



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

Newsletter

September 2020



Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been a fabulous atmosphere of learning within our school this week. The children are really demonstrating their resilience as they settle back into the school environment. It was wonderful to welcome Graves class back to school this week and I was impressed with the standard of work produced on the Showbie platform whilst they were all isolating. Thank you for your support with this. I have been particularly impressed with how our youngest learners are now engaging fully with the teaching and learning opportunities offered to them. Well done everyone.

Our Recovery Curriculum is underway and the children are engaging really well.

Our children have said the following about being back in school with their teachers and friends:

I am enjoying being back at school because I like being with my Friends. – Isla Y5

I enjoy being back at school because I have a routine and I like to have a routine. – Lexi Y5

Academy Core Values

Our focus this half term is upon Empathy and Tolerance. The children have been developing their understanding of these through their PSHCE lessons and through the establishing of routines within their classes. These are both important values which will ensure our children are able to be fully equipped for life in our ever developing society.

Pupil Voice Elections

Our school is a community which is built upon listening to the views of all of our stakeholders. It is really important that the children have the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings about their school and the aspirations they have for all of us within the school community.

There are several ways that we achieve this, and one of them is through our Pupil Voice councils. Elections have been underway this week and we are pleased to share the successful candidates

School Council

Y2 – William, Mila, Ava and Sonny
Y3 – Daniel, Alice, Khloe and Liam
Y4 – Jess, Luke, Connor and Max
Y5 – Scarlett, Jacob, Lexi and Mia
Y6 – Millie, Harvey, Leo and Amelia
Shirebrook - Josh

Eco Council

Y2 – Alex and Larissa
Y3 - Jamilia and Jorja
Y4 – Olivia and Alic
Y5 – Sydney and Isla
Y6 – Thomas, Darcy and Lilia
Shirebrook - Jamie

Environment Council

Y2 – Grace and Connor
Y3 – Stanley and Darcie-Rose
Y4 – Ollie and Imogen
Y5 – Riley and Amilia
Y6 – Kieran, Mia and Daniel
Shirebrook – Andrew

Exciting Developments in the Early Years outdoor area.

We are so proud that LEAD Academy Trust have chosen our school for another fantastic outdoor building project. Over the next few weeks we will see the EYFS outdoor learning space transformed into an amazing Teaching and Learning area that will support the children in all areas of the Early Year Curriculum .

There will be additional signage to ensure everyone knows the routes into and out of school. We will share photographs next week of the progress so far.

Magic Breakfast

I am happy to share the exciting news that Magic Breakfast is coming to Birley Spa Primary Academy. All children will be able to have access to bagels as part of a healthy breakfast. We all know that ensuring we eat a healthy meal at the beginning of the day increases our energy levels - exactly what we need for the children to accelerate their learning.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Pink
Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say how lovely it is to see all our children back in school following the summer break. It is wonderful to see them playing with their friends and enjoying their learning once again.

As you know from my last update, at Birley Spa we have established a clear, shared vision regarding our Recovery Curriculum based upon the following four areas:

1. PSHE & Safeguarding (pastoral recovery curriculum)
2. Reading, Writing & Maths Recovery curriculum
3. Wider Recovery curriculum
4. Home-Learning Recovery curriculum

Our number one priority when children returned to school at the start of September was to ensure that they settled back into school routines and structure. Through a re-developed PSHE & Safeguarding curriculum, each class teacher is now in the process of working through the following themes with their class:

- a. Supporting children to build positive relationships with others
- b. Supporting children to manage their feelings and behaviour
- c. Supporting children to enjoy and achieve
- d. Supporting children's physical health and well-being

I know that all the teachers have been so impressed with the way children have responded to the sessions delivered so far and how eager the children have been to learn.

I mentioned in my last update that in terms of the academic curriculum, we had carried out a thorough review of our curriculum coverage across all subjects. Staff have had the opportunity to engage in lots of CPD opportunities prior to the summer break which they have used to adapt and change their planning (in light of the lockdown period). We are very confident that the changes we have made to Reading, Writing and Maths will really inspire children to achieve highly and close the gaps that have emerged as a result of the lockdown period.

