



Follow us: @BirleySpaAcad



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

10th March 2023

Dear parents and carers,

It's been wonderful to hear all the positive comments about the children's vibrant, red uniform since September. Please remember that from September 2023, we will no longer wear black jumpers/shirts as part of our uniform. Therefore, if your child is growing and needs new uniform over the next few months, in order to save families some money in September, we recommend buying red uniform with plenty of room to grow so that black uniform in good condition isn't wasted when we change over.

The black uniform is still acceptable up until the last day in July this year, but we'd like you to be as prepared as possible so that no money or clothes are wasted.

Building Supervisor Vacancy

We are currently recruiting for a Building Supervisor to join us in May 2023, when Mr. Wilson retires, if you know of anyone who is interested in this exciting opportunity, please ask them to visit our website for further details:

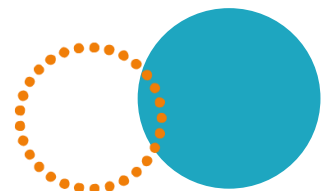
<https://www.birleyspaacademy.co.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

Mother's Day Afternoon Cream Tea

Just a reminder that if you and your child would like to join us for the Mother's Day Afternoon Cream Tea, tickets are now on sale from the school office.

Easter Fayre

As you are aware our Easter Fayre will be held on Thursday 23rd March from 2pm. If you have any good condition, toys, games, unwanted gifts etc. for our tombola, or would like to donate any raffle prizes, these will be warmly received at the school office. We would also greatly receive any buns or cakes for our refreshment stall.



EYFS

Last Week in Heeley and Whirlow class, Janine Elliott from the Sheffield City Council Road Safety Team came to talk us. We learnt how to keep ourselves safe when near roads and when travelling in a car. We all had lots of fun!



YEAR 1/2

In Maths, our Year 2 children have continued their money focus in Maths this week. They have been using different coins in order to make £1 in different ways. This is something they could continue to practice at home. Our Year 1 children have begun their multiplication and division topic and have practically made equal groups with counters. They are now looking at adding the equal groups and how repeated addition links to multiplication.

In English, our writing outcome is a fact file. We have produced one based on Kenya as a class with the link to our text 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' and now we are focusing on creating one about our wonderful area in Sheffield. The children have researched the city in which they live and will write their fact file using subheadings and accurate facts.

This week in our Geography lessons we have begun applying what we have learnt about the weather to prepare ourselves to become weather presenters! We have created word clouds to enable us to use a wide range of weather specific vocabulary in order to describe our local weather. We are now working on putting together a short presentation of weather forecasting which we will film on the iPads. Look out for these on Showbie in the coming weeks!

All KS1 children have been working hard this week to complete their Spring assessments in Reading, Maths and SPAG. Everyone has shown great resilience and aspiration and has really tried their best. Well done!



Year 3

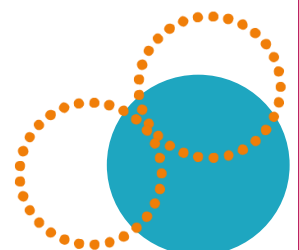
In Year 3 this half term, the children have enjoyed creating their own story based on the book 'The Tin Forest'. They have written some amazing tales using some great vocabulary. We are looking forward to starting our new text, 'The Great Kapok Tree' next week. In Science, they have been learning about what a plant needs to grow well and have set up an experiment to investigate this. Our learning in Geography is all about climates and the biomes around the world. This week we have been researching the Polar regions. In Maths, we have completed our fractions unit and have moved on to look at mass and capacity. Maybe the children could practise this at home by weighing some ingredients and doing some baking – we know that Mrs. Gibson would absolutely love to taste anything you manage to create!

Year 4

Year 4 are working extremely hard towards their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June. The cohort as a whole have made amazing progress throughout the year and we just wanted to say a massive well done and thank you to all the children and parents for their continued enthusiasm and hard work. We had over 40 parents at the MTC drop in last month which was absolutely fantastic to see. The initial assessment in September showed only 7% of children were at the required level. Due to everyone's hard work this has risen and risen throughout the year and stands at 57%. We still have a few months to go and we want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to keep going in order for as many of you as possible to reach that threshold of 20 out of 25 times tables answered correctly. We know absolutely everyone is trying their best and you can all do it!

