



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone! The children have settled back into school beautifully following the Easter break. Our pupils have eagerly engaged in all aspects of learning.

Last week, our year 5 pupils showcased their amazing voices, as they attended the Young Voices concert. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, pupils, staff and parents alike. We were delighted to receive a lovely email of thanks from one of our wonderful parents expressing how much they enjoyed the evening and thanking the staff for organising the event, we really value this kind of feedback

In previous communications to parents, we discussed an interim Head of School role whilst we followed a recruitment process. We are delighted to inform you all that we have appointed a new and permanent Head of School, Mrs. Gibson. Mrs. Gibson will join the staff team from September 2022, working closely with myself and Mr Smith, who resumes his role as Deputy Head of School. May I take this opportunity to thank Mr Smith for all his hard work, commitment and efforts during his time as Interim Head of School. Although Mrs. Gibson is officially joining the Birley Spa team in September, she is currently working with us on a phased induction whilst meeting Birley Spa pupil's and their families. Please look out for Mrs. Gibson later in the term when she visits.



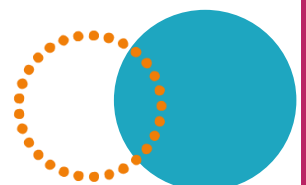
We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us at the Pop up Cafe on Thursday morning! The cold weather did not stop lots of parents from joining us for a drink, a slice of pizza and a chat. The informal, outdoor environment (under the KS2 canopy) really seemed to work for everyone - and is handy for parents to access, following drop off. Pizza will be available again this week to sample, along with flapjacks. Please watch this space for even more delicious items available from our school menu for parents to try. Remember that the 'Pop up Café' will be happening every week (Thursday morning, 8.45 - 9.45) under the KS2 playground canopy. There will be regular guests from MAST and other useful supportive organisations who will be able to offer advice and answer any questions you may have.

As a reminder, if you have any SEND enquiries, please direct these through to the main school office, via telephone or email. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office team on 0114 2399106 or via email, enquiries@birleyspaacademy.co.uk and they will be happy to assist. Mrs. Miller's working days are now Tuesday to Friday.

Finally, to ensure our families are kept safe and free from harm, can we kindly ask that parents refrain from entering the staff car park on foot from school grounds. Please only use this gate if you have a parking permit issued by the school. All parking permits will expire at the end of the school year and will only be reissued in September, following a meeting with our leadership team.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and hope you had a wonderful weekend in the sunshine.

Mrs. Pemberton
Executive Headteacher





Young Voices 2022



Our Year 5 children had an opportunity to perform at the Young Voices concert, the largest children's choir in the world. Over 5000 children gather together to perform a variety of songs. This was an amazing experience for our children and we look forward to next years performance.

- Freya said she loved it and it was really fun
- Imogen said he favourite song was Mambo Italiano
- Thomas said that his favourite part was learning the beat box
- Lily enjoyed the dancing and the songs



We received a lovely message from one of our fantastic parents following the event:

A big Thank you! Young voices Y5, this was absolutely brilliant. This is one of the best things the school have taken part in. The atmosphere was incredible. Kids and teachers were brilliant too!

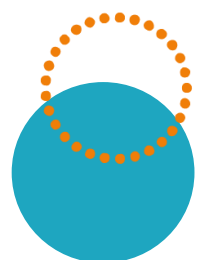
A message from Mr. Atkinson - I would like to say a huge well done to the Y5 Young Voices team who represented the school excellently on our day out to Sheffield Arena. The show was a massive success, and it all came from the hard work put in during rehearsals. There was a real sense of togetherness from the group and the whole evening created a magical atmosphere. I found it truly admirable that so many of the children were able to bravely face the understandable nerves that came with singing in front of such a large crowd. I hope it was an event that will live long in the memory of those able to attend, I know it will live long in mine!



Toilet Refurbishment



We wish to thank L.E.A.D. Academy Trust for funding our wonderful new toilets for Year 5 and 6 pupils. We are delighted with the results and would like to share these fabulous pictures with you all.



