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

Newsletter

25th November 2022

Dear Parents and carers,

I am so proud of the children that have expressed their views and spoken so confidentially to a range of adults this week.

Our CREATE collaborate representatives met with our school catering provider, Taylor Shaw, to share ideas around healthy school menus that they would like to see in the future. We were really impressed to see the enthusiasm and creativity they brought to the discussions and their commitment to proving delicious but healthy meals.

Our Safeguarding Stewards have also been busy working on a Road Safety project, along side parental governors, members of the local community and Sheffield City Council. On Thursday this week, there was a meeting at the Town Hall to discuss road safety. Our Safeguarding Stewards wrote a letter addressing the issues and concerns we all share particularly around crossing to get to school first thing and at the end of the day. We are delighted to let you know that as a result of this meeting, our local councilor, police and representative from the LA will meet with children in school to discuss what practical measures can be taken to keep our children safe. We cannot wait to update you after this meeting which will take place in the new half term.

As you know the classroom doors are open from 8:40am, it is really important that your child is in school at this time so they can settle quickly and start learning straight away. Just for your information, the official start and end times of the day are 8:40am until 3:10pm.

We are delighted to inform you that we have appointed a fantastic IR Leader to join our team straight after Christmas. Mrs. Horsfield brings a wealth of experience, passion and skill to the Birley Spa Team and has already spent time in school, meeting the children in the IR and working with Mrs. Gibson. We would like to invite parents and carers from the children from Shirebrook into school, to say hello to Mrs. Horsfield on Monday 28th November from 3:20pm.

We would like to say a huge congratulations to Miss Granger who has changed her name to Mrs. Anderson due to recently getting married.

Our Christmas Fayre is just around the corner, if you would like to donate any raffle prizes, have any spare soft toys that are in good condition or items that you think would make great prizes please bring them into the school office by Friday 2nd December. Early next week a full list of items that will be on sale will be sent out. Please note that you are welcome to visit and purchase from all stalls not just the class which your child is in.

Finally, we are looking to strengthen parent collaboration by appointing an additional parent governor to join our fantastic AGB. Please see next week's Newsletter if you are interested.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs. Gibson & Mrs. Pemberton

1st

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust

Join Sumdog's L.E.A.D. Academy Trust
online maths contest

Friday 25th November -
Thursday 1st December

Enter the contest to:

- Encourage a sense of community across your trust
- Build children's confidence with personalised, curriculum-aligned maths practice
- Motivate all pupils with participation prizes and a special winner's trophy

Welcome from Mrs. Gemma Horsfield, IR Leader

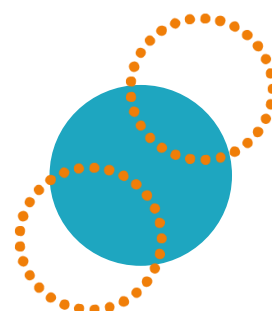
My name is Gemma Horsfield, and from the start of the Spring term, January 2023, I will be the new leader of the Integrated Resource and Teacher in Shirebrook class. I have been teaching for 15 years, and come from a special school in Sheffield so I have plenty of experience and knowledge of how best to nurture, support and engage children with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). I have always wanted to teach children with SEND and are passionate about championing them to ensure they receive the correct support and are included as much as possible in whole school provision where appropriate. I believe my job is to provide these children with opportunities to learn but also the foundations for them to understand the world around them and the impact it will have, so they can become part of a community where they feel comfortable.

I am married and have two children, who constantly keep me on the go and challenge me in different ways. I love going out with my boys for days out, sometimes simply just biking in the local park or around the local area. I enjoy playing netball, although I am not sure how good I am. I am very excited to be joining the Birley Spa Academy team from January and look forward to meeting as many parents as possible over the coming weeks during my induction days.

EYFS

In EYFS we have been enjoying learning more about different celebrations. This week we have been acting out and sequencing the story of Rama and Sita and the King Ravana who had 10 heads and 20 arms! Our bridges that we built with the blocks and loose parts allowed Rama and Sita to escape safely from the island. We made diva lamps from playdough and lit the room with candles and lights. We were very excited to dress up in beautiful celebration clothes and learn some Diwali dances.

