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Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

21st October 2022



Message from Mrs. Pemberton – Executive Headteacher

As we reach the end of a busy Autumn half term we wish to look back on many exciting developments and successful working partnerships within the trust.

We welcomed several key appointments to our brilliant staff team; Mrs Gibson our new Head of School, Miss King, Y5 Teacher, Miss Grantham, Y3 Teacher, Mrs Robinson, PPA Teacher and new teaching assistants – Mrs Rust, Miss Hurst, Mrs Ibbotson and Miss Walker. What an amazing start they have secured at Birley Spa Academy.

May we take this opportunity to thank our parents for their kind support and warm welcome, as well as express thanks to our whole staff team - truly dedicated to making Birley Spa a wonderful learning environment for its pupils and families.

Our coffee mornings are a great opportunity for families to gather together and discuss new initiatives and different ways to support our school. We welcome your feedback and fresh ideas.

Our family support team (Mrs. Kath Johnson and Mr. Rob Jones) are also available to provide additional support for families - please drop in and see us.

A reminder for 'Streets of Light 2022' event which will take place between 24th and 31st October. Please look out for your trial map which will be sent home with your child this evening. It's a fabulous opportunity to walk around and enjoy the wonderful window displays, and celebrate the support within our local community.

Within our trust (LEAD Academy Trust) we work closely with leadership at the other trust schools - Birley Primary, Birley Secondary, Charnook and Rainbow Forge academies. This year, we aim to develop greater opportunities to work together, especially for special school based activities. This includes working together to develop a strong transition programme with our Birley Secondary school. We aim for upper key stage 2 pupils to experience specialist subject taster events at Birley, having several opportunities to work in science labs, for example, and engage in exciting investigations.

Birley Secondary School welcomed 600 prospective pupils and families to their recent open evening - amazing statistics and results! We hope our year 6 pupils and families found this event a great opportunity to gain first hand experience of the school environment. It is fabulous to have Birley Secondary as a local secondary school within our trust, and we aim to make the most of its site and great amenities.

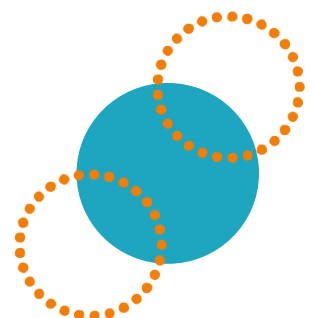
Following our half term break, we look forward to welcoming our families for parents evening. This is a great opportunity for families to celebrate their children's hard work and share in the great learning experiences on offer. The meetings will be held on 1st and 3rd November, please sign up for an appointment time.

Finally, may we thank our Birley Spa pupils and families for their fabulous support.

We wish you all a wonderful half term holiday, and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 31st October 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Melany Pemberton
Executive Headteacher



Message from Mrs. Gibson – Head of School

What a fantastic half term which has seen the children glow with pride in their new, red uniforms. We've been inspired by the children in Shirebrook who were learning about heroes which led to us all working with sporting greats who represent their country.

We have followed in these athletes' footsteps by showing our school vales to gain well over 7000 house points - well done everyone!

I've enjoyed delicious pumpkin soup which our wonderful EYFS children made in class and even had a child bring me some beautiful leek and potato soup they made at home!

Just like me, our governors and visitors to school have been so impressed with our amazing children and I've been delighted to get to know so many of our families over the last few weeks.

Thank you to all the parents and members of the community who have made me feel so welcome. There have been such positive comments from children, parents, staff and visitors so we can't wait to continue this positivity after the holidays. Please continue to say hello at our pop-up café every Friday and when you see me on the playground.

It's such a privilege to lead such a dedicated, talented team of staff and work with such wonderful families. We hope you all have a fantastic half term that's full of family fun and can't wait to see you back on Monday 31st October.

Mrs Gibson
Head of School

EYFS

In EYFS we have been noticing lots of Autumnal changes in our environment. Several children have been talking about buying pumpkins and visiting the pumpkin patch so we decided to learn more about pumpkins. We read a story called Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper and decided to make some pumpkin soup. We read the recipe and practiced cutting, chopping, mixing and blending. When the soup was ready we set up a restaurant in the classroom so everybody could try the soup. Mrs Gibson visited our restaurant to try the soup and she thought it was delicious!

