



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

Newsletter

1st April 2021



Dear Parents & Carers,

Reflecting on the past term, pupils have thoroughly enjoyed accessing a number of exciting learning opportunities through our remote provision, as well as in school this week – 'Learn by Design days' We hope you enjoy the children's learning memories shared overleaf. Many thanks for all your support and kind wishes, especially in light of recent events and pod closures. It is very unfortunate that in the locality there has been a significant rise and risk of infection rates, recently. Despite previous communications to parents, I am saddened to hear that a small number of pupils are visiting other households and socialising indoors. Please support us by following government COVID safety measures.

Please click on the following link from Greg Fell Director of Public Health Sheffield.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Y5pStU5-g0>

Public Health

This week our school met with Public Health England and the Local Authority, regarding the recent positive COVID cases within our school community. During our discussion, they have endorsed that the school is doing everything it can to ensure we are keeping both staff and pupils safe. They have also asked us to remind families that households should not mix indoors, and only 2 families of up to 6 people outdoors.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

Kindness

Our heartfelt thanks goes to Spa View Community Church, as they have donated numerous Easter gifts for pupils experiencing additional hardship. Families have really appreciated this act of sincere kindness and compassion, thank you!

One-way System

We wish to remind parents and carers that we operate a one-way system throughout our site. This system enables parents' safe access on to school premises. Therefore, we must ask you to strictly adhere to our risk assessment and follow the one-way system in place. Otherwise, we will have no alternative but to consider reducing parental access around the site.

Mobile Testing Site

Please note, there is a new mobile testing unit at Algar close, S2 2HZ (off Eastern avenue). This unit operates between 9:00am till 3:00pm for symptomatic testing. Everyone can attend by foot or via car. To book a test please visit the following site - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Lateral Flow Testing

We have been advised that lateral flow tests should not be carried out on children under 12 years of age. If your child develops symptoms, you should book a PCR test for them by either calling 911 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Good Luck

Mrs. Cunningham has secured a new work opportunity with CAMHS (Mental Health Services) and so is leaving us at the end of this term. I wish to thank Mrs Cunningham sincerely for her work at Birley Spa and wish her every success in her new career opportunity.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish all our families, pupils and staff a wonderful Easter holiday! Thank you for all your support and kind wishes, Mrs Pemberton



Track and Trace

We have been asked by the Department for Education and Public Health England to provide a track and trace service for the first few days of the Easter holidays. This means that you will need to inform school if your child develops symptoms between Friday 2nd April and Monday 4th April and was last in school on Thursday 1st April.

If your child develops symptoms, please email school on enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk or via the gateway app by 10:00am

- Your child's name and class
- Date the symptoms started
- Date of the positive test

Following a positive test, we will contact anyone your child has been in contact with. Identified contacts will be informed that they have to self-isolate for 10 days.

If your child is a contact, we will get in touch with you via email so please ensure you check your emails regularly during the first week of the holiday period.

We sincerely hope that you all stay healthy and safe and will not need to use this service.

Please note, if a member of your household is waiting for the result of a COVID test, all the members of the household should isolate until the result has been received. Siblings should not be sent to school until a negative result is received.

If pupils are ill or self-isolating and will not be able to return to school at the beginning of the new term, please inform us in the usual way by email or the gateway app by 8.30am on Monday 19th April 2021.

Isolating

Please can we take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that if your child's pod is closed, due to a positive case, then it is your responsibility to make sure that they stay home at ALL times. This means that they do not leave the household and if they develop symptoms then the whole household needs to isolate and inform school as soon as possible.



FS1

This half term has gone by very quickly, I would like to say a huge thank you for all your hard work. The children have really worked hard and have completed lots of amazing learning from home. We have explored why an elephant could have a long trunk, making up our own stories after reading 'Why A Giraffe Has A Long Neck'. We have also been learning about firefighters and how they help us keep safe. We went on a hunt around our houses to find where the fire alarms were. We made our own fire engines, thinking about the different features. To finish our learning, we began looking at the meaning of Easter and why it is celebrated. We made our own Easter Bonnets to celebrate.



Ivy became a firefighter, driving her fire truck and using a skipping rope as a hose to put out the fire.

Lydia painted a fire engine and made a fire using tissue paper and sticks.



Marianna's
Easter Bonnet

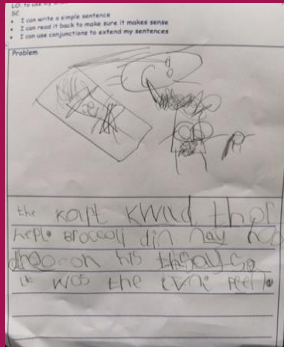


Annabelle made an Easter Bonnet and decorated a hard boiled egg.

Mrs Thomas & Mrs Clayton

FS2 & Year 1

This half term our topic has been 'Imagine If You Were A Superhero'. In English we have focused on the story of Supertato. We have developed our skills in applying story language to rewrite the story, using pictures as prompts and creating our own vegetable villains from real vegetables. We have also enjoyed listening to other Supertato stories and discussing the comparisons between them.



