



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

19th March 2021



Deputy Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say how lovely it is again to see all our children back in school following the wider school opening. It is wonderful to see them playing with their friends and enjoying their learning once again in school.

As you know from my last update, at Birley Spa we have established a clear, shared vision regarding our Recovery programme. Our number one priority, when all children returned to school on Monday 8th March, was to ensure that they settled back into school routines and structure. As a result, class teachers have been delivering our brand new PSHE 'Recovery' programme with their classes. Just a quick reminder that this programme (which will run until the end of the academic year) has been very carefully structured to sensitively cover key aspects such as:

- Our welcome back to school (including an updated class charter to support respect for personal space (social distancing), hygiene etc.)
- Belonging and feeling safe in school.
- Reconnecting with friends at school.
- The Coronavirus explained and keeping safe and well.
- Managing worries, fears and anxieties.
- Being positive and looking forward to learning and much more.

At Birley Spa, we pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality of education we can deliver and it has been great to see how children have engaged with their topics and wider curriculum learning since we have returned. It is always very rewarding to call into classrooms and see learning 'in action'. Mrs Pemberton and I have been hugely impressed with the way children have settled back into school and by their desire to learn.

Finally, thank you for your support and contributions to our Red Nose Day celebrations. I know that the children (and staff) enjoyed wearing their brightly coloured clothes and each class spent some time discussing the issues facing young people across the world.

Thank you for your continued support and keep safe.

Simon Smith
(Deputy Headteacher)

FS1

This half term in nursery, we have been learning about all the different jobs that people can have and how they can help us. We have really enjoyed learning all about doctors, fire fighters, dentists, vets and builders.



We played and found out how we can see inside people's bodies. The children took on different roles to play. Boe was a patient's mummy and said "My baby is not well and is hurt. Can you help her?" Lydia (who played a doctor) replied "Oh dear, the arm is broken, look. He's all better now."



As a builder, Theo built a house and explained all of the features that he had created. Thinking about a builders job, Theo told me "a builder can build a house with lots of walls."

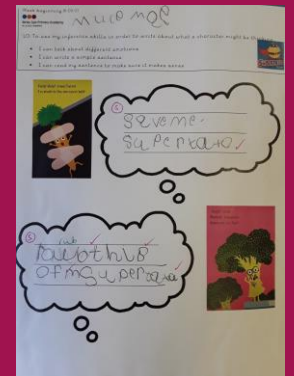


Darcey used the muscles in her hand to squeeze the bottle and brushed the teeth. Thinking about a dentist's job, Darcey said, "Dentist's check your teeth are clean so you don't get cavities."

FS2 & Year 1

In English, we have been looking at the story of 'Supertato'. We have developed our skills in predicting, using adjectives to describe characters, sequencing pictures from the story and retelling the story through drama. We have really enjoyed designing our own superhero vegetables and then making them using real vegetables and materials for their masks, capes, and belts. In maths, we have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also been comparing and ordering numbers to 50. The children have been developing their skills in making sensible estimations with numbers to 20. In Science, we have been discussing the four different seasons and talking about how the weather changes.

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth & Mrs Dhami



Year 2

We just wanted to begin by saying it has been fantastic to have the children back in school, they have shown excellent learning behaviours and we are so proud of them. We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our parents for their continued support.

This half term, our topic in Y2 is "How do our bodies move?" We have been looking at the different ways we can keep our bodies fit and healthy. In English, our children produced a non-chronological report this week informing others how to keep healthy including a balanced diet, exercise, personal hygiene and sleep.

