

Message from Mrs. Gibson

The new half term has been off to a fantastic start. The children have engaged in their new learning straight away and there's been a real buzz in the classrooms this week.

I had a great time learning Makaton sign language with the children in our Makaton club and have been talking to children across school about what they're enjoying through their extra-curricular learning.

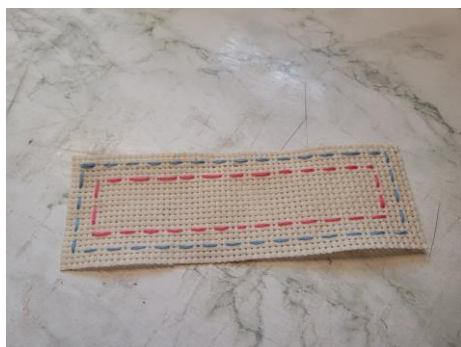
The children are loving their opportunities to express themselves or learn new skills, with some children applying what they've learned at home!

Please remember to check out our clubs and sign up through the Gateway app if your child is interested.

We run clubs for:

- **fresh food making**
- **First aid**
- **Makaton**
- **Enterprise**
- **Lego**
- **Gardening**
- **and many more!**

The children in Design Club have been making some amazing arts and crafts!





BIRLEY SPA



**Friday 8th March or
Monday 11th March**
2-2:30pm
2:45-3:15pm
3:30-4pm

£2 PER TICKET (ADULT AND CHILD)

*Children are invited to spend
quality time with a special relative
for afternoon tea.*

Mother's Day

Please book your tickets via the school gateway app.

STAR OF THE WEEK

19th – 23rd February 2024

Class:		
A	Holly – For showing teamwork and caring for her friends. Well done Holly. You have had a really positive week extending your learning.	Aaron – For showing teamwork and showing care and consideration and becoming a really important part of the class A team. Well done Aaron.
B	Carter – For Resilience – trying his best in phonics doing some great work.	Madison– For Empathy – Being kind to her classmates.
C	Darcie – For showing endeavour and being ready to begin her tasks straight away.	Arlo – For always showing endeavour in all aspects of his learning.
D	Phoebe – For showing aspiration in maths this week.	Copper – For showing aspiration in his behaviours this week.
E	Kyla– For showing empathy and tolerance and looking after your friends when they are sad. You are a great friend. You have also shown aspiration this week by confidently adding to our class discussions.	Henry – For showing endeavour in your learning. You are really trying hard in your lessons and you are gaining confidence when contributing to class discussions.
F	Jacob– For showing aspiration – he has put in a lot of effort to improve his reading and has made great progress.	Eddie – For showing aspiration – he has been working hard to improve the presentation of his work.
G	Louie – For showing resilience – Louie has been trying incredibly hard to go back over his work and improve it to make sure he has included all the features.	Lily– For showing endeavour – Lily has been trying extremely hard with her fluency in phonics and is making amazing progress.
H	Amelia – For showing resilience and aspiration . Amelia has worked hard and used feedback to push herself to the next level of her target in reading!	Caitlin –For showing resilience and aspiration . Caitlin has worked hard and used feedback to push herself to the next level of her target in reading!
I	Jenson - For Showing aspiration in his reading by moving his understanding of comprehension up to the next level of his learning	Oliver– For showing creativity with the use of powerful vocabulary in his writing
J	Grace – for showing endeavour while at Young Voices by being the best role model to others.	Jacey – for showing great teamwork while at Young Voices you represented the school amazingly!
K	The Whole class– for showing endeavour and showing all the values at Young Voices and also those children who stayed back really impressed me.	
L	Rigo – For showing creativity – Rigo has produced some really creative writing this week of a setting description> I look forward to reading the final piece.	Riley – For showing aspiration . Riley has shown a real improvement in attitude and desire to learn. (especially in maths). Keep it up!
M	Archie - For showing aspiration and endeavour in maths. Archie's work is always accurate and clearly presented – with full marks in his arithmetic test!	Olivia – for showing creativity and choosing vocabulary for her setting description.
N	Ivan, Oscar, Logan, Junior & Alex - For showing resilience - We were very proud of how they engaged, behaved and followed instructions during our visit to Crucial Crew. They represented the school impeccably - amazingly well done!	



