



Birchfield News

Dates for your diary:

01.04.21 Last day of school this half term

19.04.21 Teacher Training Day

20.04.21 Term 3.1 starts for all pupils

03.05.21 Bank holiday

06.05.21 - Voting day— school closed

28.05.21 Last day of half term 3.1

08.06.21 Term 3.2 starts for all pupils

16.07.21 School finishes for the summer

Message from Mrs Thewlis

Dear Birchfield families,

Thank you for your support in welcoming our children back this half term. The majority of children have settled back in to school really well and learning continues apace. The SLT and the pastoral team have been working hard across the school to ensure that children are receiving any support and help they need. Parents evening this half term was allocated as an opportunity to discuss this with your child's teacher but if you have any worries or need any support, please let us know. We will do what ever we can to help.

Usually at this time, I would be planning our summer community event and looking forward to the shared experiences that feature heavily in the Summer term. It is clear that restrictions are here to stay for a little while longer. Birchfield will continue to operate in line with guidance from the DFE and PHE. As soon as we receive updated guidance, we will of course respond accordingly and notify parents of any changes.

We wish all of our families a very safe and happy Easter break— hopefully with some sunshine too.

Happy holidays.

Follow us on twitter to keep up to date with the latest Birchfield news.



@Birchfield_Sch
@thePA_CT

Please use enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk if you need to contact school. We will ensure that your enquiry is passed to the relevant person who can help you.

Staff Updates

Welcome back to Mrs Saboor. After Easter, we also warmly welcome some new staff to the Birchfield team.

Mrs Syner is an experienced SENCO who is joining us as the Lead practitioner for Inclusion. She is moving over from Heathfield Primary school. She will oversee Inclusion at Birchfield and support us as we continue to develop provision for our pupils with SEND.

Mr Tromans is also joining us from Heathfield primary for Term 3. He will be working with staff across the school developing our computing curriculum and our use of technology within our school curriculum.

Parking and Road Safety

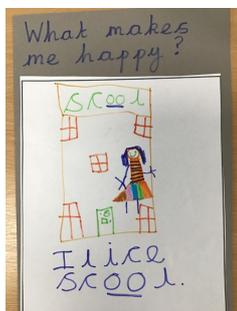
We have recently been visited by the Aston Neighbourhood Policing Team who are concerned about the parking around the school, particularly in the morning and at home time. They will be writing to parents regarding illegal parking, particularly on the zigzag lines outside of the school.

I know we are all in a rush, but please can I remind parents to park and drive carefully around the school. If a member of school staff speaks to you about your parking, this is only with the safety of pupils, families and staff in mind. Please keep children with you at all times when are arriving and exiting the site. We all need to work together to safeguard our school community.

Some of the wonderful learning experiences from over the last term:

EYFS

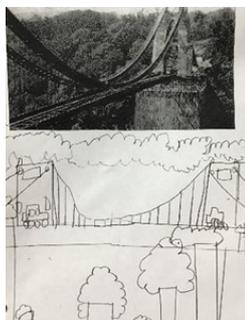
Our youngest children have coped really well both with their online learning as well as coming back into school. We have spent time settling the children back in to school. The children in the Nursery and Reception have enjoyed learning new rhymes and taking part in a range of outdoor activities as well as reconnecting with their friends and adults. We have discussed our feelings and emotions and ensured plenty of time to talk. Learning continues across the curriculum and all children are en-



gaging really well in their daily phonics, which supports them in both their reading and their writing.



Year 2 teachers are delighted to have the children back in the classrooms. We have been really impressed with all of the work the children have produced online and at school. This half term, we have been exploring our new enquiry question, **“How did Isambard Kingdom affect travel and transport in Britain?”** We have demonstrated our school value ‘curiosity’ by thinking of different questions that we wanted to find out about him and used subjects across the curriculum to answer them. We have been writing narratives based on Isambard’s Great Western Railway and SS Great Eastern. We have used a range of language to entertain the reader, in particular adjective openers and adverbs. In Art, we have been learning about Claude Monet and exploring the art movement, impressionism. We have drawn our own impressions of the Clifton Suspension Bridge that was designed by Isambard! Then we used a technique of Monet’s to add texture to our paintings by applying paint through tubes rather than brushes. We have also learnt about the United Kingdom and can name and locate the countries and capital cities of the UK. We are able to locate Bristol and London and map out the route that the Great Western Railway takes. Well done, Year 2!



