

Message from Mrs Pemberton

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for your support throughout the year with our school improvement work and new initiatives. As Birley Spa staff, governors, pupils and families, work together as a united team, this will help to enable us to provide the finest environment and positive ethos for our wonderful pupils to thrive in.

There is an enormous amount of work, effort and planning going in to refining our provision and learning opportunities, so that Birley Spa becomes the greatest school it can be, sitting at the very heart of its community. Whilst I truly appreciate the immense support from the absolute vast majority of our parents, I am saddened to receive copies of some quite negative Facebook posts that have been put out on social media sites recently, regarding our school. I wholeheartedly believe that Birley Spa Academy will accelerate its progress and success by everyone working together positively, celebrating and championing each other to show our children that our united front and kindness helps to transform their lives and learning potential.

Personally, having almost completed 31 years in teaching, my commitment and passion for pupils' education remains paramount. Together, I believe we can build Birley Spa into an amazing academy. Please support us in this journey. We are one team.

In the past, many parents have expressed their desire to receive a class list of pupils' first names, so that they can use this for Christmas cards and birthday party invites. Before I can coordinate this, I need assurance from everyone that this will not be posted on any social media websites. This is in line with our privacy and safeguarding policies.

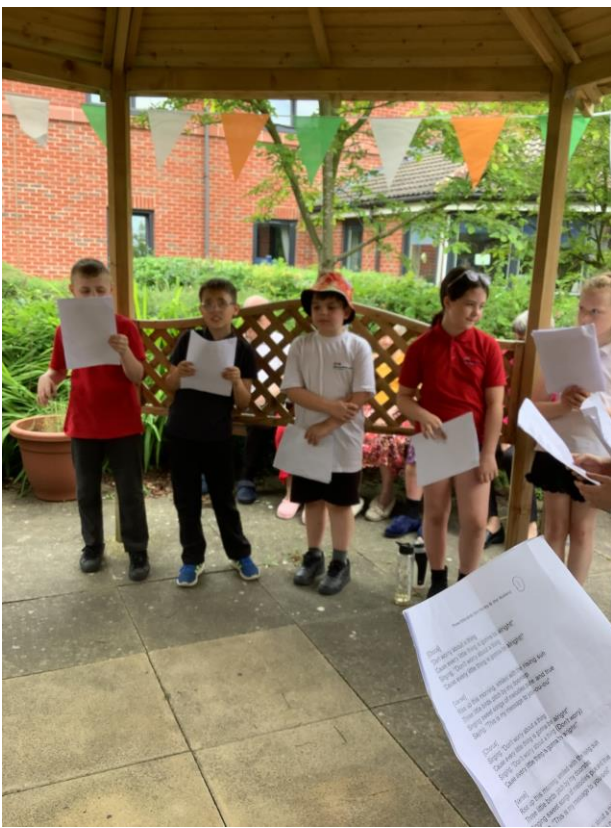
Additionally, Mrs Brodie (Office Manager) and I have been working hard to produce a fun filled and celebratory events planner for the new 2024-2025 academic year. Please find attached the overview of next year's exciting opportunities, which also includes sponsored events, national celebrations, fundraising events, themed celebrations, and discos. This should enable parents and carers to plan ahead and have well informed notice of all scheduled events. Please note, the pupils' trips, visits, and enrichment opportunities, organised by class teachers, will be added to this planner and will be available to parents at the start of the new academic year. Please note the planner will also be available on our school website.

We hope that you have enjoy some very special family time over the weekend. Once more, I apologise on behalf of the team for having to cancel sports days due to extreme heat conditions for KS1 and sickness absence for KS2. Please know that I would only cancel events under extremely difficult conditions. It was not an easy decision. Our team is very much looking forwards to welcoming you to the rescheduled sports events. KS1 and Y3-Y4 on Thursday 11th and Y5-Y6 on Monday 15th. Thanking you for your support and kindness.

Many Thanks,
Mrs Pemberton

Choir at the nursing home

Last week, 2 children from each KS2 class had the wonderful opportunity to go and sing some happy, summery songs to a local elderly care home. The children have been practising and looking forward to this trip for a very long time this year and all their hard work paid off. They performed amazingly and spread so many smiles amongst the audience. They were all so polite and represented the school beautifully. Well done everyone!



Fathers Day

Thanks so much to all the dads that joined us!



Nice sandwich and nice to spend time with my dad in school.

Great to spend time with my son and lovely food.

Lovely food, such a treat for school to put things like this on, amazing job guys!

First time attending and we loved it!

Very good idea, we loved it.

I want it every day. I enjoy doing different things like this at school.