Bitesize Balance Booster

FEBRUARY 2024

Children's Mental Health Week 2024

This year, Children's Mental Health Week took place between 5th and 11th February. At Birley Spa, we were delighted to embrace this awareness event with a week-long programme of activities including talks from Run4YourMind, community Hedgerow planting, class connect bingo, bilateral meditations, and art for wellbeing lessons. Keep reading for more information on individual events.

Place2Be's
CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

5-11
FEB
2024

LEGO KINDNESS SCULPTURE
submitted by Stanley (L)



The Feel Good Guild

In December, we invited all children across Key Stage 2 to apply to become a member of the Birley Spa 'Feel Good Guild', a new Pupil Voice group. To practice important life skills

such as applying and interviewing for positions, we asked that children submitted a creative piece of work to represent kindness or wellbeing.

Congratulations to our new Pupil Voice team:

Elijah (H), Lucy (I), Golnoush (J) Grace (J), Cohan (K), Stanley (L).

We can't wait to work together with you on your brilliant ideas to boost balance at Birley Spa.

Rivelin Book Nook



Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success. Birley Spa's revamped wellbeing programme will see more children develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure along with the improved life chances this brings them. Children are invited to visit Rivelin's Reading Nook for book recommendations and browsing with Mrs Connor-Evans.





Shirebrook Hedgerow Planting

On Monday 5th February, members of the Eco Council, Create Collaborate, and the Feel Good Guild had the opportunity to get involved in community hedgerow planting. The children worked together with Kids Plant Trees and the Community Forestry Team to plant a species-rich hedge to help protect Linley Bank's fabulous grass meadows at Shirebrook Valley. The children were a credit to themselves and the school. It was wonderful to see children engage in outdoor learning, identifying species of tree from their bare branches alone! Along with two other local schools, the children planted over 370 trees – an incredible success.

Emotional Literacy Noticing Feelings

Before half-term, Class I enjoyed an emotional literacy workshop with Mrs Connor-Evans. The children noted the weather and how changeable it is, likening this to the fluidity of our feelings. Pupils created feelings weather wheels, emotion windows, and sang along to Rihanna's 'Umbrella': the class felt that the song represented how they could support one another if a peer was experiencing uncomfortable feelings while at school.



SCAN ME



I am kind

100 Acts of Kindness

All children throughout school continue to build their empathy skills by partaking in Birley Spa 100 Acts of Kindness. The class charts are overflowing!

Well done to the following class teams who have already achieved an award:

100 Acts of Kindness

Classes A, B, C, D, E, H, I, and J

200 Acts of Kindness

Classes G and N

Some examples of kind acts seen in school include helping a friend put on their coat, holding doors, celebrating others' achievements, offering comfort when a peer was feeling sad, covering a friend's ears when noise was too loud, and helping staff to prepare the classroom for lessons.

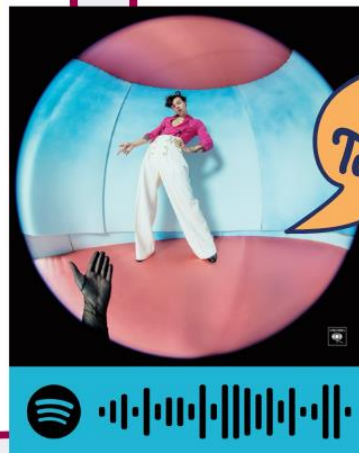


Run4YourMind

On 7th February, Oly Newton of

Run4YourMind delivered a series of informative assemblies.

Oly's talks provide pupils with real-world, relatable examples of how physical health can support mental health, encouraging children to think about positive ways to maintain their own wellbeing. It was great to see children engaged and offering insightful contributions to the interactive sessions.