In Maths we have used our skills in counting in 2s 5s and 10s to practically solve multiplication and division problems. We have also been using objects in our homes to double and half numbers to 20.

This week the children have worked really hard to create amazing Easter bonnets, using lots of resources from around their homes, as well as decorating eggs using different designs.



Well done on all your great work Reception and Year 1, we are very proud!

Mrs Peck, Miss Whitworth & Mrs Dhami

Year 2

"We just wanted to begin our part in this week's newsletter by saying thank you to all the children in Y2 for their resilience and perseverance whilst remote education took place last week. They continued to show their fantastic learning behaviours whilst working from home and produced some excellent pieces of work.

Continuing our learning in our topic "How do our bodies move?", in English we have been looking at instruction writing. We began the week by looking at the features of instructions followed by making our own jam sandwiches. The children thoroughly enjoyed doing this, as it enabled them to have real life experiences ready for writing their instructions. By the end of the week children had written some fantastic instructions including all the features needed.

"I loved making the jam sandwich and I made a chocolate spread one for my sister! I enjoyed cutting them into different shapes" George

In Maths, Y2 enjoyed continuing their learning on fractions. We have been working on finding fractions of quantities and numbers. The children enjoyed completing this both practically and using bar models to solve fraction problems. It has been great to see the development of the children's mathematical vocabulary being used to describe their learning.

"I really like shading the shapes to represent a fraction" Ava

In topic, the children used their knowledge about healthy and unhealthy foods to create their own healthy snack. You can see some of the tasty creations below!

"I enjoyed making my snack as I was excited to find out what it tasted like" Charlie

Well done with all your hard work Y2. We would like to wish our families a wonderful Easter and a nice relaxing break. See you all soon."

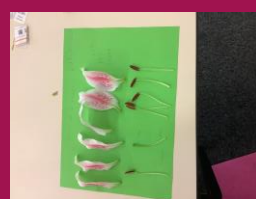
Mrs Unwin & Miss Wilson



Year 3

In Year 3 we have been reading a picture book called the Tin forest by Helen Ward. The story is about a man who lives in a 'wide windswept place'. Near nowhere and close to forgotten, he lives in a rubbish dump that is filled with things that no one wants'. He builds a forest out of the rubbish (tin) this eventually attracts animals, as the tin forest becomes full of the things everyone wanted - trees, flowers, and animals. Children immersed themselves in the book by creating rainforest pictures and painting in the style of Henri Rousseau. They also created mini-Tin Forests.

In Science we have been looking at flowers and how they pollinate. We even made our own busy bees and dipped them into powder paint to show how the pollen is transferred from one flower to another. We looked at dissected daffodils and labelled the reproductive parts of the flower.



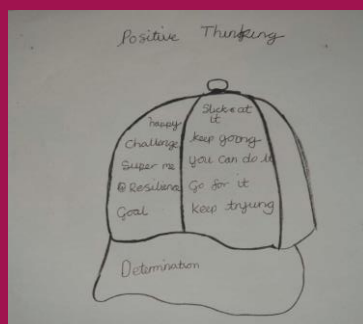
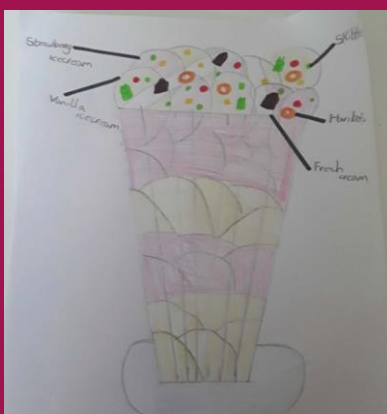
Mrs Roberts & Miss Gostelow

Year 4 - Weston

Last week, the children in Weston Class illustrated great creativity, resilience and effort during their lessons in school. The children enjoyed developing their understanding of the digestive system and also drawing interpretations/conclusions from pictograms, bar charts and line graphs. Additionally, the children enjoyed continuing to develop social skills, such as communication and teamwork during our additional outdoor physical activity sessions.

Our children demonstrated fantastic adaptability and flexibility when returning to work online, on Friday. Below are some pictures, from our online lessons on Friday, which involved creating a "positive thinking cap" and also designing a new meal for our favourite restaurant/eatery. The children showed great persuasive skills to consider how to advertise their meal and what it would consist of.

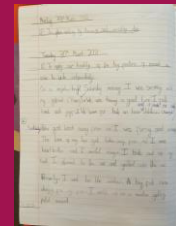
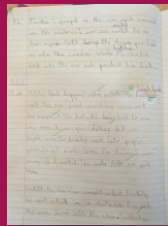
Mr Blake



Year 4 - Kelham

This week Year 4 have been putting our knowledge about writing a recount into practise. We watched a video called "Oktapodi," which is about two octopus' fighting for their lives. The children have done a brilliant job at writing from the perspective of the octopus, using past tense verbs, openers and descriptive language to discuss what had happened to them.

