



# News and Information

Date: 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy term already, filled with lots of exciting opportunities and experiences for the children. In this issue we have shared the Urban Strides Workshop, Speaking and Listening Week and Year 3's trip to the Natural History Museum.

We have a few goodbyes to make this term. Mrs Inkley has decided to take a step back from education for the time being to be more available for her new grandchildren and other family members. She will however, still be coming in to school to support with lessons on occasions. After 19 years of service to Bierton we are really going to miss her!

Miss Huggins has taken on the role of Forest School and is working on her forest school qualification. She has worked alongside Mrs Inkley and they have shared the planning for the sessions. Miss Huggins is incredibly excited to be taking on this new venture and we know she will be amazing!

At the end of February we say goodbye to Mr Arnold who has taken the decision to retire. He was worked at Bierton for almost 11 years and has kept everything around the building running during that time. We wish him a well earned restful retirement!

Finally, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Guess at the end of this term. She has taken the decision to step back from education to support her health and allow her to spend more time with family. Again, she will be popping in on occasions to support lessons when needed. Mrs Guess has been at Bierton for 17 years and we will really miss her creative nature.

As well as these sad goodbyes, we also have some very warm welcomes to make. Miss Angel has joined our team as a learning support assistant. She is currently supporting in Early years. She has many years of experience working within an early years setting so we are delighted to have her join our team.

We also would like to warmly welcome Miss Strong who has joined us in our Nursery as a Nursery Assistant. We are delighted to have her energy and enthusiasm join our fantastic team!

Later this term, we will also be welcoming Miss Lewis to our team as a Higher Level Teaching assistant. She has worked in several schools locally and we are delighted to welcome her across to Bierton to join our team.

We have such a fantastic staff team here at Bierton who all want to provide the best for the children and ensure they are provided with a range of opportunities, experiences and memorable learning activities to ensure that every child can find their sparkle and let it shine!

Ms Martin  
Headteacher

## February:

Tuesday 27th—Year 6 Anxiety Workshop with Bucks Mental Health Support Team.

## March:

Monday 4th—Author Visit for KS1 and KS2—Olaf Falafel

Tuesday 5th—Year 1 Parent Workshop—Phonics Screening Check Session with the children.

Thursday 7th—World Book Day

Friday 8th—SEN Coffee Morning for parents.

Thursday 14th—Year 1 Whipsnade Zoo Visit

Monday 18th—Years 5+6 Coombe Hill Field Work Visit

Tuesday 19th—Nursery Tiggywinkles Visit

Wednesday 20th—FOBS Disco 3:15—4:15 EYFS + KS1  
4:30—5:30 KS2

Wednesday 27th—9am Key Stage 1 Easter Performance to Parents.

Wednesday 27th—School Closes for Easter at 1pm.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BIERTON

## *Christian Value of the half-term*

*This half-term we have been focusing on: Respect*



*We believe that we show respect when we are polite to each other and think carefully about what we say before we say it. We also show respect by holding the door open for someone, helping people when they hurt themselves and smiling at each other. It is important to celebrate each other's differences and respect all cultures and religions otherwise people may feel excluded. Self-respect is also important as it gives us confidence to deal with different situations in school.*

*Erin and Aryana (Spirituality Ambassadors) have been investigating what some people believe respect is:*

*"Respect is about accepting people the same way you treat your friends if they are different religions," Hania—year 6*

*"Respect is about being kind," Daisy—year 3*

*"Respect is about helping and loving people," Juliet—year 6*

*"Never judge anyone before you get to know them," Inayah—year 6*



# Urban Strides Workshop

At the beginning of term, all the children were very lucky to have a workshop led by the dance company Urban Strides.

All the children had an amazing time and loved it. Some really did bust out some new moves. Even Mr Glanney is proud to show off his new routines.





# Phonics at Bierton



## How do I listen to my child read?

Your child has a Storybook matched to the sounds and words they know – a decodable book – so they should be able to read all the words.

Please avoid saying, "This book is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this book!"

## **'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', read the word**

Remind your child to read words using 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, read the word' (see glossary).

For example 'ship': spot the 'sh', then Fred Talk and blend to read the word e.g. sh, sh-i-p, ship.

## **Red Words**

Red Words are also known as common exception or tricky words. They occur in stories regularly (said, what, where) but have unusual letter combinations ('ai' in the word 'said' makes the sound 'e').

Remind your child not to use Fred Talk to read Red Words but instead to 'stop and think'.

Tell them the word if you need to.