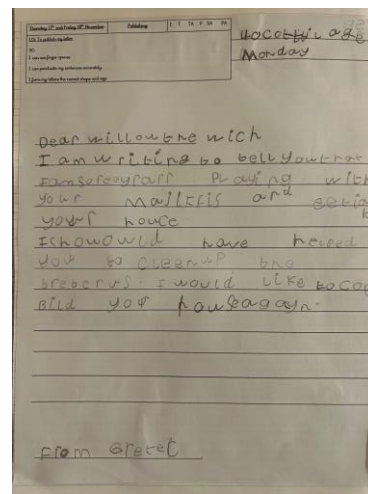
We were also very proud of the empathy shown by the children when we raised money for Children in Need. We collected coins and very carefully placed them all around the picture of Pudsey which we had decorated.



YEAR 1/2

This week in KS1 year 2 have been busy working hard to complete their Maths mock SATs. All the children have shown great resilience and did not give up even when they found aspects of the papers difficult. We will continue these over the upcoming weeks with the children completing Reading and SPAG papers.

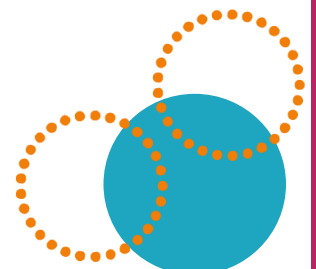
Our Y1 children have begun looking at 3D shapes in their Maths lessons and can now name spheres, cubes, cones and cylinders. They have also looked at what 3D shapes real life objects are. This is a discussion that could be continued at home.



In English whilst the focus text is still Hansel and Gretel, the children have begun a new genre of writing and are now working towards writing their own instructions. They have learnt what an imperative verb is and how to use them effectively. Next week they will be building their own houses and writing instructions to explain how to do this.

The children have been busy in geography identifying different wonders of the world including mountains and rivers. They have learnt what it would be like to climb Mount Everest and what they would see from the top and identified the River Nile as the longest river in the world.

As a busy last few weeks of term approaches, the children have begun learning a number of songs for both their visits to church on Friday 2nd December and the Christmas production on Wednesday 14th December.



Year 3

Year 3 have been busy writing their own independent stories about a robotic character. Children were learning to create the effect of mystery and suspense.

Here are some extracts for you to read. The children hope you feel on the edge of your seats.

As I was glaring at the shining images something unthinkable happened. They began to move slowly. They came nearer and nearer like a wave in the blue sea. I could see the frame of a colossal figure with glowing eyes. It was as tall as the statue of liberty.

By Elijah.

A massive Iron foot shot out of the tree top and crashed to the ground. BOOM!! My dad slammed the breaks on as hard as possible. Big hands reached down out of the trees.

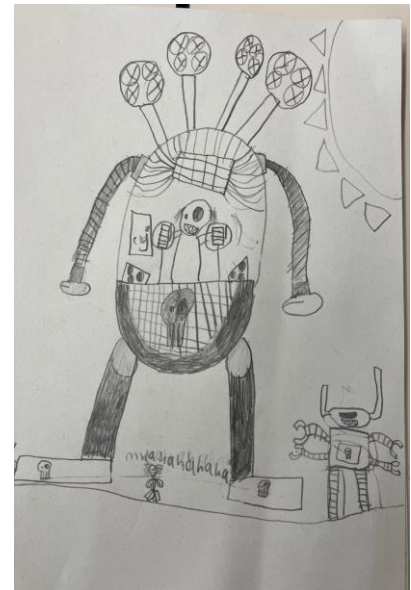
Ben.

As I started to walk the lights started to flicker on and off. The lights were getting brighter. I felt frightened. Then the lights stopped flickering. I began to run quickly. HOME. HOME.

Imogen.

Children created drawings of their own robotic character here are some of their work.

In maths, year 3 have been developing our skills in multiplication and division. We are currently looking closely at our 3- and 4-times table and how these can be represented in different ways.

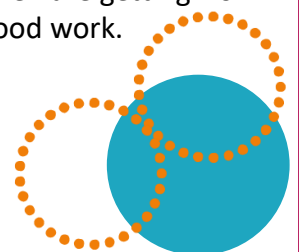


Year 4

In Year 4 we are becoming engrossed in our 'American Road Trip' topic, especially learning all about cities and countries in North and South American and locating them on maps. We have begun looking at the difference between the two continents and will do this in the context of Christmas during the next few weeks. We are linking our topic to design and technology this half term and have started researching and designing Totem Poles from native America. Once our research and designs are completed, we will be making our own Totem Poles, this is something we are all looking forward to.

Children are continuing to work hard to learn all times tables in preparation for the multiplication tables check in the summer term. It is fantastic to see how much encouragement the children are getting from home and how much time is being spent practicing on TT Rock Stars. Keep up the good work.

