



# Birchfield News

## Dates for your diary:

**17.12.21 End of term.  
Half day for all pupils**

**31.01.22 Teacher training day. School is closed for pupils.**

**05.01.22 Spring term starts for all pupils**

**18.02.22 Term 2.1 ends**

**28.02.22 Term 2.2 starts for all pupils**

## Message from Mrs Thewlis

Dear Birchfield families,

It has been a calm, happy and productive term at Birchfield. Learning has carried on apace and our enquiry questions have engaged pupils in challenging and engaging subjects, topics and themes. The children's hard work has culminated in exhibitions which they have shared and presented to other year groups. I am sure parents recall the impressive work they have seen in our school exhibitions previously and will be pleased to hear that these have gone ahead for the children after so much time lost. Sadly this term, we have not welcomed parents back into

school but we hope that we can begin to reintroduce parent events and workshops in 2022. Thank you to all those who supported our recent fundraising so generously. All monies raised will go towards resources and equipment for the children including purchasing more reading books for our school and class libraries.

On behalf of the Birchfield team, I want to wish all of our families a very safe, restful and happy Christmas break and a prosperous new year. Thank you all for your support. Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Thewlis

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.

## Covid Catch Up

Birchfield worked very hard to provide remote learning for our pupils last year but we recognise that they have had to adapt to the constantly changing situation, both working at school and at home, and that many pupils may have been very negatively affected by this disruption. This disruption to education has been also recognised by the government and so schools across the country have been provided with some additional funds which we can use to support pupils in 'catching up'.

As part of our spending, we have invested some of this money in resources that can help your children to learn at home.

In the new academic year we will be sharing these with you in order that you can support your children so that they can practise, apply and revise their learning. These resources

will also help parents who want to help but perhaps aren't sure what to work on.

The resources include home study books per pupil, additional year 5 and 6 study books for the end of key stage tests, and two excellent online platforms that all Birchfield pupils will be able to use to access Reading and Maths learning and activities and resources online at home.

All teachers and teaching assistants are working very hard with pupils to provide as much additional support within school as we can. We hope these additional home learning resources will be a supportive and helpful measure for our pupils. I look forward to sharing them with you and the children shortly.

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

**EYFS** The Nursery children have settled in extremely well and have enjoyed talking about their families and learning about different traditional stories. Our favourite story has been "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". We enjoyed making porridge together and exploring our role play area to act out of story. The children have learnt about different sizes and been counting. During Nursery Rhyme Week, we learnt a range of new songs/ rhymes and each child received a certificate.

The Reception children have been immersed into the stories "Funny bones" and "The Gingerbread Man". We were delighted to make our very own delicious biscuits and then write a recipe. We have also learnt about different occupations and found out some of the ways to keep ourselves healthy. During phonics sessions, the children have learnt to segment and blend words for reading. In Mathematics, we used natural objects to improve our counting and to add independently.

*Learning through story in Reception*



**Year 2** In 1.1, Yr2 learnt about the impact Florence Nightingale had on the nursing profession. We used comparative language to discuss hospitals in the past and present, as well as the life of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. Yr2 also used historical language to discuss how Florence made hospitals more hygienic. Yr2 have used their knowledge to create entertaining narratives set in a battlefield. We have developed our language skills by including expanded noun phrases and openers to entertain the reader. In D.T we researched dioramas and used a tab join and L-brace to create Scutari hospitals!

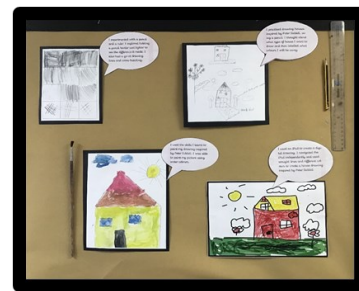
In 1.2, Year 2 learnt about The Great Fire of London. Children demonstrated the school's value curiosity by asking questions they wanted to find out. We learnt why the fire spread so quickly and how Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt London to make it safer. We wrote Thomas Farriner's diary, as well as non-chronological reports to inform the reader of the events.

Year 2 have also developed their understanding of chronology by ordering the events of the fire and understanding when the Great Fire happened in relation to the Crimean War.



