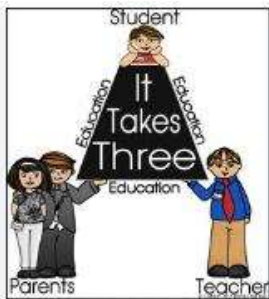


Message from Mrs Gibson

As we come to the end of an action packed half term, we would really like to thank our families for their support and positivity. Whether you've donated boxes for DT projects, volunteered to help in school, attended one of our parent workshops or just made sure that your child is on time every day to access all of the fantastic opportunities they've had, we're so grateful for your support.



We have had some interest in our parent governor adverts, so we will provide you with an update about our Governors next half term, as they are so important in our journey to make Birley Spa the best it can be!

We were so excited to find that we have some children who have achieved 10 Learners' Codes in each of the school values, making them our first bronze learners of the year – they are busy writing their speeches over the holidays so that they can hopefully achieve their bronze wrist band during the first week back! Well done – this is such a big achievement!

It's been an absolute pleasure to see the children so engaged in all of their learning this half term – please use the knowledge organisers we are sending out to talk to your children about their learning and let us know if you have any knowledge, skills, contacts or experience in any of our upcoming units of learning so that you can support our children to engage even more with their education.

Enjoy a wonderful holiday with lots of opportunities for autumnal fun. We want to wish you a safe and happy holiday and say Happy Diwali to everyone in our community who celebrates this festival of light!



Nursery

We had a fabulous spooky day in Nursery today. We read the story of Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper and we made some pumpkin soup! We had to chop the pumpkin up into small pieces then mix in some water. We each added a pinch of salt just like the cat in the book. When it was cooked we tried the soup. Charlie thought it was delicious and had 3 helpings! Mrs Thomas was dressed as the witch from Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson so she read us the story and we made spells saying 'Ziggety, Zaggety, Zoom'.

Have a wonderful half term holiday and we will look forward to hearing all about your adventures!



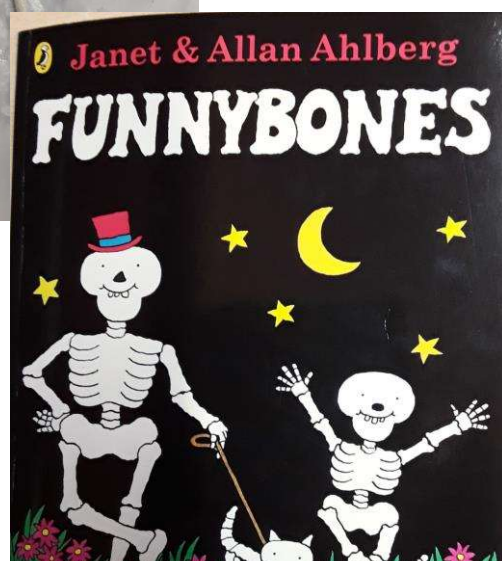
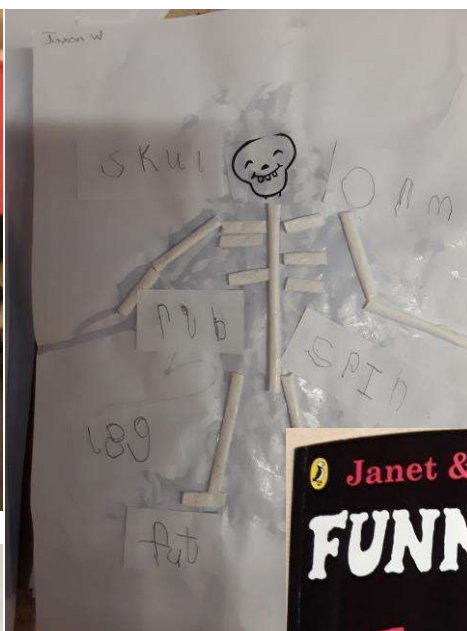
Reception

It has been a great few weeks of learning in Reception and the children have completed some amazing work!

We have been reading the story *Funny Bones*. We looked at why we have a skeleton, observed the differences between a human skeleton and a dog skeleton as well as learning all of the different features. Ask your child if they can remember some of the key bones in a skeleton.

We have completed some great independent learning changing the setting of the story and thinking about the different adventures they could go on next showing lots of imagination.

Have an amazing half term and get plenty of rest because it is going to be another action packed half term to continue the amazing progress and effect you have all shown this half term.