As always do not hesitate to catch either of us if you have any question. Thank you as always.

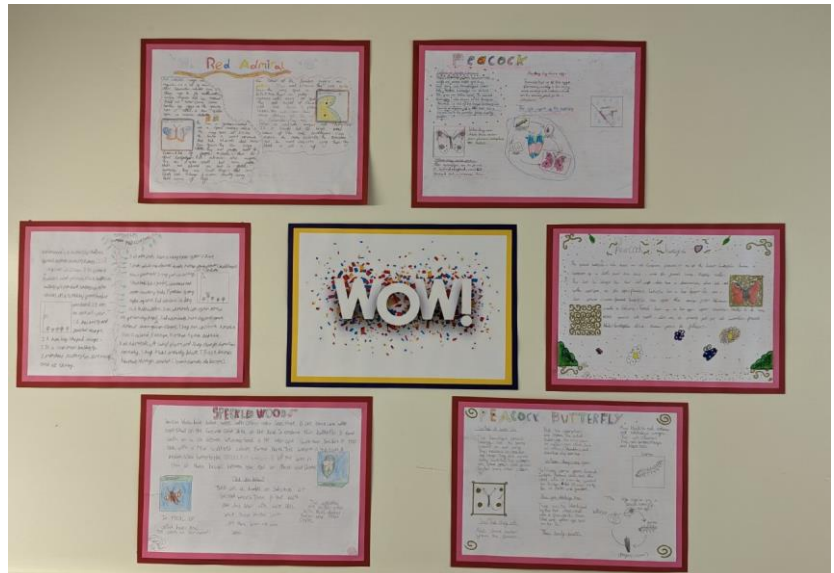
Mr Jackson and Miss Gostelow.



Year 5

Year 5 have been working extremely hard on endeavor and aspiration within their work. The children have been producing some fantastic pieces of writing and have learnt so much within the topics we have covered recently. Last half term, our History lessons were all based around Sheffield and the listed buildings within the area. The children learnt why buildings become listed and then created a campaign towards making some modern day buildings (such as Meadowhall and Crystal Peaks) listed. Within Science, the children learnt about how plants and animals reproduce. We focused specifically on different animals' lifecycles, and ended the unit by looking at the different types of butterflies.

This half term, in Geography, we are learning about the Alpine region and looking at why people go on holiday there. We will also be looking at mountain formation and natural disasters such as avalanches. In Science we are looking at forces and have already learnt how famous scientists, Sir Isaac Newton and Galileo Galilei, discovered gravity. Please ask your children what they have learnt so far. In Maths, we are continuing to learn about the link between fraction, decimals and percentages and in English we are writing information leaflets based around our class book *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell.

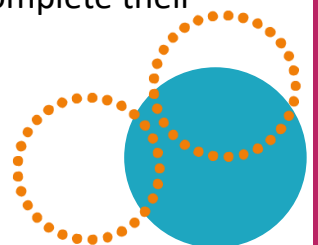


Year 6

We've started this term by becoming young geographers as we start exploring what effect human activity has on the environment. In Maths, we have been learning how to multiply fractions by other fractions and by whole numbers. In English, we have been writing persuasively to convince other people about the benefits of donating blood and becoming an organ donor; this work has been greatly supported by the amazing work we have been doing in Science where we have been taking on the role of biologists and exploring human the circulatory system.

Please remember to continue supporting your child by ensuring they complete their weekly reading, spelling and Maths homework.

