

Message from Mrs Gibson

It's been wonderful to see the school values being displayed through school this week. Our Kindness Keepers' jackets have arrived today so the children who presented this lovely friendship idea to the school in assembly will be easily recognisable on the playground. We can't wait to see their **empathy and tolerance** shining through.

We have a group of reporters in Year Five who have been showing **creativity, resilience and aspiration** by working on a school magazine in their own time – it's nearly ready for publication so we can't wait to share this with you too!

Our Year Sixes have been showing **all of our school values** in recent weeks as they prepare for their SATs tests on 13th May. We've been absolutely delighted with their focus and drive as they've been applying their learning from the last four years by attending boosters and doing their homework as well as giving 100% in lessons. It's been lovely to see them showing just as much effort in their afternoon learning too.

Class N have enjoyed a visit from our local PCSO and may be inspired to **aspire** to a career in the police force after learning all about the role this week!

Our youngest children have seen their caterpillars arrive and they are busy **endeavouring** to work out what will happen next as the caterpillars continue to eat and eat so it's been an extremely busy time across school!

Our governors came into school this week to see the progress the children are making with their Science work and they were delighted to see the children's learning in books. They were so positive about the children's efforts and they were learning lots about teeth and space!



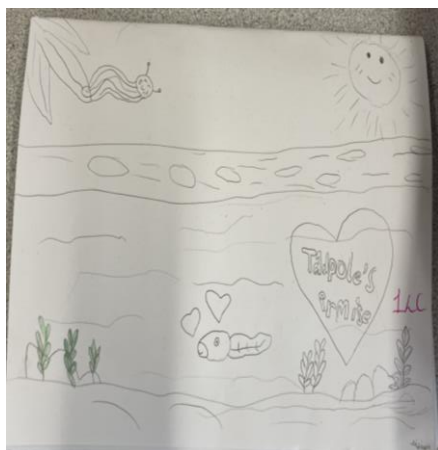
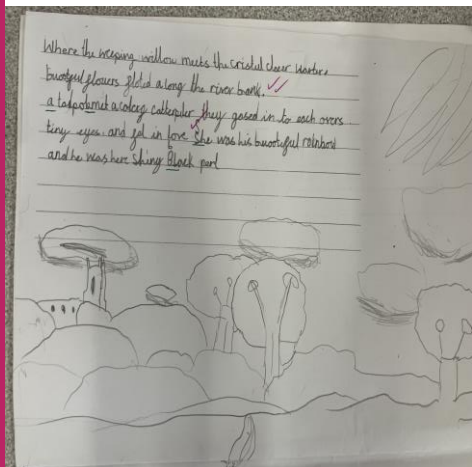
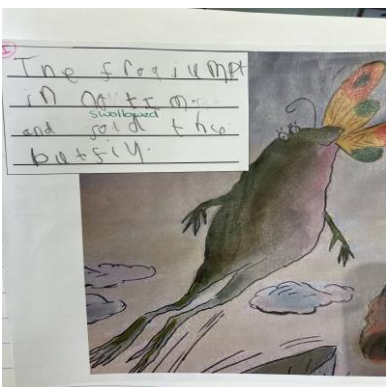
EYFS Contribution

In EYFS we are learning all about growing! We have some tiny and very hungry caterpillars in our classroom and are very excited to see them grow and change into cocoons. We have planted lots of seeds and we are hoping they will grow into magic beanstalks. We have been learning more about the way that artists use paint and tools in different ways and will use what we know to produce artwork linked to the Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Year 1 and 2

Over the last few weeks Year 1 and 2 have been reading a book called 'The Tadpole's Promise' by Jeanne Willis. The story is about a caterpillar and a tadpole that fall in love but it has an unexpected ending. The children have created their own stories and created books to share with the EYFS children. The children are currently working on adapting the story by changing the characters. So far we have a Chameleon, Spider and Fly to name a few.

In Science the children are learning what a habitat is and why animals choose to live where they do. In Geography the children are learning about the Physical and Human Geographical features and have created maps that show human and physical features.