It's Cool To be Kind

School Allotment Development

Following a successful pitch from our Eco Council, we are thrilled to announce the development of a new school allotment area. This space, sponsored by Greatorex Gardening Services and Shed n Fence, will encourage children to grow, prepare and cook their own produce, eat healthily, and be more mindful of the food they consume. We are also delighted to support the children's eagerness for this to incorporate community initiatives.



VEGETABLE PATCHES



ShedNFence
Fencing & Shed Specialists



Greatorex Gardening: 07824 630 300



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

BOOKWORM BULLETIN

MARCH 2024

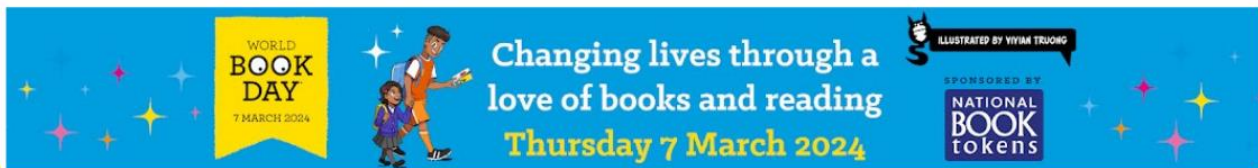


WORLD BOOK DAY



March is the most exciting month for our Birley Spa Bookworms, as we celebrate **World Book Day** on both **7th and 8th March!**

World Book Day was created by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997. Today, World Book Day is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. Details of our celebratory events can be found within this bulletin. It's going to be a bookish blast!



SNUGGLE UP WITH A BOOK

On Thursday 7th March, we invite children and staff to **come to school in the clothes they find comfiest to read in**, even their pyjamas. Cosy snacks will be provided as the children enjoy leisure reading in the afternoon. If children have a costume they would prefer to wear, they are welcome to do so.

MUSICAL STORIES

Concerteenies will visit Early Years and Key Stage 1 to deliver a **live musical performance of *Mouse and Bear*** by Kev Payne on Thursday 7th March.

Mouse loves to paint. Bear is big and powerful and promises to protect Mouse but when a storm comes will Mouse be forgotten? A tale of determination, inspiration and new-found friends.



JOSEPH COELHO



On Friday 8th March, children across school will have the opportunity to enjoy a **live author event** with Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho.

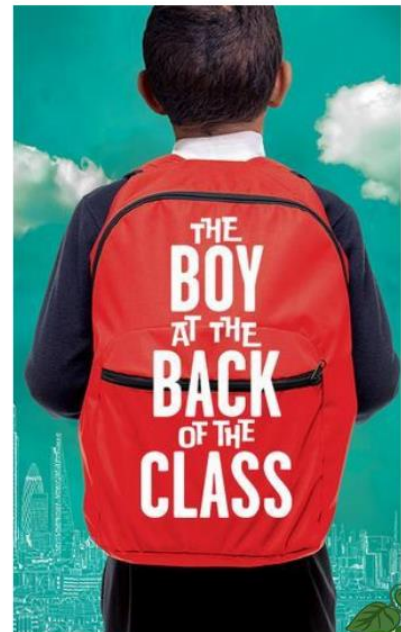
FOOTY & BOOKY

It's a Premier League Takeover at the National Literacy Trust for the **Footy & Booky Quiz!** Questions pitched by writers and footballing heroes will be zoomed into KS2 classes on 7th March.

LYCEUM THEATRE TRIP

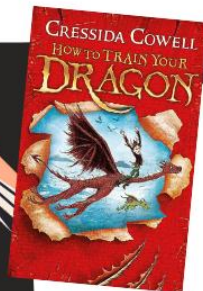
Pupils in Classes H and I will have the opportunity to watch an **on-stage adaptation of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*** by Onjali Q. Raúf on Thursday 7th March. Letters have been sent to parents; please do check your email inbox for details.

Told from a child's perspective, balancing heart and humour, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* highlights the power of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense, reminding us that everyone needs a place to call home.



