

Birley Spa Primary Academy

Newsletter

Executive Headteacher Update

Lead, empower, achieve and drive are the four key principles underpinning our organisation. Within our trust enrichment days, there are numerous opportunities for pupils to understand and develop these core principles.

At Birley Spa Primary Academy, it is our ambition to provide the finest culture and ethos for learning, so that pupils develop a wide range of leadership attributes and feel empowered to achieve their dreams.

We encourage our pupils to develop an inner voice which nurtures self-belief and celebrates their achievements. This ultimately helps pupils to gain optimum levels of motivation in order to drive through their aspirational goals.

Throughout the coming year, I shall update you with our progress and share the success of our pupils within these four core attributes.

Mrs Melany Pemberton
Executive Headteacher

Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher Update

Our focus in school over the past few weeks has been upon developing resilience. I have asked the children to keep stretching themselves and persevering when their learning has been challenging. I have seen this in many areas of school recently. In particular, I have seen children developing their resilience in Shirebrook when working on word problems in Maths that required them to use their calculation skills. This has also been evident in Year 5 where the children have been designing their 'Bug Hotels'. They demonstrated resilience by evaluating their designs and working together to improve them.

I have asked the children to be detectives on the playground and identify children who are being really good role models. The children have reported to me examples of children asking others to play, helping children who may have fallen over and encouraging each other to try new skills – for example, on the climbing wall. It is wonderful that the children are concentrating on the positive aspects of each other's conduct behaviour at lunch times and play times.

Our teachers have been working collaboratively to ensure their lessons are building on the knowledge they have already learnt.

Mrs Pink
Headteacher

Mr Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Celebrating Success

We have given out three Headteacher awards recently for children who have made a significant improvement in their attendance.

Our 'Time to Shine Children' last week were: Lyla from Whirlow, Isaac from Heeley, Albie from Sheaf, Summerlin from Norfolk, Daniel from Endcliffe, Jaya from Lyceum, Shaunay from Crucible, Mikey from Kelham, Scarlett from Weston, Harvey-Lee from Graves, Oliver from Millennium, Mckenzie from Bolsolver, Tensi from Peveril and Jamie from Shirebrook.



Birley Spa Primary Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

Class Round-Up

FS 1

This week, the children have been exploring the 'Threeness of Three'. We linked this to the story 'The Three Little Pigs'. This is part of our improvement work to deepen their knowledge and understanding of numbers, and we continue to work with the Early Years Maths Hub to develop our practice.

To further expand their knowledge, try asking your children about the number 3 and what the 'big, bad wolf' did in the story.

Mrs Thomas and Mrs Clayton



FS 2

This week in FS2, the Gingerbread Man has been visiting us to help with our learning. We have been thinking about whether he would float or sink when he falls into the water and designing and labelling bridges to help him cross the river without relying on the sly, old fox. We will be posing a philosophical question – 'Should the Gingerbread Man trust the fox?' We have been focussing on developing our phonics teaching through sharing good practice across the Early Years Phase. We have also worked together to ensure all our areas of learning include opportunities to write.

Ms Peck and Miss Warner



Year 1

In Year 1, we have been taking inspiration from the artist Robert McCall in order to create our own space pictures. We are developing our technical art skills of learning to sketch, collage and create marbling effects which we will pull together to make our final piece of art. In English, we have been identifying the features of a letter in order to write our own version to the character in 'Beegu'. In Maths, we have been finding halves and quarters of shapes and understanding quantities through a practical approach, using physical resources. We are looking forward to sharing our art pieces with you at the art exhibition next week. We have been sharing each subject focus with the children, so that they can make connections.

Mrs Allan and Miss Whitworth



Year

2



Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed looking at Carl Warner's 'Foodscapes'. This artwork, produced by the well-known curator, uses food items to create wonderful masterpieces. We have linked this to our topic 'Who lives in the forest?' by recreating a forest image using a wide range of foods.

We are also encouraging the children to use their key reading skills across the curriculum in every subject including the solving of complex maths puzzles.