Year 3

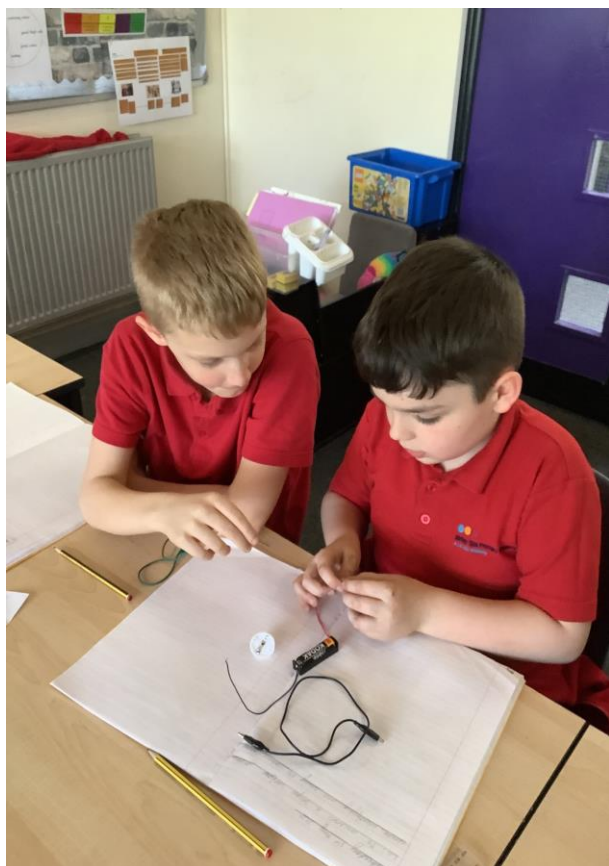
In year 3 we have been learning all about measuring volume and capacity in maths and we've had a lot of fun measuring this with measuring cylinders, cups and water. We have been writing an auto-biography all about ourselves in English and they have come out great! We are also planning our delicious, healthy sandwiches ready to make next week, we all can't wait!

Year 4

This week in Y4, the children have enjoyed starting their new text called 'The Bear and The Piano'. Within writing, we have been using the book to consider empathy as a character and exploring a range of ways we can create engaging and captivating descriptions. Within science, the children loved creating their very own electrical circuits and investigated the various components that allow an electrical current to flow through. In our history learning, we have been learning all about Crime and Punishment, this week the children have been immersed in exploring how crimes have changed throughout history.

Linking to history, within Art we have begun developing techniques that will be useful in drawing portraits as we are creating Dick Turpin wanted posters! The children have also been extremely resilient and aspirational in continuing to make progress with their scores on TT Rocks.

Miss Morley and Miss Gostelow





Year 5

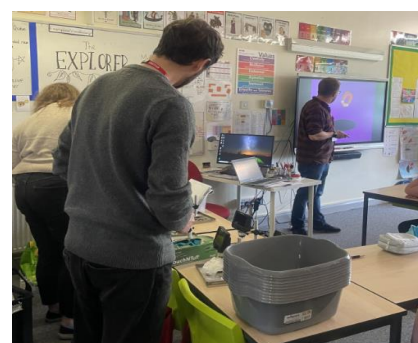
Year 5 have had a brilliant start to the Summer term! We have begun our great wider curriculum learning, including: Why different people undertake journeys in History, All about Space and our solar system in Science and constructing frame structures in Design and Technology (where we will be building the bridge that runs over Park Square roundabout at the end of term).

In English, the children have immersed themselves into the lives of different passengers who travelled on HMS Titanic. They have written some fantastic first-person recounts as either a first, second or third class survivor: we cannot wait to share some of these with you! In Maths, we have just finished our statistics learning, where the children have used their prior knowledge well, including great reasoning and problem solving skills to understand and interpret different types of graphs, tables and timetables. We finished this topic by creating individual school timetables for the week. We have just begun learning about angles and will be applying this knowledge to a range of problems and questions, that have a variety of angles missing.

During the afternoons, the children have created brilliant pieces of work for RE based around the question: How do people express their beliefs creatively? We have looked at our own definitions for the words 'creative' and 'creation' and begun looking at different architecture and how religious buildings reflect their culture and religion. We are all looking forward to the rest of this term and can't wait to see what other brilliant work the children produce!

On the 22nd April, three visitors from Hallam University came in and worked with Year 5. The children investigated our solar system and focused on: asteroids, comets, meteoroids and meteorites. We were introduced to what these were and find out some MIND-BLOWING facts! We then used specialist equipment from the University to study moon rocks found on Earth and the children were able to take their findings home!

Miss Ambler and Miss King





Year 6

In Year 6 the children have been busy preparing for their forthcoming SATS and as teachers we have been really impressed with the resilience and dedication they have shown. As always we are grateful for all the support and encouragement you give your children with regards to their learning.

In Science this week we have been recapping and extending our previous understanding of electrical circuits. This ties in nicely with our DT work in which we will be designing and creating our own motorised toy cars. No doubt the children have told you about their ICT lessons, working with 3d modelling. Fingers crossed we will be able to borrow a 3d printer in order to bring their designs to life! And in PE we are learning the different skills required for tennis, a fantastic sport to enjoy in the summer months.

Again, thank you for your continued support.

