



# Birchfield News

## Dates for your diary:

**16.12.20 Christmas party day—children can wear non-uniform/party clothes (just be mindful of the cold weather)**

**17.12.20 End of term**

**05.01.21 Spring term starts for pupils**

## Message from Mrs Thewlis

Dear Birchfield families,

It has been a very different autumn term for us all and one that has posed many challenges but it has been wonderful to have our children back in school. Birchfield pupils have coped brilliantly with the changes to their school life and adapted quickly and with resilience. A large number of members of our school community have been affected by C19 but we have worked together and supported each other like a family. I am very proud of our team.

Many of our children and staff have had to adjust to periods of

working from home. The remote learning on Microsoft teams has gone well and I want to thank all those parents who took the time to feedback to us about this. It is not something that we have done before and is a new way of working for everyone.

I also want to thank parents who took the time to send messages of support, best wishes and thanks to the staff. This is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Birchfield team, I want to wish all of our families a very safe, restful and happy Christmas break.

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.

## Congratulations

Our new Birchfield prefects are:

6W: Maryam Choudhury; Anas Stewart; Ziyad Ahmed; Zayna Bhayat

6F: Bilaal Alam; Aaliyah Bhayat

6C: Amenah Kazi; Imaan Zubair; Zishan Saeed; Aisha Yaya; Suraiya Choudhury; Maryam Khan.

Well done to all pupils who applied and to our successful applicants. I am very proud of you and the leadership team and the pastoral team look forward to working with you closely.

## Fond Farewells

As this term ends, we are sadly saying goodbye to some members of the Birchfield team. Mrs Rose is leaving Birchfield to spend more time with her family, I am sure we all wish her the very best. Miss Akhtar is relocating to Nottingham and I know she will be greatly missed by her colleagues and the children. Mrs Delair is also leaving us and we thank her for her service to the school. We also say goodbye to Mr Hyatt who is retiring from Birchfield. Mr Hyatt has been a committed member of the Birchfield team for many years and we are all sad to see him go.

I am sure you join me in wishing these staff the very best for the future.

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

### EYFS

This term, the Nursery children have enjoyed taking part in "Nursery Rhyme Week". We talked about our favourite rhymes and learnt new rhymes. The children have also learnt about traditional tales. We made a range of role play masks, talked about different sizes and learnt how to make healthy porridge. We want to say well done to all the Nursery children for settling so well into their new school –we are very proud of them.

Reception children have been very busy this term. They have made amazing transport models for Road Safety week. They also enjoyed designing and packing a suitcase to go on a bear hunt outdoors. The bear was hiding, but he was a friendly bear and the children loved exploring the story. We used our phonic knowledge to write about the different things we would need to pack, if we went on an adventure. Happy holidays to all our families from the Nursery and Reception teams.

**Year 2** have worked incredibly hard this term! During the first half term, we learnt about the impact Florence Nightingale had on the nursing profession. We compared hospitals in the past and present, using historical vocabulary and learnt how Florence Nightingale made them more hygienic. We used our historical knowledge of the Crimean War to produce narratives set in a battlefield. We have developed our descriptive language through expanded noun phrases and openers to entertain the reader.

In Art, Year 2 studied the artist William Simpson. We used different sized lines to draw a landscape and mixed primary colours to make secondary colours. During the second half term, Year 2 learnt about The Great Fire of London. We have demonstrated the school's value of curiosity by asking questions we want to find out about the enquiry, as well as demonstrating empathy for the people of London during 1666. We are able to discuss reasons why The Great Fire of London caused a lot of damage and understand how houses have adapted over the years. We have also studied the artist Jan Griffier. We used our knowledge of houses from 1666 to draw our own street and added warm pastel colours for the flames. Year 2 have learnt an incredible amount of knowledge and skills this term and the teachers are really proud of everyone. Well done Year 2!

**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 been able to compare different houses from 'The Three Little Pigs' houses to Tudor and modern houses. The children have learnt different vocabulary from their reading lessons and have been able to apply it in their writing. They have produced some super pieces of work! In Maths, the children have been working hard to build on their number skills and have been able to add and subtract using a number line, as well as learning their number bonds to 10.