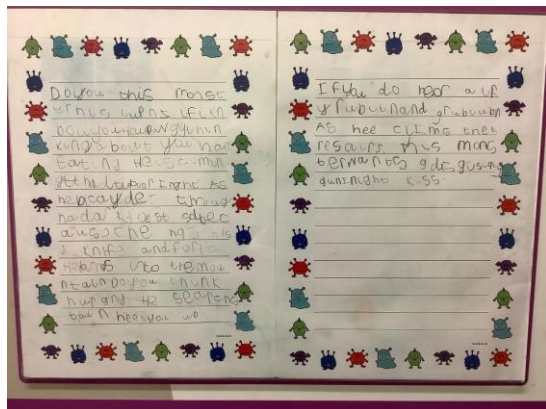


YEAR 1/2



It has been a fantastic start to the new school year in Year 1 and 2. It has been wonderful to see the resilience and independence of the children and how well they have settled into their new classes.

Our topic this half term has been 'Why am I unique?'. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about toys from the past, looking at how toys have changed over time and comparing these to the toys we enjoy playing with now. It was also great to listen to children talk about their memory boxes that they had created over the summer holidays, sharing their family photographs, talking about memories and showing their favourite things.



Our English focus has been 'Traction Man' and 'Bedtime for Monsters' the children have thoroughly enjoyed both of these stories and have developed their skills in predicting, sequencing, retelling through drama and making character descriptions.

As part of our maths learning the year 1, children have been beginning to investigate 2D shapes. They can now name a range of 2D shapes and describe some of their properties. We also went on a shape hunt around school to identify real life objects that were different 2D shapes.



Our year 2 children have been continuing to develop their knowledge of addition and subtraction. They can now add and subtract 2 two digit numbers using a range of practical and written methods.

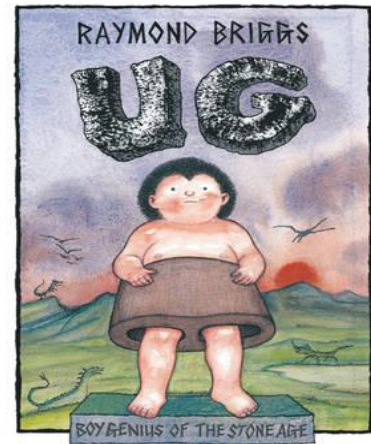
Next half term we will be moving onto the topic 'What is hidden deep in the woods?' The children will be looking at living things that can be found in woodlands and will be looking at traditional tales that are set in the woods.

Thank you for your support over the first few weeks of the new school year.



Year 3

This half term in year 3, we have really enjoyed delving into history and learning about the Stone Age. The children have been very creative and they have produced some amazing patterns for Ug's new trousers using a printing technique. They have also built some fantastic miniature Stone Age shelters out of materials they could find outside. Year 3 researched animals of the Stone Age and created some informative reports. We also immersed ourselves the story of the Stone Age Boy and wrote some brilliantly descriptive portal stories.



Year 4

It has been another period of fantastic learning in Y4. During the last two weeks we have really consolidated our Tag Rugby skills and have played competitive games between ourselves in our PE lessons. In English we have been developing Kenning poems. These are poems that were first introduced by the Anglo-Saxons and were comprised of two words per line only. I am sure your children will be able to give you examples. Learning in History has continued along the theme of the Anglo-Saxons. We have learned about where Sutton Hoo is and why it holds such historical value. Finally, our main focus in Maths has been on times tables. All children will complete the Multiplication Tables Check in the Summer term. All children have a target times table and are using TT Rock Stars at home and at school to improve their skills in preparation for the assessment.

It has been a wonderful first half term in Y4, the children have made a great start, we are all looking forward to a busy and learning filled Autumn 2.