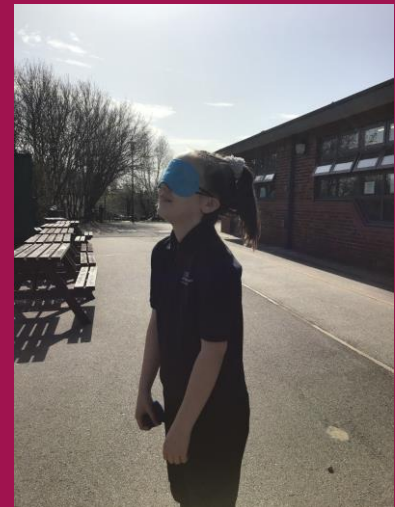
In maths, we have been drawing our own graphs, including bar charts and pictograms. To do this, we first had to collect the data about what everyone's favourite type of fruit was, creating a tally chart to represent this information. Finally, we created some fantastic Easter chicks being hatched from their eggs.



Miss Harper and Mrs Williamson

Year 5

In Y5 this week we have been working with 'Learn by Design'. This involves all children taking part in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) workshops. First we looked at the amount of Electricity all the appliances in our homes use, we were very shocked!!! We found that the electric shower used the most electricity, using 10,500 WATTS per second!!! That means a 5 minute shower would cost over £1 on your electricity bill! In the images you can see us replicating our own National Grid and what happens if this grid fails. We looked at renewable and non-renewable energies, we were also surprised that coal would run out in the next 20 years. In contrast to this one rotation of a wind turbine can power your house for two days!



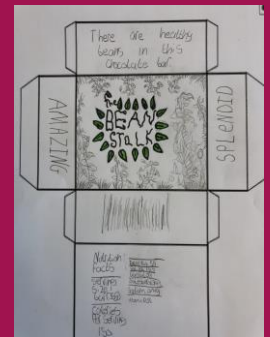
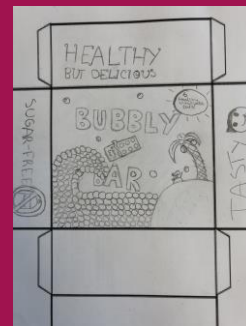
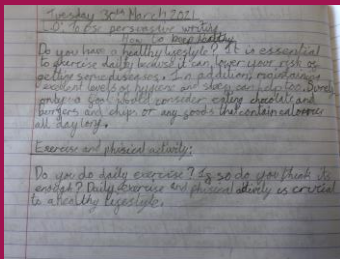
In the next session we are going to be designing our own school of the future, It's going to be so much fun!

Mr Jackson, Miss Landowski & Mrs Horsfall

Year 6

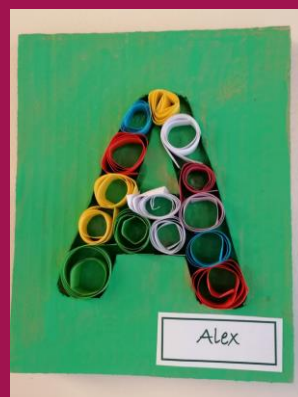
Year 6 have been researching the effects of pollution on the environment and how to stay fit and healthy with the aim of writing persuasive leaflets; we have utilised emotive language, rhetorical questions, and exaggeration to make our writing as persuasive as possible. Our original stimulus for these pieces of writing was a short film called 'The Ridge' starring Danny Macaskill. In Maths, we have been looking at statistics; tables, timetables, and pie charts. We have learnt how to read and interpret the information within these tables and charts as well as construct tables and charts of our own to represent a unique set of data. In topic, we have learnt so much about our hearts and the blood it pumps around our bodies; we have had a specific focus this term on how to keep our hearts fit and healthy which leads us nicely onto our art project. We have designed and created packaging for a fictional brand-new healthy chocolate bar. Everyone has worked so hard to develop their concepts and bring them to life as a 3D package. Next term, Y6 PE will be on Wednesdays; your child should arrive in school wearing their PE kit. Mr Walsh and I would like to wish you all an enjoyable Easter holiday and thank you for your on-going support.

Mr Litherland & Mr Walsh



Shirebrook

In Shirebrook, we have been talking about the communities we belong to. We have all made the initial letter of our name out of recycled materials to display within our class community.



Ms Barrett

Upcoming Dates for the Diary

April
1 st

School Closes for Easter

June
7 th

Inset Day

April
19 th

School Opens for Summer 1

June
15 th

Y6 Visit to Crucial Crew

April
21 st

Class Photos

July
20 th

School Closes for Summer

Break and Lunch times

Please see below each year groups break and lunch times for the Summer term

Year Group	Break	Lunch	Yard
FS2 & Y1		11.30 – 12.30	FS2
Y2	10.15 – 10.30	11.30 – 12.30	KS1
Y3	10.45 – 11.00	12.00 – 1.00	KS1
Y4	10.20 – 10.35	12.00 – 1.00	KS2
Y5	10.40 – 10.50	12.00 – 1.00	KS2
Y6	10.00 – 10.15	11.30 – 12.30	KS2