



Birley Spa Primary Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Newsletter

20th January 2023



Dear parents and carers,

Road safety sessions

During the week of 30th January, each class will receive a workshop about road safety which have been organised to support our Safeguarding Stewards' road safety campaign.

SEND team

We are delighted to have appointed a new SENCO to lead provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Mrs. Grimes will join us straight after half term (20th February) and will work alongside Mrs. Horsfield (IR leader), Mr Smith and Mrs Gibson to develop SEND provision in school even further.

Attendance/punctuality

While the weather is icy or snow is possible, we recommend setting off a few minutes earlier than normal for school, or catching an earlier bus, so that families can get to school safely ready for an **8:40am start**. Although the majority of our children walk to school, you may have noticed our PCSOs outside school at the start of the day to monitor and help with parking – please can we remind parents to park considerately and in appropriate places so that our children and families stay as safe as possible on the roads around school. Wherever possible, walking to school is recommended.

Parent Volunteers

Thank you to our parent handwriting volunteers who met with me this week to prepare for helping children improve their confidence and accuracy with handwriting. We're really looking forward to welcoming parents in to help. Later this year, we will ask for volunteers to listen to children read so please look out for this in later newsletters. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to come and read a short story to children during National Storytelling Week (week beginning 30th January). If you can spare a few minutes to share a story with a group, please let us know in the office.

Donations

A parent asked if we would accept donations of good quality, used books that her child no longer read. The answer was a resounding **yes!** If you have any books in good condition that your child has grown out of or no longer reads, please do consider donating them to school – we'd be really grateful.

Water bottles

Please remember that the children should be bringing water to school to stay hydrated. If you would prefer, the children can get drinks of water from their classroom (just let their teacher know at the start of the day) but should not be bringing any squash, Ribena or other drinks (apart from with their healthy packed lunch to drink at lunchtime).

Year 5

Year 5 have an exciting few weeks coming up – they have the opportunity to attend Young Voices – *The largest children's choir in the world!* – and we can't wait to see how they perform. They will also start their swimming lessons on Fridays starting on 10th February, with Millennium leaving at 10.10am and Graves leaving at 10.50am. Both classes will return before lunch. Children will need to bring: a full swimsuit (no bikinis) or swimming shorts and a towel each week. Please speak to your child's class teacher as soon as possible if you have any questions about swimming.

Parent survey

A big thank you to those who returned the parent survey – they were overwhelmingly positive.

Finally, a big well done to Lyla in Lyceum class for receiving her bronze band today!

Mrs Gibson and Mrs Pemberton



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parent drop-in

Tuesday 24th January—2:30pm—Hall

Showbie for Parents

Join Mr. Smith to see how you can use Showbie to get updates about your child's progress and achievements, communicate with their teacher and access homework.

Wednesday 25th January—8:30-9:30—Hall

LEAD IT Senior Support Technician will be in school, Dan Houghton, will be on hand to share top tips to keep your children safe online.

Call in for a tea/coffee and ask any questions, talk about apps your children access and sign up for copies of our different parent leaflets.

parent drop-in



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Governor Engagement Day

A group of our wonderful Governors met with the children this week to discuss what makes our curriculum so good. The children from Year 3-6 were absolutely wonderful ambassadors for Birley Spa and gave their insight into their learning with confidence.

I enjoyed meeting the children today and chatting about their learning while viewing their books. They clearly took a pride in presentation and were keen to talk about aspects of science and topic work which we discussed ~ Sharon Damms, Governor for SEND.

It was lovely being in school this afternoon. It is so encouraging to see such a positive atmosphere in school and hear the pupils talk so articulately and clearly- very impressive. Thanks for making me feel so welcome ~ Ed Wydenbach, Governor for Health and Safety.

At Birley Spa, children learn:

Core Curriculum:

English

Maths

Science

Wider Curriculum:

History

Geography

RE

Computing

PSHE

French

PE

Music

Art and Design

Design Technology

Here are a range of quotes from our children...

"It teaches me a lot about the past I didn't know."

The group spoke of enjoying outdoor play and P.E. and in particular using the play equipment - the climbing wall and monkey bars.

"You constantly learn and then expand your knowledge."

"When you finish one challenge, you move onto more challenging work-which I like."

"I enjoy the investigations in Science—even when my experiment doesn't work, I've planned it on my own so I can learn."