Finally, Miss Wilson and Mrs Unwin would like to say a big 'well done' to those children who competed in the 'Mini Olympics' at Ponds Forge recently – you were a credit to our Academy.

Mrs Unwin and Miss Wilson

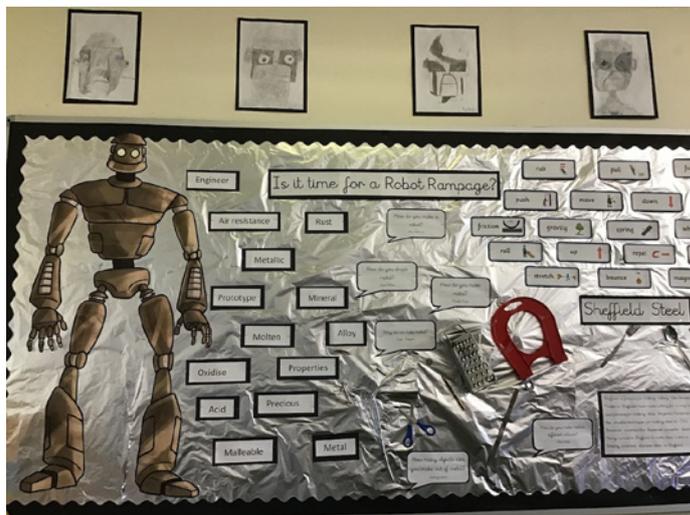
Year

3

In Year 3, we have finished writing our own adventure stories about the 'Iron Man'. The children loved producing a range of exciting descriptions about the character and creating mysterious clues to discover more about his personality and attributes.

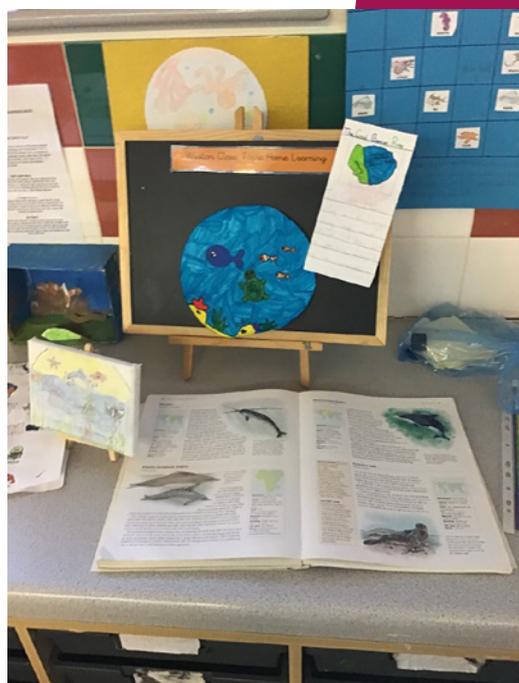
In our topic learning, we have started to understand how different objects use air to work, such as pumps and arm bands. We used straws and balloons to investigate how air pressure moves objects.

Miss Gostelow and Mrs Roberts



Year

4



Year 4 have immersed themselves further in their Literacy Learning, with the book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class', covering poetry and letter writing, as well as their extended writing sessions. In addition, our Active English sessions at the start of each Literacy lesson have seen the children quickly become more secure in identifying and using grammatical features.

In Maths, the children are performing excellently in this term's Geometry unit, not just plotting coordinates but also challenging themselves by translating shapes.

In addition, Kelham have done themselves proud by taking on extra times tables homework, with positive results! As always, thank you for all your support.

Miss Landowski, Miss Harper and Mr Blake

Year 5

We have had an eventful couple of weeks in Year 5. Our children took part in a L.E.A.D. Academy Trust STEM day in Nottingham alongside other schools within the Trust. They engaged with a range of activities and tested their understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Amelia and Liliana from Millennium broke the record with their design for a windmill propeller.

We are in the midst of creating a habitat for mini beasts, which links with our topic 'Beast Creator'.

Mrs Williamson



Year 6

Year 6 are enjoying studying the text 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. Our writing this half-term has been focused around this text. This week, the children have been learning how to use an adverbial clause accurately in a sentence. They have also written balanced arguments and started to plan their own narratives. We have been learning how to develop interesting characters to keep the reader hooked.

