



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

Newsletter

1st October 2021

Deputy Headteacher Update

Dear parents and carers,

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

Both Mrs Pemberton and I have been absolutely delighted with the way children have returned to school (after the summer) with a burning desire to learn. I have seen some truly amazing home learning projects returned to school showing exceptional dedication to learning outside school. An example of this is Jorja's fantastic WWII themed garden (pictured below).



The behaviour for learning across school is really positive and it is great to see how engaged the children are in the first units of work/projects for the Autumn 1 half term. Children have settled into their new classes well and the teambuilding and classbuilding work done, in the first few weeks, has contributed to forging some excellent new working relationships. This bodes very well for the rest of the academic year and is again a credit to our fantastic children and their hard working teachers.

At Birley Spa, we pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality of education we can deliver. This year, we will be looking to fully embed our high expectations across the wider curriculum and it is always a real privilege to drop into classrooms and see learning in action across the foundation subjects e.g. History, Art, PE etc.

As always, thank you for your continued support and if you require any further information regarding the curriculum then please get in touch with your child's class teacher.

Simon Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Assistant Head Of School Update

Year 1 and 2 are very excited about their trip to Birley Spa bath house this month! Year 2 will be visiting on Thursday 7th October, whilst Year 1 will be visiting on Friday 8th October. The trip is a chance to learn more about the local area, as well as about the history of the bath house.

It's been lovely to see the infants back together as one big family on the school playgrounds and surrounding grassland! We have some great new equipment, including rugby posts, new board games such as Ludo, Draughts, and Snakes and Ladders! We also have animal skittles and wooden garden quoits! Ask your child what they've played today!

When dropping off your child each morning, please be considerate of children already in class and participating in early morning work. If you need to speak to your class teacher for any non-urgent questions or queries, please schedule an appointment for after school, when they will happily meet with you.

Children have enjoyed some fantastic Phonics this past fortnight. They are using the first half hour after break to head to their Phonics space and participate in the teaching of sounds, accompanied by Storybook activities. Soon, they'll be each taking Phonics books home to match their learning from the week in school. We hope you enjoy reading with them at home, as well as enjoying listening to them read.

Mr Hogben
Assistant Head of School



Wear It Pink - For Breast Cancer

We will be holding a coffee morning in the school hall on Friday 22nd October from 9am to 10am, and at the same time we will be encouraging children to support 'Breast Cancer Now' by wearing pink. Everybody is welcome to pop in!

If you would like to donate any buns or cakes, then please bring them to the school office between Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st October. Children will have the opportunity to purchase any buns or cakes that are left at the end of the school day from the hall.

EYFS

We have been so proud of all of the children in EYFS, who have settled in to school with such enthusiasm for learning and exploring. They have been challenging themselves physically in the outdoor environment, responding to new routines and learning to respond in group and story times.

Our theme for learning this half term is 'Being Me'. We have been talking about our own families and learning about families in stories. We particularly loved the story about the owl family in 'Owl Babies' and we extended our learning by finding out more about owls.

Thank you for sharing photos from home to support the children in sharing their own family history. We are loving having conversations with the children about their own special families.

Ms Peck and Mrs Thomas



Sheaf

Our topic is called 'What is Unique About Where We Live?'. In our Geography lessons, we have been thinking carefully about what we see around our local area, which we have used to create our own maps! In English, we have been focusing on the story of 'Claude in the City'. We have been developing our skills in writing character descriptions, sequencing pictures from the story, using role play to retell the story and answering comprehension questions. In maths, we have been using resources to develop our understanding of place value to 10. We have been ordering numbers, solving missing number sequences, counting forwards and backwards and counting in multiples of 2.

We are so proud of how all the children in Sheaf Class have settled into Year 1, well done!

Miss Whitworth

Endcliffe

Endcliffe class have been working extremely hard on using adventurous vocabulary in English, when describing characters from our class text 'Claude in the City'. They have been starting to form some great descriptive phrases/sentences and we are looking to continue this into our next piece of writing. In Maths, the children have shown a strong understanding of place value and they have been using this to partition numbers, count forwards and backwards and solve word problems. Finally, we had great fun in Science, using our own forces to manipulate playdough. We looked at all the different ways we could change the material and even began to discuss if the changes are reversible or irreversible.

Mrs Allan and Mrs Horsfall

Norfolk

It has been a fantastic start to the new school year in Year 2. It has been wonderful to see the resilience and independence of the children and how well they have settled into Norfolk Class.

