



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

Newsletter

14th May 2021



Executive Headteacher Update

Thank you so much for your recent support in completing the recent survey monkey questionnaires.

As part of our commitment to working in partnership with parents, your feedback is really valued. As we undertake further school improvements at Birley Spa Academy, we aim to conduct a number of survey questionnaires to help collate your valuable feedback.

During the past year, I appreciate how different families and communities from around the world have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. Mental Health Awareness week plays a vital part in people bravely sharing experiences and anxieties, leading to developing greater levels of personal mental health as a result.

Thank you so much for your continued support with our current school arrangements, making sure our pupils arrive at school on time, to the correct gate and that they are then collected promptly at the end of the school day. This really does help us, as a school, ensure we keep our pupils, families and staff as safe as possible during these challenging times.

With the emergence of the new Indian COVID-19 variant, it is as important as ever to move forward with caution. Within school, all COVID-19 safety measures remain in place - we continue to operate within class pods and maintain strict social distancing. All of our measures are in place to ensure pupil, staff and families safety. Please do help further by avoiding mixing households indoors where you can and utilise our wonderful outdoor community spaces to meet in small groups if necessary. This community partnership working will contribute to the country's roadmap out of the lockdown restrictions.

To familiarise yourselves with the current restrictions, please click on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#may-whats-changed>

Finally, I would like to wish our parents and Muslim families within our local community a very happy Eid-al-Fitr.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Pemberton
Executive Headteacher



Deputy Headteacher Update

We are now over halfway through our Summer 1 term and it is great to see children engaging really well with their Summer 1 topics. The focus across school this half term is around Art, DT and Music and I know that the children are enjoying being especially creative in their work.

Prior to the Easter break, each class teacher carried out a series of assessments with their class. These assessments are analysed by class teachers and the Senior Leadership Team to inform all class teachers of the individual next steps for each child. Following these assessments, booster groups have been set up across school to provide additional support and catch-up. It is really important that, if your child is asked to join a session, they are able to attend (wherever possible). Thank you for your support with this.

As always, if you require any further information regarding your child's learning please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher or a member of our admin team.

Thank you for your continued support,

Simon Smith
Deputy Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Governors

Sharon Damms, Chris Jeavons and Ed Wydenbach, all AGB members, are looking at the effectiveness of our AGB with support from Katherine Soanes our LEAD clerk. We are very determined to help everyone involved, to maintain the recent improvements at Birley Spa Primary.

We have our termly AGB Engagement meeting on 25th May, we will be discussing pupil and staff wellbeing and looking at the parental responses to remote learning. Our full business AGB meeting is on 6th July. At the moment our meetings are virtual but all of us on the AGB are really looking forward to the time when we can visit the school in person.

All members of the AGB board want to thank Mrs Pemberton and all the staff for the great job they are doing. Thank you also to all those pupils, parents and families who have responded so positively in recent months. We are really impressed.

Kind regards,

Ed Wydenbach

Mental Health Awareness Week

10th May – 16th May 2021

Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event when there is an opportunity for the whole of the UK to focus on achieving good mental health. The Mental Health Foundation started the event 21 years ago. Each year the Foundation continues to set the theme, organise and host the week. The event has grown to become one of the biggest awareness weeks across the UK and globally.

Mental Health Awareness Week is open to everyone. It is all about starting conversations about mental health and the things in our daily lives that can affect it. This year we want as many people as possible individuals, communities and governments, to think about connecting with nature and how nature can improve our mental health. However, the week is also a chance to talk about any aspect of mental health that people want to regardless of the theme. You can find out more at

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/campaigns>

Please find attached a copy of Health Minds Mental Health Awareness Week Activity Menu.

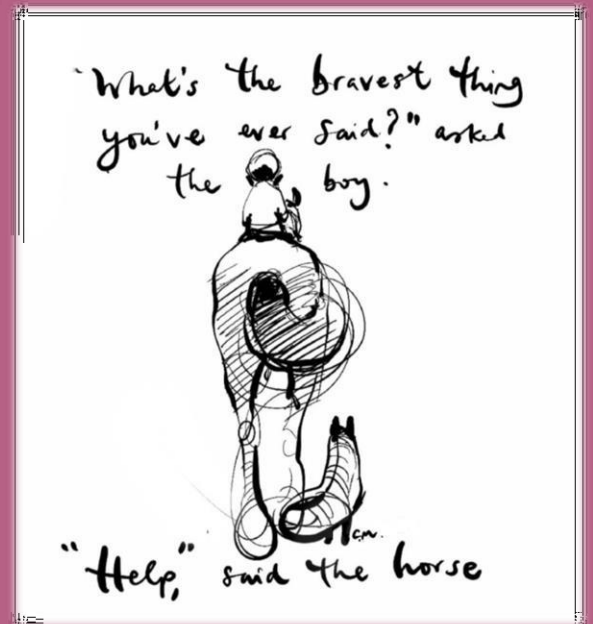
Online Level 2 Accredited Courses

Aim Group are delighted to be able to offer **Free online Level 2 Accredited Courses** to all parents to help better understand some key issues around young people's mental health and wellbeing.