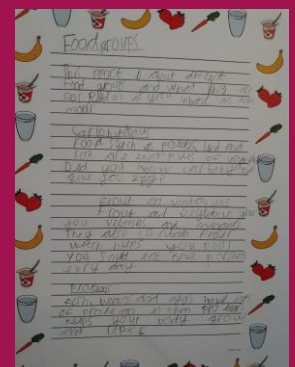
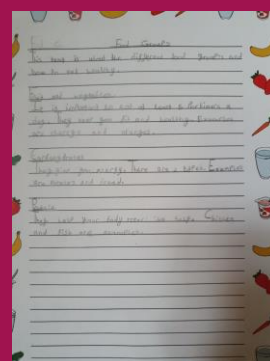
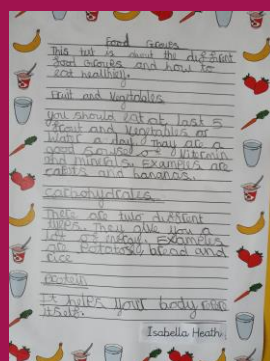
In Maths, Y2 enjoyed continuing their learning on fractions. We have been finding unit and non unit fractions of shapes. We have been working hard on using our SLAM (Speak Like A Mathematician) vocabulary to describe the fractions and to help with our reasoning skills.

"I really enjoyed shading the different parts to show fractions of a shape" - Dianne

"I loved practically folding shapes to show the different fractions" - River

Well done on all your hard work Y2, keep it up!

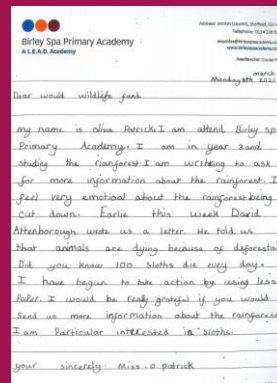
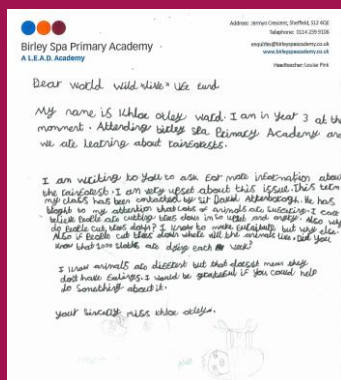
Mrs Unwin & Miss Wilson



Year 3

In Year 3, the children have been working really hard on producing formal letters that inform the reader. They have written to Mrs Thomas our school council lead, informing her about the plight of the rainforests and suggesting ways we could act as a school community. Simple things like using both sides of a piece of paper can really make a difference. The children then received a very special letter from Sir David Attenborough. He asked the children to write to other organisations asking them to send more information into school. Children produced outstanding published letters addressed to the world wildlife fund, the rainforest alliance and many more. The children took great pride in their finished published letters and are eagerly waiting for replies back.

Mrs Roberts & Miss Gostelow



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed a great first week back with all the children back in the classroom. This week, we have enjoyed looking at the concept of time within Maths lessons, starting to understand how to read/show key times on the clock and also understanding how to convert time, using the 24hr clock.

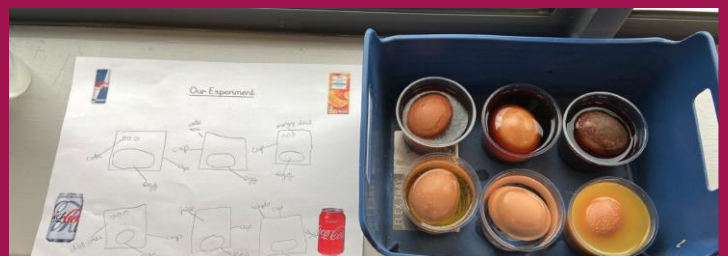
Meanwhile, we have continued our journey of the body, continuing to look at the digestive system and the important role each aspect plays in the digestive process. We have tried to empathize with how a piece of food would feel travelling around our body.

Alongside this, the children have enjoyed developing their design skills by creating a new smoothie design for a sports star and continuing to acknowledge the importance of leading a healthy/active lifestyle during our additional PE sessions.

This has created a great opportunity for the children to enjoy developing their teamwork, communication, and resilience skills.

Well done on all your great work Year 4, we are very proud!

Mr Blake, Miss Harper and Mrs Williamson



Year 5

Well done to Y5 who have made the transition from online learning to being back in the classroom seamlessly. It has been wonderful for them to see their friends again, and for us to see them!