Mr Jackson and Miss Gostelow



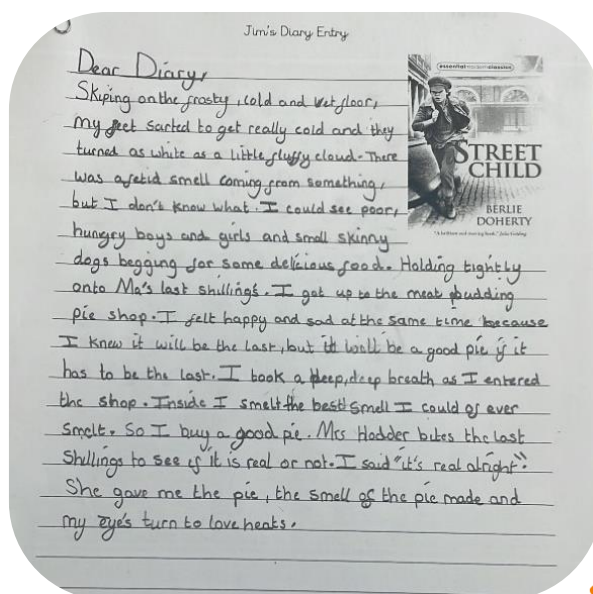
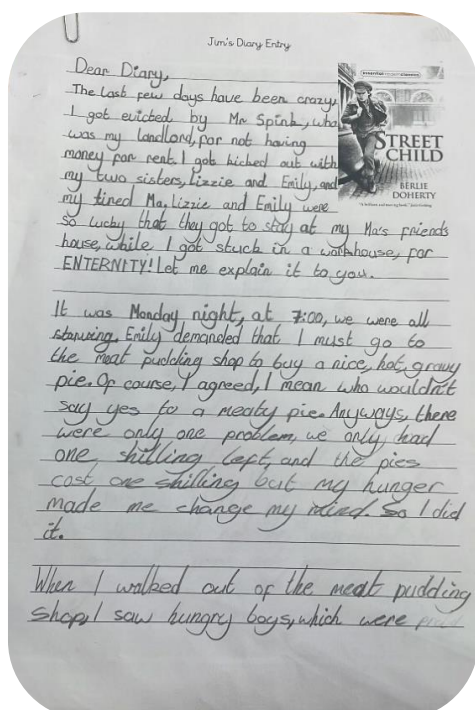
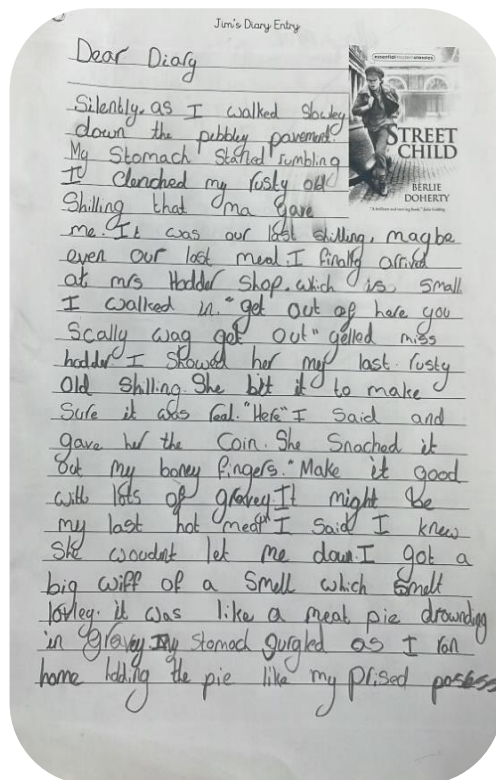
Year 5

In Year 5, we have settled into our topic focus of 'Changes in our Local Environment'. Children have become familiar with their area and placement on the global map. We have planned to visit Bath House this week, where children will learn about its history near where they live.

In Maths, Year 5 have really engaged with their fraction's topic and can add, subtract and work out multi-step problem solving questions! In Writing, we have been focusing our work on the book *Street Child* which is a story set in the Victorian times. The children have loved reading the book, alongside producing a Dairy entry where they have really got into character of Jim Jarvis and also Mr. Spink. We have now moved onto writing a persuasive piece of writing, still linking to the book. for science, Year 5's topic is still 'Changing Materials'. They have really broadened their knowledge of different materials and their properties and have planned their own practical lessons, including separating solids.

We have begun planning for the run up to Christmas, including enterprise week and our Christmas performance.

For P.E, Year 5 are now developing their skills and techniques in gymnastics and once a week we are doing a football session which children have shown amazing progress in. This week during football we had an exciting mini world cup tournament! Wales won...



