



NEWSLETTER

2nd February 2024

A message from Mrs Gibson:

A huge thank you to everyone who dressed in numbers and donated money to the NSPCC on Number Day this week. The children loved the chance to explore numbers in a different way!

Number day

EYFS - In EYFS it's all about 5! Songs counting to and back from 5, Numberblocks, Composition of 5 and dice patterns.

Y1/2 - In key stage 1 we were learning songs to learn counting on 2s 5s and tens as well as playing some number games.

Y3 - Year 3 were focusing on money - we had lots of problem-solving activities with lots of teamwork involved.

Y4 - carousel of maths activities and PSHE focusing on money sense.

Y5 - Year 5 were learning about money management/ business/PSHE skills and knowledge. They are planning an exhibition and will be covering objectives around multiplication and division.

Y6 - Who wants to be a mathionaire? Year 6 have completed a Rainforest calculation team activity and a PSHE session focusing on money sense.

IR - In the IR we have been focusing on problem solving and reasoning, with a particular focus on which calculations are required.





Termly Governor Visit

Members of our Governing Body came into school this week to talk about the exciting developments to our curriculum this year and to discuss how our children's knowledge in the wider curriculum is deepening through an exciting programme of practical, experiential learning.

Our children are so positive about their learning in subjects such as History and Science, calling their work "interactive, exciting and challenging".

Our Chair of Governors, Mr. Wydenbach, said "I visited a Year 5 Science class who were carrying out an experiment to see how seeds would grow into plants. The pupils explained what they were doing and how they were going to monitor their experiment. I was impressed by their scientific language, enthusiasm and ability to work as a team. Clearly the pupils were really enjoying their learning. It was fascinating-and I didn't want to leave!"

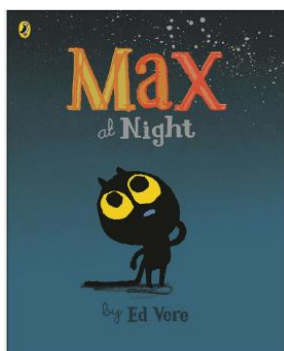




EYFS Contribution

In EYFS the children have been curious about changes. They have noticed change in the weather and have loved investigating the ice that has formed in our outside spaces, We wondered how and why the ice had formed and how we could change the ice. We made predictions about where in the classroom the ice would melt more quickly. Our prediction that the ice that we placed near to the radiator would melt more quickly than the ice near the door was correct! We have also been thinking about changes from day to night, what we do at night and what we do during the day and talking about the differences between night and day.

We have been enjoying our books and retelling the stories, thinking about the beginning, the middle and the end.



KS1 Contribution

Key stage 1 have been busy being biologists in science. Children have learnt:
Which foods make a balanced diet.

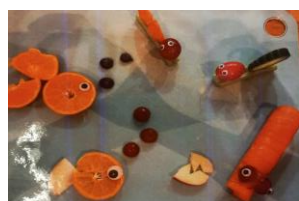
The effect of exercise on the bodies.

The importance of hygiene.



Children have used their knowledge from science to create menus, leaflets to promote and persuade a healthy lifestyle. We have read the book '*I will never not ever eat a tomato*', by Lauren Child. In the book, Charlie is persuading Lola to try healthy foods. Children tried this at home making foods interesting so that they would try them.

Ethan said he enjoyed his boiled egg after it was turned into a rabbit! He said he didn't like boiled eggs before that.





Year 3 Contribution

In Year 3 we've been thinking about the different leaders in Ancient Greece and hot seating pretending to be either the democratic leader or the king who thrived using his army and slaves. We have also begun constructing our light boxes in DT; they're coming along brilliantly!

