



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

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# Newsletter

November 2020



## Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, I have really enjoyed observing pupils with their learning provision and enrichment opportunities. As the term progresses, I shall be exploring greater pupil voice initiatives, as well as meeting with our school council representatives to discuss their ideas and plans for future developments. Working together as a whole school community will enable us to devise an ambitious plan and create a fabulous outdoor learning environment.

Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness, helping us to raise an incredible £179.24 for Children in Need – a very worthy charity. Our families also raised £205 from our Christmas Card Project. This will make a huge difference to our school fund. The children designed some super creations and I really look forward to seeing the published cards. In preparation for Christmas, we are putting together a range of activities so that our families can experience some festive spirit along with us. I am sure you will appreciate that our usual mass productions / celebrations will have to be adapted slightly, due to the current pandemic situation we are facing. However, we aim to creatively work together and bring Christmassy cheer to our families. Please look out for further details in next week's letter.

On Remembrance Day our children observed the 2 minutes silence to honour and respect our war veterans and remember the impact of war. Pupils have been inspired in their history themed learning and had an opportunity to create some wonderful pieces of work to reflect this.

I am delighted to announce that Birley Spa will be hosting our book fair between 1<sup>st</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December. Due to the current COVID situation, arrangements will be adapted this year – every pupil will have the opportunity to browse the bookcases and select their favourite texts and discover their next adventure story. Scholastic have created an online parents' portal so that parents can browse the books too and make purchases online. Once payment is received pupils collect their books from our school office.

A reminder for our Year 6 pupils and parents, if you haven't already submitted your secondary school application forms, the 30<sup>th</sup> November deadline is fast approaching. Please note, if your child is due to start Reception in September 2021 the deadline for applications is 15th January 2021. If you need assistance when completing either application, please do not hesitate in contacting our school office. Mrs Helliwell and her team are very happy to assist you with the process.

I would like to make parents aware that the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum organises workshops on topics of general interest that parents and carers can access for free. Workshops provide support with dealing with stress, dealing with sleep problems, anti-bullying, disability benefits and many more. They also run sessions in conjunction with the SLT Service on speech and language topics that include, introduction to Makaton, Social Stories, using apps, making visual resources to help your child communicate and supporting speech sounds. These are all free for any parent or carer to access. If you would like more information please contact: [enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk), 0300 321 4721 alternatively you can visit [www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk).

Birley Spa team would like to thank you all for your continued support in following our Covid-19 procedures and adhering to the one way system through school. This support helps to keep everyone safe. Please note, should your child have any COVID related symptoms please do not send them to school. Please use the link provided to book a test; <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/onset>

Our pupils' attendance figures are rising – well done everyone!

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mrs Pemberton* (Executive Headteacher)

## Deputy Headteacher's Update

I would just like to start my update by saying a huge well done to all our children and staff this term. As an academy, I feel that we have made lots of progress since the start of September in redeveloping our curriculum to meet the needs of our children and the children have responded superbly.

Following on from my last update earlier in the month, it has been great to see children participating in booster groups now across all year groups in school. Whether before school, during school or after school, children are working really hard to close the gaps that occurred as a result of the lockdown and enjoying their learning.

We are now well into our recovery curriculum programme and, before half term, children completed some short assessments in Reading and Maths. I know that teachers have since analysed the results closely and used the outcomes to complete their detailed planning for Autumn 2.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr Smith (Deputy Head)

## Message from the Chair of Governor's

" Goodbye and Thank You."

The Academy Governing Body, AGB, of Birley Spa are saying goodbye to Diane Talford, Vice Chair, and our longest serving governor. Diane has been a governor at Birley Spa for 15 years and in total has been a governor in Sheffield for forty years-an amazing achievement.

She has been a tower of strength and has always been a considerate, considered and concerned colleague. In particular, Diane has been a very strong advocate for pupils requiring extra support, visiting the school regularly and reporting back to the AGB the many positive aspects of Birley Spa. She has generously given her free time to help and support the school.

We will all miss Diane greatly, but we thank her for her tremendous contribution to governance at Birley Spa and wish her much happiness in the future!