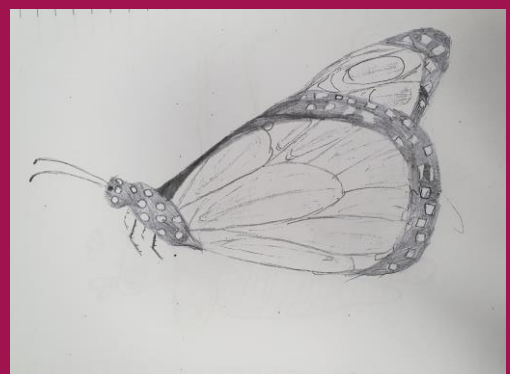
in Literacy our book focus has been *The Varmints* by Helen Ward and we have used video as well as text to create some very creative and entertaining writing of our own. Maths focus has been on area and perimeter, recapping work from Y4 and moving onto calculating the perimeter and area of composite shapes including those with missing numbers.

Finally, the children have continued their topic work on minibeasts creating some really detailed pencil drawings.

We look forward to the rest of term, and as always, we thank you for all your support in helping your children learn.

Many thanks for your all your continued support.

Mr Jackson, Miss Landowski & Mrs Horsfall



Year 6

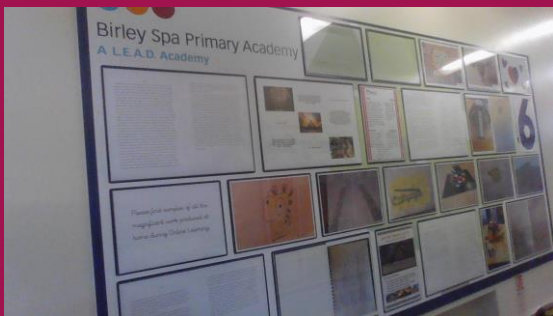
We must start by saying how great it has been to have the children back in school. They all did so well with their online learning. Also, a big thank you to all the adults at home that helped the children with their work.

Our topic this term, as you already know, is Blood Heart - a topic all about the body and how we keep ourselves fit and healthy. In school, we are therefore doing extra PE lessons (which the children do not need to be in PE kit for) and we are also looking at healthy eating and how to look after our mental health.

In English we are creating persuasive leaflets on how to look after the environment. When these are completed, we will upload copies to Showbie for you to see. In Maths we are continuing to look at statistics and in Art we have started to look at food packaging with the view to creating our own (for a healthy chocolate bar.)

Just a polite reminder that children should not be wearing make-up or jewellery unless it is a watch or studded earrings. Children should not be bringing in toys, fidget toys (unless arranged with the teacher), 'squishys' or anything else into school. Furthermore, children should not be bringing in sweets or chewing gum. Thank you for your support with these issues.

Mr Walsh & Mr Litherland



Shirebrook

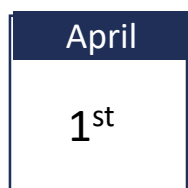
We have really been concentrating our attention on our learning powers in the last two weeks and trying hard to keep our minds focused on our activities. We have started to use Mathletics and Lexia everyday, to improve our reading skills and to learn how to work more independently. Please remember you can access both of these accounts at home.

There is still plenty of time though for us to explore things that are important to us. Can you see what Petra likes to do?

Ms Barrett



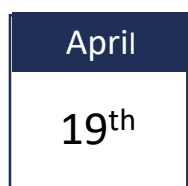
Upcoming Dates for the Diary



School Closes for Easter



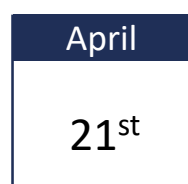
Inset Day



School Opens for Summer 1



Y6 Visit to Crucial Crew



Class Photos



School Closes for Summer

Isolating

If your child has to self isolate, please inform school as soon as possible. Your child's teacher will then upload their work to our online learning platform, Showbie. We can also supply you with a bespoke paper learning pack if this is required. If you are needing to borrow a laptop from school for this period then please contact the school office on 0114 2399106 to discuss.

Parents Evening

Week commencing 29th March, teachers will be contacting parents to give them an update on how your child/ren have settled back into school both emotionally and academically. If you would prefer a video call, please contact your child's teacher via Showbie.