Join our **POP UP CAFÉ**

Every Thursday after drop off!

On the school yard, under the canopy!

Come and join us for free coffee, food, and a chat ☺ ☺

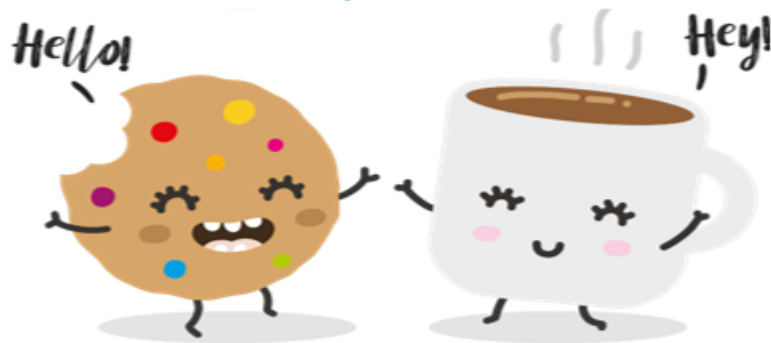


(9:00–10:00am)

Small children welcome!

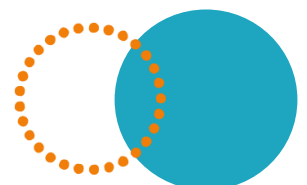


Birley Spa Primary Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy



Attendance Figures

Class	Attendance %
Sheaf	90.4
Endcliffe	94.0
Norfolk	98.7
Crucible	94.6
Lyceum	95.7
Kelham	95.7
Weston	91.8
Millennium	96.2
Graves	95.5
Bolsover	83.8
Peveril	87.0
Shirebrook	87.5
School Total	92.9



Class Round-Up

EYFS

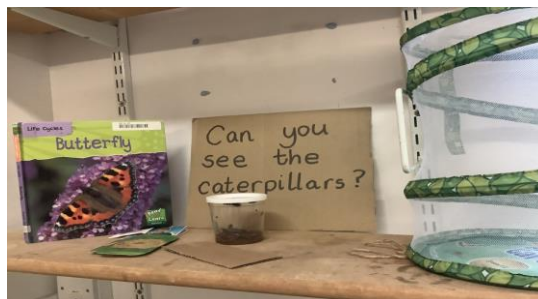
FS1
& 2

We have had an exciting arrival in EYFS. We have some tiny and very hungry caterpillars! We are learning all about how things grow and will be observing the life cycle of the butterfly and very excited about the changes we will see.

This term we are learning all about how things grow and change. We will be planting lots of seeds in our garden and watching them grow as well as finding out how different vegetables are grown. We may even be eating some!

Our new Curiosity Approach to the curriculum is developing many opportunities for the children to explore new concepts and develop their learning through open ended activities and resources. We will keep you informed about this as we continue to develop our environment. Please see the last page of this newsletter to find out more about the resources you can help us to collect.

Ms. Peck & Mrs. Thomas



Year

1/2

Our topic in Year 1 and 2 this half term is "Which Animals wriggle, crawl and roam?". In topic, our focus is Geography in which we are looking at the continents and certain animals that live there. So far we have looked at Antarctica which is home to the emperor penguin.

In Science, we have looked at animals that are alive, living and never lived. We looked at the acronym 'Mrs Gren' to help us remember the 7 living life processes.

For English, our new story is 'The Bog Baby' in which two sisters go fishing in a magic pond and come across a Bog Baby! Small and blue with wings like a dragon. The sisters take him home and keep him a secret. So far, the children have enjoyed creating their own magical creatures along with writing our own class version called 'The Field Ferret'. We have been concentrating on using expanded noun phrases to add description.

Year 1 Maths, we have been looking at measurement. We have been using balancing scales to compare and measuring weight, before moving onto capacity next week. Where as in Maths in Y2 we have been looking at fractions of a shape, focussing on a half, quarter and a third before moving onto $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$.