Ed Wydenbach

Chair of AGB

## Attendance Update

As we move into the season of colder weather it is great to see our attendance improve! It is a real credit to all you parents and children that we can now see our week-on-week attendance percentage rising to be online (and even above) the national average. Moving forward we need to work together to maintain this - remember, every single hour of learning matters. If your child wakes up with a cold or a sniffle - send them to school! Usually, children perk up when they come in and if they don't, we will call you. Remember, school is not just about academic learning, it's also about those life lessons such as commitment and resilience. As we continue to improve, we will be promoting these values in respect to attendance - EVERY DAY COUNTS"!

Attendance Team



Hear are some quotes from the children about what they enjoyed about their learning last week;

FS2 & Year 1

"I learnt about Diwali and that it is a festival of lights" – Evie

Year 2

"Last week we wrote a story about Rapunzel that we had to add adjectives to." – Yousuf

Year 3

"We planned and wrote a non-chronological report about minotaurs" - Jorja

Year 4

"I enjoyed making a remembrance day picture of the soldiers." - Addison

Year 5

"I enjoyed our Roman day, especially the shield activity when we had to make a defense." - Heidi

Year 6

"We invented a corrector and then wrote a story about them. " – Jayce

**Bears of Sheffield**

As some of you will remember, Birley Spa have chosen to take part in a wonderful charity 'Bears of Sheffield'. Over this academic year, we will be doing different types of fundraising to go towards our very own bear! This will be decorated by our children and presented in the bear trial that will go live in summer 2021. We need to raise £750. for our bear. So far, we have raised £180 by hosting a film night last academic year ... only £570 to go!

**Change Jars**

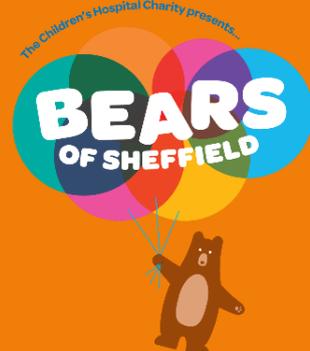
In each classroom, there will be a jar where we can collect spare change to go towards our Bear total. The first class to fill this to the top will get 10 minutes extra playtime for that day.

**Naming the Bear!**

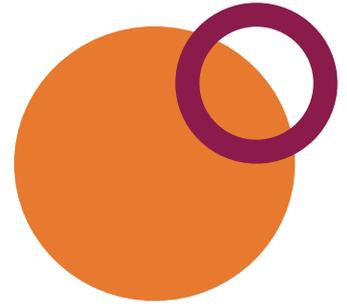
We need to choose a name for our Bear, it will be a £1 payment on our online School Gateway App to be in with a chance to pick a name. You will need to put the name choice in the comments section and we will draw this at the end of January.

**Raffle**

We are also holding a raffle with some amazing prizes that have very kindly been donated to school. We will be sharing a full list of prizes when the tickets go on sale on the Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.



# Class Round-Up



FS

1



In FS1 this half term we are learning all about light and dark whilst looking at different celebrations that link to it. Children have really enjoyed exploring light and dark through different experiences. They have explored our light box and used torches to discover hidden objects in dark places around the classroom.

Mrs Thomas, Mrs Clayton and Miss Leach.

FS

2

& Year

1

In FS2 and Year 1 our theme is Celebrations. In Whirlow class we have been celebrating Pog the pig's fifth birthday, we used our phonics skills to write birthday cards and party invitations and we have made some delicious buns for his birthday. We have also been exploring the composition of number 5. In Heeley class we have been learning all about Diwali. We have sequenced and retold the story of Rama and Sita and we have made Diva Lamps to light their way home. In Sheaf class we have been looking at rangoli patterns and we have extended our work on patterns by exploring the work of Andy Goldsworthy. We made some beautiful patterns using natural objects outside.

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth and Mrs Dhami

Year

2



In Year 2 last week we have focused our topic learning on Remembrance Day. We learnt about why Remembrance Day takes place and the importance of it. Following this we looked at a range of acrostic poems and then created our own. We also completed some artwork and designed and made our own poppies using a mosaic effect.

Miss Wilson and Mrs Unwin

Year

3

This week in Year 3 we have been learning about mythical creatures. We discussed our own experience of these creatures before reading a text about mythical creatures in our reading lesson and learning about the minotaur in English. The children learned that the minotaur is half bull, half human and has large white horns. They used their knowledge of minotaur's to write a non-chronological report for our display board in school. They did some art work of the minotaur to go along with their reports.