## **Read the same book again and again**

Children love reading the same book again and again. Their reading becomes speedier and they understand what they are reading.

Encourage your child to read words using 'Fred in your head'.

Show your child how to read the story in a storyteller voice.

Share your enjoyment of the story when they read it again and again.

## **New Phonics Groups**

This week you will have received notification of your child's new phonics group.

The children have been working really hard in phonics and many of them have moved up to the next stage.

This week your child should have received a new book to match the colour of their group. Reading this at home is really important for their phonic progress.

You will have also received the links to the RWI virtual classroom. This videos are closely matched to what your child will be learning in their phonics lesson. Please encourage your children to watch these videos to support with their phonics progress.



# Maths at Bierton

## Famous Mathematicians.

As our children are gaining a wider understanding of the world, we thought we would share some information about famous mathematicians.

### Florence Nightingale



#### Key facts:

- Life: 1820 - 1910
- Nationality: British
- Areas of expertise: Statistics

#### Achievements:

- Florence studied mathematics from an early age as her parents had strongly endorsed women's education.
- Years before she began learning mathematics, she had developed skills in collecting, organising and presenting data.
- Her devotion to mathematical practice and the study of statistics drove her throughout her subsequent career in nursing and medical reform.
- Nightingale set about collecting statistics in Crimea. She treated this activity—counting the number of soldiers killed, injured or diseased—in the same way biologists collected specimens of butterflies and fossils on field trips.
- Like many collectors, she employed other people to collect statistics on her behalf, running a team of data-gatherers at the Crimea.

(<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/florence-nightingale-pioneer-statistician>)

## Mathematical Coverage

### Time

Over the next few months, many classes will be learning about time. Being able to tell the time (both on analogue and digital clocks) is an essential life skill. Here is an overview of some of the things covered in different year groups:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
tell the time to the hour and half past the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times.	tell and write the time to five minutes, including quarter past/to the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times.	tell and write the time from an analogue clock, including using Roman numerals from I to XII, and 12-hour and 24-hour clocks	read, write and convert time between analogue and digital 12 and 24-hour clocks	solve problems involving converting between units of time
recognise and use language relating to dates, including days of the week, weeks, months and years	know the number of minutes in an hour and the number of hours in a day.	estimate and read time with increasing accuracy to the nearest minute; record and compare time in terms of seconds, minutes, hours and o'clock; use vocabulary such as a.m./p.m., morning, afternoon, noon and midnight	solve problems involving converting from hours to minutes; minutes to seconds; years to months; weeks to days	

We would really appreciate it if you could continue to practise telling the time at home.

## Shout Outs!

Well done to the following children who have earned the most coins on either Numbots or TTRS in January. You will get 5 dojos each!



	Numbots	TTRS
Reception	Alexander N	
Year 1	Oliver H	
Year 2	Arya B	Tiyansh M
Year 3	Alex J	Ajen P
Year 4	Rocco W	Molly J
Year 5	Chloe G	Stephen C
Year 6	Anissa J	Anissa J

# Speaking and Listening Week!

**Just before the half term break, Bierton celebrated our Speaking and Listening week with a series of debates loosely connected to the issues of health and well-being. Each year group had a different subject to debate with one class championing one side of the debate against the other.**

## THE DEBATES

**Year 1:** Should children have sweets every day?

Yes - Birch. No - Beech

**Year 2:** Should children do PE every afternoon in school?

Yes - Cedar. No - Cherry.

**Year 3:** Should all children walk to school?

Yes - Holly. No - Hazel

**Year 4:** Should the purchase of fast food be age-restricted?

Yes - Pear. No - Pine

**Year 5:** Should people take foreign holidays?

Yes - Spruce. No - Sycamore

**Year 6:** Are zoos a good idea?

No - Walnut. Yes - Whitebeam



## WORLD BOOK DAY!

World Book Day is rapidly approaching on March the 7th. Details on how Bierton will celebrate the day will be heading your way next week, but in the meantime check out the website to see which book will be available with your Book Day token!

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/about-us/world-book-day-national-literacy-trust/#:~:text=World%20Book%20Day%20will%20be,at%20the%20National%20Literacy%20Trust!>

## Year 3 visit to the Natural History Museum

Last month, Year 3 went to the Natural History Museum in Tring to kickstart their Science learning about animals, including humans. While we are at the museum, the children participated in a workshop about classification. They learnt the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates and then explored how different vertebrates are classified. During the activity, they had to discuss many things about the animals they were observing, for example: whether they were hot or cold blooded; whether they gave birth to live young or laid eggs; what their body was covered in and how they breathe.

