



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

# Newsletter

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021



## Wear it pink

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to our 'Wear It Pink' coffee morning! Breast Cancer's WIP day is one of the biggest fundraising events in the UK and we have raised a massive £419.77. Thank you everyone and a super special thank you to Claire Crawford!

## Children in need

On **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November**, children are invited to come to school dressed in spots or bright colours in exchange for a donation to the Children in Need Appeal. Alternatively – put spotty stickers on your clothes! Please bring in a £1 suggested donation for this Children in Need event on the day.



## Drawing Competition

School Council are inviting the whole school to enter a drawing competition with a prize for the Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 winner.

Please draw a spotty picture and hand your entries in to the School Council representatives for your class by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Winners will be announced in Star of The Week Assembly on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. There is a contribution of 50p per entry. All proceeds will go to Children in Need.

## Remembrance Day

Yesterday, children created beautiful pieces of art work in order to honor our war veterans, these will be displayed throughout the school. Children have reflected on how and why we use the poppy, as a symbol of remembrance. A two minute's silence was held at 11am with the children reflecting upon the sacrifices people have made during war and conflict, as well as thinking about how veterans' past sacrifices have enabled us to treasure the freedoms we enjoy and experience today.



## Odd Socks Day, Anti-Bulling Week

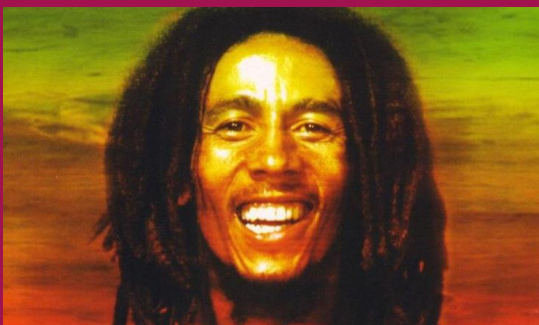
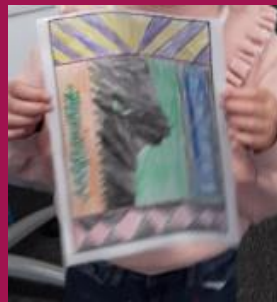
This year we are holding Odd Socks Day with the support of Andy Day, cBeebies star and front man of Andy and the Odd Socks. It is a chance for all schools to celebrate Anti-Bullying week in a positive way by asking pupils to wear odd socks to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks – it could not be simpler!

# Black History Month

In Key Stage One, we looked at famous black people that have made an impact on people's lives. Throughout the week in our English lessons, we focussed on 'The Windrush Poem' and created our own versions.

## Lois Mailou Jones

We looked at the life of Lois Mailou Jones who started out as a fashion designer in the 1930s. Her distinctive bold patterns, colours and designs quickly became very popular and were taken on by other designers. Her creativity and style made a great impact on the fashion world. She continues to receive national attention for her unique design, painting and illustration. The children had a go at creating their own art piece in homage to Lois Mailou Jones, emulating her bold colours, shapes and pattern in their own art work.

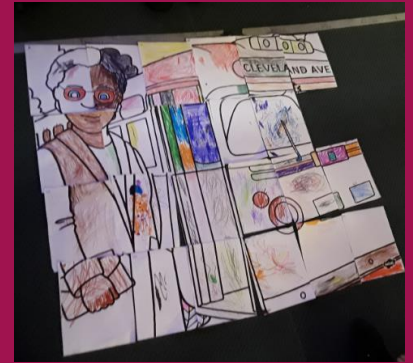


## Famous Musicians

We looked at significant musicians in Black History. We focused on Bob Marley and Nina Simone. We learnt all about what both of the musicians were famous for, the genre of music they created and some fun facts about the musicians. We also spoke about why we remember the musicians and how they are important. The children enjoyed listening to songs written by both Bob Marley and Nina Simone, listening closely to the rhythm and the instruments they could hear.

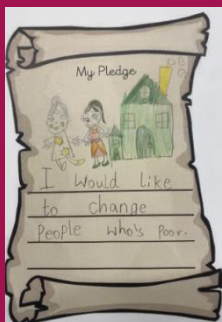
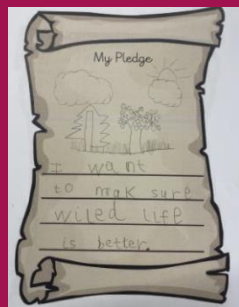
### Rosa Parks

We looked at the history of Rosa Parks. We learnt all about her childhood and how she experienced racism as a child. We then explored how she had helped end the segregation laws in America in 1964. We discussed the importance of the day that Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white passenger and refused to move. From this, the children worked collaboratively to create a Rosa Parks masterpiece in which each child contributed to a piece. We also created some portraits of Rosa Parks.