Year 5

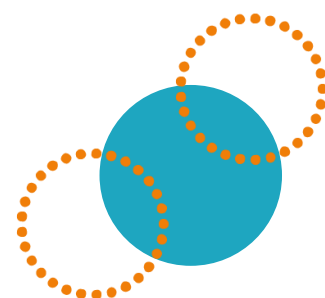
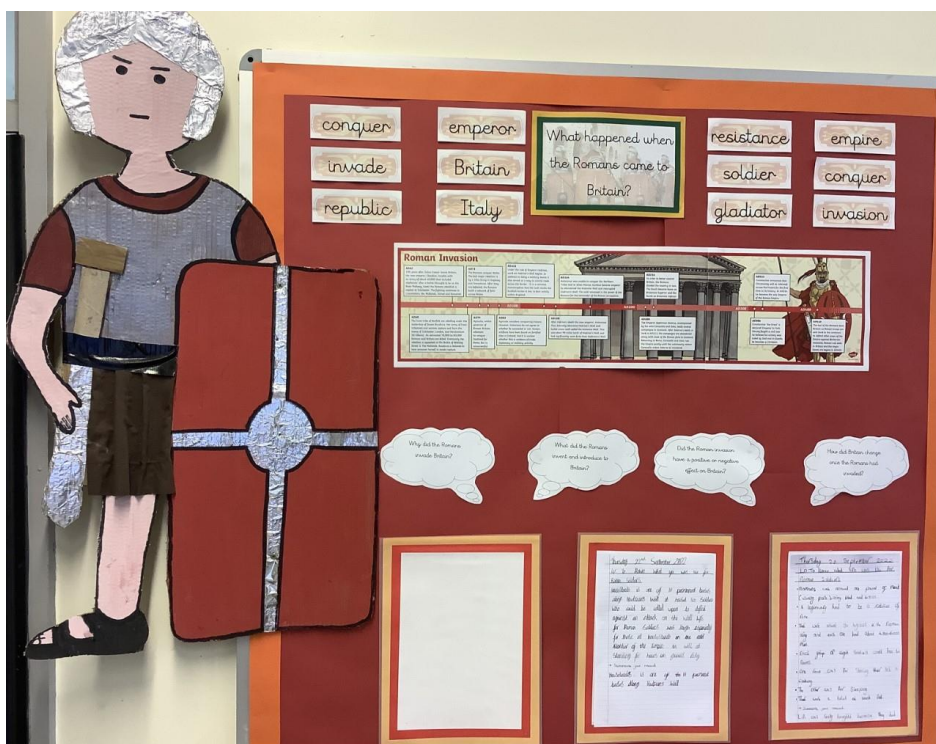
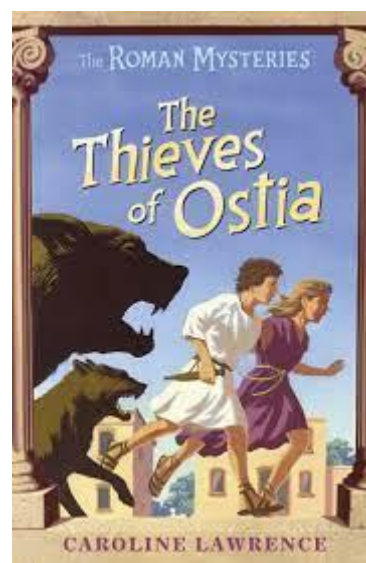
What a fantastic term it has been. The children have produced some amazing pieces of work and have been thoroughly engaged with every bit of learning we have covered.

In Maths, the children have learnt how to use the written methods for addition and subtraction to solve investigations and reasoning problems.

Within English, the children have written two narratives based of the popular book 'The Thieves of Ostia'. They have also written two newspaper articles and even had an actual journalist come into school and help support their writing.

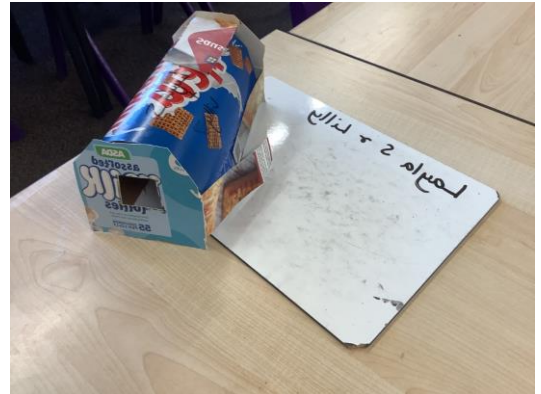
History lessons have proven to be the most exciting time of the week. The whole year group have loved learning about the Romans and have developed a great wealth of knowledge so please encourage them to share this at home. Recently, we learnt about the different battle formations that Roman soldiers used. We focused on the Testudo (or tortoise) formation which we then recreated outside.

Over the half term break, please encourage your children to continue accessing TTRockstars so that they are learning all their times tables and also read a minimum of 3 times a week at home with an adult.