The children investigated different materials in Science to find out which materials would be best for building a house. They also looked at seasons and saw what a true Autumn day looked like. In Art, 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. The children have also worked fantastically in their online learning at home in which we have experienced a variety of learning. Thank you for all your input and ongoing support in helping with your child's learning.

**Year 3** have had a very busy first term this year, spending most of the time in school but also learning from home on Microsoft Teams. They were the first children in school to be taught using Microsoft Teams, and they adapted to it superbly well. It was so lovely to see so many faces online each day as they continued their timetable of lessons whilst at home.

They have been studying tribal life and how it changed during the periods of the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They have learnt three very difficult words that split the age up into three sections of time. The first being the Palaeolithic which covers human development from millions of years ago; through to the Mesolithic era which started tens of thousands of years ago right up to the Neolithic era which began about 8,000 years ago. The children have learnt about tribal life; how the people hunted and gathered food; how they cooked; cave painting; clothing, early farming and where the tribes lived from tipis to round houses. It has been quite an adventure and the children have really had fun making ancient settlements, jewellery and cave drawings. We look forward to Spring now - where we will be learning all about ancient Egypt – so come along and learn with year 3.

**Year 4** have been very lucky to have remained in school right until the end of this term where they have had to learn on Microsoft Teams twice in quick succession. They have adapted amazingly well, and they have been extremely well behaved during their Teams sessions – working equally as hard at home as they do in school. They have been learning about the affect the Romans have had on the development of Britain and they have really enjoyed their class reading book ‘Roman Invasion’ by Jim Eldridge. They have learnt a lot about Roman life: from where the Romans came from, their clothes, food, education, roads, baths and buildings. They have particularly enjoyed learning about the Roman army and the way in which they invaded and took over Britain. The children learnt about Roman numerals and applied this knowledge into their Maths lessons. They have produced some wonderfully imaginative Roman work in History that showcase their learning using illustrations, captions, annotations, quiz books and flaps to reveal information. They have had a great time learning about the Romans and go on to the next invaders of Britain in Spring – the Anglo Saxons. I hope you can join us on our next historical adventure into British history.

This term the **Year 5** children have thoroughly immersed themselves in the class text, ‘Who Let the Gods out?’ This book helped them answer the enquiry question, ‘What was life like in Ancient Greece?’ They have really enjoyed learning about the life of the Ancient Greeks. The children learnt about their beliefs, their values, their political system, their architecture and the legacy that they left. Year 5 children really enjoy Art and loved decorating vases which depicted scenes of life in Ancient Greece.

Throughout their learning, Year 5 have demonstrated the values of Birchfield school: Determination, Respect, Curiosity, Ambition, Resilience and Empathy. The energy and enthusiasm this term has been pleasing to see, despite some of the challenges. Even during the isolation period at home, the children showed the same amount of energy and made us very proud of them. This term has been a very busy one and the Year 5 team wish all parents and children a safe and happy holiday period.

Despite the tumultuous year we have had so far, the autumn term for **year 6** has been one full of curiosity and passion for learning. The skills and knowledge the children in Year 6 have gained so far, with our enquiry led curriculum, have enabled them to deepen their understanding of the events of World War 2 and the effects upon children during that time. They have been able to explore the core values Birchfield uphold: Determination, Respect, Curiosity, Ambition, Resilience and Empathy: allowing them to understand what Britain was like during that time and how children felt. Through our English lessons, we read ‘Letters from the Lighthouse’, by Emma Carroll and children were able to learn more about why children were evacuated, to where and why food was rationed as well as the timeline of crucial events that took place and countries and people involved.

They have explored how life has changed since WW2 and the current issues we face as a country. Alongside this, Year 6 have designed Anderson shelters in preparation for making them and gas masks or lighthouses, assessing and evaluating the materials they used and analysing how they could make further improvements to their designs. We were lucky enough to have an online meet and greet with Sufiya Ahmed – an author who has written a book about Noor Inayat Khan. This inspired children to ask a range of questions and understand more about not just the author but also the inspirational princess who fought during the war.

With 2021 nearing and a new term beginning, Year 6 staff would like to thank you for your continued support and we wish you a very happy and prosperous new year.

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

**We look forward to seeing all of our children in January but 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](mailto:enquiry@birchfld.bham.sch.uk)**