At Birley Spa, we pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality of education we can deliver and it has been great to see how children have engaged with their new topics and wider curriculum learning since we have returned. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like more information.

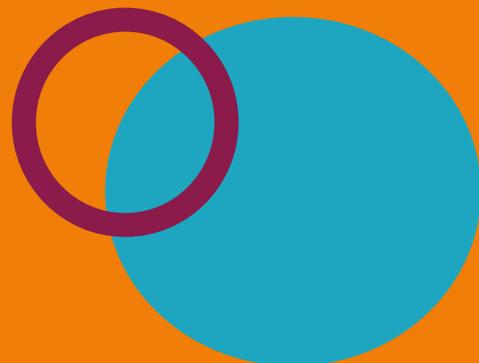
Keep safe and well,

Simon Smith

Deputy Headteacher

Breakfast Club

Reminder that our breakfast club is still running, you can book via the Gateway app. It is being held in the school hall every morning from 7:35am, the hall door's will be open for you to drop off. The cost of breakfast club is £4 and each child will be offered toast and a drink along with morning activities.



Class Round-Up

FS

1

Welcome back everyone, it's great to see so many smiling faces of children coming back to Nursery and children who are new to Nursery. You have all settled into school amazingly and are already showing us some fantastic learning. I can't wait for all the adventures we are going to have together.

Mrs Thomas, Mrs Clayton and Miss Leach.

FS

2

& Year

1

In Reception and Year One we have been learning about "What it means to be me". We have been looking at our favourite family photographs and talking about our families. We really enjoyed our first yoga session, where we pretended to be animals. In Maths we have been looking at numbers from 0 - 10 and have been ordering and writing them in the environment.

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth and Mrs Dhami

Year

2

In Year 2 we have thoroughly enjoyed our first few weeks back at school. Our current topic is 'What is unique about where we live' which we have become immersed into over the past few weeks. We have looked at the location of Sheffield within England and the United Kingdom. We have also been investigating our local area. In English our current book focus is "The Robot and the Bluebird" in which we are creating our very own character descriptions of the Robot - the main character from the story. Children also enjoyed taking on the role of the Robot when we all took part in hot seating putting ourselves into the shoes of the Robot.

It has been a fantastic start to year 2 and we couldn't be prouder of our new classes. Keep up the hard work Year 2!

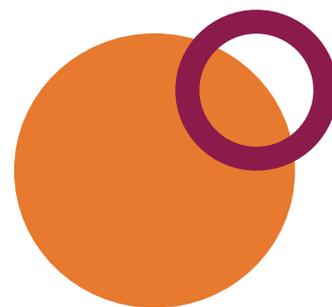
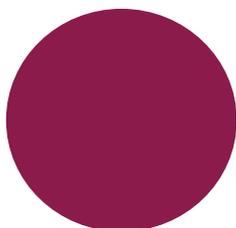
Miss Wilson and Mrs Unwin

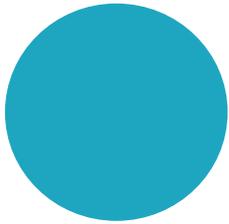
Year

3

Year 3 have had a great start to the year learning about The Stone Age. We studied what life was like for Cavemen and Women and how they lived. The children compared the clothes they wear now to how Stone Age people dressed and how they made their own clothing. We are all very excited for Stone Age day in October and learning more about how they live and gathered food.

Miss Gostelow and Mrs Roberts





Year

4

This week Year 4 have read about Beowulf the heroic slayer of Grendel. We are in the throes of planning our own retelling of this exciting saga. In maths, we have been counting on and back through zero to include negative numbers and using this knowledge to solve temperature problems. In RE this half term, we are learning about Christianity focussing on the miracles of Jesus, whilst in science we are learning about the contributions of scientists such as Durrel who was a famous conservationist.