Year 6

What a great start to the second half term!

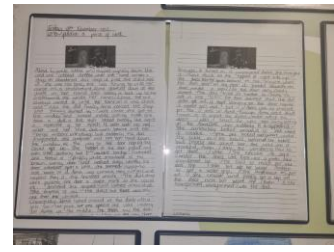
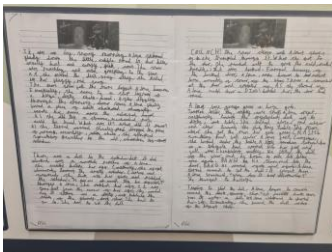
The children have already produced some great work by learning together and having engaged table discussions during each lesson. The teamwork school value has been demonstrated a lot so far and we are really proud of everyone!

In Maths, we have learnt how to use written methods for short and long division. We have then applied these methods to solve problem and reasoning questions. We are about to recap our fractions knowledge learnt in Year 5 and apply this to SATs style questions.

In English, the children have written a 1st person narrative from the doll's perspective linked to the short film 'Alma'. This week will be our independent writing week, where the children will use all their planning and brilliant work to aid them to write a 3rd person narrative based around the whole film. We will be including grammatical features such as: figurative language, parenthesis, relative clauses and a range of Year 6 punctuation to help their writing flow.

All children have been really engaged with our new geography topic: 'What was it like to live in The Amazon rainforest?'. We have begun by looking at South America in an atlas, and labelling the different countries and cities that The Amazon spans across. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to investigate and research about: the climate and animals, the city of Manaus and how the environment has changed over time.

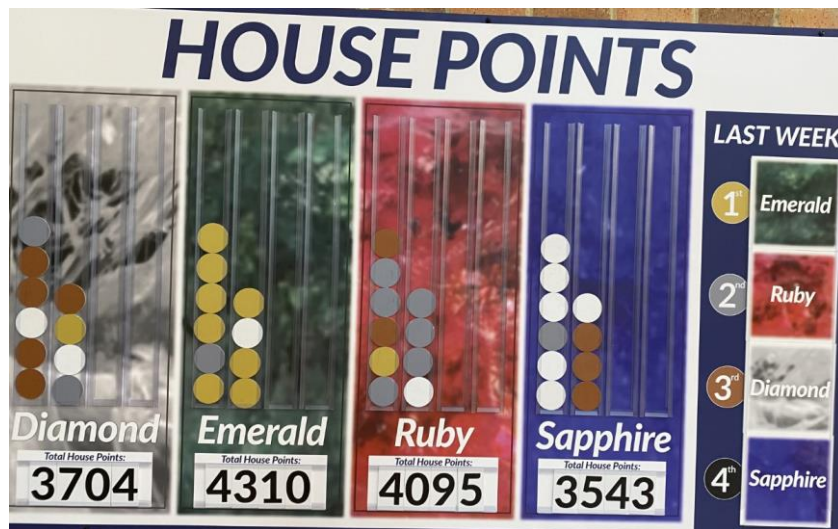
Please continue to encourage and support your children with reading at least 3 times a week at home and engaging with the online learning platforms. Spellings tests are still taking place on a Friday, when other homework set is also due. Thanks for your continued support.



Shirebrook

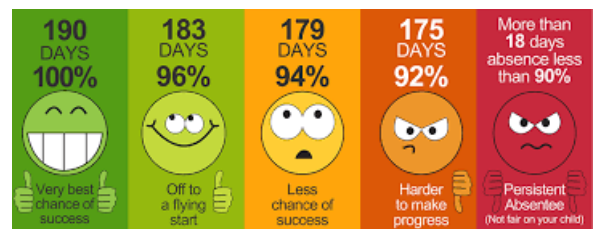


In Shirebrook we have been learning about remembrance. We read the story "Lest we forget". We acted out the part of the soldiers in WWI from the story and are currently writing diary entries based around the life of the WW1 soldier. In Science we have been looking at light and its sources as part of our investigations into Celebrations and we will be investigating music and food used for celebrations around the world. We have been using maps and aerial maps to look at journeys and specific types of areas such as the seaside in Geography. For mathematics some of us have worked on multiplication and division problems, some on solving subtraction problems and time telling and some on length/height and tally charts.



