



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Newsletter

12 February 2021



## Executive Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the end of this incredibly challenging half term, I would like to pay tribute to the amazing efforts and dedication from every member of our Birley Spa team. Together, pupils, parents, staff and governors have worked incredibly hard to ensure the successful implementation and running of our remote learning provision. Our whole teaching team have without a doubt gone "above and beyond" in order to provide our pupils with the greatest opportunities to access quality learning, especially during these exceptional circumstances. I truly believe the teachers and teaching assistants involved in "live" teaching sessions are incredibly brave and show real commitment to our pupils and their families.

Mr Wilson and his team of caring site staff are maintaining a beautiful, clean and safe environment for all key worker pupils and staff to access. Every measure is being taken to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and staff remains a top priority.

Safe and well checks are conducted daily through Mrs Helliwell's brilliant admin team, DSL and family support service (including our catering team). Every effort is being taken to provide quality support to our families. Please can I urge you to keep communicating with us, so that we can offer further support and help should you need it. Please do not struggle, we are here for you.

There are lots of exciting works planned for the coming months. Plans include the remodelling of the library areas and the introduction of a forest site and Scandinavian learning philosophy approach. I shall share more about these exciting plans next half term.

Over the coming months, it would be fantastic if we could involve parents and the community in developing our site. Whilst we are under lockdown and have to fully operate safer distancing measures, projects could be carried out at home and then be delivered to school. Please, please, please let us know if you can offer any help and support with projects. Calling all joiners builders, gardeners etc... and skilled trade workers.

I wish every member of our school community a brilliant half-term break.

Please stay safe and well. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Pemberton  
Executive Headteacher

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## Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

**Parental controls:** Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so they shouldn't replace the need for you to support and advise your child using the internet. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#).

**Supervise their online activity:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

**Explore together and chat little and often:** Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

**Make sure they know where to go for support:** Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. For a breakdown of report services, visit: [Supporting your child with reporting unwanted content online](#).

**Take a look at Thinkuknow:** Thinkuknow is the national online safety education programme from the National Crime Agency. Thinkuknow offers learning activities, advice and support for children and young people aged 4-18 and their families. The [Jessie & Friends animations](#) for 4 to 7s will help you start a conversation about online safety and for 8-10's, there's the [Play Like Share animations](#) and the [Band Runner game and advice website](#).

**Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried:** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.

**Talk about how their online actions affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.

**Use 'SafeSearch':** Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child can access whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog.

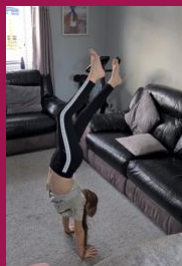
Visit [Thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents) for more information on keeping your child safer online.

## Captain Sir Tom Moore

In honour of the amazing hero Captain Sir Tom Moore, a former British Army officer who raised over £33 million for NHS charities during the Coronavirus pandemic. Our children were challenged to complete a century of something last Friday afternoon, here are a few pictures that were sent in.



Poppy from FS2 completed 100 star jump



Abbey from Y3 completed 100 handstands



Ava from Y6 completed 100 handsprings



Isabelle from FS2 counted 100 pieces on Lego



## Deputy Headteacher Update

As we come to the end of the Spring 1 term, I'd like to reflect on the magnificent efforts of everyone at school. Once again, we all found ourselves in a national lockdown situation shortly after returning in January. Whilst this continues to be a very challenging set of circumstances for all concerned, it gives me great pleasure to say how superbly children have responded (again) to our remote education curriculum that we have put in place at Birley Spa Primary Academy.

As you know, many of the children at Birley Spa have been learning at home, carefully supported by their teachers. To enable us to deliver daily live and recorded teaching and learning activities, we upgraded our Showbie account and have used this (alongside Tapestry) to engage all children with exciting learning tasks and challenges. The children, who have continued to come to school, have had access to the same learning experiences either through accessing learning via a school laptop/iPad or through direct teaching from class teachers. As Curriculum Leader, it has been great to drop into lessons (both in school and remotely) to see, first hand, how brilliantly our children are maintaining their desire to learn and achieve well. Further details regarding our remote curriculum can be found on our school website.

I would also like to acknowledge the key role that you (as parents and carers) have played in supporting your child/children at home this half term. We would like to thank you enormously for your continued support during this difficult time and for encouraging your child/children to engage with all the wide ranging tasks, challenges and activities set by teachers and teaching assistants.

Whilst it remains unclear at this stage just how long the lockdown will remain in place, I know that with your continued support we will all endeavour to provide the best possible education we can for all children at school.