Mr Blake, Miss Harper and Mrs Williamson

Year

5

Year 5 have had a productive start to the new school year and we are delighted with the way the children have all settled in. Our literacy book Street Child is linked to the topic How Did It Feel To Work in A Coal Mine, and in our maths we are tackling Place Value, working on hundredths and thousandths.

Science focuses on Materials and States of Matter, and in RE we are looking at what it means to be a Christian. A quick reminder that PE days are Mondays and Fridays - please send your child to school wearing PE kit. As the term develops we look forward to giving you more detail.

As always we thank you for your continued support.

Mr Jackson, Miss Landowski and Mrs Horsfall

Year

6

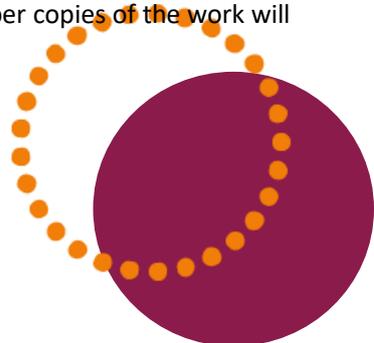
Year 6 have made a great start to the year and have really shown that they have the attitude and knowledge to make excellent progress over the year. Our topic this term is World War 2 and already we have looked at what it was like to live through the blitz. The children then wrote a short narrative describing the sights, smells and sounds that children during that time would have had endured.

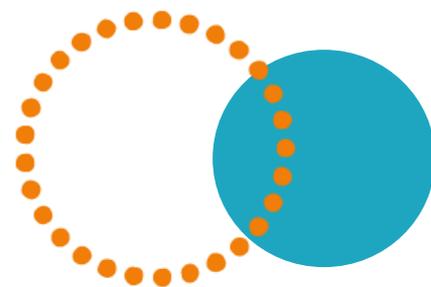
In English we have been looking at adding detail and description to our sentences. We have been using expanded noun phrases and relative clauses when describing a battlefield. In Maths we have been ordering and comparing numbers including decimals which the children thought was tricky at first but by showing resilience and determination, they all soon got the questions correct.

Please remember that children are to come in PE kits on Wednesday and that jewelry such as bracelets, along with makeup and nail varnish, are not allowed to be worn.

Finally, the online platform Showbie is now set up and ready to be used. If you do not have a login for this then please contact the office who will help guide you through the signing up process. Homework will be set regularly through this so it is important that the children can access this at home. If you are unable to do so, then paper copies of the work will be made available.

Mr Walsh, Mr Litherland and Miss Mooney





Last Week's Attendance Figures

	Target—96%	Actual— 89.1%		
R—Heeley	85.3%	R—Whirlow	85.6%	
Y1—Sheaf	88.0%	Y2—Endcliffe	94.1%	
Y2—Norfolk	97.9%	Y3—Crucible	83.7%	
Y3—Lyceum	95.0%	Y4—Kelham	82.7%	
Y4—Weston	94.5%	Y5—Millennium	84.2 %	
Y5— Graves	0%	Y6—Bolsover	81.3%	
Y6— Peveril	92.2%	Shirebrook	82.7%	

Well done to Norfolk class who exceeded the target of 96%. Lets see the other classes really trying to achieve this – each day counts!

Drop-Off and Pick-up Times

Age	Enter	Location	Exit	Location
Nursery	9.00am	Pedestrian Gate	2.45pm	Nursery Door
FS2	9.00am	Pedestrian Gate	3.00pm	FS2 Yard
Y1	8.55am	Pedestrian Gate	2.55pm	Outside the Classroom
Y2	8.40am	Green Pedestrian Gate	2.50pm	Outside the Classroom
Y3	9.00am	Green Pedestrian Gate	3.00pm	Outside the Classroom
Y4	8.45am	The Courts	2.55pm	The Courts
Y5	8.50am	Green Pedestrian Gate	3.00pm	Outside the Classroom
Y6	8.40am	The Courts	2.50pm	The Courts
Shirebrook	9.15am	Main Entrance	2.30pm	Main Entrance

Please remember to maintain social distancing, wear a mask or face covering and leave the premises as soon as your children have been dropped off or collected.