



Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter contains some information and updates from areas across the curriculum to share with you. We have also had several enrichment opportunities already this term with Year 3 visiting the Natural History Museum in Tring, Year 4 experiencing a sound workshop and Year 5 visiting the Science Museum in Oxford.

Today we had a visit from Laura Kyrke-Smith who is the Member of Parliament for Aylesbury. She spoke with Key Stage 2 about the role of an MP and what her job entails and then opened up the floor for questions.

The children presented her with a range of questions including: 'How will the Government help with climate change?', 'Why doesn't the Government ban vaping?', 'What does she do day to day?', 'What is the most challenging part of her role?', 'What is the best part of her role?', 'Can she tell the Government to stop HS2?', 'Can the government extend school holidays?'. They had thought really hard about these questions and listened with interest to her answers.

Following this discussion, Laura was then interviewed by two of our Bierton Bugle reporters so that they can write an article for the next newspaper. Laura also had a tour round the school and listened to our experiences, strengths and challenges. Look out for the article in the next Bierton Bugle to see Laura's responses to the questions!  
Ms Martin  
Headteacher



## January

Monday 27th – 9am Reception RWI Parent Workshop

Tuesday 28th – KS2 Author Visit

Wednesday 29th – EYFS Creative Station Workshop in school.

Friday 31st – 2:4pm Open Classrooms for parents to come and view children's work.

## February:

Tuesday 4th – Parents Evening (No After School Clubs tonight)

Wednesday 5th – Parents Evening (No After School Clubs tonight)

Monday 10th – Parent Coffee Morning

Friday 14th – FOBS Break the Rules Day

Friday 14th – Finish at 3:15pm for half term.

W/C 17th – Half Term

# SEND Updates

**Parent Coffee Mornings** – these are open to all parents across the school and we always value your input and feedback. We want them to be purposeful for you, so if you have any suggestions for topics please let us know by emailing [senco@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:senco@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk)



The SENDCo's at Bierton School are:  
Mrs G Bramley  
Mrs V Tarling– EYFS

## Top tips for creating a routine and providing clear communication.....

Many children feel out of control when they don't know what is happening, just as an adult may feel lost without their diary, this can cause anxiety for most. Anxiety can then display itself in many ways, frustration, anger or upset. Children thrive when there are routines and clear boundaries which, understandably, can be hard to maintain in a busy household.

- Visual timetables – a visual reminder of what is happening and when helps children to plan their thoughts and cope with any unexpected changes in the day. Preparing your child for what is to come, helps them to become more accepting of when one activity is ending and another is ready to begin, in simpler terms it helps them to 'transition'.
- <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2021/08/Visual-Timetable-Website-Version.docx>
- Now/next boards – haven't we all had the morning battle of brushing teeth when the child still wants to play? Using a now/next board gives the child some say over which comes first. The adult would still choose the tasks but the child may choose the order, this gives them some control over their actions whilst still providing clear boundaries of your expectations.
- <https://www.theautismpage.com/now-next/>
- Social stories – social stories can be used to support children with unexpected changes or everyday routines that they are finding challenging, this could be coming to school, going on a holiday or supporting with a social skill such as using kind hands.
- <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/communication/communication-tools/social-stories-and-comic-strip-conversations>
- Lowering demand through careful scripting – our freeze, flight response is still very much in place from the past times of real threat. Our brains have not developed to respond to a perceived threat any differently from the time where bears may be chasing us around the countryside! A child that feels under perceived threat by a demand can then go into freeze or flight from a simple 'demand' such as doing a challenging piece of homework. By reducing the demand in our wording, the perceived threat is then reduced, allowing our brains to process the information in a more logical way.
- <https://www.pdasociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Positive-PDA-booklet.pdf>

Please let your class teacher or SENDCo's know if we can assist with any of the above.



A reminder of the Bucks SEND Local Offer and Family Services Website - <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/send/>

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BIERTON

## *Christian Value of the half-term*

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



*You can describe LOVE in lots of different ways but what does it mean to the children at Bierton Combined school? Love is one of our most important Christian values of the school. We show love because it defines who we are. Love can be from a picking up a pencil to helping some one when they're hurt. People who show love are kind, supportive and helpful. We should love others just like God loves us.*

*Prayer: Dear God,*

*Thank you for all the kindness in our hearts. Thank you for our friends and family who bring us joy. Thank you for being by our side when we need you most. Amen*

*Nefeli and I have been investigating what some people believe love is:*

***"Love is peace between two people"***

*(Likith—year 6)*

***"Love is family"** (Georgia - year 5)*

***"I think love is respecting others and being kind"** (Willow—year 4 )*

***"Love is being kind to others"** (Lincoln year 3)*



***Nefeli and Stephanie —Spirituality Ambassadors***





# 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.

## Read Stamina

Reading stamina is defined as your child’s ability to read accurately for a sustained period of time.