Year 4 Contribution

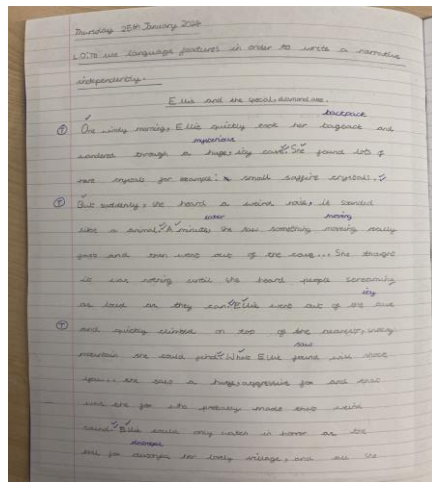
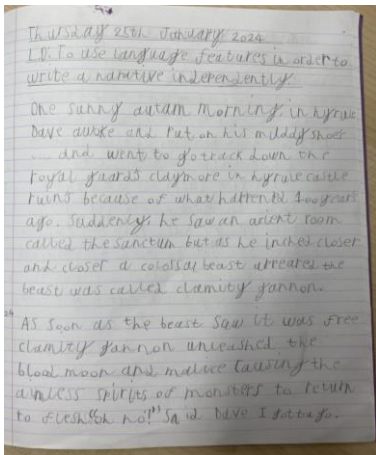
This term in Year 4, we have been creating our own narratives about an unlikely hero after looking at the book 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' - The children have shown great aspiration and creativity to create some fantastic pieces.

Currently, we are looking at writing persuasive letters – the children have enjoyed watching 'The Saga of Biorn' where they are beginning to think like a Viking and how they would persuade the almighty Thor to grant them access to Valhalla!

In science, the children showed great teamwork when making their own guitars so that they could investigate the differences between volume and pitch.

In Y4, we are also very pleased with the progress that children are making with their timetables practice. Children have been putting in lots of effort by practicing at home on TT Rockstars. **Keep it up!**

Within history, the children have been great historians and have enjoyed studying all about the Vikings. The children have investigated when and where the Vikings came from (including how they travelled the harsh seas), Viking beliefs (Viking Gods!) and how the Vikings lived within Viking Britain!





Year 5 Contribution

This term, Year 5 have got stuck into their History (Our local area study) and science unit (Plants and living things). They have used expert campaign skills to showcase why they should preserve a building in Sheffield of their choice. In science they have LOVED becoming plant experts and carrying out experiments to analyse data. They can't wait to produce their final piece of work, which is going to be presented to Year 1 and 2 as they are also learning about animals and plants at the moment. Year 5 wish to inspire the younger year group with what they can achieve at this age!

Well done Year 5!



Year 6 Contribution

This week in Year 6, all the children have been working really hard on showing their skills in English and Maths. They have been applying all of their learning independently and are showing excellent progress, confidence and determination. The children have been really focused and it is wonderful to see the progress they are making. Lots of children are attending booster groups in and out of school and these groups are really having a positive impact. In other areas of the curriculum, we are continuing to learn about the Ancient Mayans. In History, we have recently investigated what a typical Mayan city looked like and about Mayan society and hierarchy. We have linked this knowledge to our own experiences. We are looking forward to our Design & Technology themed week (during the final week of the half term) which will involve some food tasting!



IR Contribution

All the children returned to school in 2024, eager to share what they had done over the Christmas break, see each other, and learn. They have enjoyed reading, exploring and dissecting our story – Arthur and the Golden Rope, a tale about a very unlikely hero; a small boy from an Icelandic town. The children have recalled the details of the story, through a sequencing activity and learned about different punctuation and grammatical features. In Maths we have continued to learn different strategies and techniques to aid the children in calculating place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions. We have also started to focus more on problem solving and reasoning, as we find it very difficult to explain why answers are right or wrong.

We have loved learning about sound in science, and this has meant we have made our own drums, box guitars and engaged in an experiment investigating how loud different objects or actions were. As always, we predicted what we thought, discussed and identified how to make sure the test was fair, tested and then thought about what our findings showed us.