Our topic this half term is “what is unique about where we live?”. We have thoroughly enjoyed being immersed into the topic and thinking about what we already know about our local area. We have also thought about things we want to find out about our local area. For example Alarnie would like to find out more about the Birley Spa Bath House and what it’s like inside. Alongside this, in Art we have been looking at buildings within Sheffield and have created observational drawings. This is building up to creating our own cityscapes.

Our English focus is ‘Claude in the City’, the children are thoroughly enjoying this story and so far have created a character description about the main character Claude the Dog. Next week we will be creating our very own newspaper report about the incident at the Art Gallery in the story. I would just like to finish by saying it has been wonderful getting to know you all and thank you for your support over the first few weeks of the new school year.

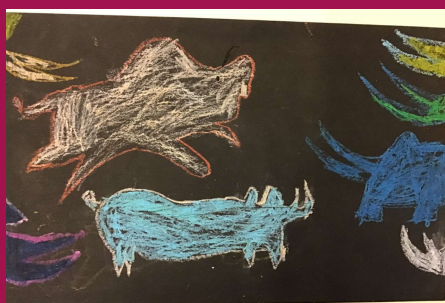
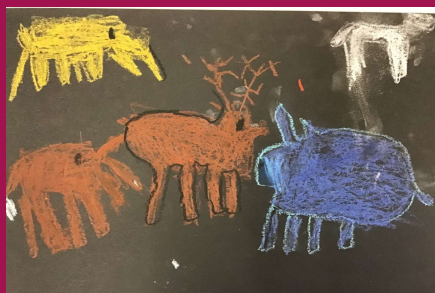
Miss Wilson

Year 3

The children in Year 3 have settled well back into school. They are showing real commitment to our class charters and are trying hard to follow the messages about staying safe, showing respect and being ready to learn.

Our topic is the ‘Stone Age’, and the children have been learning what Stone Age people ate and how they dressed. Children have experienced how to paint like a Stone Age person using their hands and fingers and the reasons behind Stone Age people producing drawings on cave walls.

Mrs Roberts and Miss Gostelow



Year 4

What a fantastic start the children have had to Year 4! We have been thoroughly impressed by the application they have shown to their work as well as the school values they display. In Literacy, we are complementing our topic of "Anglo Saxons" by reading Beowulf, a legend which features not one but two grisly monsters. The children have rewritten the narrative from the perspective of the evil character Grendel. In maths we are currently revisiting place value including comparing and ordering numbers as well as rounding to 10, 100, and 1000.

This term's Science topic is "Famous Scientists Throughout History", and we will be creating our own telephones this week whilst looking at the life of Alexander Graham Bell. In French, we are currently revisiting numbers and greetings, and of course we have just started our weekly Brass sessions, which promise to be great fun.

You will have received your letter about Reading Eggs, so please log on and encourage your child's reading. Our hope is that children read at least five times weekly - little and often is a great way of encouraging their expression and fluency.

Please speak to us if you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning.

Miss Landowski, Mrs Powell-Ferguson and Mr Jackson.

Year 5

Year 5 have worked hard to settle into their day-to-day learning and routines. The children have really impressed us with fantastic levels of enthusiasm during lessons and with their great engagement in our new topic, 'How did it feel to work in a coal mine?'. The children have illustrated fantastic levels of empathy to understand how it would feel to work done the coalmine and excellent geography skills to locate various coalmines on maps, that were previously in the local area.

Meanwhile, in English the children have showed excellent creative writing skills, producing diary entries based on our class text 'Street Child'. We used drama to first all immerse the children in the story and then the children used their empathy skills to write as various characters from the story. In Maths, the children have also worked hard to recap and enhance their place value knowledge, showing a good understanding of the number system. It is important the children continue to embed their times tables knowledge by engaging with the TT Rockstars learning programme both in school and at home.

Additionally, the children enjoyed engaging in our music lessons looking at classic rock songs 'We will rock you!' and 'Living on a prayer' were certainly favorites for all the pupils in both classes!

Well done on a great start to the new academic year to everyone in Year 5!

