colourful coral waved like a tree a colossal red squid came dashing by. When the sun rose and the beautiful coral would glow like a diamond. Then when it was night the coral would hide in the darkness like a wolf.

Why do we edit our work?
we edit work to check for mistakes in spelling, punctuation, sentence structure and grammar.

What can we use to help us when editing?
you can use a dictionary for spelling, purple pen to mark out mistakes, underline mistakes.

ENGLISH
13th JAN

Meanwhile the quacking creature shone in the sunlit blue sea. The blue green cap dived beautifully as the ocean swirled through it.

Quickly the grey smoke bubbles rose to the surface.

* The rose red house laid at the bottom of the ocean.

→ The small rose red house laid motionless at the calm sea floor.

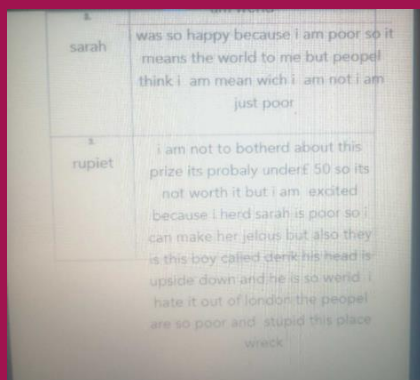
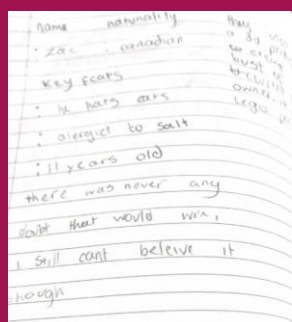


The Year 5 teachers have been so impressed with the energy that the children have brought to their online learning. It is great to see everyone at register each morning and to know that they're getting on with their school work so well. They are just as proficient at using the technology as us, if not more!

This week, we've been focusing on measures in maths particularly in relation to conversion. In Literacy, we're enjoying Frank Cottrell Boyce's Cosmic, and drawing parallels with Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. it's been great to see everyone ticking off their activities in the PE bingo card - keep sending in those videos! Our Art project this week has used the vibrant work of Peter Thorpe as a basis for creating our space background. Furthermore, in Topic we have completed application forms to be the first child in space!

All in all, it's been a really busy week, so a huge well done to everyone for adapting so well and showing us your wonderful learning.

Mrs Horsfall, Miss Landowski and Mr Jackson



Year 6 have been reading the story Holes by Louis Sachar which they have then used within their English work. The children have written some fantastic setting descriptions and went on to write a diary from the view of Stanley Yelnats, the story's main character. The children planned out his journey so far from the court room to Camp Green Lake. They shared how he was feeling during certain points and described what others thought of him as well.

In Maths, we have been looking at how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. The children learnt how to either multiply or divide the numbers within the calculation in order to convert each fraction, so it has the same denominator which in turn made it easy to either add or subtract.

Finally, we had the snow! We encouraged the children to go out and have some fun in the snow and build some snowmen. Mr Walsh couldn't help making one in school too.

Mr Walsh & Mr Litherland