EYFS

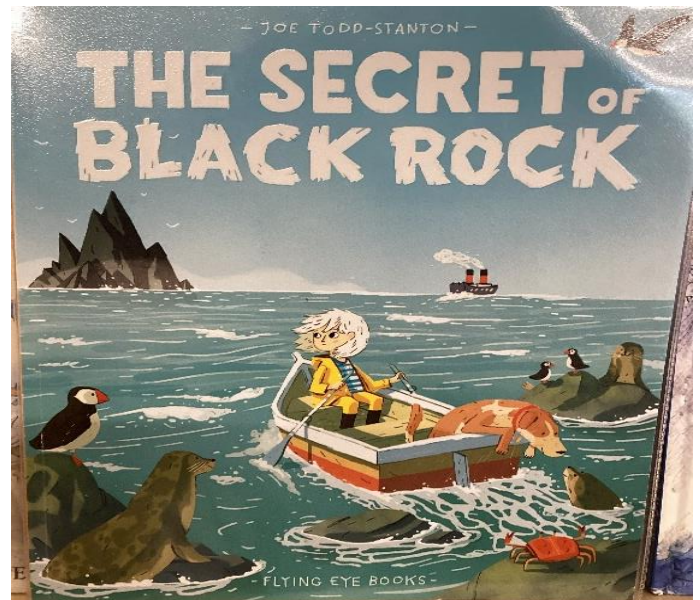
In EYFS we have been familiarising ourselves with the Traditional Tales that have been told for many years. We have made trolls from the Billy Goats Gruff story and built strong bridges for the goats to cross. We have been running as fast as we can, like the gingerbread man and investigating materials to build houses which are so stable that the big bad wolf cannot blow them down, even if he huffs and puffs.

The sunshine has made us think about what we like to do in the summer. We have set up our own ice cream shop so that we can buy and sell tasty treats. We are looking forward to spending the last few weeks of term developing our curiosity around these themes.



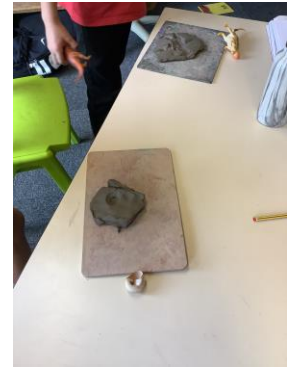
Year 1 and 2

In Year 1/2 we have been doing lots of exciting things. Today, Class D and E have been pond dipping at Birley Spa Bathhouse. They have caught lots of exciting creatures in the pond and have drawn what they managed to catch. In literacy, our new book is 'The Secret of Black Rock'. We have used our imaginations and have drawn what creatures we think might live under the sea. These amazing drawings have been used to decorate our classroom doors. Computing this half term is about programming and algorithms. Year 2 have designed and made their own animated quiz using Scratch Jr and the year 1 children have been learning how to program algorithms for sprites. Wow!



Year 3

In Y3 science this week we have been making fossils out of clay to enhance our learning about rocks and soils. The children were really engaged and had a great time exploring them. We have also been enjoying doing some role play for our book 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter'. The children were hot-seating as the main characters and asking key questions to deepen their understanding of the characters. In maths we have begun to study shapes and the children have been really excited learning about different turns and rotations.



