



Birchfield News

Dates for your diary:

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

25.04.22 Teacher training day. School is closed for pupils.

26.04.22 Spring term starts for all pupils

02.05.22 Bank Holiday

09.05.22 SATS week for Year 6

27.05.22 Jubilee celebration day for all pupils (details will be sent out closer to the time)

Message from Mrs Thewlis

Dear Birchfield families,

Birchfield has had a very successful and happy term as we have begun to get back to some sort of normal.

While we are still mindful of the ongoing impact of Covid19, we have been delighted to welcome parents back in our school and I know that many parents have really appreciated and enjoyed this.

The turn out for parent events has been high and the feedback very positive. Lots of parents have said that they were worried about the impact of Covid but that seeing the children's work shows that standards continue to rise in the school.

The summer term is always a very

busy one. I am sure you all join me in wishing our year 6 pupils all the best in their SATS, we know that they will do their very best. I am also looking forward to sharing with you plans for school trips and a summer fayre which will bring all of our school community together. Thank you to you and to your wonderful children for all of your hard work. It continues to be a privilege to serve Birchfield.

On behalf of the whole team, Ramadan Mubarak. I hope that all of you have a peaceful, healthy break and that the sun shines on us all.

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.

School Values

At Birchfield, we believe that development of the whole child matters. The school values are important to developing the attitude and outlook of our pupils and creating a harmonious and positive environment for all pupils to be happy and successful learners.

Our school values are:

Determination; Respect; Curiosity; Ambition; Resilience; Empathy.

We have spent a long time now working with our children supporting them to learn the values in school. We teach children not only what the values are and what they mean, but how they can demonstrate them through their words, behaviour and actions. This starts in Nursery and runs

throughout our school.

We would very much like our parents to also learn the school values and to work with us to talk to the children about these values outside of school. When you observe your children demonstrating one of these values, draw attention to it through praise. Talk to them about the values when they are completing their homework, working and playing with family and friends and taking part in their hobbies and interests outside of school.

Perhaps the children can choose someone they admire and research them -they may be able how to identify how their role models also demonstrate these values. Let us know how they get on!

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

EYFS The children have had the opportunity to plant seeds and broad beans this term. We have learnt how to take care of plants and living things. Each child will take the cress seeds and broad beans home to look after them. We have enjoyed writing about planting and making fruit salad. Reception talked about healthy eating and tasted different fruits. We discussed where fruits and vegetables grow and learnt about similarities/differences in other countries. Across EYFS, we have used the Bee bot programme and used new positional language. We have also enjoyed using the outdoor mud kitchen to role play our experiences.



Year 2 have had a very successful term, filled with curiosity and learning! Through their enquiry questions, the children have explored human and physical features of the coastline and the effects erosion can have on people and businesses. They have developed their map skills and used a key to identify landmarks within the area. They have written narratives about a seaside animal and a fantasy story set in the ocean. They have used ambitious language such as similes, adjective openers, and adverbs in order to entertain the reader. The children have also produced a non-chronological report about the seaside. Throughout the term, the children have been really creative and have produced some wonderful artwork. In Art, children were

inspired by the artist Katsushika Hokusai and drew a landscape of a beach. They used different materials and techniques such as scrunching and folding to create a collage. In D.T, children designed and produced their own beach huts! They had to use complex skills and a variety of equipment to produce an appealing and functioning beach hut. Year 2 have worked extremely hard this term. Well done!



Year 2 Enquiry project work

Year 1 The children have explored the four countries in the United Kingdom and created 3D-models of the national flowers. They were immersed into the story 'Paddington and the Grand Tour' and joined Paddington on an incredible journey through London. In Geography, they devised their own maps of London and even had the opportunity to explore the capital city using Virtual Reality headsets. In Writing, the children innovated their own character and wrote brilliant narratives about their trip to London. In Computing, Year 1 created their own digital drawings of London landmarks using various features on the iPad. During our Art and DT lessons, the children were introduced to a British-born artist, Stephen Wiltshire who creates incredible cityscapes. The children took inspiration from his work and sketched their own cityscapes of London.

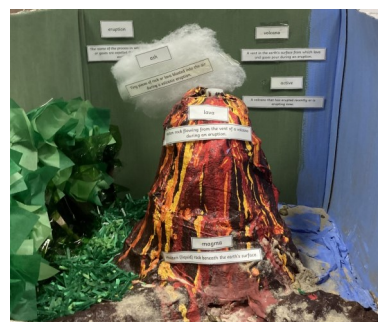


Our Science lessons heightened the children's curiosity about how animals can be grouped by their characteristics. The children have also learned about different types of plants and trees. Once again, it has been an exciting term in Year 1!

Year 1 enquiry work

Year 3 The children have thoroughly enjoyed and expressed great curiosity throughout their Enquiry topic - Rocks, Relics and Rumbles. They have produced amazing work across the entire curriculum. They have delved further into the topic during Geography lessons where they have learned all about the layers of the Earth; tectonic plates; plate boundaries; the short-term and long-term effects of volcanic eruptions; tsunamis and earthquakes.