There are about 40 different choices of course all accessible without cost to any parent that wishes to sign up. To see the full listing of the courses available please click on the following link <https://theaimgroup.co.uk/courses/level-2>

The courses are six weeks long and must be completed. The average workload is usually anywhere between 25-30 hours. You will need access to a computer, laptop, or tablet. If you are struggling to access any of these devices please contact the school office and we will be happy to help arrange something for you.

Once all questions are completed, your assigned tutor will mark your work to ensure you pass and understand. Upon completion you are awarded an "Official Level 2 Vocational Recognised Qualification" (this is the equivalent of a Grade 5 GCSE)



**AIM
GROUP**

FS1

This week, we have been learning lots of facts about ladybirds. We looked carefully at their life cycle and the different stages of development that they go through. Ask your child if they can remember the lifecycle of a ladybird and some of the facts we have learnt.

We have also been practising our Maths skills by playing the ladybird game. The children rolled the die, identified what number they had rolled and then counted out the same number of spots to put on the ladybird.

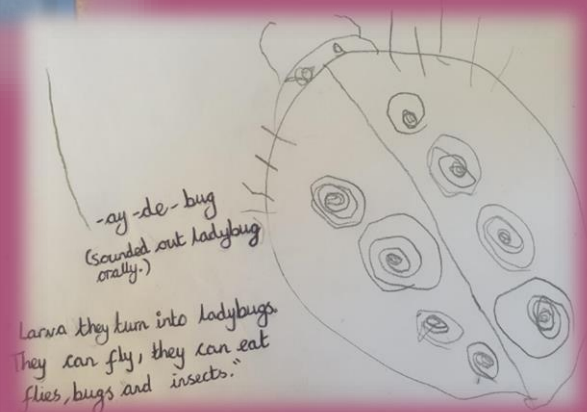


"I have got 6. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Look I put 6 spots on the ladybird." - Jaxon G



"I have got 4. I did 3 blue and 1 yellow, that makes 4." - Annabelle.

Amelie drew a picture of a ladybird and orally sounded out the sounds she could hear whilst writing the initial sound. She also told us some of the facts she could remember: Larva, they turn into ladybugs. They can fly, they can eat green flies.



Mrs Thomas and Mrs Clayton

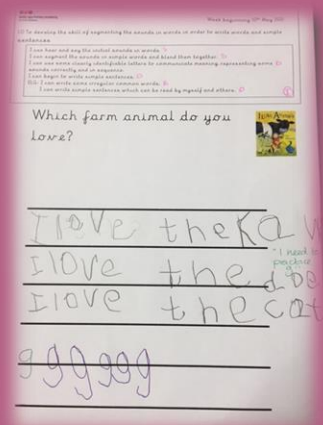
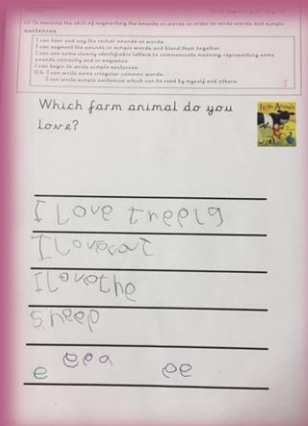
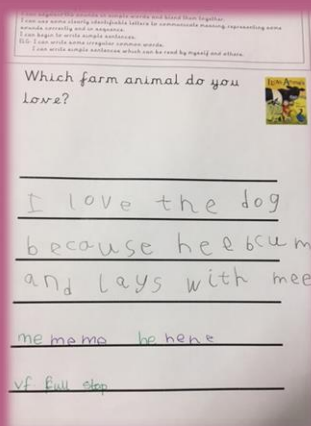
FS2 & Year 1

Our topic this half term is called 'How do things grow?' We have been very busy growing and observing lots of things in our classroom. We have carried out a Science experiment to find out what cress seeds need in order to grow and we have planted our own green beans.

This week, we have been learning about animals that live on farms. We read the book 'I Love Animals' by Flora McDonnell and produced some fantastic writing, using the sounds that we know. The children are very excited because we have some tiny and very hungry caterpillars! They have grown so much since they arrived with us on Wednesday. We are waiting for them to form cocoons and then become beautiful butterflies! We will take some photographs to show you what happens next!



