



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

October 2020



Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another week full of fabulous learning in our school this week.

The outdoor learning environment within FS2 is looking fantastic and I know that the children are going to have even better learning opportunities when this is completed.

Graves class held their Victorian Classroom this week and the children were completely immersed in the period of history and were showing skills of empathy for the children that attended school during that time. Some of the costumes were amazing too!

COVID-19

Please remember that if your child is showing one of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 then they should not attend school.

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

The government guidance also stipulates that unless you have symptoms then a test should not be taken.

If there are cases within school then we will notify you of any closures to bubbles or if your child has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case. Additional cleaning has been introduced across the academy to ensure that the spread is contained and where a case is confirmed then the area that that case has been using is deep cleaned. Please remind your children about the importance of hand hygiene and we continue to wash our hands thoroughly and regularly throughout the school day.

If your child is isolating at home then they will receive their learning through our online learning platform Showbie or Tapestry. If you do not have your log in details then please contact the school office. If you are unable to access this due to a lack of internet access or a relevant device then again please let the office staff know. Paper packs can also be prepared.

Please remember to adhere to the one-way system if accompanying your child to school, wear a face covering and leave the school site as quickly as possible. We are working with the children on 'Hands Face Space' within school.

Attendance

Thank you to the parents and carers who are truly supporting their children's education by ensuring they attend school on time each day. It is vital that the children are in school so that they can experience the amazing learning experiences that the teachers are planning. If parents do not comply with this legal duty then I will work with external agencies such as the School Nursing Services, Social Care, MAST or SEND services to ensure that the children are safe and are having their entitlement to education fulfilled. If we are concerned about your child's attendance then we will contact you for an Initial Concerns' Meeting and then monitor for an agreed period. A reminder that holidays in term time will not be authorised.

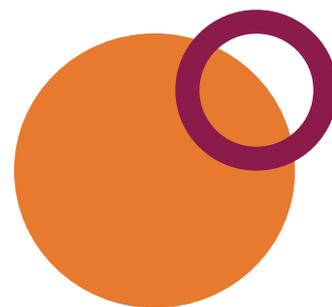
Consultation Evening

All teachers will be contacting you next week to make telephone appointments for our First Consultation Evening.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Pink
Headteacher

Class Round-Up



FS



This week we have been learning and exploring the number 2. We found out that two 1s make the number 2. We have also been learning the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. This has led to us going on lots of different hunts outside to see what other animals we could find. You should be proud of your children as they have been working extremely hard and learning lots of new things.

Mrs Thomas, Mrs Clayton and Miss Leach.

FS



& Year



In Whirlow, Heeley and Sheaf this week, we have been doing some amazing writing! We are learning new letters and sounds every day and including them in our writing.

We have loved watching the people working on our exciting new outdoor learning environment and Sheaf class have been designing their perfect playground and making models using Lego and blocks. We are hoping that the work will all be finished early next week and we can begin to explore the area!

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth and Mrs Dhami

Year



This week Year 2 have been working really hard to apply our phonics skills into our reading and writing. In order to do this, we have been ensuring we segment and blend our words carefully and have focused on learning some new sounds. We have begun to learn about 'The Three Little Pigs' in our English lessons and are working towards retelling the story in our own words. So far, we have sequenced the story and written a character profile about the Big Bad Wolf.

In Maths, we have begun our new unit which focuses on addition and subtraction. We have recapped number bonds to 10 and begun to learn our number bonds to 20. Next week, we will be adding and subtracting numbers using a range of resources to help us. We are also working on becoming more familiar with and using Mathematics, in particular being able to log in independently, therefore we'd appreciate it if you could support your child in doing this at home.

Miss Wilson and Mrs Unwin

Year

3

Year 3 have had another great week of learning in school. We have started looking at our new reading book The Stone Age Boy and the children are enjoying the story.

We are nearly coming to the end of our Stone Age topic. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about what life would be like if we lived as cavemen and women and immersing themselves in their lifestyle.

Our new topic for the end of the half term is going to be science based, looking at The Use of Everyday Materials.