In Literacy and Reading, they have explored different writing styles and used dictionaries to find the meaning of new words linked to the topic. In Art and Design and Technology they have completed two projects: they have created fossil prints inspired by Leonardo Fibonacci and also produced a fantastic miniature volcano sculpture using Modroc.



Overall, they have excelled within this topic and shared their newfound interest with their families during our excellent exhibition at the end of March. Well done!

Learning about Volcanoes

Year 4 This term our enquiry question was, ‘How do rivers and mountains change our world?’. In Geography, the children learned the names of famous rivers and mountains around the world and how to locate them successfully on a map using both atlases and digital mapping tools. Children can confidently recall the journey of a river from the source to the mouth and about how rivers can change our landscapes. They can also identify the key features of both mountains and rivers, describing each in detail.

In Maths, the children have been focusing on fractions and learning to confidently add and subtract fractions as well as convert improper fractions to mixed numbers and vice versa. They can also work out fractions of amounts and identify equivalent fractions. There will be a national multiplication test taking place in school in June, and the children are going to be tested on their knowledge and quick recall of their times tables up to 12. We will send out more details after Easter. In Writing the children have been focusing on newspaper articles and written articles on everything from: flying cars, to alien abductions, to escaped zoo animals. We also received

a visit from Mr Gulzar who spoke to the children about his experience as a Muslim hiker. The children then used this to write a newspaper article on his visit.

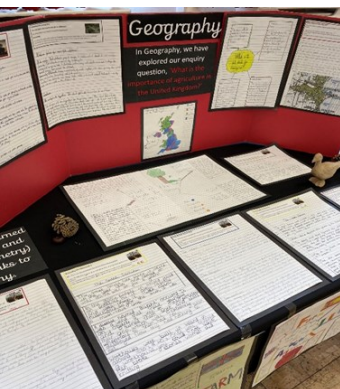
Year 4 Exhibition Work



Year 5's enquiry linked to our reading text, ‘The Secret Garden’ by Frances Hodgson Burnett. We have written narratives, newspaper reports, non – chronological reports, diary entries and formal letters. We have explored the book through our Reading sessions and really tried to understand the plot twists, characters and use of language. In Geography, we have looked at different types of farming and how conditions and different climates impact on farming and agriculture in Europe and Asia. The children completed very detailed and creative double-page spreads to bring together all that they have learned about the impact of climate on farming. The children also learned about The Great Famine and learnt by acting out scenes from this tragic event in the history of Ireland, as well as demonstrating their understanding by writing emotive narrative poems. To end the topic, we showcased our learning in an exhibition.

We have also enjoyed the Bikeability programme which gave our children the opportunity to develop their skills on a bike, with some children practising their skills on the road, as well as learning how to stay safe whilst riding. Well done Year5!

Year 5 Exhibition Work



Year 6's enquiry question has been: ‘How are the ice caps damaged by environmental change?’ We have read ‘The Wolf Wilder’ by Katherine Rundell, analysing the language and vocabulary used and the impact on the reader. We have written various pieces, ranging from non-chronological reports based on the Arctic and Antarctic, newspaper articles about the Titanic, diary entries, and balanced arguments. Math lessons have focused on children mastering fractions, decimals, and percentages, converting between them, multiplying, and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and metric conversions. Threaded through each topic has been reasoning and problem solving. Pupils have also been able to look at where the polar regions are situated and make comparisons of the physical and human features, pupils have explored the climate, polar time zones, indigenous people and in history,. They have discovered the many explorers who have been on expeditions to these places in the world – one of which was a recent solo excursion by Captain Harpreet Chandi, who returned in January 2022. Children have devised historical questions about the Titanic, seeking and analysing a range of evidence to help justify claims from the past, understanding that no single source of evidence can provide a full answer. Year 6 pupils have also considered our school values of curiosity and ambition this term; identifying what the values mean, how we demonstrate them and how people we have learned about through our enquiry have shown these traits. The exhibition was a great success and an opportunity for our children to showcase their learning and to celebrate achievements for work completed both at home and in school.

We are so proud of our year 6 children. Their dedication and hard work has shone through this term.

Year 6 SATs

Thank you to our Year 6 pupils, staff and parents for their hard work as we approach the national testing week for Year 6 beginning on 09.05.22. Our pupils have worked very hard.

Over the holidays please ensure the children complete their homework but also that they have plenty of rest and ‘downtime’. We hope to see pupils for Easter School 19th—21st April. **This will be mornings only.**

Information and arrangements for test week will be sent out for parents of Year 6 pupils prior to test week. Please ensure your child is at school on time every day unless they are unwell. All absences should be reported to the school office 0121 464 5661.

We are very proud of you Year 6 - keep up the good work!