Year 4

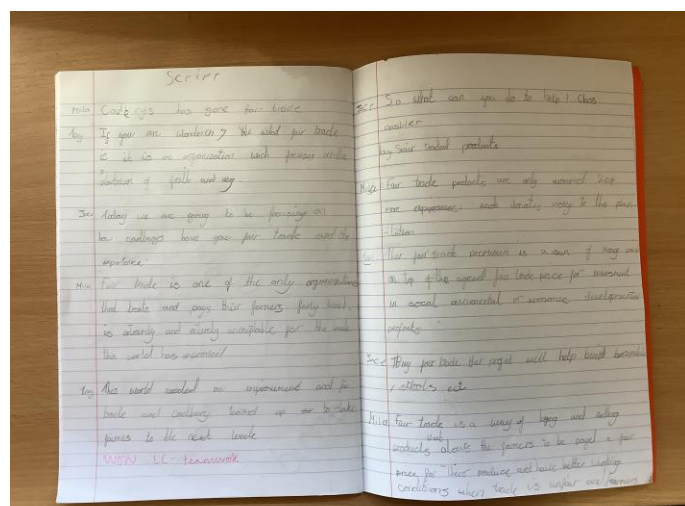
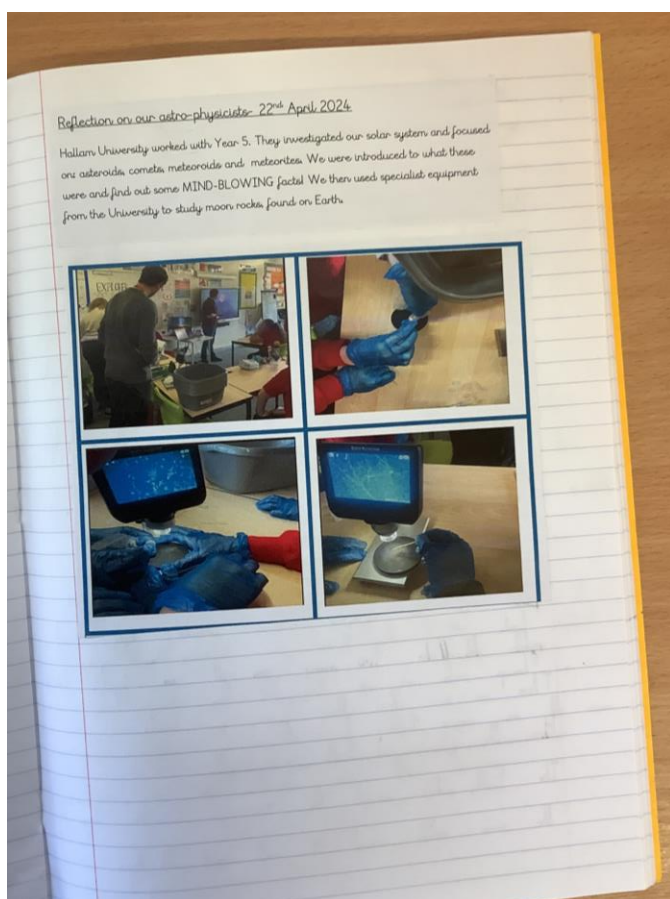
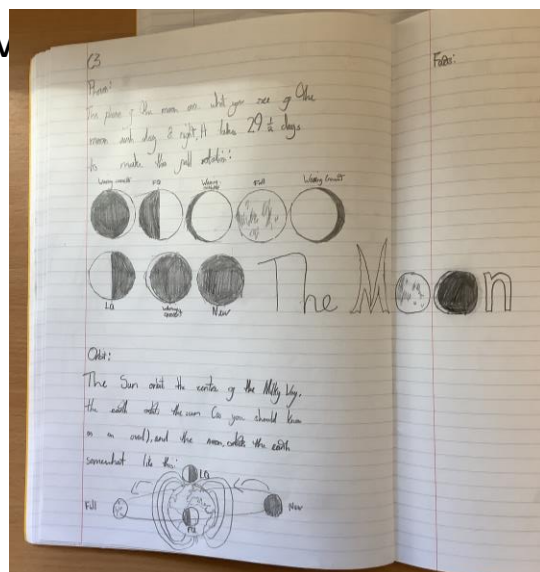
In Year 4 this term, we have loved continuing our river topic studies. We took a fantastic trip to Shire brook Valley; during the day, we investigated the route of the river, how it travels from source to mouth, how it changes landscape through its course and we also had the opportunity to pond dip to discover what species live in the area. Continuing with rivers, Year 4 have enjoyed the whole process of the writing journey; we used the text 'A River' by Marc Martin to plan and create fantastic poems and we are currently using creativity to write diary entries. We have been really proud of the children for demonstrating huge resilience and aspiration, especially when practising for their Official Multiplication test!



Year 5

Year 5 have been really busy so far this term with lots of fantastic learning taking place! In English, the children have researched, planned and written 2 biographies- the first being about Neil Armstrong and the second, being about a famous person of their choice. We are looking forwards to reading these over the upcoming days once the children have published their writing. The imagination and flair we have seen this term within childrens writing tasks has been brilliant- all children are including a range of grammatical features to engage and hook their target audience. In maths, we are continuing our learning on decimals and are consolidating the written methods when using the four operations. The children are using great SLAM language and are applying this to a range of problem solving and reasoning questions. In Science, the children have been fully immersed in our topic, "Growing up and growing older" and have so far learnt about the gestation period of humans and animals and the tips of a healthy pregnancy/risks of fetal dev

Miss Ambler, Miss King and Miss Calvert



Year 6

Our Y6 children have had the opportunity to participate in Bikeability Cycle Training. The course started on the playground and continued on quiet roads around the school. They have loved being out and about.

"It was a good experience and I enjoyed learning about bike safety," said Josh.

"We first did how to get on the bike, the ABC, we then did hand signals and looking left to right," said Grayson.

"I rode up to school on Monday and I didn't really enjoy it, but then now that I've learnt how to do different things on a bike, I've really enjoyed it much more," said Jamelia.