We would just like to finish by saying a big well done to those children who created an Easter Bonnet for the parade! The entries were amazing and it was clear to see the effort that had been put into making them. Well done to our overall class winners;

Sheaf = Taylor Anderson

Endcliffe = Harry Knight

Norfolk = Ebony Leake

Keep up the hard work Key Stage 1!

Mrs. Horsfall, Mrs. Allen, Miss Whitworth & Miss Wilson

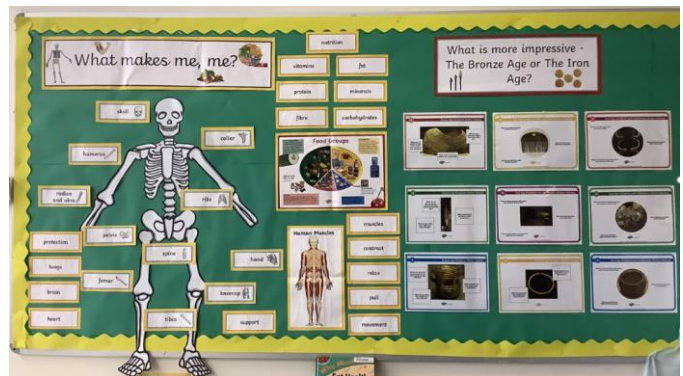
Year 3

In year 3 we have had an exciting week finding out about teachers and teaching assistants at Birley Spa Academy. Children have learnt how to ask open ended questions in order to get a detailed response. The children have then written biographies with the information. Many thanks to the staff that helped with facts about themselves.

In science the children have been learning about food groups, nutrients, skeletons and muscles. The children showed good understanding of scientific vocabulary when explaining the different types of skeletons, names of bones and how muscles work.

Children have created flower sculptures out of clay in art.

Mrs. Roberts and Miss Gostelow



Year 4

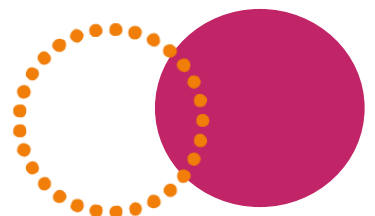
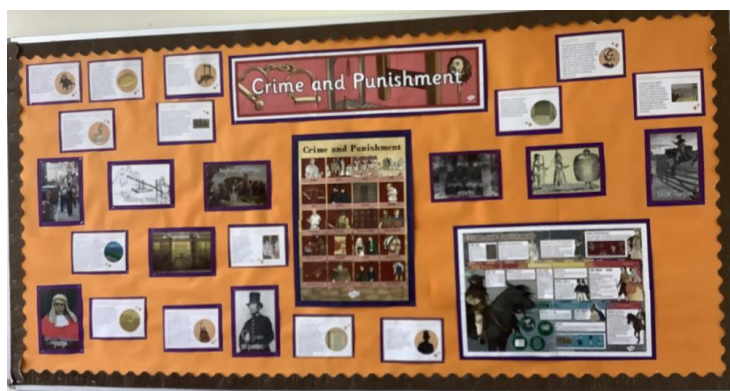
In Science the children have been investigating sound and vibrations. They will be making their own sound instrument and explore patterns between the size of the vibrations and the volume of the sound they make.

R.E. has been really enlightening. We have been learning about the religious significance of Jerusalem to some faiths. We found out that Christians, Muslims, and Jews regularly visit sacred sites in Jerusalem on a pilgrimage.

In our topic we have been researching crime and punishment through the ages. The children are really engaged and excited about this topic, they have particularly enjoyed finding out about past school rules, since discovering their own teachers would have had to obey the same rules.

It has been a lovely start to the new term. The children are excited to be back at school and are ready to enjoy learning.

Miss Landowski, Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Powell-Ferguson



Year 5

As always, Year 5 have been full engaged and immersed within their new topics and units of work.

