



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Newsletter

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Executive Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Birley Spa's staff team are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to our school site on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Our ambition is to nurture, support and quickly settle all pupils back into school routines. Our PSHE and transition programme provides our pupils with a strong framework of nurturing support and will also help to ensure our curriculum programme achieves success.

In order to further assist parents and carers with the back to school arrangements for your child, attached is a reminder of the adjusted start times, finish times and drop off/collection gates allocated to each class and year group. Please note, it is essential that you adhere to these arrangements, so that our team can maintain maximum security and safeguarding, as well as uphold safety/social distancing measures.

Please rest assured, our pupils', families' and staffs' safety remains paramount. Therefore, parents will not be allowed access in to the school building without making a prior appointment. Should you wish to make an appointment please do not hesitate to contact our school office using our school telephone line. The office team and I are always on hand to assist you with any enquiries. Our fantastic online learning tool, Showbie, is also in place to support our parents with quality communication - this is a great tool to access should you wish to message teachers directly regarding additional learning and educational enquiries.



We are delighted to provide you with a sneak preview of our developing library area and wish to thank Heidi and Charles in Year 5 who provided their designs for the different areas. As you can see, it will make a beautiful reading environment for our children. Over the coming weeks, as we increase the number of quality reading books and resources for the area, it will become a very exciting reading space.



Thank you for your continued support and wishing you a lovely weekend. With the support of our families and community, I am positive the organisation and revised routines will continue to work exceptionally well and our pupils, families and staff team will enjoy a smooth and safe return to school.

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

*Mrs Pemberton*

Mrs. Pemberton  
Executive Headteacher

### **Deputy Headteacher Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government's announcement last month regarding the wider opening of school, we have all been working hard getting everything ready to welcome back all our children safely on Monday. As I mentioned in my last update, I think that we can all be really proud of the extraordinary efforts of everyone at Birley Spa (children and staff) in ensuring that our remote education continues to be as effective as possible. Your role (as parents and carers) has also been instrumental in ensuring that your child remains engaged and that good learning habits and attitudes have been maintained. Thank you once again for all your help and understanding during this very challenging period.

From Monday, our focus will now shift back to face-to-face teaching and I know that all the staff are looking forward to returning to 'normal' teaching and learning once again. Our number one priority when children return to school (as it was last September) is to ensure that they settle back into school routines and structure in a safe and supportive way. With this in mind, all class teachers will be delivering a brand new PSHE 'Recovery' programme. 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. We believe that this programme will really support children in returning to school successfully, enabling them to enjoy their learning and then accelerate progress.

From monitoring and evaluating our remote education (delivered during the lockdown period), we believe that Tapestry and Showbie Pro Plus have great potential to be used as a key resource for future learning. I look forward to updating you shortly on how we intend to continue using these platforms once children have settled back into 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.

Mr. Simon Smith  
Deputy Headteacher

### **Breakfast Club**

Is available every morning from 7:35am, please book your child onto sessions via the gateway app, please make sure you book a week in advance and make payment of £4.00. As part of our safeguarding procedure, please sign your child in with a member of staff.

### **Billy the Bear**

We are very excited to introduce Billy the bear, he arrived safe and sound last week and we can not wait for the children to have the opportunity to bring him to life. We have posted a video of the name draw on our twitter page. Well done to Jayden in Y1 for winning name the bear!

## COVID-19

Parental support around all of school's COVID-19 safety measures has been amazing. We continue to urge parents to remain vigilant and well informed around COVID-19 symptoms and government guidelines.

Should your child or anyone in your household present any of the following COVID-19 symptoms, please ensure they remain at home and a COVID-19 test is accessed by the household member showing symptoms.

- **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than one hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, all household members will need to self isolate for 10 days from the date that the symptoms started.

For further information around COVID-19 symptoms or to book a test, please follow the links below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

## World Book Day 2021

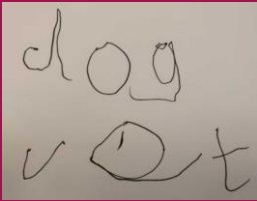
This year we asked some of our pupils to take a photograph of themselves reading a book in a creative place. Here are some of the images.