The children are really enjoying their reading at home, please make sure they are bringing their books back every week.

Mrs Roberts & Miss Gostelow

Year

4

Year 4 have worked hard last week on developing understanding and knowledge of multiplication and division. In English sessions, the children have worked hard to understand the story of Hiccup, the Viking who was seasick.

The children have shown great levels of understanding, knowledge and empathy when working to understand the significance of Remembrance Day. The children created some great acrostic poems to demonstrate knowledge/understanding.

Mr Blake, Miss Harper and Mrs Williamson

Year

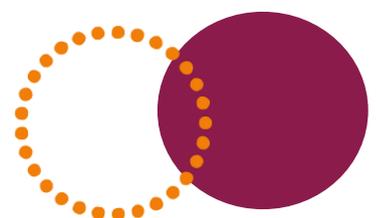
5

Year 5 enjoyed a visit by the History Van last week to start off their topic 'What Have The Romans Done For Us?' The children took part in a variety of activities including learning how to fight like a Roman soldier, how to build Roman viaducts, as well as playing Roman games. Well done to all those children (and their parents of course!) who dressed in some very creative costumes to add some sparkle to the day.

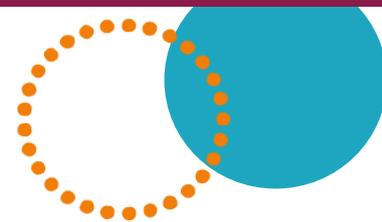
We have also been hard at work consolidating our long multiplication knowledge as well as corresponding division work. In Literacy we have studied, planned and written letters from Roman soldiers.

Homework is now set through Mathletics and Showbie. If you are unable to access Showbie and would like paper copies please ask your child's teacher. Finally, Millennium have started their booster groups after school this week that have been very successful. If your child has received a letter regarding these groups, please send it back to the class teacher, or if you would like further information, please speak to any of us.

Mrs Horsfall, Miss Landowski and Mr Jackson.



# Year 6



Year 6 are continuing to work hard this half term. In English, the children are building a wide range of skills to help them write a story full of suspense and mystery. They are learning to use subordinating clauses to create complex sentences to enhance their writing. In Maths, we have strengthened our use of written methods of multiplication and are now working towards using written methods of division. Please encourage your child to continue practicing these skills at home on Mathletics and to practice times tables knowledge on Times Tables Rock Stars. We have begun our exciting new topic on the Ancient Egyptians and have started to learn about King Tut Ank Haman; the boy king of Egypt. We have also explored how Ancient Egyptians buried their Pharaohs in the Valley of the Kings.

Mr Walsh and Mr Litherland

## Shirebrook



Last week, in Shirebrook we have been answering our learning question "Why should we remember?" by thinking about the importance of Remembrance Day. We made and packaged up some delicious poppy biscuits.

Ms Barrett

### Last Week's Attendance Figures

	Target—96%	Actual— 96.6%		
R—Heeley	93.7%	R—Whirlow	99.6%	
Y1—Sheaf	100%	Y2—Endcliffe	95.7%	
Y2—Norfolk	97.9%	Y3—Crucible	97.7%	
Y3—Lyceum	93.0%	Y4—Kelham	96.1%	
Y4—Weston	97.2%	Y5—Millennium	97.8%	
Y5— Graves	98.3%	Y6—Bolsover	97.3%	
Y6— Peveril	97.0%	Shirebrook	92.4%	

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

# Upcoming Dates for the Diary

<b>Nov</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Y2 Mock SAT's Week	<b>Jan</b> 18 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Deeper Learning Day
<b>Dec</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic Book Fair	<b>Jan</b> 25 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Deeper Learning Day
<b>Dec</b> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Raffle Ticket go on sale	<b>Feb</b> 12 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes for Half Term
<b>Dec</b> 9 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner	<b>Feb</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Opens for Spring 2
<b>Dec</b> 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper Day	<b>April</b> 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Closes for Half Term
<b>Dec</b> 16 <sup>th</sup>	Raffle Draw	<b>April</b> 19 <sup>th</sup>	School Opens for Summer 1
<b>Dec</b> 18 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes for Christmas	<b>May</b> 28 <sup>th</sup>	School Closes for Half Term
<b>Jan</b> 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Opens for Spring 1	<b>June</b> 9 <sup>th</sup>	School Opens for Summer 2