Class N

This half term has been one of change, as many of our Year 6s prepare to move on to their new schools in September. This has meant they have all been visiting their new school, meeting new people and discussing how they feel. The rest of the class, children and adults have also talked about how they feel when things change, and that it does not always make us feel calm and happy. However, we have said how important it is that we talk to our adults so that if they can, they will help us to deal with it. We have also loved practising throwing and running events ready for sports day, and look forward to showing how good we all are!

We have also visited the Birley Spa Bath House to go pond-dipping and bird box house building. We had a great day out, the sun was shining, the fish were swimming and we caught lots of different animals. Our favourite things to catch were the tadpoles and cray fish, with their snappy pincers. The children were really well behaved and got stuck in despite it being quite messy. They loved sifting through their nets to see what they had caught. Similarly, when using hammers and nails to create bird boxes they were all enthralled and eager to get their turn – everyone had a fab time!



STAR OF THE WEEK

1st July – 5th July 2024

Class:		
A	Harry – For his aspiration in phonics and learning new sounds.	Chester – For showing some amazing listening skills and being a really kind friend.
B	Carter – For trying really hard to focus at group time and giving fantastic views and opinions.	Esmae – For an amazing attitude to learning and always being first ready to learn.
C	Boe – For showing creativity in literacy and resilience in spellings. Boe always shows aspiration and is a role model for the class.	Isla – For showing resilience and endeavour in maths this week.
D	Phoebe – For her contributions to active English lessons you show great aspiration.	Ellie – For showing team work and empathy to all her friends.
E	Amelie – For showing endeavour in your writing and aspiration in your vocabulary.	Hattie – For showing all the school values and being a super role model.
F	Ollie - for excellent team work across his lessons this week.	Lillie - for Aspiration in her letter writing in English.
G	Louie – For resilience . Louie has been working really hard to focus on improving certain areas of his learning that he finds most tricky. Keep up the positive attitude!	Lily – For endeavour . Lily is really trying hard at the minute to improve her fluency in reading.
H	Lyla - For consistently showing all of the values and striving to become a gold learner! Lyla is particularly aspirational in everything she does.	Oliver - For consistently showing respect to all members of the school and working hard to achieve gold learner status. Oliver is fantastic at valuing his own and others' achievements.
I	Elizabeth - Showing creativity and aspiration in her Geography learning	Isaac - Showing creativity and aspiration in his Geography learning
J	Carter – For all the school values and working hard to end this year on a high.	lyla – For always showing kindness.
K	Charlie – For your brilliant design and technology work. You have remained resilient when faced with a challenge.	Osca – For developing your confidence throughout this year. You display all of the school values when you share idea.
L	Oliver – For focus and creativity in work celebrating NHS.	Harry – For showing aspiration in his learning and being a role model to his classmates through his good manners.
M	Jamie – For showing resilience and creativity during our election debate.	Jenson – For showing resilience and creativity during our election debate.
N	Alex – For endeavour . Alex has worked really hard during maths lesson. Thinking about scaling by 100. Well done Alex.	

Weekly Attendance

1st July – 5th July 2024

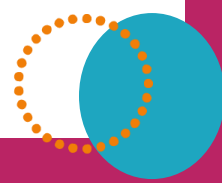
Whole School target: 96%



EYFS	A	81.2%
EYFS	B	92.6%
Y1/Y2	C	88.6%
Y1/Y2	D	91.4%
Y1/Y2	E	90.7%
Y3	F	94.7%
Y3	G	89.5%
Y4	H	80%
Y4	I	97.1%
Y5	J	92.3%
Y5	K	94.2%
Y6	L	85%
Y6	M	80%
Y3/Y6	N	88%
Whole School Attendance		88.7%

At Birley Spa Primary Academy we are committed to helping all pupils to achieve their full potential. Good attendance is a key factor in raising pupils' attainment and supporting their personal development. **In line with DfE and Local Authority policy, we do not authorise holidays taken in school time and we work with families to do everything they can to support their child to attend school every day.** Whilst it is appreciated that children are ill from time to time, please think carefully before allowing your child to be absent from school. The chart below provides an indication of how just a few days absence can significantly impact a child's overall attendance percentage and impede their learning:

Description	Attendance	Whole Days Lost	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100 – 99%	0 – 2	0 – 10
Good	98 – 96%	4 – 7.5	20 – 37.5
Requires Improvement	95 – 91%	9.5 – 17	47.5 – 85
Persistent Absentee	90 – 86%	19 – 27	95 – 135
Critical	85 – 80%	28.5 – 38	142.5 – 190



Dates for the Diary

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
17 th July 2024	Reports to go home
22 nd July 2024	Summer Fayre
23 rd July 2024	Last day of the Academic Year
2 nd September 2024	INSET Days – School closed