



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

10th December 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the final week of the autumn term, I wanted to thank our children and families for their overwhelming support so far this year.

Sadly, over the past week, we have seen a slight rise in the number of Covid-19 cases within school and I wanted to make you aware of this and the current Government advice in the hope that all members of our school community remain as safe as possible and can enjoy the Christmas break with their families.

- If your child has been identified by Test and Trace as a contact, they will be advised to undertake a PCR test. Please ensure your child accesses a test as soon as possible if this is the case. The Public Health team also advise for the child to undertake a lateral flow test before attending school each day whilst awaiting the results of the PCR test as a contact.
- If you're a contact of someone who may have been infected with the Omicron variant, you must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of your age, vaccination status or any negative test results.
- Please also remain vigilant for the development of any COVID-19 symptoms in your child, even if they are mild. These can include a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste. In addition, our local health authority has advised that a headache and / or sore throat have also been identified as potential symptoms, particularly in children. If you have concern that your child may be displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please do not send them to school. They should isolate and take a PCR test. You can book a PCR test online at [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

All positive cases should follow Test and Trace legal advice and isolate for 10 full days after their symptoms appeared or after a positive PCR if asymptomatic.

- If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) website at [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/). If you are concerned about your child's symptoms or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk/ or by phoning 111.

Thank you for taking the actions necessary to help keep pupils, staff and our wider school community safe.

Kind regards,

Melany Pemberton
Executive Headteacher

Racism

Racism and racial abuse or bullying can be really distressing for children and young people. When a child is bullied or treated differently because of their race, it can lead to feelings of isolation, depression, anger or even shame about their race or how they look.

We recently had a visit from our local PCSO, who gave year groups 3 – 6 their own assembly dedicated to understanding racism.

This assembly helped children to understand how race can mean a person's colour, nationality, ethnicity or citizenship, and how it can also include different ethnic and racial groups.

As part of this, children were helped to realise how it's illegal to discriminate against someone, or treat them differently, because of their race.

Other items covered included:

- someone's ethnicity or national origin may not be the same as their current nationality.
- Racial discrimination: when someone is treated differently because of their race, ethnicity, nationality or colour.

It is important to encourage positive and open conversations about race and racism with children and young people.

How to talk to children about racism

Encourage children to appreciate diversity.
Talk about recent history and culture.
Have open conversations regularly.

Try to make conversations age appropriate –

It can help to describe racism in a way that your child will be able to understand. For example, you can talk about fairness, being kind, accepting others for who they are



KS1 Egg Drop

As part of our Science learning on materials, KS1 were introduced to the story 'Egg Drop'. It presents the story of the Egg that wanted to fly. The Egg loved the sky. It saw all the birds, insects, aeroplanes, balloons, helicopters, bats and clouds. It dreamed of being high up there, flying with them all. So, the Egg went to a very high place ... and jumped. Unfortunately, the egg did not land safely and it cracked. Following on from the story, we met Professor Egghead and Eggbert Crackson who sent us on a mission to be the first children to send an egg to the moon and back without it breaking.

In groups, we designed our own egg rockets, we thought about the materials, which would be best suitable to make a rocket to protect an egg from breaking. We used materials such as cotton wool, bubble wrap, plastic bottles, cardboard and string. Across the three classes, the children came up with lots of different plans and ideas and each group made a rocket that was different to one another.

The following day, we used our designs to make our egg rockets in our groups using the materials that we decided on our design sheets. Once we had made our egg rockets, we carefully placed our egg inside. In the afternoon, we went outside together and Mr Hogben climbed the ladders to drop our rockets from the sky in turn to see which egg rockets survived. Once we had dropped them from the sky, we returned to our classrooms to discuss why some eggs survived and why some unfortunately did not.

SHEFFIELD CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS



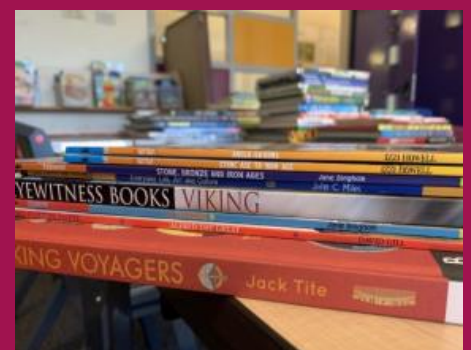
Birley Spa Primary Academy is now registered to take part in the 2022 Sheffield Children's Book Award.

Sheffield Children's Book Awards were launched in 1988 to encourage children and young people to read, and to highlight the best literature published each year.

The awards celebrate books and what they do for the Sheffield Community.

Hundreds of children from across the city will be taking part by voting for their favourite book through local schools and libraries.