READY, SET, READERS!

Well done to all children who completed the Winter Mini Reading Challenge. Certificates will be awarded in assemblies during the week of World Book Day.



BRILL BOOK LIST

Each month an adult in school will recommend a book to make the Birley Spa Brill Book List. This month Mrs Smyth recommends the ***How To Train Your Dragon*** series by Cressida Cowell:

"This series is so fun and exciting, as well as being a beautiful story of friendship." (Great for 7-11yrs).



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

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Sharing stories together

Children love spending time looking at books with adults. It makes a big difference to their futures to **spend 10 minutes a day sharing a story**. There are no right or wrong ways to read out loud but sometimes it can be tricky to know where to begin. Here are a few tips and ideas to get you started:



- **I wonder...**

Ask open questions about how characters are feeling or what might happen next or why things are in the illustration.

- **Bring the book to life...**

Make faces, use voices, include actions – have fun together!

- **That reminds me of...**

Make personal connections.

- **What have you seen there?**

Follow their interests.

- **That's made me feel...**

Let your child know how the events of the story have affected you.

- **Oo look at that!**

Let them know what you have noticed.

- **Again, again...**

Re-reading is a great source of comfort for children– and a chance to spot things that you didn't see first time round. Challenge yourself to spot something new each time.



This guide is based on the work of The Open University. For further tips and advice on how to enjoy sharing and reading stories together, visit their website [here](#) for helpful videos and resources.



SPONSORED BY

NATIONAL
BOOK
tokens

Changing lives through a love of books and shared reading.

World Book Day is a registered charity funded by publishers and booksellers in the UK & Ireland.

#WorldBookDay

“South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue is currently recruiting on-call firefighters who are able to provide daytime and weekend cover.

An on-call firefighter is someone employed by the fire and rescue service who is ‘on-call’ to respond to a range of emergencies and to engage with their community. They respond from home, or another place of work, where they have everyday lives and jobs.

They respond to the exact same incidents as their fulltime counterparts and are trained to the same high standards.

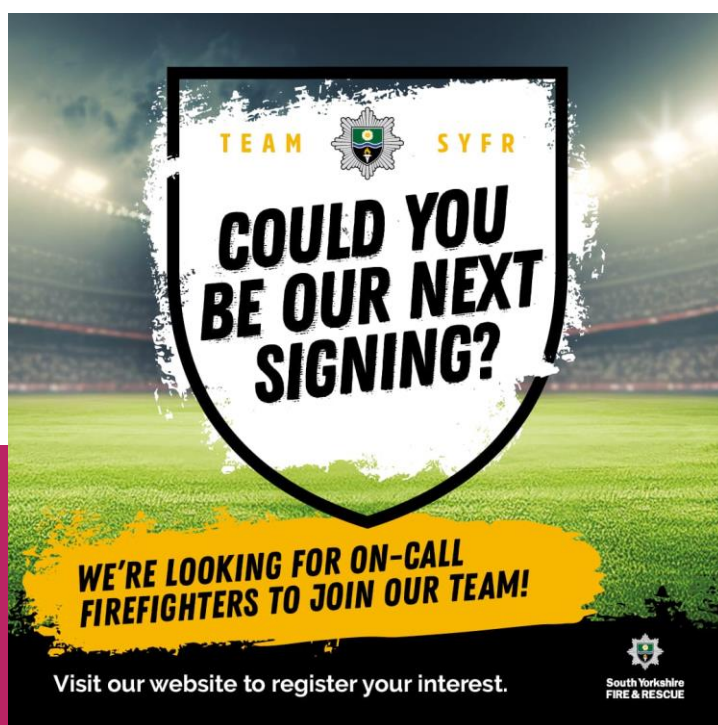
This would be ideal for stay-at-home parents, the self-employed, people working from home, part-time or shift workers, people looking for part-time employment or people studying for college or university.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue want its workforce to represent the communities it serves and therefore welcomes applications from under-represented groups in order to reflect their diverse community.”