In English this term, the children are using the book 'Clockwork - by Philip Pullman' to stimulate their writing. In Maths, we are learning about position and direction and will soon be moving on to shape which will involve identifying 3d shapes and their nets.

The History topic we are studying this term is all about journeys. We will be learning about numerous famous journeys that people have been on. More information about this, and the science unit we are studying, can be found on the topic leaflet which can be found on Showbie.

This week was the much anticipated Young Voices concert. The children's hard work and commitment to practicing the songs and dances really paid off. The concert was a huge success and everyone that attended thoroughly enjoyed the day and night. The children made us all so proud and hopefully the parents and carers that attended had an equally enjoyable night.

Miss Ambler and Mr. Walsh

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been continuing our English work around the video Alma (which can be found on YouTube). The children have been writing the story from the perspective of the doll in the video. Whether the doll is kind-hearted, curious or malicious was up to the children to choose. We are looking forward to seeing their final stories! In maths, we have been focusing on statistics, including interpreting and drawing line graphs and pie charts. In these first few weeks, we will be having additional revision each day for the upcoming SATs, including short 15-minute maths/grammar activities in the afternoon. Please continue to access additional revision materials on Showbie, Mathletics, Spag.com and Reading eggs.

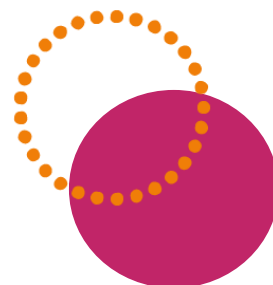
Reminders:

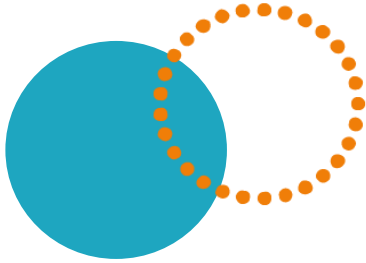
Monday: Maths booster group after school.

Tuesday: Reading booster group after school & PE.

For SATs arrangements, a letter will be coming out shortly.