As well as participating in the workshop, the children enjoyed exploring the different galleries in the museum. They compared different skeletons, looked at the features of different animals and looked at different locations where each animal may live.

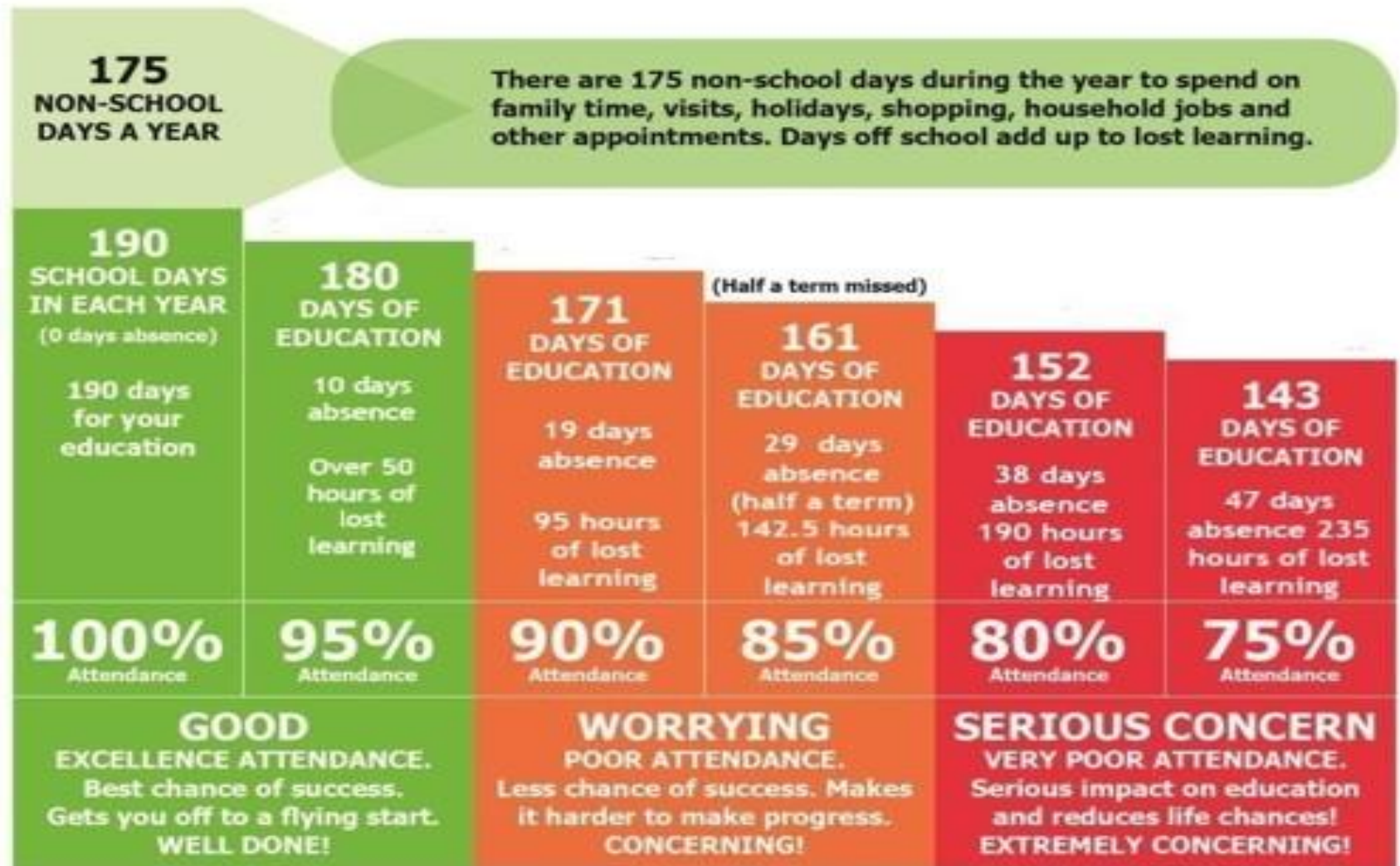


Since returning from their trip, Year 3 have been learning about the human skeleton, muscles and joints in science. In Literacy this half term, the children are applying some of the things they have learnt when learning how to write a non-chronological report based on skeletons.

# EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.

365 DAYS IN A CALENDAR YEAR



Good attendance means being in school at least 94% of the time or 180-190 days. Did you know? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.5%.