"If you are new, people are supportive and kind".

"If you are stuck you look at the resources on your table or in the classroom, then ask a pupil on your table and if none of that helps you ask a teacher."

"I wouldn't change anything!"

Attendance: 16th to 20th January 2023

Heeley	86.4%
Whirlow	92.2%
Sheaf	92.1%
Endcliffe	89.2%
Norfolk	99.4%
Crucible	95.2%
Lyceum	86.5%
Kelham	96.4%
Weston	94.1%
Millennium	90%
Graves	93.6%
Bolsover	94.5%
Peveril	93.3%
Shirebrook	76.4%

At Birley Spa Primary Academy we are committed to helping all pupils to achieve their full potential. Good attendance is a key factor in raising pupils' attainment and supporting their personal development. Whilst it is appreciated that children are ill from time to time, please think carefully before allowing your child to be absent from school. The chart below provides an indication of how just a few days absence can significantly impact a child's overall attendance percentage and impede their learning:

Description	Attendance	Whole Days Lost	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100 – 99%	0 – 2	0 – 10
Good	98 – 96%	4 – 7.5	20 – 37.5
Requires Improvement	95 – 91%	9.5 – 17	47.5 – 85
Persistent Absentee	90 – 86%	19 – 27	95 – 135
Critical	85 – 80%	28.5 – 38	142.5 – 190



STAR OF THE WEEK – 16th – 20th January

Heeley	Joshua – For amazing writing and high aspirations in everything that he does during small group work time.	Freya - For showing great enthusiasm and aspiration in numeracy. Freya has also been working hard to put her hand up whilst on the carpet and to not shout out.
Whirlow	Alife – For demonstrating his creativity and love for the poetry basket and joining in with the class.	Rosie – For her creativity and imagination in her wonderful small world creations.
Sheaf	Grace – For showing fantastic endeavour and not letting anything distract you from your learning.	Emily – For being an aspirational learner. Emily has been pushing herself to achieve and reach further challenges.
Norfolk	Jacob – For creativity in writing your story independently. Well done!	Lily – For wonderful aspiration and resilience in her maths work this week!
Endcliffe	Harlow – For showing endeavour in her learning, trying her best and valuing her achievements.	Coen – For aspiring to become a better learner showing greater focus in lessons and improving his attitude towards learning.
Lyceum	Isaac – For setting yourself a writing goal and achieving this. Well done.	Samuel – For being creative in his writing and for showing resilience in the classroom!
Crucible	Imogen – For challenging herself in maths, and really pushing herself and having a go even when it gets tricky.	Kenley – For challenging himself in writing and becoming independent using the resources around you.
Weston	Sophie – For showing great learning behaviours and challenging herself with her learning.	Jenson – for having a positive attitude when working on challenge 3 in maths.
Kelham	Yousuf and William – For outstanding achievement in challenge 3 maths, finding multiples of denominators in order to solve problems.	
Graves	Archie – For being very creative in maths and using trial and error to master division. Well done Archie!	Ella – For working extremely hard in her lessons, especially Writing! Well done for showing lot's of endeavour !
Millennium	Stanley - for his endeavor and resilience in solving division word problems.	Chloe - For her resilience in solving division problems.
Bolsover	Darius – For working really hard in maths this week. You are becoming really engaged with your independent learning, well done.	Lily-Jay – For improving greatly on column addition and subtraction. This has helped you progress your learning in finding missing angles.
Peveril	Noah and Destiny – For showing great aspiration in every lesson! You are really challenging yourself.	
Shirebrook	Caleb – For aspiration . Caleb has worked hard all week, completing his work and participating in all lessons.	

Dates for the Diary

24 th January	Parental Workshop – Showbie with Mr Smith
25 th January	Parental Workshop - Online Safety
30 th January – 5 th February	National Story Telling Week
3 rd February	Y5 Young Voices Concert (evening)
10 th February	Y5 Swimming Commences – Ponds Forge
13 th – 17 th February	Half Term – School Closed
20 th February	Inset Day – School Closed
2 nd March	World Book Day (Dress as recognised character of a book)
23 rd March	Easter Fayre
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	Bank Holiday
9 th May – 12 th May	SATS Week – Y6
15 th – 19 th May	SATS Week – Y2
29 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term – School Closed
5 th June	Inset Day – 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