Miss Harper and Mr. Litherland



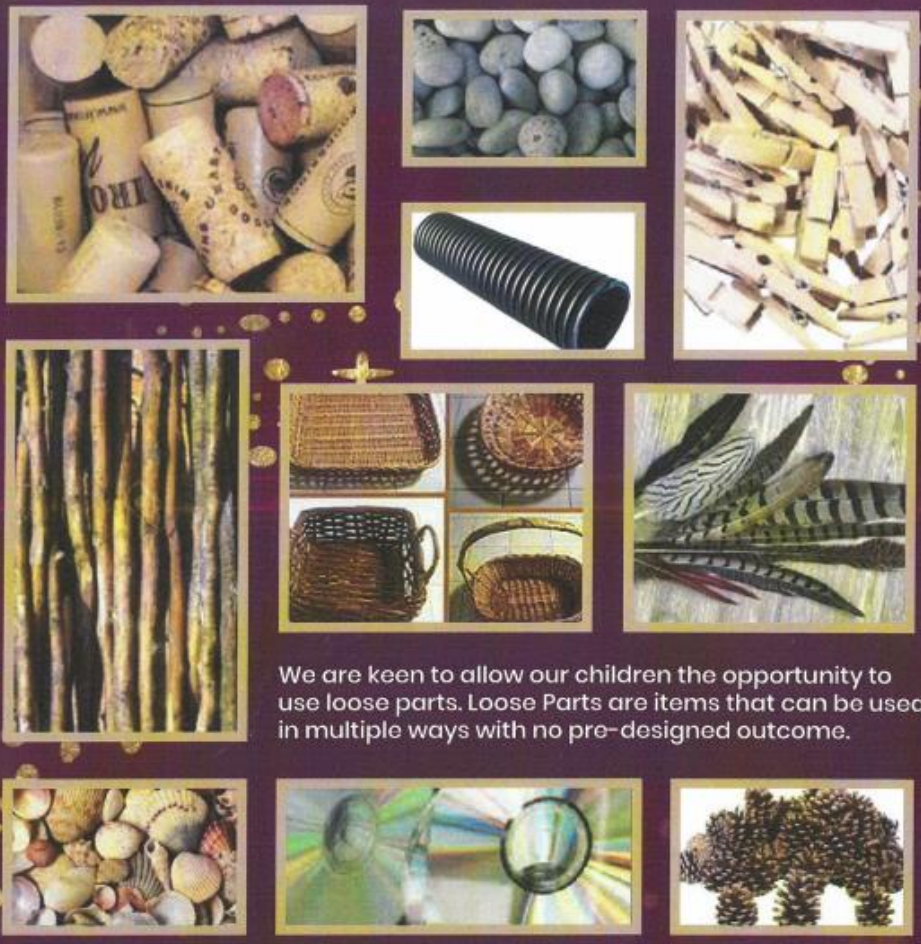


This half term in Shirebrook, we are looking at Minibeasts and where they can be found. This will explore what a minibeast is and their habitats. We will be also creating and making our own beasts using junk modelling.

In Mathematics, we will be using our understanding of calculation, graphing, geometry and problem solving to carry out mathematical investigations outdoors.

Mrs. King and Mrs. Miller

We're collecting loose parts
PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT AT HOME,
WE COULD REALLY USE THE FOLLOWING



We are keen to allow our children the opportunity to use loose parts. Loose Parts are items that can be used in multiple ways with no pre-designed outcome.

Developing opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving. Opportunities for counting, sorting, mathematical concepts and so many more learning outcomes. Teaching children how to think not what to think.

**Do you have any of these items at home?
Please bring them in when you can. Thank you!**

Star Pupils of the Week

3rd May – 6th May 2022

Whirlow	Kyla - For amazing progress in using her phonic knowledge in her writing. Piper - For amazing progress in using her phonic knowledge in her writing.
Heeley	Joshua - For being a really kind friend and helping new starters settle. Ivy - For having great knowledge for understanding the world.
Sheaf	Alina - For completing some fantastic homework over the Easter holidays, focusing on animals that live in Africa and creating a fact booklet all about Rabbits! Well done Alina! Thomas – For becoming more resilient in his learning and believing in his own abilities.
Endcliffe	Poppy – For participation enthusiastically in class discussion, sharing great Ideas and putting it into her writing in English. James - For paying attention to detail and creating a fantastic observational drawing of a spider in Art.
Norfolk	Isaac - For completing some fantastic pre learning all about our new topic 'Which animals wriggle, crawl and roam?'. Elizabeth - For using expanded noun phrases effectively to write our story 'The Field Ferret'.
Crucible	Logan - For improving his writing by listening and acting on feedback and targets set by his teachers. Emaleigh - For proof reading and editing her work independently.
Lyceum	Tayen – For using her editing skills to improve her vocabulary in her writing. Grace - For positive attitude and focus towards her learning.
Weston	Ella-Mae - For terrific focus on all your learning. Well done! Riley - For you bring a wonderful energy and positive attitude to our class. Fantastic!
Kelham	Jaiden - For a fantastic drama skills, developing the narrative through speech, amazing. Joshua - For a fantastic drama skills, developing the narrative through speech, amazing!
Millennium	Kian - For his enthusiasm and friendliness during the young voices concert. Dougie - For overcoming his initial fears and performing fantastically at young voices.
Graves	Addison - For his excellent behaviour and participation at Young Voices yesterday. Soroush - For his excellent behaviour and participation at Young Voices yesterday. Well done!
Bolsover	Sydney - For showing a positive attitude to learning, particularly with her writing this week. Anisa - For being a responsible team member at Birley Spa, caring for others throughout the school.
Peveril	Kobey Graves - For completing and returning his homework in record time. Ethan Hunt - For produced a great piece of narrative writing by ensuring he has used each and every success criteria objective.
Shirebrook	Junior - For his improvement in his behaviour since the term began.