We look forward to updating you in the new year with more information!



We recently worked in partnership with The Book Trade Charity to achieve over 150 brand new books, linked specifically to our curriculum.

Topics books are linked to include: Castles, Knights and Royalty, Romans, Egyptians, Art and DT, RE, Sports and PE, SEND, Anglo-Saxons, The Stone Age, Health and Fitness, Our Planet, The Natural World, Science and Scientists, Voyages/Explorers, Myths and Legends, World War 2, as well as sustainability and climate change, and more...

EYFS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in EYFS! We are enjoying completing our learning about different celebrations by celebrating Christmas. We are sharing a new Christmas story each day through our book advent calendar and sorting cards and presents in the Post Office. We have been using repeating patterns to decorate our trees and counting out the decorations that we need. We have been so proud of the effort that the children have put into learning the Christmas songs and we are looking forward to sharing our Wiggly Nativity performance with you on Tapestry.

Ms Peck and Mrs Thomas

Sheaf

Sheaf class have really enjoyed continuing to develop their learning about our topic 'How have Queens changed over time?'. The children especially enjoyed visiting Manor Lodge, where we explored the ruins of the castle and asked questions about what it was like to live in a castle. The children also had the opportunity to see a dinner party and understand what it was like to eat at a banquet.

In English, the children have been imagining they are characters from the story of Rapunzel and have been writing diary entries about events, referring back to the storybook. The children have developed their understanding about what it means to write in 1st person.

As part of our maths learning, we have been continuing to develop our understanding of 3D shapes. The children have been making their own 3D shapes, to support their learning in identifying the properties of each shape.

Miss Whitworth

Endcliffe

Endcliffe class have had a fantastic time visiting Manor Castle last week as part of our topic "How have Queens changed over time". The children were able to explore the ruins of the castle and learn what it was like to live in one. They particularly enjoyed dressing up in period costumes and meeting some royalty from the past. We would like to take this opportunity to mention how well the children behaved on the trip and how proudly they represented our school.

In topic this week we have been delving into the life of Queen Victoria I and will be able to compare key events with Queen Elizabeth the VI in the coming weeks. In Design and Technology we have been experimenting with colour mixing in order to select the ideal colour to paint our model castles.

This week in English, following from learning about Rapunzel the children have completed a Diary entry using key features of a diary, and the story to write from the Witches point of view.

In maths, Year 2 have been finishing off their statistics unit, learning about block graphs and interpretation data. Year 1 have been continuing their learning of 3D shapes and their properties.

Mrs Allan and Mrs Horsfall



Norfolk

In English we have been independently writing our own diary entries pretending to be Rapunzel. We began by looking at the features of diaries, writing a class one from the perspective of the witch to our own independent Rapunzel versions. The children had great ideas and really got into character. They produced fantastic entries.

In maths, we have been continuing with our learning on statistics. We looked at block diagrams and practically made our own using block cubes. We then moved onto drawing our own and then interpreting them. We have now moved onto multiplication. Please continue practising counting in twos, threes, fives and tens.

On Friday 2nd December, we visited Manor Lodge. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit in which we explored the castle ruins, visited the old castle toilet and the apothecary garden. In the apothecary garden we looked at the different herbs which we later used to create our own herb bags. We also visited the house where we split into two groups and took it in turns visiting the banquet room and learning all about clothing that was worn 400 years ago, we also had the chance to dress up! Below is some quotes from the children about their day;

Kavern: "I enjoyed looking at the turret house"

Jenson: "I enjoyed meeting the queen and learning all about her"

Imogen: "My favourite part was exploring the castle ruins.

Norfolk class' behaviour was impeccable and they were a real credit to themselves and Birley Spa. It was a fantastic day and enjoyed by all.

I would like to finish by saying I wish all families a happy and safe Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Miss Wilson



Year 3

This week in Year 3 we started our new science topic about light. The children have been really enjoying the different experiments learning how light travels, how mirrors work and which materials best reflect light.

Tayen - "Light bounces of an object and into your eye"

Tommy - "Light travels in straight lines"

In maths the children have continued their learning about multiplication and division. They have been confidently using mathematical vocabulary to explain how a multiplication and division calculation is written and what each number represent.

Mrs Roberts and Miss Gostelow

Year 4

Year 4 started their new unit in Literacy by trying to win a packet of Haribo from their teachers - the incentive certainly got the children thinking about their persuasion skills! We've now moved onto writing a leaflet which entices the reader to become Vikings - a world of raiding and axe-juggling awaits!

In maths, the children are working hard on understanding multiplication and of course the corresponding division facts. Lots of children find division more tricky than multiplication: TT Rockstars is a great website for recapping this knowledge and creating confidence - please encourage your child to use it at least a few times a week. Let us know if you would like your child's login details for this (Weston pupils can find them in their Showbie folder).