Year 1/2

In Key Stage 1 the children have been learning about pulse and rhythm in music. This musical learning has complimented our poetry writing nicely as children have been writing and reciting the poem 'What's in the toy box?' Children have really enjoyed giving this poem a Halloween twist this week.

Children are really excited about our Design and Technology day where they will be learning about wheels and axles and designing, making and evaluating their own wheeled toy.



Year 3/4

Year 3 and 4 had a lots of fun solving the Halloween riddles today on the Scavenger hunt. We really worked as a team to solve them as quickly as possible.

We also showed our creativity and made some Halloween character hand puppets following instructions shown on the board. This was a nice introduction to next half term for our DT in which we will be creating structures.

In Computing we also made collages and montages of Autumn using the I pads.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic 8 weeks! We are really proud of the progress made so far and are really looking forward to the next term! During maths this week, the children have been applying their mathematical knowledge to decimals. They have been using lots of mental maths and number bonds skills to complete a range of arithmetic questions. The children have then applied this to a range of problem-solving and reasoning questions using SLAM sentences to explain their answers.



In English, we have completed a fantastic independent write - this has been a newspaper report based on Hurricane Milton. We have included grammatical features such as: reported speech, modal verbs and a range of sentence openers. We can't wait to display these on our WOW walls and on Showbie!

In the wider curriculum, we have learnt about Hinduism in RE- the children have created some fantastic work all about Diwali. They have compared Diwali to another religious festival, listing and explaining similarities and differences. During Science, we have now finished the first half of our materials topic. Next term, we will continue looking at: evaporation, dissolving, sieving and much more! It would be fantastic to see a range of learning completed from the wider curriculum Leaflet. Have a great half



Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been looking at division. The children are confidently using the bus stop method and applying it to reasoning problems.

$$\begin{array}{r} 00617 \\ 73 \overline{) 45041} \\ \underline{-438} \\ 124 \\ \underline{-73} \\ 511 \end{array}$$

calculating →
remainders →

73	146	219	292	365	438	511	584	657
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We have really enjoyed the suspense writing we have been developing for Halloween – examples will be sent on Showbie after the holidays!

We have been evaluating Anderson shelters that were used in WW2 and replicating them by thinking carefully about the design, materials and applying our Historical enquiry to make a safe shelter. We've had some amazing homework and some great designs in the classroom!



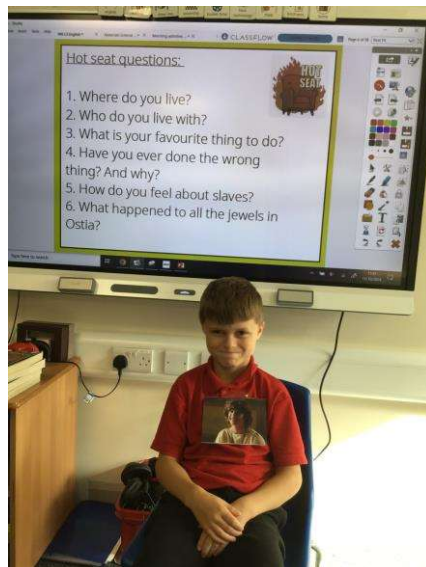
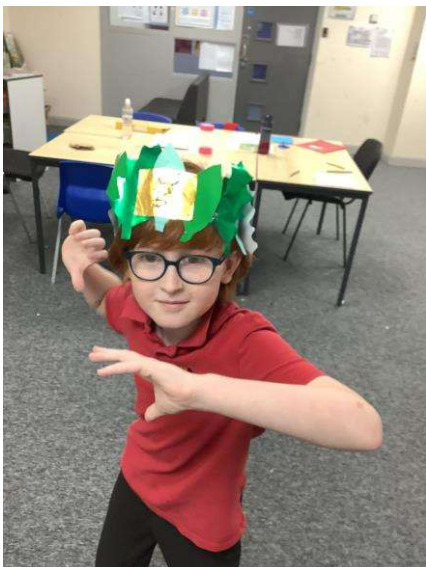
Year 6 have shown so much growth in their approach to assessments.

We're extremely proud of

Integrated Resource

What an amazing half term it has been - the children have engaged in some brilliant learning and demonstrated how hard they have worked! They loved the Romans unit, especially learning about how the roads have developed over time and creating their own, as well as thinking about designing their own Roman crowns, shields and swords. Similarly, they have listened and responded well to the story, *The Thieves of Ostia*, and have thought hard about some of the things that are different compared to the lives we have now. They showed a deep understanding of the characters when hot-seating and used adjectives to help describe different settings. All of this has led to the creation of a newspaper front cover, written by each of the children to report what happened at different stages throughout the story.