Year 6

Year 6 have made a very productive start and have had a brilliant first term! In maths, they have been completing a range of investigations on how to find prime, squared and cubed numbers. We have also started recapping how to use short and long multiplication methods correctly. After this, we will apply our mathematical knowledge in order to answer problem-solving and reasoning questions. In English, children have really enjoyed reading 'Goodnight Mister Tom' and using it as a stimulus to think of ideas to use in their writing. We have recently written an independent narrative based around how Tom and William communicate and how we show their different personalities in writing. For History this term, we have been learning about The Sheffield Blitz and how people were affected during WWI and WWII. The war memorials that we designed looked great! We have now completed our first lot of mock SATs! We could not be prouder of how resilient and determined everyone was during this week. Please remember to read over the half term, well done!



Shirebrook

In Shirebrook, we have been learning about 'Our Senses' in science as part of our theme Superheroes. We have been drawing self portraits and also looked at the self potraits of other artists, including Picasso. We wrote our own superhero story books full of adventure. We met two heroes and enjoyed a PE lesson with them. Now, we are looking at heroes in our own families. In Mathematics, we have covered calculations.



Testing our sense of smell



For the funeral of Queen Elizabeth

Practical Addition



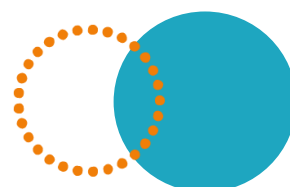
PE with a Team GB champion

Attendance Figures 17th – 21st October 2022

Class	Attendance %
Whirlow	89.6%
Heeley	86.7%
Sheaf	96.6%
Endcliffe	87.5%
Norfolk	95.7%
Crucible	87.5%
Lyceum	92.2%
Kelham	98.2%
Weston	89.7%
Millennium	91.2%
Graves	91.6%
Bolsover	91.1%
Peveril	96.7%
Shirebrook	95.7%
School Total	92.1%

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.



STAR OF THE WEEK

Heeley	Paisley and Kya – for showing great resilience when learning and applying new sounds in phonics
Whirlow	Charlotte – for developing her creativity and using her skills in her independent writing Logan – for independence and developing wonderful learning behaviours
Sheaf	Evie – for showing resilience with her writing and remembering fingering finger spaces in sentences Maisie – for always contributing your ideas clearly and with enthusiasm in group discussions
Endcliffe	Boe – endeavour – for not letting anything distract you from your work Alice – resilience – talking confidently to adults
Norfolk	Poppy – for showing empathy and tolerance during all learning activities Zac – or showing endeavour during our poetry week
Lyceum	Lacie-Rose for showing endeavour and aspiration in all areas of learning Oliver – for showing endeavour in all your learning and contributing super ideas in class
Crucible	Remarni and Charlie – for resilience in reading. Your hard work has enabled you to move up a reading level
Weston	Emaleigh - for showing aspiration with excellent learning behaviours in her reading group and discussions Mason – for showing aspiration by working hard with formation of letters to improve his handwriting
Kelham	Oscia – for continued growth in aspiration and resilience across the entire curriculum. Excellent learning behaviours Sonny – a real resilience to improve skills and understanding in maths. Consistently moving from Challenge 2 to challenge 3
Graves	Lily-Mae – for aspiring to achieve her absolute best and being such a resilient mathematician Olivia – for showing endeavour with her attitude to learning. Always going above and beyond to challenge herself
Millennium	Lottie – for always aspiring to do the best work by asking purposeful questions Max – for having the endeavour and aspiration to do his best in every aspect of school . Always working hard and being a true role-model
Bolsover	Luke – for brilliant writing in English and using your imagination Freya – for pushing yourself with your understanding on long multiplication
Peveril	Loreena – for aspiring to include as much detail as possible within independent writing Andre – for being a team player in class by asking useful questions and by supporting his peers
Shirebrook	Oscar – for aspiring by showing learning behaviours which help him to learn

Dates for the Diary

24 th – 28 th October	Half Term – School Closed
1 st & 3 rd November	Parents Evening
16 th November	Individual School Photographs
18 th November	Flu Immunisations
2 nd December	Christmas Service at Spa View Church
28 th November	Enterprise Week
12 th – 16 th December	Christmas Events – further information to follow
12 th December	Meet the Teacher – New Topics
19 th December – 2 nd January	Christmas Holidays
3 rd February	Y5 Young Voices Concert
13 th – 17 th February	Half Term – School Closed
20 th February	Inset Day – School Closed
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 – 11 th May	SATS Week – Y6
15 th – 19 th May	SATS Week – Y2
29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term – School Closed
9 th June	Y6 Crucial Crew Visit
12 th – 18 th June	Phonics Assessment Week
3 rd July	Enterprise Week
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