## FS1

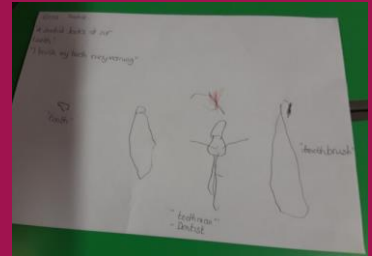
This half term, we discussed who the children thought helped us in our lives. We made a list and wrote some of them down. We started by learning all about vets and who they help. We have begun to learn about dentists, especially in regards to what they do and how they can help us with our teeth.

Mrs Thomas & Mrs Clayton



Annabelle produced some great writing at home. She wrote vet and dog, as she learnt that vets can help dogs feel better.

Ezra drew a picture about what dentists do and how he brushes his teeth everyday.



We have also been learning about the number 5. We learnt which numbers make 5 and Ivy drew her own number 5 picture with 5 smiling faces.

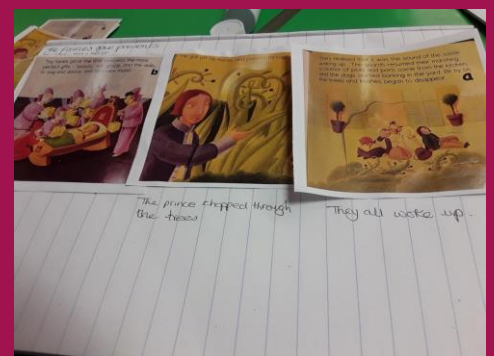
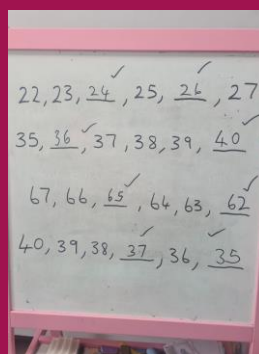
## FS2 & Year 1

In English, we have been looking at the text 'The Princess and the White Bear King' by Tanya Robyn Batt and the story of 'Sleeping Beauty'. The children have been developing their skills in making sensible predictions, retelling the story through sequencing, and making connections to other stories we know.

In maths, we have been using our knowledge of numbers to 100 to complete missing number sequences, count forwards and backwards from numbers to 100 and complete problem-solving questions. We have also been using objects from around our houses to make repeating patterns.

In history, we have learnt lots of interesting facts about castles. We then used images of castles to make our own castle creations using cardboard boxes, tubes, building bricks and empty packaging.

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth & Mrs Dhani





## Year 2

Y2 have made a great start to the new half term by immersing themselves in their new topic - 'How do our bodies move?' This topic focuses on how we can stay healthy and enables the children to fully understand the importance of this. We will be looking at what makes a balanced diet, the different food groups and working towards designing and creating our very own healthy snack.

We would like to say a huge well done to all our Y2 children for their hard work and perseverance over the last few weeks as we fully understand how difficult it has been. We are really looking forward to having everyone back in school and can not wait to see you all again!

Mrs Unwin & Miss Wilson



Mila H - she has created a Goldilocks and 3 bears sock puppet.



Oliver S - Art work created using his favourite story.



Amelia P – For world World Book Day made her favourite character.

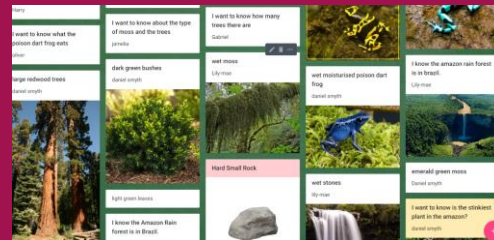
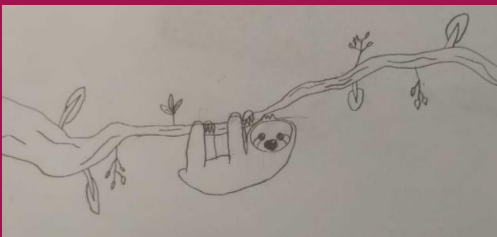
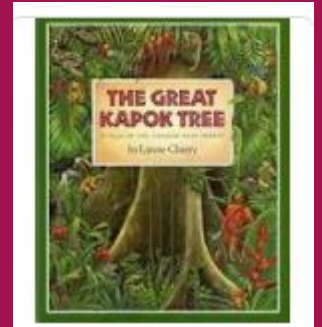