Mr Litherland and Miss Ambler



Shirebrook

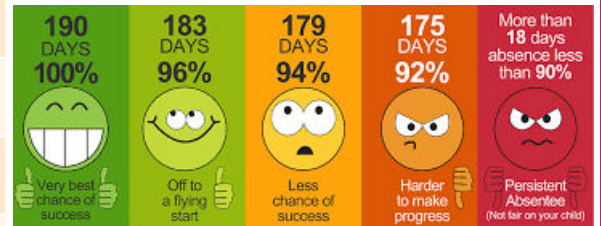
What a term it has been in Shirebrook so far! We have been busy learning lots of new things and getting to know each other better. We have loved our Science lessons which have involved doing experiments investigating materials, dissolving and using magnets. The children have shown they have a great understanding for scientific enquiry, being able to predict what they think might happen, as well as then testing out their theories, before noting what the outcomes were. Equally we have enjoyed our PSHE lessons, which have included using a parachute to follow simple instructions, as well as playing speaking and listening games. 'There's a chair on my right' has proved a popular game with all the children, as well as 'bug in a rug'. The children have also shown how creative they can be as during Art lessons we have learned about line, shape, tints and shades and patterns, and these lessons have proven a great opportunity for the children to express themselves and show what they can do.

In English we have read twisted fairy tales, such as 'The big bad pig and the three little wolves' and Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes poem – Goldilocks and the three bears. Within this theme, we also made our own house for the wolves during construction lessons and used print outs that we cut and folded to make paper pigs (these were very tricky). The children also used coffee stained paper to create their own wanted posters for the big bad pig, and we practised using dictionaries to find the meaning of words we did not know. In Maths lessons, we have been practising place value when looking at numbers with up to four-digit, and adding 1s, 10s and 100s; the children really understand this well and have worked hard. We have also recently enjoyed collecting some data of our own, to celebrate and link to World Book Day, as we all walked around school asking anyone we met what was their favourite book. The choices were: The Twits (which we have been reading at the end of the day), The Iron Man (which we are reading at the moment in English), The big bad pig and the three little wolves and The Diary of a Wimpy Kid (a potential option for our next end of the day story). The children marked everyone's favourites using a tally chart and then they converted this to numbers and represented the findings on a block graph – some great work!



Attendance Figures 6th – 10th March 2023

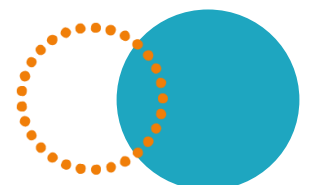
Class	Attendance %
Whirlow	88.9%
Heeley	86.5%
Sheaf	90%
Endcliffe	99.3%
Norfolk	99.1%
Crucible	93.1%
Lyceum	94.6%
Kelham	94.4%
Weston	97%
Millennium	94.5%
Graves	97.1%
Bolsover	94.4%
Peveril	87.5%
Shirebrook	79.6%
School Total	92.8%



Every Monday, we will have an Aspiration Assembly to celebrate the House Points and attendance from the previous week to showcase our vital school values.

Please look out for our updated weekly House Point achievement board and our Attendance Trophy winners who achieve the highest attendance over our 96% target.

Every Day Counts



Dates for the Diary

17 th March	Mother's Day Afternoon Tea (2pm & 3:10pm)
20 th March	Mother's Day Afternoon Tea (2pm & 3:10pm)
21 st March	Y2 SATS Meeting
23 rd March	Easter Fayre
27 th March	Meet the Teacher – New Topics
28 th & 30 th March	Parents' Evening
31 st March	Easter Service at Spa View Church
3 rd – 14 th April	Easter Holidays – School Closed
17 th April	Inset Day – School Closed
1 st May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
8 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
9 th May – 12 th May	SATS Week – Y6
15 th – 19 th May	SATS Week – Y2
29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term – School Closed
5 th June	Inset Day – School Closed
9 th June	Y6 Crucial Crew Visit
12 th – 18 th June	Phonics Assessment Week
16 th June	Father's Day Celebrations
19 th June	Father's Day Celebrations
3 rd July	Enterprise Week
7 th July	Halle Orchestra (TBC)
11 th July	Sports Day – Y1 & Y2 / Y3 & Y4
12 th July	Sports Day – EYFS
13 th July	Sports Day - Y5 & Y6
14 th July	Reports Sent Home
17 th July	Summer Fayre
21 st July	Whole School Family Picnic