For further details of the role and the commitment required and to find out what exciting opportunities being an on-call firefighter will bring, go to our website which provides a wealth of information and where you can register your interest.

Recruitment closes on the 29th February 2024.

<http://www.syfire.gov.uk/find-a-job/on-call-firefighters/>



Weekly Attendance

22nd – 26th January 2024

Whole School target: 96%

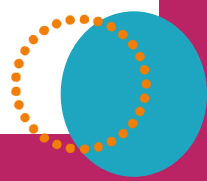


EYFS	A	95%
EYFS	B	96.9%
Y1/Y2	C	93.9%
Y1/Y2	D	98.9%
Y1/Y2	E	96.3%
Y3	F	97.8%
Y3	G	97.4%
Y4	H	96.3%
Y4	I	93%
Y5	J	94.2%
Y5	K	96.6%
Y6	L	97.8%
Y6	M	80.4%
Y3/Y6	N	93.8
Whole School Attendance		94%

At Birley Spa Primary Academy we are committed to helping all pupils to achieve their full potential. Good attendance is a key factor in raising pupils' attainment and supporting their personal development. **In line with DfE and Local Authority policy, we do not authorise holidays taken in school time and we work with families to do everything they can to support their child to attend school every day.** Whilst it is appreciated that children are ill from time to time, please think carefully before allowing your child to be absent from school. The chart below provides an indication of how just a few days absence can significantly impact a child's overall attendance percentage and impede their learning:

Description	Attendance	Whole Days Lost	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100 – 99%	0 – 2	0 – 10
Good	98 – 96%	4 – 7.5	20 – 37.5
Requires Improvement	95 – 91%	9.5 – 17	47.5 – 85
Persistent Absentee	90 – 86%	19 – 27	95 – 135
Critical	85 – 80%	28.5 – 38	142.5 – 190

Well done to Freddy for winning the attendance draw this week!



What we're all about:

Birley Spa Primary Academy
A C.E.A.C. Academy

Values

- Creativity**
Revolving the world in new ways and making connections.
Being able to generate solutions.
- Resilience**
Being able to recover from difficulties and challenges.
Seeing mistakes as the first steps to new learning.
- Endeavour**
Striving to achieve the best and seeking the well-being of others.
- Aspiration**
Having high hopes, ideas and working hard to achieve the best.
- Teamwork**
Working collaboratively and encouraging other members of the school community to be the best versions of themselves.
- Empathy and Tolerance**
Being open-minded to opinions and beliefs that may differ to our own.
Being patient, understanding and accepting of differences.

Real life experiences:

- Visits and visitors
- Performances
- Competition opportunities
- Public speaking
- Forest School
- Residential visits

All of our children can shine through our inclusive, experiential curriculum which helps our children to achieve their potential and inspires a lifelong love of learning.

BIRLEY SPA PRIMARY ACADEMY

OUR CURRICULUM DRIVERS:

RESILIENCE

EMPATHY

WELLBEING

COLLABORATION

INDEPENDENCE

ENGAGEMENT

CONFIDENCE

ASKING QUESTIONS

CURIOSITY

Dates for the Diary

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
7 th March 2024	Snuggle Up with a Book: Comfies or Costume <i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i> , Lyceum Trip (Class H and I)
8 th March 2024	Mother's day afternoon tea 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm
11 th March 2024	Mother's day afternoon tea 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm
29 th March – 12 th April 2024	Easter Holidays
15 th April 2024	School Reopens to children
6 th May 2024	Bank Holiday – School Closed
27 th May – 31 st May 2024 3 rd June	Half term Holiday INSET day – School closed
4 th June 2024	School Reopens for children
14 th June 2024	Father's Day breakfast 8am, 8:30am and 9am
17 th June 2024	Father's Day breakfast 8am, 8:30am and 9am
23 rd July 2024	Last day of the Academic Year
2 nd /3 rd September 2024	INSET Days – School closed