### Marcus Rashford

The children took a deep dive into the background of Marcus Rashford. They learnt about the type of childhood he had, how this influenced his life and the choices he has made since. We then focussed on the recent events he has been involved in and the effects that he has had on children all around the world. From this, the children were very excited to make their own pledges for change. We had examples of, helping more around the house, spending more time with close family members and even making changes in their own community environment.





## **EYFS**

In EYFS we are learning all about celebrations and what is the same and different in the way that special occasions are celebrated. We thought about bonfire night and talked about what we had had seen and heard and about the special food we had eaten.

We discovered that fireworks are also important for families all over the world who celebrate Diwali. Diwali is the Hindu festival of light and next week we will be learning all about how Hindu's celebrate with their families and friends, wearing special clothes, eating special food, decorating their homes and exchanging gifts and cards.

We have been looking at art work by Jackson Pollock and thought that the paintings looked like fireworks in the sky. We looked at his paintings where he had used drips and spatters and it inspired us to make some artistic masterpieces outside by throwing, spattering and flicking paint on to large sheets of card.

Ms Peck and Mrs Thomas

## **Sheaf**

Sheaf Class have had a fantastic start to the half term! We have been learning all about the story of Rapunzel by Bethan Woolvin. Rapunzel had left us some clues about our new class text, along with the storybook and a letter. The children have been engaged in writing their own predictions about the story, taking part in drama to act out the story and using their understanding of the story to sequence pictures.

As an introduction to our new topic 'How have Queens changed over time?' the children have been learning all about castles. Everyone is really looking forward to designing and making their own castles in our DT lessons.

Miss Whitworth

## **Endcliffe**

This week we have started our new topic 'How Queens have changed over the years'. The children have loved using their observational skills to draw castles in their Design and Technology lesson. They shared lots of their own knowledge of kings, queen's and castles with great excitement.

In English, we have introduced our new story which is Rapunzel by Beth Woolvin. The children have really enjoyed her twist on the traditional tale and have engaged in role play and drama around the story. We have enthusiastically got into the role of the characters and really impressed us with their performance skills and understanding of the story.

In Maths, we have been looking at the numbers to 20 with the year 1 pupils. We are beginning to make 2 digit numbers using maths equipment such as dienes, counters and numicon. The year 2's have been looking at measuring, using rulers to measure in centimeters and meters.

Mrs Allan and Mrs Horsfall

## Norfolk

In Norfolk Class, it has been lovely to welcome the children back after a relaxing half term break. The children have returned with a great eagerness to learn about our new topic "How have queens changed over time?".

In English, we have been introduced to our new story "Rapunzel" by Bethan Woollvin which is a twist on the classic fairy-tale we are all familiar with. One morning we arrived to school and had been left some clues to what the story may be about along with a letter from Rapunzel. Using this we had lots of discussions and predicted what we thought the story may be about. Throughout the week we also took part in different immersion activities such as hot seating and role play.

As part of our maths learning we have been looking at length and height. We've been using rulers and meter rulers to measure objects both in and out of the classroom in centimetres and metres. We have been following the steps to successfully measure such as finding the correct measurement on the ruler, placing the object at 0 and measuring to the end of the ruler.

For our topic learning, we looked at the history behind Bonfire Night by learning all about Guy Fawkes Gunpowder Plot. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning all about this and found it really intriguing. Following on from this, as a reward for filling our Pom Pom jar, Norfolk Class created their very own firework biscuits.

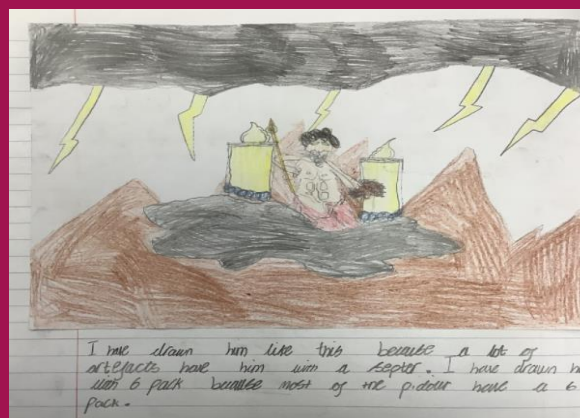
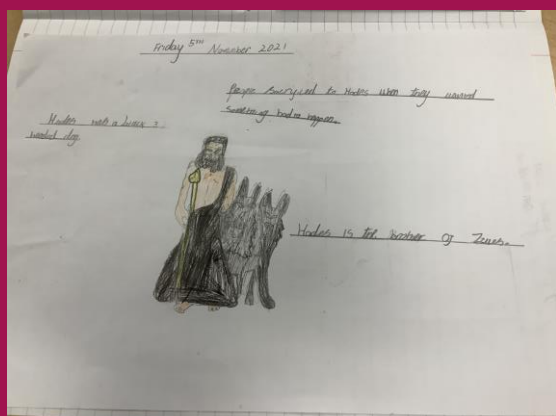
Well done Norfolk Class for a great start to this half term, keep up the hard work.

