



# Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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## September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another hardworking week at Birley Spa. I am so proud of the learning that we are experiencing together after such a long time apart.

This week the teachers have been carrying out assessments so that we can really fine-tune our teaching and learning to be able to ensure that the children catch up and keep up following the lockdown period. We are developing our plans for additional sessions for the children in all year groups to have high quality catch up lessons with our staff. More details of this will be shared with you when this has been finalised as this may involve us extending the school day for the children or starting a little earlier.

Along with this there have been fabulous outdoor learning sessions and we have welcomed back our Yoga teacher and Sports Mentor.

I am pleased to share with you that Mr. Chris Jeavons was appointed as a member of our AGB. (Academy Governing Body). We welcome him onto the board and know that he will be a valuable asset. The AGB continued to meet virtually with Senior Leaders and myself over the course of the Lockdown period and are keen to be working with school again in the coming months. Our Governor Engagement meetings are likely to take on a virtual visit rather than face-to-face visits in our efforts to keep everyone safe.

### Curriculum update

We have started to deliver our Recovery Curriculum as we shared with you last week. Reading is forming a large element of this and so I would encourage you to continue to read regularly at home with your children. This will be the key to their success in other areas of the curriculum. We have added further English and Maths sessions into our timetable to ensure the children have a solid knowledge base to then be able to retain and build upon. Our focus within Maths this half term is on Place Value and Number and the children will be accessing Mathematics as part of this.

### Attendance

Thank you to you all for your support in your child's education, which has been reflected in our overall Attendance figures. The majority of absences this week have been COVID related so well done. We are striving to meet the National target of 96% attendance by the end of the school year so every session really does count. Please be aware that if you do not contact school to inform us of an absence then we may, as part of our safeguarding duties, have to refer on to other agencies. You will find more information on our Attendance Newsletter.

### Consultation Evening

Consultation evening is scheduled for the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October. However due to the COVID-19 safety measures in place at school this will not be a face-to-face event. The appointments will be over the telephone and will be arranged over the course of the week. This will allow our teachers to make contact. The discussions will be formed around settling back into school life including the attitudes and behaviours being displayed by the children as well as a discussion around areas where your child may need to focus in order to catch up.

### Exciting developments in FS2

As you are all aware, we are devoted to ensuring that the children have access to the highest quality provision. Over the Summer term, we had the fabulous new Nursery outdoor area completed and I am thrilled to let you know that our plans for the next stage of development are going to take place in the FS2 outdoor area in the coming weeks. This will ensure that our learning environment is the very best that it can be to support high quality teaching experiences for your children. There may be some slight alterations to entry and exit for those classes but I will confirm that when I have clarification from the project manager. I am sure you will agree this will be an amazing addition to our school.

## COVID-19 Update

Thank you for your continued support we adjust as a community to the full return to school.

As has been shared with you on many occasions please adhere to the guidance below. Remember that for many people COVID is a mild illness, however for some it is an extremely dangerous one. Hand hygiene and social distancing are very important. Please be aware that the government's new slogan of "Hands Face Space" are crucial to use ensuring we keep everyone safe.

I have worked closely with Public Health England and the local HPT in ensuring we have the accurate guidance and therefore take the appropriate action where cases have been identified. Please remember that if your child is displaying symptoms that they should remain at home and a test should be booked.

If a member of the household tests positive then the household enters isolation and therefore children are not able to come to school. In this instance, the remainder of your child's class and bubble is able to attend school as normal.

If your child is not displaying the symptoms of:

- A new and continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A change to or loss of taste and smell

Then they are permitted and indeed encouraged to be in school. The children need the security of the adults who know them well and the routine of daily learning in order for them to thrive both academically but emotionally as well.

## Online Safety

We are aware of a particularly nasty post currently going around on Tik Tok. The company are dealing with the situation and it should be cleared within the next few days. Please ensure your children are keeping safe in the online world.

## Staff Vacancies

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor, please see link for further details;  
<http://www.birleyspaacademy.co.uk/index.php/about-us/vacancies>



# Upcoming Dates for the Diary

Oct  
6<sup>th</sup>

Y3 Stone age Day

Dec  
11<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Jumper Day

Oct  
13<sup>th</sup>

Consultation Evening

Dec  
18<sup>th</sup>

School closed for Christmas

Oct  
14<sup>th</sup>

Consultation Evening

Jan  
4<sup>th</sup>

School opens for Spring 1

Oct  
21<sup>st</sup>

Individual Photos

Feb  
12<sup>th</sup>

School closes for half term

Oct  
23<sup>rd</sup>

Inset Day / School  
Closed for half term

Feb  
22<sup>nd</sup>

School opens for Spring 2

Nov  
2<sup>nd</sup>

School opens for Autumn 2

May  
28<sup>th</sup>

School closes for half term

Nov  
2<sup>nd</sup>

Y4 Viking Day

June  
7<sup>th</sup>

Inset Day

March  
Nov  
19<sup>th</sup>

Y3 Greek Day

June  
8<sup>th</sup>

School opens for Summer 2