In History we have been learning about the Vikings, and the children were surprised to learn that the Vikings never had horns on their helmets! They have learned about key events in their lives to help them understand timelines and the concept of what it means to be an historian. In Food Technology this half term we have been focusing on chopping, and this has led to us making vegetable and fruit kebabs and more recently a leek and potato soup, as voted for by the class. In addition, we have been out and about around school, litter picking, as part of our Lifeskills lessons, which the children have really enjoyed and have done a great job, whilst learning about what we can do to help our planet.



STAR OF THE WEEK

29th January – 2nd February 2024

Class:		
A	Rosie– For her aspirations when thinking about numbers and for always doing the right thing.	Ada– For always being enthusiastic in all of her learning and showing empathy for her new friends.
B	Lilianna – For showing resilience , with her classmates and trying to follow the class rules.	Chloe – For her amazing teamwork , helping her friends in the craft area.
C	Marley – for showing endeavour when trying his hardest with our new maths topic. Great effort Marley!	Layla – For producing an aspirational piece of work in history this week, comparing a castle to our school.
D	Lily – For aspiration - You have aspired to present your work to your very best.	Sophie– for resilience - You have been really resilient this week and have tried really hard.
E	Archie – For showing endeavour and aspirations in your writing. You are verbally using adjectives and coordinating conjunctions and you have been trying super hard with your phonics to help you write your ideas down.	Harper– For showing resilience , endeavour and aspiration in your writing. You try hard to use your phonics knowledge to write your amazing ideas on the page.
F	Darcy – For teamwork during our design lesson she encouraged and helped others with problem solving.	Ollie – For teamwork during our design lesson he encouraged and helped others with problem solving.
G	Bryley – For aspiration – Bryley has been working so hard to not only improve the quality of his writing but also his presentation!	Harlow – For resilience and endeavour – Harlow has been shining this week for her for her positive attitude towards her learning, going above and beyond.
H	Lyla– For showing all of the values daily . Lyla is now working hard to achieve her silver wristband!	Keaton – For having a positive attitude and showing great teamwork during science.
I	Remarni – For showing aspiration and resilience with his multiplication tables	Sam – For showing aspiration in his maths.
J	Salma – For showing creativity in science. You taught our class so much and inspired us to grow our own food.	Chance – For showing resilience in maths and becoming a SLAM expert!
K	Amelia – For teamwork – I was really impressed with Amelia during our science experiment. She took the lead and made sure her whole team contributed.	Oscar – For endeavour – Oscar has been trying very hard in science and has been flying with his knowledge.
L	Ella-Mae – For showing an excellent attitude in all home learning.	Keavy For showing an excellent attitude in all home learning.
M	Khloe – For endeavour in her, history learning – excellent use in secondary sources for historical enquiry.	Chloe – For excellent effort in completing homework each week.
N	Mickenzie – For resilience – Mickenzie has worked so hard in his maths and had the confidence to answer questions when earning about dividing by 10.	

Weekly Attendance

29th January – 2nd February 2024

Whole School target: 96%

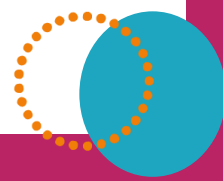


EYFS	A	89.4%
EYFS	B	91.9%
Y1/Y2	C	91.1%
Y1/Y2	D	95%
Y1/Y2	E	90%
Y3	F	95%
Y3	G	95.8%
Y4	H	85.8%
Y4	I	93.9%
Y5	J	81.4%
Y5	K	93.6%
Y6	L	96.7%
Y6	M	88.5%
Y3/Y6	N	93.3%
Whole School Attendance		91.2%

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 Darcey who won the attendance gift card last week for 100% attendance!



What we're all about:

Birley Spa Primary Academy
A U.K.S. 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 achievements of others.
- Aspiration**
Having high hopes, ambitions 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>
12 th – 16 th February 2024	Half term Holiday
19 th February 2024	School Reopens for children
19 th February 2024	Young Voices Trip for Year 5
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