Miss Wilson

## Year 3

In year 3 we have started our history topic on the Ancient Greeks. We are learning about how they have influenced our modern world. Children have looked at different Greek artefacts that depict the King of the Greek Gods Zeus. They created an artist impression of Zeus using the historical information and sources.

If you look closely, you should be able to spot the similarities in our artwork



Mrs Roberts and Miss Gostelow

## Year 4

Y4 enjoyed an energetic start to the new term with their Viking Experience day. The children enjoyed finding out all about Traders and Settlers, and set sail on their own Viking raid! There was plenty of positive feedback and we are confident that it will give them a good grounding to their new topic "How Did the Vikings Defeat the Anglo Saxons?".

In Maths, we have moved onto multiplication and division. In Literacy we have started the wonderful book 'Arthur and The Golden Rope' - a tale about the unlikeliest of heroes and his adventures in the land of the Viking gods. Homework is set every Friday on mathletics and comprehension texts are also set weekly on Reading Eggs. If you would like a reminder of your child's passwords for either of these platforms, or if you would like to support your child with any aspects of their home learning, just let us know. Just a quick reminder that we would like your child to bring in their reading journal every Friday.

Finally, it was a pleasure to meet with so many of you last week at parents evening. It's really nice to chat with people who normally we just see through the classroom window at pick up time!

Miss Landowski, Mrs Powell-Ferguson and Mr Jackson

## Year 5

Pupils in Year 5 have worked hard to develop their understanding of our new learning question, "What did the Romans do for us?"

The children have enjoyed developing a detailed understanding of some of the key events of the Roman period and starting to understand how the Roman era began.

Meanwhile, in maths, the children have enjoyed developing their knowledge of multiplication and division, showing excellent depth of knowledge to attempt challenging and tricky word problems. All the children really impressed us, well done Y5!

Also, in English the children have enjoyed the opportunity to read our new class novel, The Thieves of Ostia.

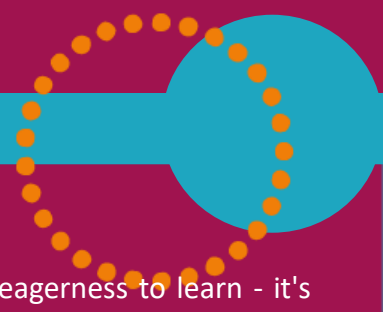
The children have acknowledged some of the main characters and started to enjoy the suspense and mystery involved in the book. We will be using it to create some mystery and suspense stories over the coming weeks. We are sure they are going to be brilliant and we can't wait to share them with you!

Just a reminder that PE days for Y5 will be on Fridays and children will need to continue wear the appropriate PE kit to school.

Alongside this, children are expected to be accessing mathletics, Reading Eggs and TT Rockstars to engage with opportunities to extend their knowledge/understanding further at home.

Well done on a great first week back Year 5!

Mr Blake & Mr Walsh



## Year 6

Y6 have had a great return to school after half term! Lots of focus, resilience, and eagerness to learn - it's been fantastic to see. So far in maths this half term, we have been looking at the properties of square, cube, and prime numbers. We have also begun recapping how to find equivalent fractions and building towards being able to simplify a given fraction using common factors. In English, we have been reading a book called 'Secrets of a Sun King' by Emma Carroll. The story is told from the point of view of a young girl who takes charge of a strange package from an Egyptologist who is found dead under mysterious circumstances; we have been using this as a stimulus to write a playscript. We have already written scene 1 and scene 2 as a shared writing and we are now moving towards writing scene 3 independently. We will be aiming to show off our use of key grammatical skills such as parenthesis, present tense, colons and expanded noun phrases, to name a few! This writing unit ties in really well with our current Topic question: Who were the Ancient Egyptians and what did they do? We have already looked at when the Ancient Egyptians ruled and what happened to Pharaohs when they died.

I'd like to remind everyone that Y6 now have P.E on Wednesdays this term and should arrive to school wearing appropriate PE clothing. Every child and parent should also now have log in details for Showbie and be able to access this. If you or your child have any issues accessing Showbie please get in touch; we will be utilising Showbie more and more for homework and communication moving forward.

Mr. Litherland and Miss Harper

## This Week's Attendance Figures

Target—96%		Actual— 91.9 %	
R—Heeley	84.6%	R—Whirlow	91.6%
Y1—Sheaf	88.1%	Y2—Endcliffe	94.1%
Y2—Norfolk	89.3%	Y3—Crucible	94.6%
Y3—Lyceum	88.7%	Y4—Kelham	94.8%
Y4—Weston	94.8%	Y5—Millennium	93.6%
Y5— Graves	91.9%	Y6—Bolsover	92.5%
Y6—Peveril	85.6%	Shirebrook	99.2%

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!