



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

February 2021

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Message from the Chair of Governors

I am pleased to let you know that Hannah Ireland has joined the Academy Governing Body as a Parent Governor. Hannah is a former pupil of Birley Spa and she has a son at the school. Hannah has also worked in a local primary school for 12 years and is committed to children receiving a quality education and opportunities to enable them to have a bright future.

Two of our governors that are also parents at the school got involved in the promotional video which you should be able to view soon.

Last term, we looked at the support for pupils and staff as they returned to school and the introduction of the new approach to behavior to help pupils to manage their feelings. We have been impressed by how hard the staff have been working to provide the remote learning offer together with still being in school for those children from key worker families.

This term, we are going to look at the provision for those children that have been identified as having special education needs and disabilities.

Keep safe and well.

Ed Wydenbach
Chair of AGB

COVID-19

If you are struggling to afford everyday essentials because of the pandemic, you may be eligible to apply for Covid-19 Hardship Related Assistance. Further details are available on our website <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus-hub/support-for-people#emergencygrant>

Activities:

Readathon Live to be held during February Half Term

Our volunteer libraries have organised a Readathon based on the theme of 'Our City Reads'. It features our writer in residence, Nik Perring's poem 'Mrs City' which will be read by children across the city. This will be followed by a free creative workshop by CHOL Theatre and Arts Company. This event exciting event is suitable for children aged 7-15 years. For more information please click on the link:

<https://greenhill-library.org/readathon-live/>

TTRockstars

We will be having a TTRockstars lockdown battle, between Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6! The winner of each year group will be entered into a prize draw! So get learning those times tables and start playing.



FS1



Nursery children have been working extremely hard with their home learning and have done lots of amazing activities.

Our topic this half term is nursery rhymes and we have been learning the sign language for different ones.

Our first nursery rhyme was Wind the Bobbin Up.



We have also been sharing a range of stories and completing lots of different learning around them.

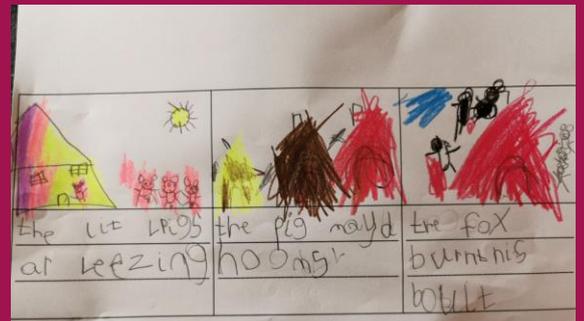
We have used lots of ways to make parts of the stories from drawings to models.

FS2 & Year 1

This half term we have been looking at a range of Traditional Tales. The book we were looking at last week was 'The Three Little Pigs'.

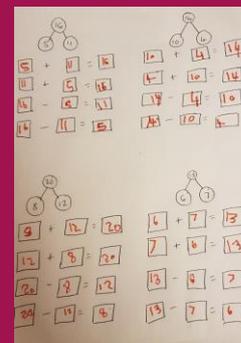
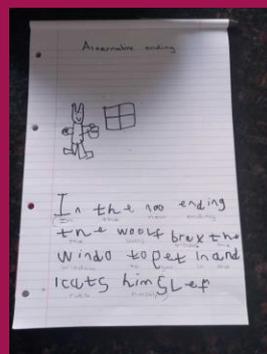


Isabelle has shown a great understanding of the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. First, she was able to independently recall the key parts of the story and identify what happened at the beginning, middle and end. She then drew pictures to show these key parts and then used her phonics to write her sentences all on her own.



Poppy did a fantastic job at retelling the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. First she created her own little piggies mask, so she could act out the part of the characters whilst she retold the story. Poppy then used her understanding of the story, to retell the adventures of The Three Little Pigs and the Big, Bad Wolf, using lots of story language.

Sheaf class have also been looking Traditional Tales. We have been writing about our favorite part of the story, making up new characters and then writing our own version of the ending of the story. In math's, we were subtracting and then using a part-part whole model writing all the addition and subtraction facts we could. This week we are looking at measurements and the children have been measuring objects.