It has been a few weeks since our home learning started to go live on Showbie and Mathletics and we are happy with the amount of engagement from the children. Practicing these skills at home will make a big difference to their learning so keep it up!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Gostelow

Year

4

This week we have been focusing on addition and subtraction in maths. The children have been working really hard and learning lots of new mathematical vocabulary such as: addend, sum, difference, minuend and subtrahend! In English, we have been planning and writing our own version of our story Beowulf, including designing our own monster. Through this, we have been practising our descriptive writing. We have continued to learn French on Mondays and we have just learnt how to count to 10, practising by playing the game 'elevens.' We are looking forward to another wonderful week next week.

Mr Blake, Miss Harper and Mrs Williamson

Year

5

It has been another fantastic week in Y5. Both classes have taken part in their Victorian themed hook day where many children dressed up. You all looked fantastic, thank you so much for taking part and getting into the spirit of things. All children were given an insight into life in a Victorian classroom, maybe things aren't so bad after all!

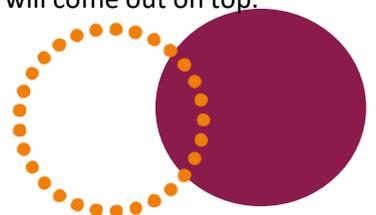
In topic this week we have looked at what life was like when working in a mine during Victorian times, we were all shocked to hear children as young as five were working underground and pregnant ladies were expected back at work the day after they had delivered their babies!

"The day was fun because we got to make a jack in a box." – Hidi

"I loved the Maths lesson even though the teacher was very strict." - Harry

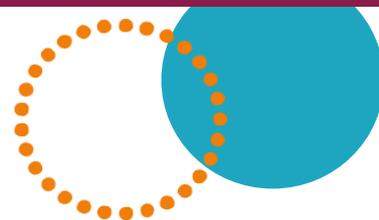
Things are getting tough in Maths, we are working hard in class on learning new skills for calculations. Everyone should now be accessing Mathletics and completing their home learning, thank you so much to those of you that are. From this week we will be having class battles in TT Rock Stars, who will come out on top. Many thanks for your all your continued support.

Mr Jackson, Miss Landowski and Mrs Horsfall



Year

6



The children in Year 6 have continued to work as hard as ever over the past few weeks. In English, we have been writing a diary entry based around the character William Beech from the fantastic story by Michelle Magorian - Goodnight Mr. Tom. The children used parenthesis to add additional information to their writing and have been learning how to use colons to introduce a list.

In Maths, we have been learning how to use long multiplication. To support with this, please help your children at home to learn their times tables via quick recall or by using the website trockstars.com.

Next week in Year 6, the children will be sitting their first mock SATs test. These tests help the children to familiarise themselves with what the actual end of year tests will look and feel like.

Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to the children who have been attending after school booster sessions. They have been engaged in their learning and showing great progress. We will soon be sending out letters inviting children to further sessions happening after half term.

Mr Walsh, Mr Litherland and Miss Mooney

Last Week's Attendance Figures

	Target—96%	Actual— 93.5%	
R—Heeley	98.8%	R—Whirlow	95.2%
Y1—Sheaf	97.6%	Y2—Endcliffe	95.8%
Y2—Norfolk	97.1%	Y3—Crucible	91.7%
Y3—Lyceum	90.0%	Y4—Kelham	90.7%
Y4—Weston	100%	Y5—Millennium	95.4 %
Y5— Graves	92.7%	Y6—Bolsover	82.9%
Y6— Peveril	94.9%	Shirebrook	78.2%

Well done to Weston class who achieved 100%. Lets see the other classes really trying to achieve this – each day counts!

Upcoming Dates for the Diary

Oct
13th

Consultation Evening

Dec
11th

Christmas Jumper Day

Oct
14th

Consultation Evening

Dec
18th

School closes for Christmas

Oct
21st

Individual Photos

Jan
4th

School opens for Spring 1

Oct
23rd

Inset Day / School
Closed for half term

Feb
12th

School closes for half term

Nov
2nd

School opens for Autumn 2

Feb
22nd

School opens for Spring 2

Nov
2nd

Y4 Viking Day

May
28th

School closes for half term

Nov
6th

Flu Vaccinations

June
7th

Inset Day

March
Nov
19th

Y3 Stone Age Day

June
8th

School opens for Summer 2