Year 1 have been working extremely hard to answer their enquiry questions ‘What is the capital of Britain?’ and ‘Where will your next journey be?’ It has been another very busy term for Year 1 is who have once again amazed us with their creativity and motivation. In Geography, they thoroughly enjoyed learning about the United Kingdom and were eager to learn so many facts about different countries. Year 1 produced brilliant map drawings and created their very own models of famous London landmarks. In Maths, they built their number knowledge by exploring addition and subtraction, grouping, and learning to tell the time. In Writing, they explored exciting texts such as Katie in London and Man on the moon. Year 1 are currently learning all about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. It has piqued their curiosity and they have written brilliant fact files on significant individuals. In Art, they have had the opportunity to explore famous artists and recreate famous paintings such as Van Gogh’s ‘Starry Night’. Our children have been exploring their surroundings in Science and have learnt about a variety of trees and plants. Year 1 adapted to their online learning fantastically and made their teachers so very proud! On behalf of the Year 1 staff, we would like to say a very special thank you to all the parents for their ongoing support.

Year 3 have been really enjoying our enquiry question **“What Was Life Like for an Ancient Egyptian?”**

The children and staff in year 3 have been working tremendously hard to carry on teaching during lockdown. The children and the families have responded amazingly well to learning on Teams and the attendance has been well over 80%. The children have really enjoyed learning about the Egyptian enquiry topic to answer the question: “What was life like for an ancient Egyptian?” As part of our online work we challenged the children to produce art work and structures related to the everyday life of an ancient Egyptian and here are a few pictures of some of our children’s work. As you can see the children artistic abilities are amazing and we all love the Lego pyramid! We are so pleased to be back in school and the learning and fun continues.



Year 4 have been enjoying their enquiry “**Who Were the Anglo Saxons?**” and reading the exciting adventure story called ‘Anglo Saxon Boy’ this term. They have learnt a great deal about how Britain changed once the Romans left and the Anglo Saxons arrived. They have learnt about the famous King Harold Godwinson and his brave son Magnus. They have found out about the invasion by King William of Normandy and how he took over from Harold in the Battle of Hastings in 1066. This battle was celebrated through the making of the Bayeux Tapestry after the takeover of Britain by the Normans.



The children have enjoyed learning about this period in history and have taken the time to build helmets in the style of the period. We do have really talented historians in year 4 and we look forward to our next enquiry in the summer term.

This term the **Year 5** children have thoroughly immersed themselves in the class text, ‘How to train your dragon’. ‘This book has fed through their learning and helped them to answer their enquiry question, ‘Why did the Vikings invade Britain?’

During online learning, children learnt all about the Vikings and how they lived. The children learnt about their beliefs, justice system, and their daily lives. Year 5 have also thoroughly enjoyed their investigations in Science involving materials.

All staff want to congratulate the children for their enthusiasm during online learning and their determination once back in the classroom. We are very proud of how they have demonstrated the school values.



We used cold and warm water to investigate which materials were soluble.

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Year 6 have had a great spring term learning all about the Maya civilisation. We have learned about where in the world they were situated and of some of their traditions and culture, what they ate and how they lived. One of our whole class texts – ‘The Explorer’ by Katherine Rundell, is set in the Amazon Rainforest, which allowed for year 6 to explore the different types of animals that live there and the layers of the rainforest as well as researching Charles Darwin’s expeditions and the theory of evolution. In our Art and DT lessons, we discussed and explored the different types of masks the Maya people made and wore and the types of house they lived in. Based on this knowledge, year 6 pupils created their own versions and what a fantastic effort they made! We are very proud of the resilience and determination Year 6 has shown throughout the year so far but particularly in the spring term. It has been a challenge, but they have persevered and continued to work and learn with great enthusiasm.



Year 6 staff would like to thank the parents for their continued support.

Stay safe and well

We are really pleased with our school attendance and that our children are so happy to be back at school. The roll out of the vaccine continues apace and gives us all hope for the summer term and better times ahead. We do have to continue to be very careful. If you, or a member of your family is affected by C19 or tests positive for the virus, please could I ask you to inform school by emailing enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk with this information. If you or a member of your household develops symptoms, please don't wait to get a test, visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. **If your child has symptoms or is awaiting the result of a test, or lives with someone who has symptoms and is awaiting the results of the test, please inform school and keep them at home until it is safe for them to return to school. Contact enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk**