



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

# Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

## Update from the Head Of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd just like to start my update by saying a huge well done to all our children and staff this half term. As an academy, we have made lots of progress since the start of September in redeveloping our curriculum to meet the needs of all our pupils and the children have responded superbly, as always.

Our wider curriculum focus across school this half term has been on History and I know that children have really immersed themselves in some engaging units of work throughout school. A key highlight for me in Autumn 1 is always our Stone Age Day, in which Y3 children are invited to come to school dressed as a 'cave child' and engage in a wealth of exciting, themed activities. This is such a great topic and I know the children have produced some wonderful art work and writing during this unit.



This half term, our KS1 team have also been exploring the local environment and learning all about the Birley Spa Bath House. The children were a real credit to the school when they carried out their visit, asking some really thoughtful questions.



Following on from my last update earlier in the term, it has been great to see children participating in afternoon intervention groups and working really hard to close the gaps that occurred as a result of the lockdown period. Across the year, there will be additional opportunities for children to participate in before/after school booster groups and further details regarding this will be shared with parents shortly after the holidays.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like more information.

Thank you for your continued support and have a safe and enjoyable half term break.

Mr Smith  
Interim Head Of School

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### Coats

With the weather now turning colder, can we please ask that all children bring a coat to school each day.

We have been though our lost property and have quite a few coats if you recognise any below please ask at the school office.



### Flu Vaccine

If you would like your child to receive the nasal flu vaccine in school please follow this link to complete an online consent form;

<https://www.nhs.uk/flu/information?ld=107067&Type=FLU>

The vaccinations will take place at your child's school on 17/11/2021. The link will close on 08/11/2021. If your child has already had the Nasal Flu vaccine since September 2021 please disregard this message. If you have any problems accessing the link please telephone 0333 358 3397 (opt 2)



### EYFS

In EYFS, we have been enjoying learning about the change of the seasons and spotting signs of the beginning of Autumn. We went for a walk all around the school grounds to find leaves that were different shapes and different colours. Our book of the week is Leafman and we used some of the leaves we had collected to make our own representations of Leafman. We have been investigating pumpkins and loved mixing paints to make different shades of orange to paint pumpkins.

We have all been so proud of our wonderful learners in EYFS in their first half term in school. Have a lovely break and we will look forward to more learning and exploring in the next half term.

Ms Peck and Mrs Thomas

### Sheaf

In Sheaf class, we have been working extremely hard in our English lessons to write descriptive phrases and sentences based on our class text 'Claude in the City'. We have been making postcards, writing lists and planning and writing our own adventure for Claude and Sir Bobblysocks to go on. In maths, we have been developing our skills of adding and subtracting numbers to 10. We have also been using our knowledge of 2D shapes in order to talk about their properties. Our topic is all about our local area, so we have had great fun learning all about Hackenthorpe, creating our own maps of our local area and visiting the Birley Spa Bath House, to find out about the history of the building.

Miss Whitworth



## Endcliffe

Endcliffe class have enjoyed visiting the Birley Spa Bath House as part of their history unit this half term, linking to our topic question 'What is unique about about our local area'. It gave the children chance to reflect on how the local area has changed over the course of history and think about the similarities and differences of past and present times.

In English, the children have engaged in writing their own adventure stories linked to 'Claude in the City'. They have been challenged to extend their sentence writing and include a range of adjectives and story language. We will be creating our final piece of our art topic this week which will pull together our learning of shape and tone in our cityscape pictures.

We look forward to participating in a range of activities based on Black History Month in our final week of term.

Mrs Allan and Mrs Horsfall

## Norfolk

What a fantastic first half term it has been for Norfolk Class. I am so impressed with the learning behaviours the children have shown during the first term in Y2. Their resilience and perseverance has been excellent to see.

Norfolk Class have thoroughly enjoyed the topic "What is unique about where we live?" in which we have looked at our local area and how this has changed over time. We also enjoyed our visit to the Birley Spa Bath House where we explored the old Bath and the surrounding area. The children asked some fantastic questions to deepen their understanding and showed beautiful manners whilst on the visit.

Children's comments about the visit:

Jenson: "I learnt that it used to be a hotel."

Lyla: "I learnt that the water used to help people who were hurt."

Isaac: "I learnt that it was heated."

In our English, we finished our 'Claude in the City' topic by writing our own versions in which we changed the adventure that Claude and Sir Bobblysocks had been on. The children came up with some super ideas for their own versions.

I hope you all have a fantastic, well deserved half term and I will see you on the 1st November.

Miss Wilson

## Year 3

Year 3 had their Stone Age Day experience on Friday the 15th of November. The children dressed up as Stone Age people we even had a Woolly Mammoth! They found out what a hard life was way back in prehistory. They had to clean and scrap animal fur, make their own spears, and make string for their bows. Did you know that the string for the bows would have been made from animal intestine?

The children painted using chalk that they had ground down to a powder and they also made prehistoric jewellery using shells and animal teeth.

Miss Gostelow and Mrs Roberts would like to say a huge thank you to the children as they have worked very hard this half term.





### Year 4

Year 4 have been busy in the last few weeks researching the archaeological dig at Sutton Hoo and subsequent discovery of an Anglo Saxon burial ship and treasure. The children have completed their reports on this in Literacy. In Maths we are consolidating our place value work with column addition and subtraction, as well as using strategies such as using the inverse and rounding to estimate.

Our PE basketball unit is coming to an end with children able to execute various passes as well as dribble the ball. In science we have investigated, using different sized jars, how fire needs oxygen. In music we have become more confident using the pBuzz and we hope to move onto the cornet soon.

Have a lovely half term break - we look forward to seeing you at parents evening.

Miss Landowski, Mrs Powell-Ferguson and Mr Jackson

### Year 5

The Year 5 pupils have enjoyed a fantastic three days at Castleton this week, creating some fantastic memories and enjoying some great learning opportunities. On Day 1, the children enjoyed taking part in orienteering and archery. The children showed excellent teamwork to work with their peers, and learn new skills. On Day 2, the children enjoyed a great walk around Castleton, enjoying seeing the varying landscapes and a tour of Treakcliffe Cavern. The children liked learning about the various historical stories of the caves and discovering some of the different types of rock which were visible in the cavern.

Following the exciting journey around the cave, the children had a fantastic walk through the village and were ready for a well-deserved tea. Upon arrival back at the hostel, the children ate a delicious pie and chocolate cake, which was a real winner. The long walk tired everyone out and the children enjoyed a successful evening of challenges before an early bedtime. Before our departure back to school, the children took part in a teambuilding and den building challenge, despite the heavy wind. A tired but happy group of pupils arrived back at school for home time. The staff were really impressed with the independence, enthusiasm, and effort the children showed.

It was a pleasure for all the staff involved, to share the experience with the children!

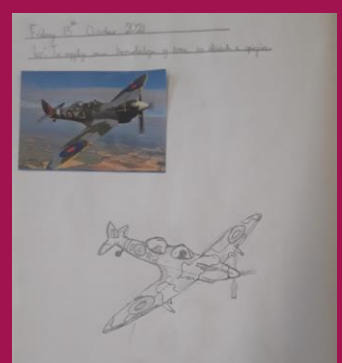
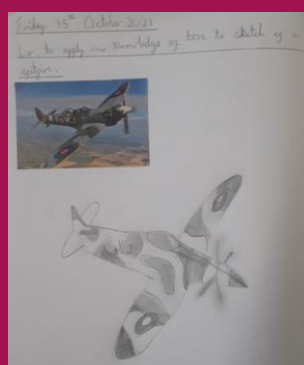
Great work Y5!