Also, the children have experienced a mock SATs week. This has given them all a real flavour of what it will be like in May (SATs week will take place from Monday 11th May 2020 to Thursday 14th May 2020).

To support your child with their revision, we have purchased two online learning tools (Mathletics and Spag.com). Your child will be able to access both sites at home and we encourage you to do a little bit of revision with them every day.

Please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Mooney or Mr Walsh if you or your child have any concerns or questions about SATs.

Miss Mooney and Mr Walsh

Early Years

We have been using 'Tapestry' for a term and we are very excited about the opportunities it gives us to track the learning and development of our pupils – now it's your turn! Look out for a questionnaire coming out soon, so we can see how you are currently accessing your child's electronic learning journal and help you to support their assessments.

Leadership of Learning

We have been celebrating 'Number Day' this week. This maths-inspired fundraising initiative was discussed by the School Council and then implemented with all of the staff. The day has been developed by the NSPCC and so the School Council felt it was a great idea to support it as it helps other children who may be in difficult circumstances whilst improving the maths skills of our pupils.

Our Environment Councillors have been supporting our Site Manager and the Cleaning Team by helping keep our school grounds free from litter. They regularly undertake litter picking around the school site. Along with the Eco Council, the children are developing a strategy for our school to improve recycling and reduce plastic waste.

Extra-Curricular

After-School Clubs:

Monday – Mindfulness Colouring Club (Y3 – Y6) run by Miss Gostelow

Tuesday – Football (Y3 – Y6) run by Sheffield United Football Club

Tuesday – Musical Theatre (FS2 – Y3) run by Performix

Thursday – Basketball (FS2 – Y3) run by SJD Sports

All of our after-school clubs run from 3:15pm to 4:15pm.

Governors' Update

Our Governors play a vital role in the Academy. On 17th January, they visited school for an 'Engagement Event'. During this visit, we updated them on our post-Ofsted priorities for school improvement and they evaluated our Maths curriculum. They did this by speaking with the children, Mr Smith (the Maths leader) and looking through the children's books.

There was a Governor Engagement Meeting on 5th February where we shared our improvements around phonics teaching and learning throughout the school, and the progress so far with our post-Ofsted action plan.

There will be a full Governing body meeting on 3rd March.



Our Parents

'You Said, We Did'

You said that trading cards were causing an increased amount of anxiety amongst the children and so we now do not have them in school.

You said that you were concerned about the level of illness within Year 1 and so we undertook a deep clean in both classrooms.

Recent Parent Events

Over the last few weeks we have been pleased to welcome parents and carers into our school for a variety of events. The Year 4 brass assembly was a great success and we were so proud of how the children performed in front of a live audience.

Thank you to the parents who recently attended the Year 6 SATs information afternoon. It was wonderful to see so many of you coming along to find out how you can support your child and help them to achieve their best. If any of you were unable to attend, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 6 team for any further information.

Upcoming Parent Events

We are really looking forward to welcoming you into school next week for our first Birley Spa Art Exhibition. The children have all been focussing on a different artist in each year group and are very excited to share their learning with you. The exhibitions will take place in each classroom from 2:30pm on 12th February 2020.

Upcoming Dates for the Diary

FEB 07	Book Fair Arrives (books on sale 10th to 13th February)	MAR 02	Y2 Jump Inc.
FEB 10	Safer Internet Week	MAR 16	Y4 Cultural Arts & Music
FEB 12	Whole School Art Exhibition	MAR 27	Last Day of Term
FEB 13	Last Day of Term	APR 14	First Day of Summer 1 Term
FEB 14	Inset Day – School Closed to Children	APR 15	Whirlow visit to Heeley City Farm
FEB 24	First Day of Spring 2 Term	APR 16	Heeley visit to Heeley City Farm
FEB 27	Y3 Crucible visit to Millennium Galleries		
FEB 28	Y3 Lyceum visit to Millennium Galleries		

Email: enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk

Telephone: 0114 239 9106

@birleyspaacad

www.birleyspaacademy.co.uk



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