



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

Newsletter

July 2021



Executive Headteacher Update

Dear parents and carers,

Birley Spa team hope that you are enjoying a wonderful summer break. We have kept a close eye on Covid variant updates in the run up to releasing our final newsletter of this academic year, so that we could inform you of any changes to current organisational routines. Presently, as the rate of infection remains high, we confirm that we will continue with our current arrangements - staggering entrance and collection times at the beginning of September.

This year has been incredibly challenging for our whole school community, especially considering the continuation of COVID-19 and all its restrictions, additional remote learning provision, guidance in relation to school reopening procedures, catch up programmes and so forth. Despite all the challenges and hurdles we face, our children, staff team, governors and parents remain incredibly positive and supportive of each other. This really helps us all to maintain high levels of wellbeing.

I wish to sincerely thank our pupils and Birley Spa staff team for their brilliant efforts. Without their help, I know the school would not have improved and developed so incredibly far. As a team, we have continued to thrive and develop in a way that is special - displaying great teamwork ethic and dedication to make a huge difference to the speed of our improvement journey. Personally, I am so very grateful to each member of our Birley Spa staff team.

Our pupils are our brightest stars and throughout every challenge and differing routine they continue to be positive, focussed and an absolute delight to work alongside. Our children's commitment to aim high and achieve beyond limitations brings a smile to our faces every single day.

Year 6 leavers

At the very end of term, we said a very fond farewell to our Year 6 pupils. They have worked so hard this year and should leave Birley Spa very proud of their achievements. Year 6 pupils are entering secondary school as confident and competent learners. They have also grown as individuals, displaying great teamwork, empathy and resilience. We wish them every success in the next phase of education, and we look forward to hearing their news of future successes. Very best wishes to you all, Year 6!

New guidance

Please note, close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Therefore, education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

New appointments

We are delighted to welcome Miss Granger and Mrs Reindhart to our Birley Spa teaching team, from September. As teaching assistants, they will strengthen and support our teaching. Both colleagues are delighted to be joining the Birley Spa team.

September

As of September, all communications will be provided via Showbie and the School Comms gateway app. We will no longer be using Marvellous Me, as we do not wish to confuse parents by employing too many different sources of communication. Over the past year, parents have really complimented our Showbie facility. Therefore, it makes sense to keep this fantastic service as the main point of contact, alongside School Comms Sims alerts. If you have not yet installed these services and apps, or if you are experiencing any technical difficulties with access, please do not hesitate to contact our school office team. They are more than happy to support and assist you with this.

The new academic year will arrive before we know it... May we remind you that pupils will return to school on Thursday 2nd September 2021. As previously stated, we will continue with the current arrangements and times for drop off and collection, at least for the first week. A reminder of drop off and collection times will be sent out before the start of the new term.

Summer Reading Challenge

Reading is a vital part of a child's development, helping broaden their understanding of the world, develop vocabulary and spark imagination. Whether your child is an accomplished reader or is just getting started the summer reading challenge is a great opportunity for all.

We are inviting you to unleash your reading superpowers and find out just how far a good book can take you.

All you need to do to take part is find the right book for you – and that is where our challenge begins. It is really easy to get involved and there are some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

<https://theweekjunior.co.uk/summerofreading>

Breakfast Club

We are delighted to inform you that from September we will be working in partnership with SJD Sports, to provide a sports based breakfast and afterschool club.

Timings:

Breakfast Club – opens at 7:35am (children will be taken to class for the start of the school day).

Afterschool Club – will run until 4:15pm, all children to be collected by 4:30pm.

The cost of each session will be £4.00 payable in advance via School Comms, Gateway app.

The breakfast and afterschool clubs will go live on School Comms on 1st September 2021.

To ensure all of our children are safe, children should be signed in and out of the clubs by a parent / carer / childminder.

Transition activities

In order to welcome pupils into new classes, all teachers have set special work for their new children to complete over the summer holidays. Additionally, transition packs / booklets have been prepared to support pupils with additional needs. We believe this approach helps to alleviate any transition nerves, as well as reduce anxiety. Our aim is for 100% smooth transition between year groups and maintain exceptionally happy pupils. Please log into your child's Showbie account in order to access the work that has been set for them. Please support our teaching team, by ensuring your child completes these carefully selected tasks.

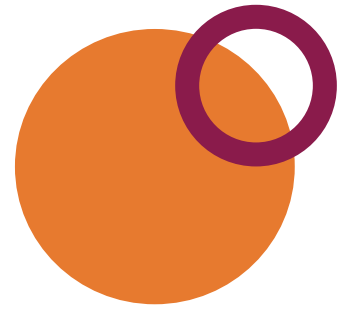
Finally, I wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing holiday. The special showcases that teachers have created and uploaded to Showbie accounts is our gift to our wonderful parents and carers. Thank you for all your kindness and support throughout this past year!

Mrs Pemberton
Executive Headteacher

Class Round-Up

FS

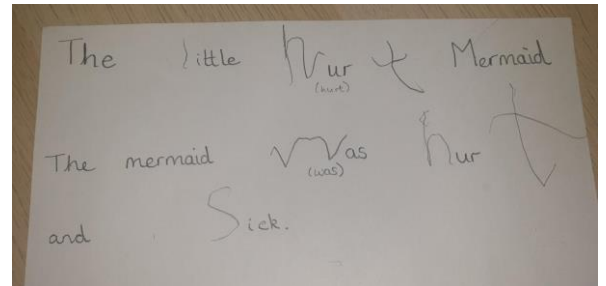
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This year has been very unique, and the children have been amazing and resilient. We are extremely proud of all the hard work and learning the children have completed over the year, as I am sure you are too. We are very grateful for all your support that you have given this year, especially with completing your child's home learning.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU and here is some of the work the children have completed over the year.

Mrs Thomas & Mrs Clayton



FS

2

& Year

1

In Heeley Class, we have been focusing on the story of 'The Sneetches' by Dr Seuss. We explored the story through making predictions, sequencing pictures from the story, designing and making our own machine models and retelling the story through role play. The children have also really enjoyed extending their learning in the classroom, through making Sneetches using playdough, making their own star machines using junk materials, creating 'what I like about me' stars and rewriting the story of the Sneetches.

In maths, we have been looking at measurement. We have been comparing and measuring, weight, length, height and capacity. We have really enjoyed developing our skills in using balancing scales, weighing scales and rulers to do this.

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth & Mrs Allan

Year 2

This half term, year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed our topic "Why do boats float?" in which we have learnt all about pirates and famous explorers. We have developed our knowledge of the life of Christopher Columbus and James Cook and then compared the two explorers. We have also enjoyed making boats from paper in order to investigate how boats float on water.

On 7th July, both Endcliffe and Norfolk class had a great day visiting Clifton Park in Rotherham. We explored the features of the park, visited the local museum, and completed observational drawings. All children demonstrated excellent behaviour and showed great manners to the public.

In english, our focus text has been 'The Pirate Cruncher' by Johnny Duddle. We retold the story in our own words and then planned and wrote our very own version in which we changed the ending to the story.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families in year 2 for their support throughout the year. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach your children and they have demonstrated great resilience and perseverance in all areas of learning.

We would like to wish them all the best in year 3.

Miss Wilson and Mrs Unwin

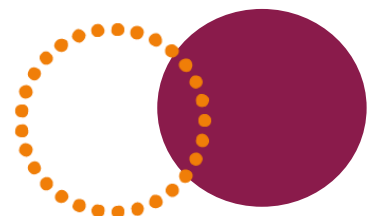
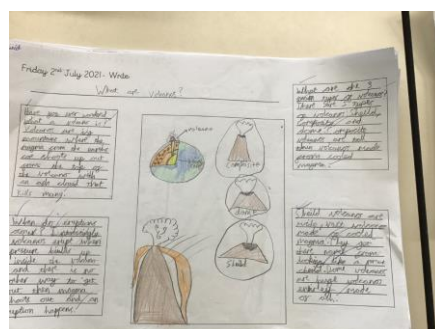
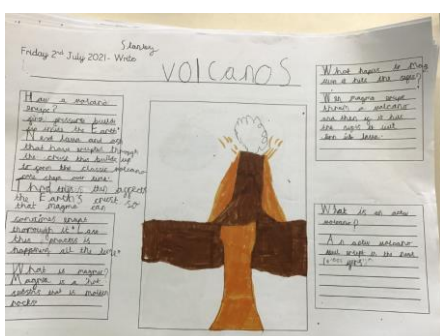
Year 3

Year 3 have been continuing the topic on the extreme earth. The children have created non chronological reports which really show how much they have learnt about this topic.

During the final week of term children have learnt about life in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii before and after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. They have created art work, timelines and diary entries to describe the devastating events that unfolded in Pompeii in 79AD.

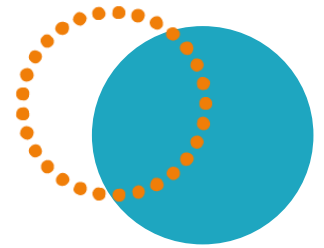
Mrs Roberts and Miss Gostelow would like to thank the children for all their hard work this year and wish the children every success in year 4.

Mrs Roberts & Miss Gostelow



Year

4



The children in Year 4, have enjoyed an exciting and enjoyable final week and have enjoyed continuing their learning based on our topic 'How would you travel across America?'

The children have engaged well within English lessons during this week, creating an effective narrative based on the short film, 'Hunted'. The children have demonstrated excellent knowledge of the key events within the film, showing great levels of independence, to check and reflect on their understanding.

In maths lessons, the children have worked hard to build on their previous knowledge of fractions and decimals, effectively using verbal explanations to demonstrate understanding.

Within PE lessons, the children have also engaged well with the 'Chance to Shine Cricket Programme', showing excellent maturity and game understanding.

Despite the challenges of lockdown, the children have amazed us with their polite, mature approach to learning during this academic year.

We wish every child the best of luck on the next step of their journey at Birley Spa and we have enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside all the children!

We hope everyone has a great summer holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Mr Blake, Miss Harper and Mrs Williamson

Year

5

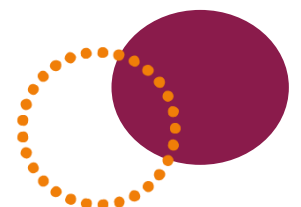
As the children come to the end of their time in Year 5, we have continued working hard in all aspects of the curriculum.

Maths lessons have consolidated our multiplication and division learning through applying it to practical as well as imaginative investigations. In literacy we are enjoying the progress of Katherine Rundell's book 'The Explorer'. Using our persuasive writing skills, we have written a letter to the Brazilian ambassador asking him to help slow the deforestation of the Amazonian rainforest.

We have been particularly impressed by the children's art this term - using paint to recreate Monet's water lilies. And, away from the curriculum, we have been lucky enough to have had two talks from the police regarding water safety and social media use. We hope the children found them informative.

Finally, we must thank all parents and carers for their continued support in what has been another tricky year. Your encouragement of the children (and of us) has made all the difference. We will genuinely miss your children as they go up to Y6 - they have been such a lovely group. We hope you have a restful summer break.

Miss Landowski, Mrs Horsfall, and Mr Jackson.



The Year 6 children have had a great end to the term. They have been doing some fantastic work in English - writing narratives, diary entries and instructions. In maths, they have they have produced some amazing geometry artwork and solved tricky investigations. In topic lessons, they have been learning about time zones and how to use a compass to find places on a map. Along with all this, the children have also been singing, acting, and getting themselves ready for sports day.

The Year 6 children were also lucky enough to have a visit from a local PCSO (police community support officer). He came in and talked about online safety and how to keep safe around water. The children had lots of questions, and all said how informative it had been.

We wish all of our Year 6 pupils all the best for the future.

Mr Walsh & Mr Litherland



Shirebrook

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children in Shirebrook class for all their hard work this year.

We have obviously had some difficult times because of COVID, but the resilience they have shown is a real credit to them as individuals.

I would also like to say a very fond "Goodbye" to our Year 6 leavers. The staff in Shirebrook wish you every success in your new schools.

With best wishes from

Mrs Barrett

A Message from the Governors

The AGB would like to thank Mrs Pemberton and all the staff, teaching and support, for everything they have done during the last twelve months. We recognise the challenges they have faced but thanks to their teamwork, commitment and professionalism so much has been achieved.

Thank you Mrs Pemberton and colleagues.

We would also like to thank all the parents who have worked so hard, sometimes in the unfamiliar role of teacher, to support their children during the last twelve months. These contributions are making a real difference for everyone at Birley Spa Primary Academy. We are also full of admiration for the pupils and how they have shown so much resilience and determination despite the many challenges and changes they have faced.

All of us on the AGB are very proud of the great progress and improvements that staff and pupils have made. Thank you.

We wish everyone a lovely summer; a good rest and we look forward to the exciting year ahead.

Ed Wydenbach.

On behalf of Birley Spa Academy Governing Board.