Mr Blake & Mr Walsh

### Year 6

Throughout this week, Year 6 have been working really hard on their first set of Mock SATs. Our Year 6 team is incredibly proud of the positive attitude that the children have approached these assessments with. Well done! In maths this week, we have been continuing our work on multiplication and division, looking at long multiplication and division in word problems. In topic this week, we began writing a biography all about Adolf Hitler and how he rose to power. In art, we have been continuing to look at the use of tone and shape by drawing spitfires. Just a quick reminder that the children should bring in their reading records every day to show their teacher all of the reading they have been doing at home. In addition, parents' evening will take place on Tuesday 2nd November (3:30-6:00) and Thursday 4th November (3:30 - 7:00), so please return the letter with your preferred times as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

Miss Harper and Mr Litherland





## Shirebrook

In Shirebrook Class our topic has been "Where do we belong?". As part of this, we have thought about how we belong on Planet Earth.

Caleb and Ivan produced some amazing window art.



## This Week's Attendance Figures

**Target—96%**

**Actual— 92.9 %**

R—Heeley 89.3%

R—Whirlow 94.6%

Y1—Sheaf 93%

Y2—Endcliffe 94.5%

Y2—Norfolk 89.9%

Y3—Crucible 96.1%

Y3—Lyceum 91.7%

Y4—Kelham 94.4%

Y4—Weston 94.8%

Y5—Millennium 90%

Y5— Graves 91.9%

Y6—Bolsover 93.2%

Y6—Peveril 95.9%

Shirebrook 90.8%

Well done to all the classes who exceeded the target of 96%. Lets see the other classes trying really hard to achieve the target – remember every day counts!

# Star Pupils of the Week

18<sup>th</sup> October – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Whirlow	Kyla – for being kind to her friends and working hard in phonics Drin – for being kind and helpful to friends
Heeley	Ivy – for becoming more independent with her self care need. Cullen – for making amazing progress with his subtracting skills.
Sheaf	Darcy – for always showing great kindness to everyone in Sheaf class and helps adults to tidy away. Darcy listens carefully in class and has done some super writing about 'Claude in the City' over this half term, using time words and adjectives to make her writing interesting. Well done Darcy, keep it up! Calvin – for showing amazing progress in his maths work. He has grown in confidence and is happy to tackle any mathematical task with enthusiasm. Well done Calvin, keep up the great work.
Endcliffe	Rhys - showing greater independence in his learning and managing to complete tasks in a given time. Samuel - for a huge improvement in his attitude to learning and trying his best by putting in all of his effort.
Norfolk	Cheetah - for using super maths skills when solving addition and subtraction calculations. Darcie - for always showing a positive attitude to learning and trying her best in all she does.
Crucible	Chance - for carry on learning at home and writing your own portal story. Larrissa - for carry on learning at home and writing your own portal story.
Lyceum	Diane - independently writing a portal story using grammar features we have discussed in lessons William - independently writing a portal story using grammar features we have discussed in lessons
Weston	Evie - you have worked really hard this week with word problems in maths. Your focus has helped you to improve your addition and subtraction understanding. Keep it up! Abbey - you have impressed us all with your kindness and generosity.
Kelham	John Henry - for putting so much effort into his work especially accepting more challenge in maths Jorja - for being polite and responsible member of the class.
Millennium	Kyron - for his questioning and answering during discussion lessons. Maddison - for her resilience and efforts in writing this week.
Graves	Hollie - excellent work in maths lessons to embed and extend her knowledge. Braxton - for an excellent attitude to learning throughout his first term in Y5.
Bolsover	Taylor - for taking care of his presentation, aiming to get his work in our famous mathematicians display. Sophia - excellent sportsmanship in PE, demonstrating resilience and good teamwork.
Peveril	Lilli - continued hard work and effort across all subjects. She always ignores distractions and presents herself as a role model for those around her. Lorenzo - he consistently tries his best in everything he does and demonstrates an excellent attitude towards learning.
Shirebrook	Caleb – for stepping out side his comfort zone and having a fab residential at Castleton