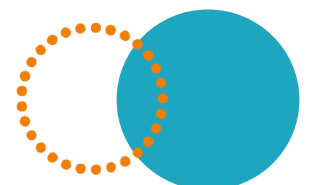
Attendance Figures 21st – 25th November 2022

Class	Attendance %
Whirlow	98.1%
Heeley	86.5%
Sheaf	89.6%
Endcliffe	94.1%
Norfolk	90.3%
Crucible	87.5%
Lyceum	99.1%
Kelham	97.1%
Weston	91.4%
Millennium	96.2%
Graves	95.0%
Bolsover	89.3%
Peveril	92.5%
Shirebrook	80.0%
School Total	91.9%



Every Monday, we will have an Aspiration Assembly to celebrate the House Points and attendance from the previous week to showcase our vital school values.

Please look out for our updated weekly House Point achievement board and our Attendance Trophy winners who achieve the highest attendance over our 96% target.



Heeley	Matilda – for her aspiration when writing a sentence independently after reading ‘the runaway children’. Paisley – for her endeavour in phonics and being resilient when building new words.
Whirlow	Ellie-Mae – for her teamwork and always being a wonderful role model on our performance. Sebastian Johnson – for his aspiration when learning new songs for our performances.
Sheaf	Amelia – for showing endeavour in her English and always having a positive attitude when faced with a challenge. Noah – for showing empathy during lessons by offering his support to other children.
Endcliffe	Bryley – for showing aspiration this week by being ready to learn at all times and trying his best. William – for showing endeavour in his learning by challenging himself to get to challenge 3 in all lessons.
Norfolk	Charlotte - For aspiration in your extended writing Colby -For showing resilience in his maths learning by challenging himself to deepen his understanding and concepts
Lyceum	Leo – for showing all the school values in all of your lessons. You are an EXCELLENT role model for your classmates. Thank you for your hard work. George – for showing endeavour and aspiration with your presentation. You are really trying hard not to rush and to improve your handwriting and presentation. I am seeing improvements every day so keep it up!
Crucible	Charlie – for being creative in art and writing. I really liked your creature robot character design. Scarlett – for her resilience . Thank you Scarlett for giving things a go this week.
Weston	Grace – for having a positive attitude towards her learning and supporting others. Jacey – for showing excellent learning behaviours and being a great role model.
Kelham	Tyler – for fantastic endeavour and aspiration across all areas and particularly in 1:1 sessions with Mrs Rust. Lucia – for huge improvement in attitude to learning resulting in greater creativity and productivity in independent writing.
Graves	Evie – for showing endeavour on our school trip and finding out so many interesting facts and sharing them with her class. Jorja – for being such a kind member of her class and helping others feel better about themselves.
Millennium	Gabriel – for his resilience in writing. Gabriel completed all his challenges and then continued to write his own challenge! Emmie-Rose – for her resilience with fraction work in maths. Emmie worked independently and was successful with her learning.
Bolsover	Abbie – for showing all of the school values in everything you do and for being a brilliant role model. Mia – for showing aspiration in every subject. You always work hard to complete all work to the highest standard.
Peveril	Noah – for showing a fantastic aspirational attitude to his learning every day! Shaunay - for demonstration great creativity to help the class explore a range of characters.
Shirebrook	Mickenzie – for showing resilience and building independence whilst challenging himself.

Dates for the Diary

2 nd December	Christmas Service at Spa View Church
28 th November	Enterprise Week
7 th December	EYFS Nativity – 9:30am & 2:15pm
8 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
9 th December	Christmas Fayre – 2:30pm – 3:30om
12 th December	Meet the Teacher – New Topics
13 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance – 9:30am & 2:00pm
14 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance – 2:00pm – 5:30pm
15 th December	KS2 Christmas Performance – 2:00pm – 5:30pm
15 th December	Christmas Dinner
16 th December	Christmas Parties – F1 – Y6
19 th December – 2 nd January	Christmas Holidays
3 rd February	Y5 Young Voices Concert
13 th – 17 th February	Half Term – School Closed
20 th February	Inset Day – School Closed
27 th March	Meet the Teacher – New Topics
28 th & 30 th March	Parents Evening
31 st March	Easter Service at Spa View Church
3 rd – 14 th April	Easter Holidays – School Closed
17 th April	Inset Day – School Closed
1 st May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
8 th May – 11 th May	SATS Week – Y6
15 th – 19 th May	SATS Week – Y2
29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term – School Closed
9 th June	Y6 Crucial Crew Visit
12 th – 18 th June	Phonics Assessment Week
3 rd July	Enterprise Week
11 th July	Sports Day – Y1 & Y2 / Y3 & Y4
12 th July	Sports Day – EYFS
13 th July	Sports Day - Y5 & Y6
14 th July	Reports Sent Home
17 th July	Summer Fayre
21 st July	Whole School Family Picnic