Miss Landowski, Ms Grec, Mrs Cresswell, Mr Smith



Class N

Class N have had a great start to the Summer term! Our theme of Crime and Punishment is definitely one that conjures up excitement for the whole class. We have already had a great visit from Roger Shalome, our local PCSO, who brought an array of hats for the children to try on, riot shields for them to see and practice with and a police riot van, with the cage in the back. All the class behaved impeccably and had a great time. This links perfectly to our History topic, where we have started thinking about what crime and punishment are and how it impacts on us and our lives. Our story, *The Bear and the Piano*, has some lovely illustrations and the children have used the story to predict what might happen next. They have recalled the story in sequence and thought about the setting, characters and plot to help us create our own fiction story. We are also going to use this story to practise our skills of using a dictionary and thesaurus. In DT, we are focusing on rolling and kneading this half term, and have used this focus to predict what ingredients and equipment they need to make cookies, biscuits and bread.



STAR OF THE WEEK

29th April– 3rd March 2024

Class:		
A	Billie – For her resilience in settling into Nursery so well and showing excitement and enthusiasm.	Lylah – For aspiration in learning new sounds and using them in her writing.
B	Ruby – For showing a great attitude to all aspects of her learning and independent working.	Logan – For showing a great attitude to her learning and becoming very independent.
C	Emily – For amazing work in maths. Emily shows great aspiration and demonstrates endeavour in all that she does.	Flourish – For aspiration and teamwork in PE and computing. Flourish always gives 100% in all that she does.
D	Sophie – For endeavour in writing., We are all so impressed with how you try so hard every single day!	Harleigh – For endeavour in writing. We are so impressed with how you are really trying to use phonics.
E	Luna – For showing resilience and not giving up when tasks get a bit tricky. You know when to ask for help and you're working more independently.	Darcey – For showing endeavor in all your lessons and for your focus and aspiration to do well in our boosters.
F	Dylan – For resilience . Your ability to turn things around, even when you might struggle sometimes you come back positive.	Zac – For endeavour . All your hard work and constant focus during lessons. You continue to strive and do your very best.
G	Amie – For resilience and endeavour and trying really hard during maths and English lessons to produce amazing work.	Valerie – For resilience and endeavour . Valerie has worked extremely hard to produce some great quality writing in her auto-biography this week.
H	Oliver - For showing all of the values all of the time and always showing respect within school.	Isabelle - For having a positive attitude and showing great aspiration in every lesson.
I	Jenson - For showing aspiration through continued development of his multiplication tables.	Joshua - For showing aspiration through continued development of his multiplication tables.
J	Emaleigh – For showing aspiration and resilience in her swimming lessons and never giving up.	Mila – For showing all the values throughout the week and always having a positive attitude to learning.
K	Amelia – For being resilient when sharing ideas with others. Your confidence is shining through.	Kian – For your determination and hard work. You have shown great Creativity in your independent writing this week.
L	Mason – For being a role model to his classmates by demonstrating positive learning behaviours all the time.	Abbey – For consistent aspiration and endeavour to achieve her best in all her learning.
M	Coleby – For aspiration and endeavour . Coleby has shown increased focus and good learning behaviours in all his lessons. Keep it up!	Jamie – For aspiration in maths. It has been lovely to see Jamie's hand up so much in class this week.
N	Harry – For endeavour. Harry has had a very positive week, worked hard and endeavoured to do his best! Well done!	

Weekly Attendance

29th April – 3rd May 2024

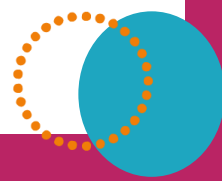
Whole School target: 96%



EYFS	A	87.4%
EYFS	B	85.2%
Y1/Y2	C	91.4%
Y1/Y2	D	96.6%
Y1/Y2	E	92.6%
Y3	F	87.5%
Y3	G	95.3%
Y4	H	88.7%
Y4	I	92.6%
Y5	J	87.8%
Y5	K	95.8%
Y6	L	96.5%
Y6	M	76.9%
Y3/Y6	N	94.4%
Whole School Attendance		90.6%

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



Dates for the Diary

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
13 th – 16 th May	KS2 SATs
20 th May	Y1 and Y2 spring disco
21 st May	Y5 and Y6 spring disco
21 st May	Y3 Weston park museum visit
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
19 th – 21 st June 2024	Y6 Kingswood Residential visit
26 th June 2024	EYFS sports day – 9am Year 1 and 2 sports day – 1.30pm
28 th June 2024	Year 3 and 4 sports day – 9am Year 5 and 6 sports day – 1.30pm
1 st – 5 th July 2024	Y6 bike ability
17 th July 2024	Reports to go home
22 nd July 2024	Summer Fayre
23 rd July 2024	Last day of the Academic Year
2 nd /3 rd September 2024	INSET Days – School closed