In Science, the children have loved learning about materials and states of matter and have shown a good understanding of their differences. The experiments we engaged in helped to challenge and consolidate their learning, whilst prompting them to question the fairness of the investigation and how to record the results. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school next half term to engage in our new topic - *How is our country changing?* (Geography based enquiry).





Autumn Parent Support

Date	Event
Friday 8 th November 2024 2.30pm – 3pm	Y6 SATs parents' workshop
Friday 8 th November 2024 2.30pm – 3pm	Year 1 Phonics workshop
Monday 11 th November 2.30pm – 3pm	Reception Phonics workshop
TBC 2.30pm – 3pm	Birley Academy Y5/6 parent meeting
Monday 18 th November 2024	Parents' evening 3:30-6pm
Wednesday 20 th November 2024	Parents' evening 3:30 – 5:30pm
Thursday 21 st November 2024 2.30pm – 3pm	Managing behaviour at home – boundaries and routines
Monday 25 th November 2024 2.30pm – 3pm	Attendance workshop – Every day counts!
Wednesday 11 th December 2024 8:30am - 9:30am	LEAD IT Safe use of devices and apps

STAR OF THE WEEK

21st October – 25th October 2024

Class :			
A	Daniel – for being so independent and settling so well into the nursery environment. Daniel is an expert learner with the trains.	Charlie– for his teamwork and his excellent tidying up! Charlie can now do brilliant sitting on the carpet.	
B	Ada - for showing great resilience when completing our yoga moves.	Nellie - for showing great resilience when completing our yoga moves.	
C	Brody – For showing resilience and aspiration when faced with challenges in class. Brody is also a helpful member of the class and likes to help tidy up and do jobs for the teachers.	Logan – For having high aspirations and showing creativity in English this week. Logan has written an amazing rhyming Halloween poem.	
D	Hazel – for showing creativity and endeavour in your DT lessons.	Lottie – for showing creativity in your writing, when writing a spooky poem.	
E	Louie – For showing all the school values and being a great role model to the class and wider school.	Ellie-Mae – For empathy and tolerance when showing understanding of how others are feeling and always wanting help.	
F	Poppy W – for creativity , she worked hard to include ambitious vocabulary in her writing this week.	Amie – has shown aspiration and creativity in her learning this week when answering lots of questions about our English and History topics.	
G	Colby – Showing amazing resilience in all areas of learning and especially pushing himself to produce amazing work in English this week!	Amelia – Improving her attitude towards her independent learning which has given her even more confidence!	
H	Kyla - Showing endeavour throughout her learning and always trying her best to move her learning to the next level	Beryl - Showing empathy to others around school and always showing respect	
I	Kobie- For having a brilliant first week at Birley Spa! Kobie has demonstrated great aspiration by working hard to achieve his best.	Rhys – Aspiration – Rhys has set himself mini goals and made an effort to achieve them which has lead to great quality work that he’s proud of.	Marnie – Resilience – Marnie has seen her mistakes as steps to learning and made an effort to push her understanding.
J	Mohammed- For having a brilliant first week at Birley Spa! Your Teamwork skills are brilliant-well done for sharing lots of ideas in lessons too!	Jayden - For having a positive attitude throughout this term. You are building on your Resilience!	
K	Tayen for a brilliant attitude to her learning during assessment week. She has handled like an absolute champion!	James for showing resilience in his maths learning this week. He has found creative and efficient solutions!	
L	Tyler – For always showing politeness and aspiration throughout his learning	Maisey – For always showing empathy and tolerance towards staff and her peers	
M	Harlie – for demonstrating endeavour when learning about decimals for the very first time. Well done Harlie!		

Weekly Attendance

21st October – 25th October 2024

Whole School target: 96%



EYFS	A	92.5%
EYFS	B	91.5%
Y1/Y2	C	90.4%
Y1/Y2	D	93.6%
Y1/Y2	E	97.3%
Y3/Y4	F	91%
Y3/Y4	G	92.9%
Y3/4	H	95.4%
Y5	I	89.2%
Y5	J	90.4%
Y6	K	99.3%
Y6	L	94.4%
IR	M	85%
Whole School Attendance		93.1%

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