In our English lessons, we have been focusing on the story of 'Bloom' where we have built on our sequencing skills using story pictures, writing character descriptions, producing instructional writing and making our own mini 'Bloom' books.



During Maths lessons, we have focused on place value to 100. We have been identifying the tens and ones in numbers to 100, finding 1 more and 1 less than given numbers, representing numbers using resources and doubling and halving given numbers.

Ms Peck, Miss Whitworth and Mrs Dhani

Year 2

Since returning to school after the Easter break, the children in Year 2 have loved embarking on our new topic “Which animals wriggle, crawl and roam?”. Both classes have thoroughly enjoyed their visits to Shirebrook Valley where they explored the woodland area, identified different types of birds, and found different mini beasts in their natural habitats. Well done to the children in Norfolk and Endcliffe for displaying outstanding behavior throughout the trip!

In English, we began by exploring the school woodland area. Whilst looking at the habitats, we came across a new creature in a jar. This linked directly to our new story ‘Bog Baby’ where children firstly retold the story of Bog Baby, and the following week followed the same structure to create their own versions.

In topic, we have been exploring the French artist Francois Pompon. He is famous for creating animal sculptures of marble and rock. The children have now designed their own sculpture which will be made of clay next week. We are super excited to see the creative end results to our work!

For our Maths learning over the past few weeks, we have been looking at time. Children have been learning to write and draw the hands on a clock to the nearest 5 minutes!

Well done Year 2, keep up the hard work!

Mrs Unwin and Miss Willson



Year 3

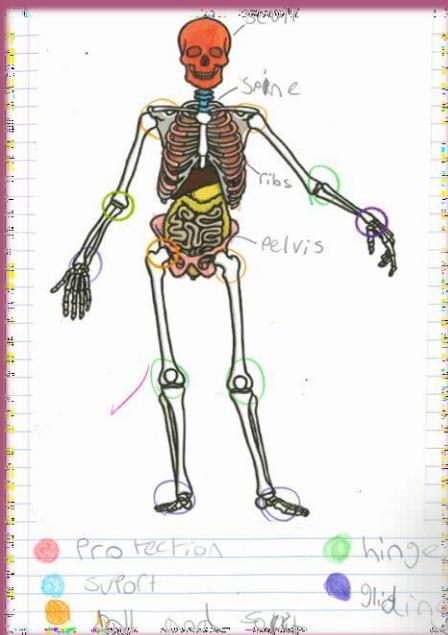
In Year 3, we have been busy thinking about our topic title "What makes me, me?" We are learning about biographies and the human body.

We have read biographies on many famous people including Marie Curie, Florence Nightingale and Edward Jenner. Evelyn, in Crucible, class found out that the new Nightingale hospitals (built for the pandemic) were named after Florence Nightingale. Children learnt how Edward Jenner pioneered the very first vaccine. We have looked closely at nutrition, discussed the functions of our skeleton and thought about how our muscles work.

We have practised writing biographies about some of the teachers and teaching assistants in Year 3. Can you guess from the writing who they are about? Year 3 have thrown themselves into writing their own autobiographies too and the teachers have enjoyed learning more about the children's lives.

Children are really enjoying the Maths topic on statistics. They have been able to produce tally charts and block graphs about their favourite foods.

Mrs Roberts and Miss Gostelow



DEPT 2
Miss Gostelow
Miss Gostelow is a teacher at Birley Primary Academy. She has been a teacher for 3 years. Miss Gostelow has always been a teacher. She used to work at a shop. Miss Gostelow was born in 1999. She lived in Sheffield. As a child, she liked maths and science.

DEPT 2
Mrs Gillett
Mrs Gillett is a teaching assistant at Birley Primary Academy. She has been a teaching assistant for six years. Mrs Gillett hasn't always been a teacher's assistant. She used to work at McDonald's.
Mrs Gillett was born in 1972. She lived in Wood Green. As a child, she liked to go to ballet. Interestingly, her favourite hobby is dancing.
Mrs Gillett got married in 2015. September 18th. Mrs Gillett has a daughter that was called Daisy and a boy called Noah. She has one brother and one sister.
One of the most interesting things about Mrs

Year 4

Over the last week in Year 4, we have enjoyed engaging in lots of wonderful learning based on our music topic. All the children are displaying lots of interest and enthusiasm – great!

The children have started to engage in writing discussion texts based on our key text 'The Bear and the Piano', with the children beginning to empathise and understand the feelings of key characters, within the story.

During Maths lessons, all pupils have enjoyed starting to deepen their understanding and knowledge based on angles, whilst also looking at starting to find symmetry within shapes.