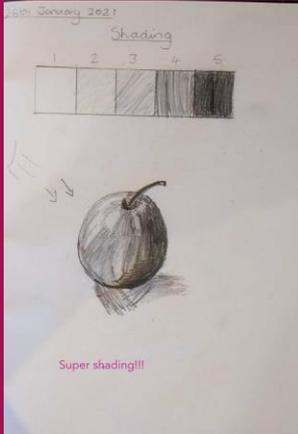


Year 2

In topic this half term, we are focussing on the artist Carl Warner who creates 'Foodscapes'. As part of our learning we have been looking at how to shade effectively.

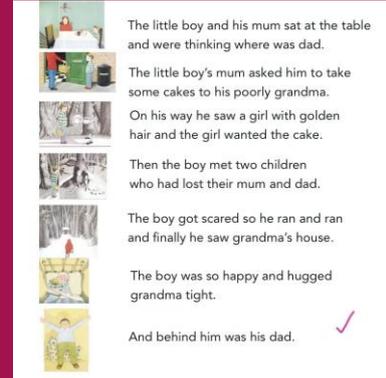
We are looking at the story 'Into the Forest'. Once we had sequenced the story, we wrote sentences to describe what happens in each part of the story.

As part of our maths learning on shape, we have been naming 2D shapes and describing their properties. Here are a few examples of our children's work.



100% To identify the properties of 2D shapes.
50% To name 2D shapes. 100% Describe the properties of 2D shapes.
100% Use natural wording.

Shape	Name	Properties
	Triangle	3 Vertices 3 Sides
	Rectangle	4 Vertices 4 Sides ✓
	square	4 Vertices 4 Sides ✓
	hexagon	6 Vertices 6 Sides ✓
	circle	0 Vertices 1 Side ✓
	octagon	8 Vertices 8 Sides ✓
	Pentagon	5 Vertices 5 Sides ✓



Year 3

In science, the children have been learning about forces and magnets. Part of the final lesson required children to use what they had learnt to design a game that involved magnets. Lily and Ruby chose to design and make a fishing game whilst Daniel designed and made a target board. In English, the children made explanation videos explaining how their games were made and how they could be played.

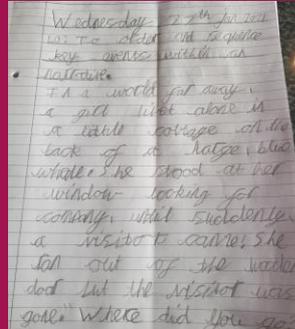
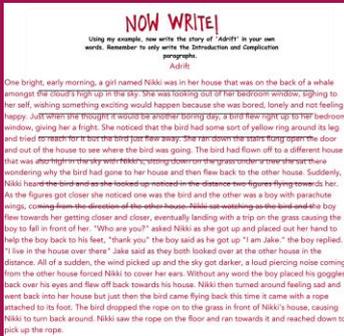
As part of our PSHE work this week, Year 3 discussed online safety. We focused on what information is okay to share and what personal information we should keep to ourselves. The children had a good discussion during our live lesson about why you should and shouldn't share certain information with people online.

The children then created a poster of 5 important rules to follow while they are using the internet.



Year 4

Year 4 engaged well last week in some independent writing based on the short film clip Adrift. The children participated well in the live lesson to share lots of great ideas and showed great understanding of the key events within the story. Great work Year 4!



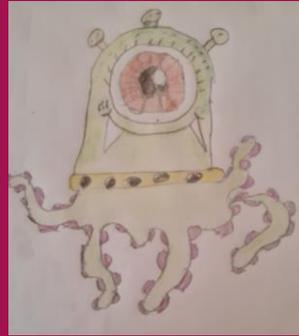
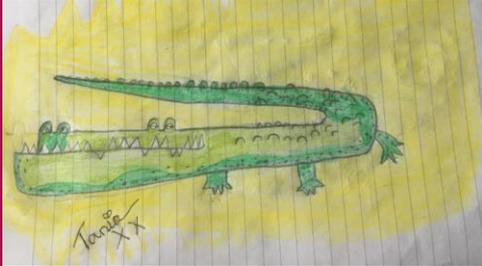
Year 5

In Year 5 this half term, we have been focusing our Art learning all around Peter Thorpe. He specialises in Space Rocket art which fitted perfectly with our topic of 'The Space Race'. To start with, we experimented with shading to create 3-D effects, this was then followed by the children creating their own vision of space using different mediums of art. The final part of the process included the children designing, defining and adding colour to their own individually designed rockets.