And of course we are gearing up for Christmas by creating our crafts, as well as rehearsing festive songs for the video which will go out to you on Showbie. We look forward to sharing them with you!

Miss Landowski, Mrs Powell-Ferguson and Mr Jackson

Year 5

Year 5 have had enjoyed a great few weeks, continuing to deepen our learning based on our Romans topic. The children have enjoyed understanding the key features of a Roman soldier, alongside gaining knowledge of the various techniques the Romans used when entering into battle.

During Maths lessons, the children have relished the opportunity to engage in activities based around our new angles learning topic. The children have enjoyed measuring and drawing angles, whilst also engaging in some mathematical investigations based on exploring angles even further. The children really impressed us with their discussion and engagement. Alongside this, the children have produced some fantastic Winter poetry. The children were challenged to create lots of creative language, including similes, adjectives and metaphors based on our key senses.

Finally, the children have also enjoyed in some creative activities based on Christmas. They have shown excellent concentration and artistic skills to produce some great examples of high-quality learning.

Mr Blake & Mr Walsh



Ingredients

- 100g salted butter
- 3 tbsp golden syrup
- 100g dark muscovado sugar
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 225g plain flour
- 50g icing sugar

Ultimate easy gingerbread

Preparation and cooking time

- Prep:**20 mins
- Cook:**15 mins
- plus 1 hr chilling

Make some gingerbread stars to hang from your Christmas tree. This biscuit dough is extremely forgiving if overworked, so it's perfect for baking with children

Method

• **STEP 1**

•Heat the butter, syrup and sugar together in a small [pan](#) until melted, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool slightly.

• **STEP 2**

Mix together the bicarb, ginger, cinnamon and flour in a large bowl. Pour in the buttery syrup mixture and stir to combine, then use your hands to bring together to form a dough. The dough will be soft at this point, but it'll firm up in the fridge.

• **STEP 3**

Put the dough on a sheet of baking parchment, shape into a rectangle, and lay another sheet of parchment on top of it. Roll the dough out to a thickness of ½cm. Transfer to a baking sheet to keep it flat, leaving the parchment in place, then chill in the fridge for 1 hr.

• **STEP 4**

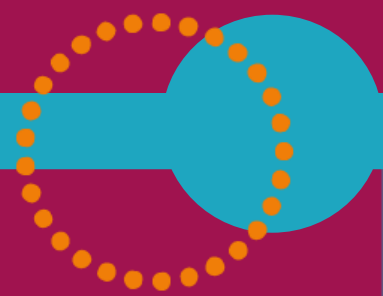
Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5 and line a large baking sheet with more baking parchment. Remove the dough from the fridge and cut out shapes using a cookie cutter. We used 9cm stars, but you can choose any shape. We also made some with smaller stars cut out of the centre to thread ribbon through and hang from a Christmas tree.

• **STEP 5**

Place the shapes, spread apart, on the lined baking sheet, and bake for 10-12 mins. (Depending on the size of the cutters you use, they might need a few minutes more or less cooking in the oven). Leave to cool completely on the baking sheet.

• **STEP 6**

Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with 1-2 tbsp water – you want to create a consistency that's thick and pipeable, and not too thin or it will run. Decorate the cooled biscuits with the icing using a piping bag with a thin nozzle. Find out how to [make a piping bag](#).



Year 6

Year 6 have had a great few weeks, continuing to deepen our understanding of the Ancient Egyptians. We have looked at Egyptian gods and made our own Egyptian stamps and sarcophagi models. During Maths, we have dived into a new topic looking at the properties of 2D shapes and the angles within triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons. We have even

begun the impressive task of measuring angles and using known angles to calculate unknown angles within a polygon.

In English, the children have produced some excellent biographies, writing about the famous Egyptologist, Howard Carter. The children have impressed us with their use of complex sentences including the use of relative clauses and parenthesis. Finally, we have also enjoyed beginning to create some Christmassy art projects to share with adults later this term.

Mr. Litherland and Miss Harper

This Week's Attendance Figures

Target—96%

Actual— 93.9 %

R—Heeley 92.7%

R—Whirlow 93.5%

Y1—Sheaf 96%

Y2—Endcliffe 98.3%

Y2—Norfolk 94.6%

Y3—Crucible 97.1%

Y3—Lyceum 89.3%

Y4—Kelham 89.5%

Y4—Weston 91.1%

Y5—Millennium 95.5%

Y5—Graves 92.6%

Y6—Bolsover 92.6%

Y6—Peveril 96.2%

Shirebrook 98.5%

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!