Furthermore, during topic lessons the children have enjoyed starting to plan and advertise a music festival, whilst demonstrating an understanding of effective advertising and key persuasive language.

Well done everyone for all your hard work over the last few weeks Year 4!

Mr Blake, Miss Harper and Mrs Williamson.



Year 5

Year 5 have been engrossed in their English work this week; engaging with the story within a story of Clockwork by Philip Pullman. Characters include a tragic prince, a murderous toy knight and a doctor with dubious motivations, needless to say we love it! The book has brought home to us again the joy of reading together. So, whilst all reading is good, if you get the chance to read together with your child and to talk to them about what text they are enjoying at the moment, grab it.

We have moved onto geometry in Maths, translating and reflecting shapes. It's been impressive to see how well the children have grasped new concepts. Our Science work has been focused on Forces and we spent a fun afternoon creating different parachutes in order to understand the concept of air resistance.

Thank you for all the work you do in support of your child's learning. We have achieved consistency related to teamwork over the last term. More details regarding after school interventions and catch up programmes will be communicated out to parents next week.

If you have any questions about your child's progress or general wellbeing in school, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Miss Landowski, Mrs Horsfall and Mr Jackson

Year 6

In Year 6, we have been working very hard across all areas of the curriculum, and we have produced skilled work most notably in Art. Each week, we have been looking at a different artist in detail and have then gone on to use that artist's style within our own work. Year 6 created fantastic portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso's Cubism - a style that brings different views of subjects together in the same picture, resulting in paintings that appear fragmented and abstracted. They then looked at George Seurat and his style of Pointillism - a technique of painting using small dots of colour applied in patterns to create an image.

In English, the children have been composing an autobiography about their lives. They covered areas such as their family, school life, hobbies and what they want to do when they are older. Whilst writing their autobiographies, the children focused on using varied punctuation and sentence starters.

In Maths, the children have continued their learning in fractions. They learnt how to multiply a fraction by a whole number and by another fraction. Please ask your child to show you how they have learnt to do this.

Mr Walsh & Mr Litherland



Shirebrook

As we continue our topic called "Is it Alive?" we have been looking at living things in the environment that show us which season we are experiencing. We looked at the amazing catkins on the Goat Willow (which is also called Pussy Willow because they are grey and fluffy like a cat's paw).

We have created a funny piece of artwork this week to show that art does not always have to be on a serious subject. Alex and Jamie concentrated really hard on theirs!

Mrs Barrett





Star Pupils of the Week



Ducklings	Cullen- For being a great friend and helping the new children settle into nursery. Annabelle- For fantastic writing using her phonics knowledge.
Whirlow	Taylor - For being really brave and having a go when doing his writing. Poppy - For being so enthusiastic about her learning.
Heeley	Jacob - For his enthusiasm to learning. Jacob is always willing to have a go and put all his effort into everything he does. Keep up the great work! Teegan - For working incredibly hard in Maths this week. She has been practicing all of the skills that she has learnt in our Maths lessons focusing on addition and showing these skills independently within the provision. Keep up the hard work!
Sheaf	Isla – For trying really hard in class. Lukas – For super listening.
Endcliffe	Charlie - For taking time to improve both the content and presentation of his writing. Jacey - For working hard to apply her phonics knowledge and build fluency in her reading
Norfolk	Conor - For a great improvement in his handwriting and trying extra hard at home. Goulmough - For a fantastic start to Birley Spa Primary.
Crucible	Alice - For working hard to improve her writing in English listening carefully to teacher feedback. Stanley - For working hard to improve his handwriting and spelling across all subjects.
Lyceum	Jorja – For a lovely published autobiography. Keavy – For Amazing writing.
Kelham	Daisy - For being determined in every lesson and being a good friend to new pupils. Alic - For focusing on improving his times tables every week.
Weston	Destiny - Excellent effort with presentation during English lessons. Ollie - Excellent engagement and effort during all lessons.
Millennium	Kiera – For always focussed and ready to learn. Blayden – For superb effort with his presentation in writing.
Graves	Zain - Wonderful effort and progress in maths, excellent understanding of nets and 3d shapes. Lilli - Amazing improvement in attendance, effort and progress, keep up the good work Lilli.
Bolsover	Noah - For always putting 100% into his learning and presenting his work to the best of his ability. Ava - For her exceptional presentation of work and effort within all areas of the curriculum.
Peveril	William - He has shown great perseverance and determination to write his own autobiography this week. Evie – She has made great progress in maths when adding and multiplying fractions.
Shirebrook	Petra – For listening incredibly in lessons. Connor – For trying so hard in class.