*A Scutari hospital diorama*

**Year 1** have been working extremely hard to answer their enquiry questions 'How have homes changed?' and 'What is it like to live in Aston?'. They have compared houses from 'The Three Little Pigs' houses to Tudor and modern houses. In Writing, the children were immersed into the story 'Biscuit Bear' and were delighted to have a go at baking their very own delicious biscuits. In Computing, the children researched an artist called Peter Siddell, who is best known for his many drawings of houses using straight lines. The children were able to use this style in their own work and produced beautiful drawings and paintings. In Maths, the children have explored place value and have been able to add and subtract using a number line. Our Science lessons heightened the children's curiosity about materials as they had the opportunity to investigate which ones would be best for making an umbrella! They also looked at seasons and experienced what a true Autumn day looks like by exploring the outdoors. It has definitely been a very busy term in Year 1!



*Studying homes in Year1*

**Year 3** have been fully engaged in the lives of the ancient humans through three periods of pre-history. They have been introduced to the way humans had to survive and develop during the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Their enquiry question was: "How did life differ from the Stone Age, the Bronze Age to the Iron Age?" The children loved the story about the Stone Age Boy who went from the present day backwards in time to live with a tribe of hunter-gatherers. He learned how to hunt, cook and make stone tools. He saw amazing cave art and had to escape from a massive wild bear!

The children were fully engaged in their learning and have a much deeper understanding of the lives people led before history was recorded. The end-of-term exhibition showcased all their learning and the children answered their enquiry question with great confidence and skill. We look forward to Spring and our next enquiry question challenge!

*A recreation of a Stone Age cave.*



**Year 4** have had a fantastic term where they have been thoroughly engaged in answering their enquiry question: "What have Romans done for us?". During this term, the children have found out about life in Roman Britain and the legacy that has been left behind in Britain today. They have loved reading Jim Eldridge's book called 'Roman Invasion' and have learned so much about the lives of people in Britain nearly 2000 years ago. The children have learned about where the Romans originated from; how their empire grew and spread across Europe. They have focused on the life of Roman children, the Roman army, food, schools and inventions developed by them to make life easier for us all today. The children presented the answer to their enquiry question at an end-of-term exhibition and showed the children from years 3 and 5 all the work they had produced. It has been a fantastic term and we all look forward to our new enquiry question in the spring term. Ave Year 4!

One of our Yr5 Roman shields



**Year 5's** enquiry question was, 'What was life like in Ancient Greece?'. The children enjoyed reading the whole class text, 'Who Let the Gods Out' and have written non-chronological reports, diaries, stories and letters. We have worked to understand the plot twists, characters and use of language in the book.

History has been one of our favourite subjects as we have loved learning all about how the ancient Greeks lived. We learnt about their beliefs, the wars, political systems and family life. We found some similarities as well as differences in each aspect of Greek life. We also explored modern day Greece in our Geography lessons by learning about the physical and human features of Greece. We thoroughly enjoyed creating a video message using ICT equipment to talk about the different features. To end the topic, we show-cased our learning in an exhibition.

Another of our favourite parts of Year 5 this term, was the arrival of the temporary swimming pool. It was amazing to see the children taking part in quality swimming lessons. Most of the children achieved a level 3 award which is amazing. The Year 5 team would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday period and a very happy new year.

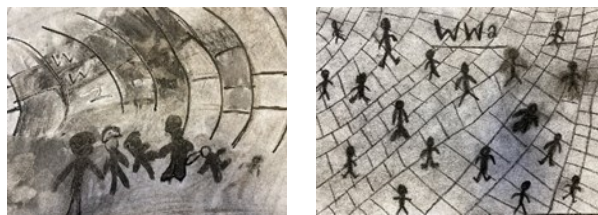
Exhibited art work by Year 5



**Year 6** have had the opportunity to explore the events of World War II this term, discussing and analysing the effects it had upon children and families. They have been able to empathise with characters from our whole class texts: Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll and A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, considering the underlying morals and themes in these novels. In relation to their reading text, children designed and created their own lighthouses which were then used in our science lessons based on electricity. Children used their knowledge of circuits to help make their lighthouses light up. Within our history and geography lessons, children have discussed the Empire and investigated the impact it had on the victory of Great Britain, as well as delving into other lines of historical enquiry such as evacuation, rationing, allies and axis, the Battle of Britain including the Blitz and the location of the countries involved in the war as well as drawing inspiration from a World War II artist – Henry Moore.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their exploration of this topic and have gained an insight into one of the toughest international conflicts.

Yr6 Art work inspired by Henry Moore



## Stay safe and well

I am very hopeful that our families will stay safe and well over the Christmas break and enjoy precious family time together. 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 and that you report this online to the NHS.

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](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

If you are travelling abroad, please check carefully any arrangements required for your return. Children start back on the 5th of January.