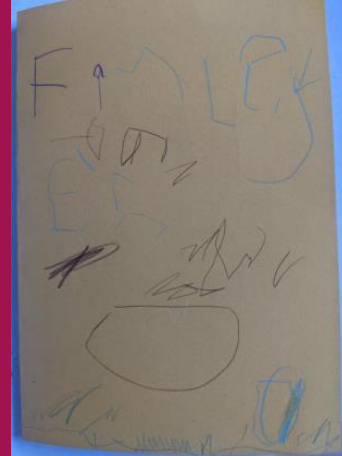
As always, if you require any further support or guidance, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher via their Showbie Pro Plus account or through the school office.

Have a safe and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing you remotely on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

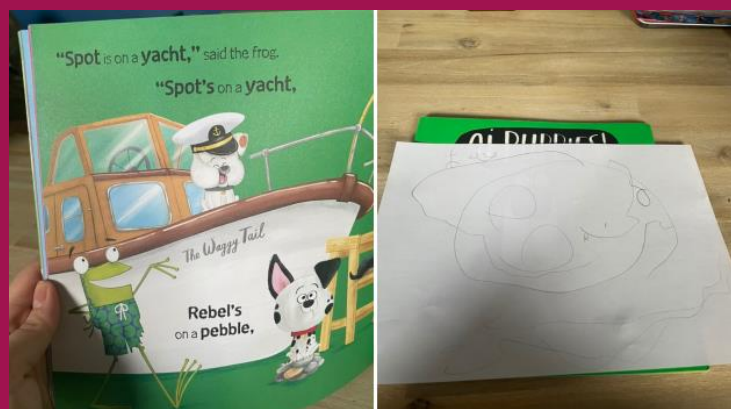
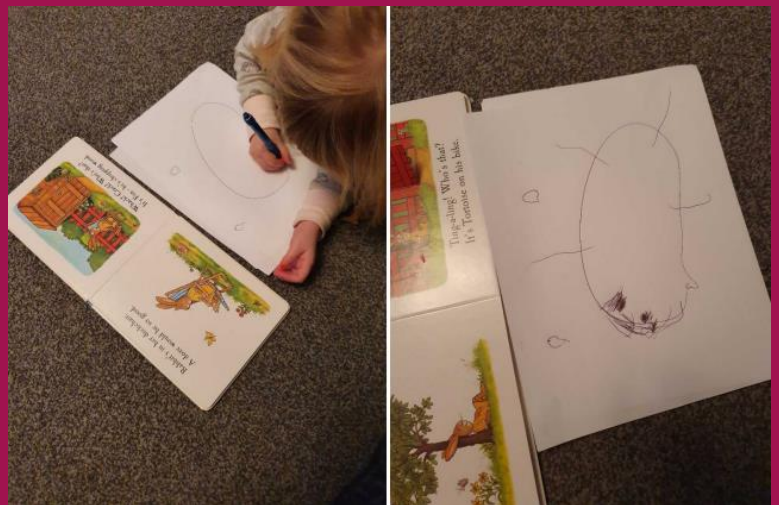
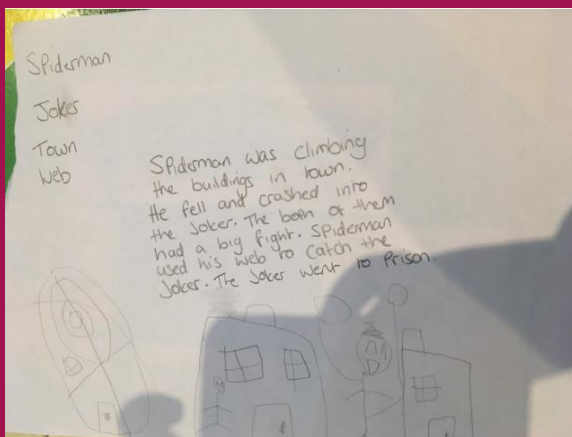
Mr. Simon Smith  
Deputy Headteacher

## FS1

During mental health awareness week, we were thinking about how we can be kind and helpful. We thought about how best we can make someone we live with happy. Eli helped his mum hang the washing, Piper helped her mum make tea and Lucy made a birthday card for her dog Finley.

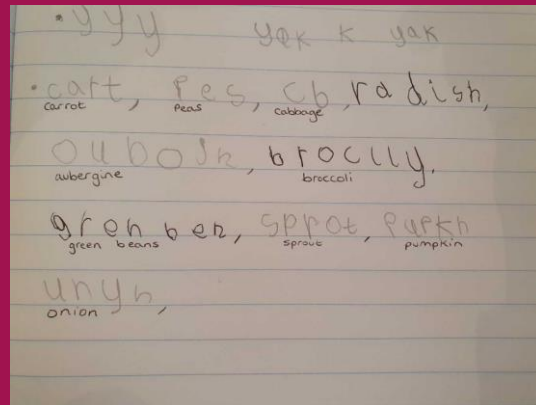


As it was also National Story Telling week, we have also been learning all about stories and talking about our favourites. We identified what they need to include (beginning, middle, end). Here are some of the stories the children made up.



## FS2 & Year 1

This week, we have been working very hard at home and at school. Our story of the week was 'The Gigantic Turnip'. As well as retelling and sequencing the story, we have been writing lists of all the vegetables we know and finding out about how they grow. We used our funky fingers to make vegetables out of playdough and if we hadn't got any playdough we had a recipe to make our own! We have also been ordering numbers to 10 and finding numbers that are one more or one less.



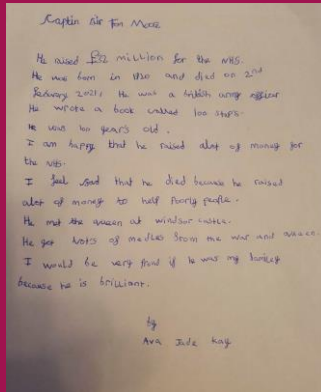
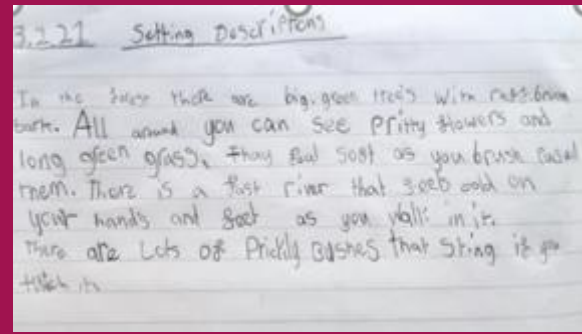
## Year 2

Art work: In our topic this half term, we have been looking at artist Carl Warner and his style of work which is known as 'foodscapes'. Following this, we replicated his work and created our own forest scapes using vegetables.



## Year 2

Writing: Last week, the focus in our English lessons was to create our own setting descriptions about a forest. We used our four senses - see, hear, smell and touch to think about what was in the forest. We then wrote our descriptions using adjectives and expanded noun phrases.

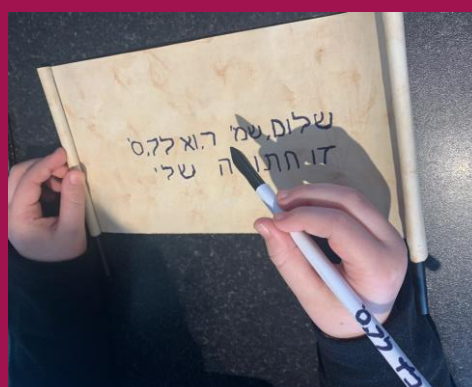


Tom Moore: As part of the work we did as a school (honouring Captain Sir Tom Moore), Ava wrote a thoughtful this piece about him and his life, well done Ava!

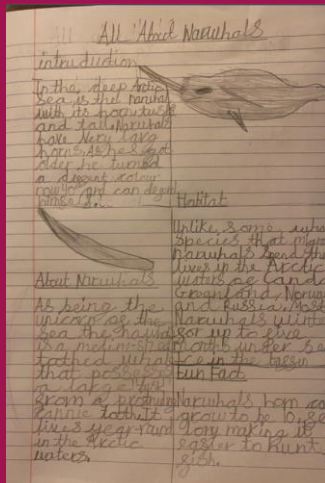
## Year 3

We are studying Judaism in RE. As part of this project, the children were asked to create some of the special objects used in a Synagogue.

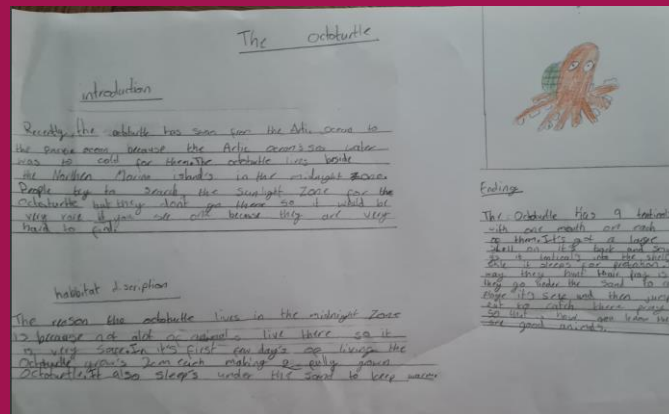
Daniel created a Torah scroll and wrote his name in Hebrew. The reading pointer he made is called a yad it means the hand of God.



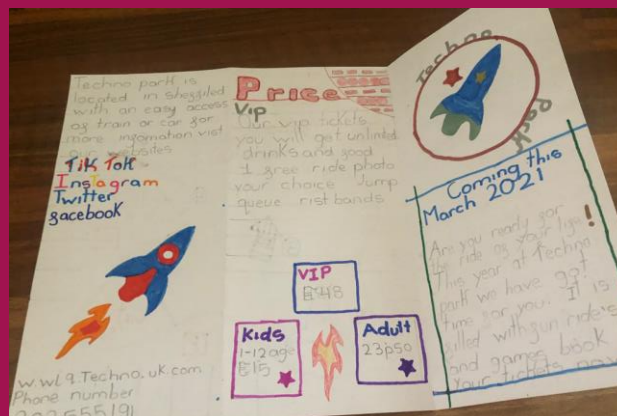
## Year 4



Last week, the children in Year 4 produced some great work during English sessions. The children were challenged to create their own sea-based creature. They had to consider where the animal lives, how they are adapted to their environment and their general appearance.



## Year 5



Scarlett T completed this leaflet for her own theme park. We all spent a week planning and drafting and this is part of Scarlett's fantastic finished piece.

As part of our 'Who won the Space Race topic?' Finn produced this amazing Rocket.



Jorja produced this superb piece of art work over two weeks. During the first session, she produced the background and in the second added the rocket, I'm sure you will agree it is absolutely fantastic.

## Year 6

"GUILTY!" boomed a loud authoritative voice. "Take him away!"

So that was that! And that's how I found myself here! In this filthy yellow prison bus headed out into the middle of nowhere; on a treasure hunt to find Camp Green Lake.

The day began in a much more positive way. I was dressed in a sharp suit that my mum had bought specially for the occasion (people like me don't usually have cause to wear suits). I had a tie coiled around my neck like a snake poised, waiting for the kill. And my shoes were polished to within an inch of their lives (my mum says you can tell a lot about a person by whether or not they take pride in their footwear). I certainly looked the part as I made my way up the court steps with my police-appointed solicitor. He had assured me that as I had "never been in trouble before" and that as it was only a "minor offence" that I wasn't likely to get a "custodial sentence."

"Probably just a few hours' community service. You'll be back home with your Mama by teatime." His words echoed in my ears with every bump we hit on this awful dirt road; a tear slowly trickled down my cheek.

My mind began to wander back to that fateful day in July, when my life changed – forever...

My heart was beating out of my chest. My throat was on fire. Sweat poured down my face like a waterfall. My eyes scanned the area. People everywhere. Buildings everywhere. Police everywhere. There was no escape!

Once again, my feet sprung into action; sprinting, dashing, racing aimlessly down the street. Where was I going? Who knew?

"STOP! POLICE!"

Oh No! They were right behind me! My eyes searched desperately for an escape route. I was trapped; like a cornered animal. Urgently, despairingly, hopelessly I made a break for freedom. Charging like a bull in a frenzy towards the officers. Desperate to evade capture...

Next thing I found myself bundled carelessly into the back of a police car. The stench of urine and body odour invaded my lungs; making me feel like I was going to throw up. The swift, erratic motion of the car was aggravating the situation. My hands, tightly bound together in handcuffs; the metal cutting like a knife into my soft flesh. What had I done?

In Year 6, the children have been writing a narrative based around the opening chapters of the story *Holes*, by Louis Sachar. As a class, we read about how Stanley, the main character, was sent by a judge to Camp Green Lake. The children created their own characters who had also committed a crime and were similarly sent to camp by a judge. Within the writing, the children used expanded noun phrases, relative clauses and parenthesis to add description.

## Shirebrook

Our artwork this half term has been based on Shapes. We created these beautiful spirals inspired by the snow and ice we had seen! Joshua created this amazing circular pattern, by carefully joining points on a circle with a ruler.

We have also started growing our positive thinking brains in Shirebrook. The shoots are spreading all over the wall. Look what some of the leaves are reminding us.