Mr Blake & Mr Walsh

Base

- $587 = 500 + 80 + 7$
- $21325 = 1000 + 300 + 20 + 5$
- $4515 = 4000 + 500 + 10 + 5$
- $2471 = 2000 + 400 + 70 + 1$
- $734 = 700 + 30 + 4$

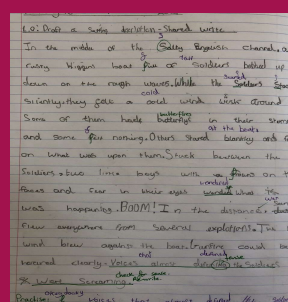
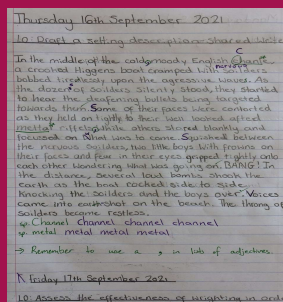
Expected

- $5317 = 300 \checkmark$
- $8249 = 9 \checkmark$
- $72036 = 2000 \checkmark$
- $19241 = 40 \checkmark$
- $165813 = 60000 \checkmark$
- $346895 = 800 \checkmark$

Year 6

What a fantastic start to Year 6! Everyone has settled into their new class and have enjoyed getting to know their new class teacher and TA - and we have enjoyed getting to know our new classes that bit better too. So far in maths, we have been looking at the place value, comparing and rounding of numbers up to 10,000,000. In English, we have been studying a video called 'Beyond the Lines' which portrays the memory of a WWII soldier who took part in the D-Day landings in Normandy. We have already written a shared setting description and are now working towards writing a setting description independently. This has tied in really well with our topic for this term: What Was Life Like During WWII? We have already looked at why the war took place and key moments during the war such as children being evacuated from cities and the Blitz. This has inspired some excellent art work that we created using oil pastels and card cut-outs. I'd like to remind everyone that Y6 have P.E on Thursdays this term and should arrive to school wearing appropriate PE clothing. In terms of homework, Y6 are currently expected to learn their spellings which go home each week and spend at least 20 minutes per week practicing times tables on Times Table Rock Stars. Reading Eggs usernames and passwords were sent home last week and children should start to familiarise themselves with the website in preparation for reading homework being set in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr. Litherland & Miss Harper



This Week's Attendance Figures

Target—96%

Actual— 93.2 %

R—Heeley 92.7%

R—Whirlow 87.3%

Y1—Sheaf 96.9%

Y2—Endcliffe 95.8%

Y2—Norfolk 94.1%

Y3—Crucible 97.5%

Y3—Lyceum 93.2%

Y4—Kelham 90.2%

Y4—Weston 94.4%

Y5—Millennium 97.2%

Y5—Graves 93.8%

Y6—Bolsover 93.2%

Y6—Peveril 85.0%

Shirebrook 93.1%

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

27th September - 1st October 2021

Whirlow	Marianna - for fantastic independent learning. Layton - for being a really kind friend.
Heeley	Milana - for fantastic writing. Paisley - for building resilience and beginning to settle into our school routine.
Sheaf	Zac - for great enthusiasm in maths and he has been keen to practice and develop his skills and strategies to find his number bonds to 10. Lily - has worked incredibly hard with her writing this week. She has practiced saying out loud what she would like to write and then used her 'Fred Fingers' to sound out her words.
Endcliffe	William - for participating in class discussions and working well with his talking partner. Eddie- for engaging in learning enthusiastically this week and trying really hard with his writing.
Norfolk	Elizabeth - for using great ideas in her writing this week when writing our newspaper report. Caelan - for using super maths skills when finding number bonds to 20 this week.
Crucible	Ollie - for improved presentation. Yousuf Rakeeb for using adventurous vocabulary in his writing.
Lyceum	Conor - excellent home learning about our topic Anna - Great work in English, writing a sentence and reading it back to check it makes sense.
Weston	Alice - you have impressed us by trying your personal best in all your learning, particularly in extending your times tables knowledge as well as your work on Reading Eggs. Well done! Connor - well done for being so focused on your work Connor. The way you apply yourself to your learning makes you a role model.
Kelham	Jayden – for wonderful attitude to learning, tries his very best with everything he does, a great role model. Beaux - for beautiful presentation, work always produced to her very best, well done Beaux.
Millennium	Max - For working exceptionally hard over the past two weeks in English and Topic lessons. Jaya - For being a great role model across school and for always working hard in class.
Graves	Destiny - an excellent attitude to be the best at every subject. Eric - settling into school really well!
Bolsover	Dexter - for consistently being ready to listen and showing respect to all adults in school. Sophie - for developing resilience, particularly in maths where she takes on board advice in order to work independently.
Peveril	Bobby - an improved attitude towards his learning and for demonstrating an eagerness to push and challenge himself. Doman - being a perfect role model for his peers. He consistently tries his best in everything he does and demonstrates an excellent attitude towards learning.
Shirebrook	Logan – for trying incredibly hard with his learning and having a fantastic attitude.