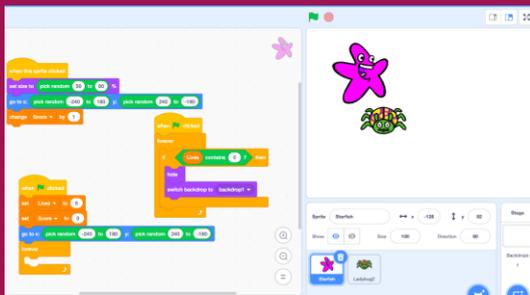
Year 6

In Year 6, the children have enjoyed following author and illustrator Rob Biddulph's online art lessons. He has created a number of tutorials which give step by step help in drawing some of his book's characters. Please visit his website to have a go yourself: <http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob>.



We have been learning the French words for different fruits and vegetables; the pupils joined along with a video learning how to pronounce the French vocabulary and drew posters of their new found words.

In computing, the pupils have been using coding skills learnt from last week to create their own games; they were challenged with creating a program that used loops, variables and if/else statements.



Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you are giving to your children and our school during this very challenging time. We know how difficult it is to balance your many responsibilities at home as well as supporting the children with their learning. It is important to remember that you can only do what is manageable and we are always here to help if we can.

We miss all of our pupils being in school and we were all very disappointed to hear that we will not be able to open school fully after half term; however, we remain hopeful that we will all be together again soon.

As always, the mental health and wellbeing of all our school community remains very important to us and this week is Children's Mental Health Week. If you are looking for lots of fun family activities and ideas try <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>



This week why not try one of each of these activities as a family, don't forget to send us pictures so we can share with everyone.

Maker Hour



Make a tall tower using objects in your house.	Create a hide-me stone. Go for a walk and hide it for someone to find.	Have a family bake-off and judge whose is best.	Draw a picture on a cereal box and cut it out to make a jigsaw.	Build a den or a fort (inside or outside).	Make a boat that will float in the bath. Whose will float the longest?
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Fitness Hour



Make up a fitness routine – Joe Wicks style!	Make an obstacle course either inside or outside.	Teach your family a TikTok dance.	Hold an indoor disco (perhaps a kitchen disco!)	Go for a walk and discuss what you see, hear, smell, taste.	Touch every wall in your house and time how long it takes. Improve your time!
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Genius Hour



Share and read your favourite books with each other.	Write and perform a playscript involving your family.	Invent a brand new board game. Challenge your family!	Learn to read/spell 5 new words and teach someone else.	Draw a detailed family portrait including any pets.	Write a letter to a family member in another house and post it.
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Zen Hour



Help someone in your house (wash the dishes, tidy your room).	Look through a family photo album. Discuss who the people are.	Ask a family member to draw you a picture of your house. Colour it in.	Have a joke competition. Who can tell the funniest joke?	Play a board game or do a jigsaw together.	Listen to some music together. Share your favourite musical artists.
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Half term family baking

If the children are missing the taste of school's cornflake tart, why not have a go at making it this half term as a bit of family fun. We would love to see your pictures, so make sure you send them in to enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk

Ingredients

- 320g ready-rolled shortcrust pastry
- [plain flour](#), to dust
- 50g [butter](#)
- 125g [golden syrup](#)
- 25g [light brown soft sugar](#)
- 100g cornflakes
- 125g strawberry or raspberry jam
- custard, to serve



Method

STEP 1 - Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Unroll the pastry and briefly [roll out](#) on a lightly floured work surface until it's large enough to fit a 23cm loose-bottomed tart tin. Use the rolling pin to lift the pastry over the tin, then press into the corners and sides so the excess pastry hangs over the rim. Trim this away, leaving just a small amount of excess hanging over the rim.

STEP 2 - Line the pastry with baking parchment and fill with baking beans or uncooked rice. Bake for 15 mins. Remove the parchment and beans, then bake for another 5-10 mins until just golden. Remove from the oven and trim any excess pastry from the edges using a serrated [knife](#).

STEP 3 - Heat the butter, syrup and sugar in a small pan with a pinch of salt, stirring frequently, until melted and smooth. Fold in the cornflakes to coat in the butter mixture.

STEP 4 - Spoon the jam into the cooked pastry base, then level the surface. Tip the cornflake mixture over the jam and gently press down until all of the jam is covered with a layer of the mixture. Return the tart to the oven and bake for another 5 mins until the cornflakes are golden and [toasted](#). Leave to cool until just warm before slicing and serving with custard.