Larrisa D - Dressing up as her favourite Disney character.

### Year 3

We have begun our learning journey by asking the children 'What are Rainforests?'

Our children have been immersed in the book 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. They first generated vocabulary about the rainforest along with what they knew about the rain forest and what they wanted to find out. The children then posted their work on a virtual working wall called a padlet. We have been busy finding out about the geography of the rainforests such as where they are, climate and the different layers of the rainforest.

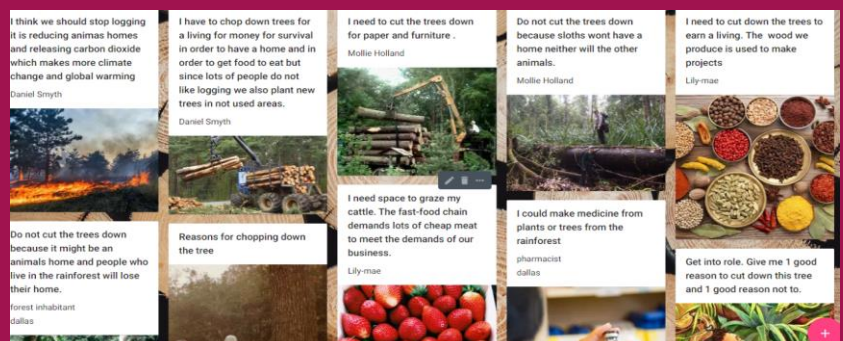


Children have been getting into role thinking about the different points of view in relation to deforestation. We had some children videoing themselves in the role of a logger and others in the role of scientists.

They also drew some fantastic rainforest animals and made some promises to help reduce the need for trees to be logged. Some of the promises were:

- Jamelia promises to reuse paper
- Oliver promises to plant a tree
- Abbey promises to turn off the lights when not using them
- Jorja promises to use recycled products

Mrs Roberts &amp; Miss Gostelow



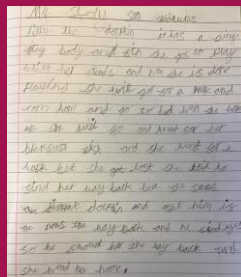
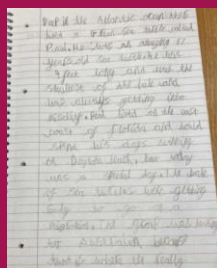
## Year 4

Over the lockdown period, the children in Year 4 have produced some excellent work. They have showed great understanding, resilience, and effort to engage in live lessons, contribute to class discussions and develop their independent learning skills. Over this last week, the children have enjoyed consolidating knowledge based on the four operations within Maths lessons, alongside starting to develop a great understanding of our new topic 'What journey does our food go on through our body?'

Prior to half-term, the children also produced some excellent short stories for a competition in association with The Deep, which showed excellent creativity and flair within writing.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back into school next week and continuing their great start to term!

Mr Blake, Mrs Williamson & Miss Harper



## Year 5

As Spring arrives, Year 5 have appropriately started our new topic 'Where Are The Minibeasts?' with a bug hunt as well as designing our own bug hotel. This ties in with our Science unit of Living Things and Their Habitats which we'll start by looking at the pollination of flowers as well as attempting to grow our own plants. When we are back in school we'll be able to develop this topic with more outdoor learning.

In Literacy, we have started the book The Varmints, with a focus on figurative language which is closely linked to our grammar work in Active English. In Maths, the children have done great work on Fractions Decimals and Percentages and are now moving onto Measures, starting off with a focus on shapes and angles.

We looked at how to keep healthy and look after ourselves in our PSHE lesson. We all shared our food diary from the previous day, we were all very honest! We then looked at how we could plan a more healthy diet for our families. Our first task was to plan a full day's worth of healthy food and drinks for our family; this had to include snacks also! Over the weekend the challenge was then set, could we make an item of our menu with the help of an adult in our house.

Whilst it goes without saying that we are really looking forward to being back together in the classroom, it must be noted how much we really appreciate all the work you have done to keep your children learning at home. Thank you so much for all your efforts. See you next week!

Mr Jackson, Miss Landowski & Mrs Horsfall

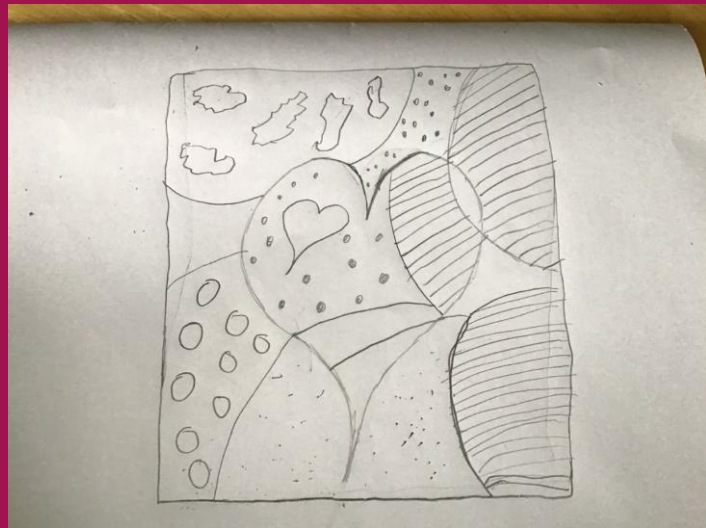
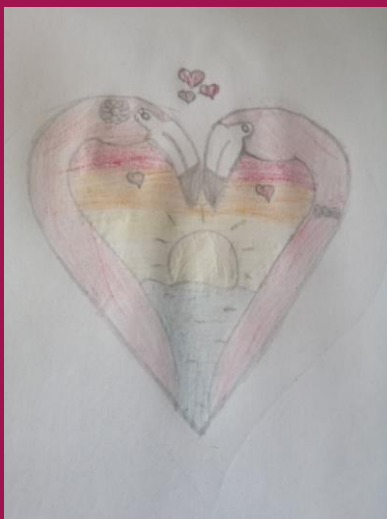




## Year 6

Year 6 have been studying an award-winning short film by Rodrigo Blass called, Alma. We have used this as a stimulus to practise a range of narrative writing skills. The children have written some fantastic setting descriptions and have used lots of figurative language which will be used to re-tell the story of Alma from the doll's point of view. In Maths, we have been looking at how to calculate the area and volume of 2D and 3D shapes by counting squares or cubes at first. We then started looking at how to use a mathematical formula to calculate area and volume more easily and quickly. Our new topic this term is called Blood Heart: we are investigating how the circulatory system works to pump blood around our bodies and how keeping fit and healthy has an effect on our hearts. This has been an inspiration for our artwork this term too! We have also been looking at how a variety of religions view peace and try to attain peace within as well as spread peace throughout their communities.

Mr Walsh & Mr Litherland



## Shirebrook

We have continued with our shape themed art work and produced these amazing Concentric Circles, based on the work of Wassily Kandinsky. The children had to mix every single one of their colours from powder paint! We have now started our topic called "Can we change it?" We explored how different colours can be made and how to add just the right amount of water to get a strong colour. We have also begun to investigate how other things can be changed. Our first challenge was with paper which is flat (or 2D), thinking about how we can change it by folding, tearing, rolling and scrunching it. Then, we levelled up to this folding challenge where we used 2D paper strips to make 3D paper springs!

Mrs Barrett