During our phonics lessons we work hard on speeding up our word reading. We use a range of activities to ensure the children are increasing their reading speed.

The children are working towards reading 90 per minute with a good level of understanding by the end of year 2.



## **Understanding Phonics**



<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JODhdbhm/CQKO8vVb>



# SPRING READING!

It's Spring! Well... it's very early spring so it's not exactly soft sunshine, gentle breezes and welcoming outside. But, on the positive side, as we wait for bluer skies it's a great time of year to stay cosy and keep reading!

A great read for children in KS2 full of adventure, particularly good for children in Year 3 who are already experts on the Stone Age, but fun for all. (Recommended for ages 7 to 12)

A charming story for younger readers about an adorable penguin with a knack for solving crime! What's not to love! (Recommended for ages 6 to 9)

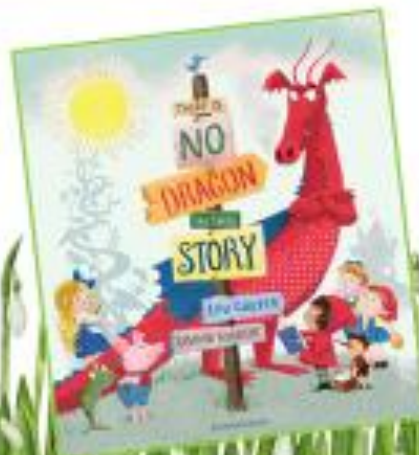
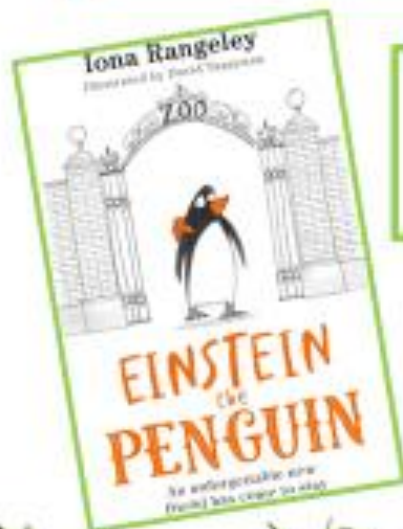
A wonderfully silly story about a dragon who can't find a fairy tale to be in- a delightful picture book for younger readers.

## Golden Ticket!

Better late than never! We awarded our Autumn Term Golden Ticket winner this Thursday to Lincoln from Y3. Well done to everyone who got a ticket, for showing great effort, passion for reading or for reaching the legendary million words on Accelerated Reading- we're proud of all of you!

## World Book Day!

World Book Day 2025 will take place on Thursday 6 March 2025. This year our theme at Bierton will be 'Heroes and Villains' and we are planning a range of fun activities for the day. We'll send out more information soon 😊





# Maths

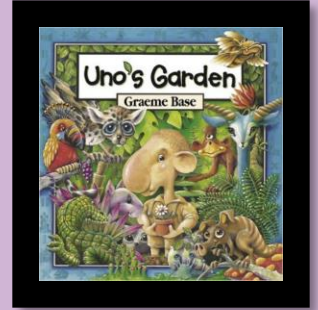
Thank you to everyone that attended the Reception Math's Mastery workshop. The children enjoyed sharing their learning with you. We have loved hearing about the activities you are completing at home.



## Recommendations for Mathematical Stories

Uno's Garden is a picture book written and illustrated by Australian children's author Graeme Base. The story features themes of environmental degradation, conservation of nature and habitat, and extinction. It also features arithmetic, and at the back of the book there are instructions for several number games relating to the book. It also contains a game in the book where you have to find an amount of plants, animals, buildings and sometimes one snortelpig. All of the animals and plants featured in the book were invented by the author. Some of the animals included are the snortlepig, moopaloop, lumpybum, and frinklepod.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUDc-BxVioU>



### Did you know?

On dice, opposite sides always add up to the number seven.

Remember to login to Numbots and TTRS to earn certificates and Dojos!



### Shout Outs

Well done to the following children who have earned the most coins on either Numbots on TTRS in the past months.

You will receive a dojo!



	Numbots	Times Table Rock Stars
Reception	Connor (Ash)	
Year 1	Alexander (Birch)	
Year 2	Thanvi (Cedar)	Yashvi (Cherry)
Year 3	Tiyansh (Hazel)	Tiyansh (Hazel)
Year 4	Nevaeh (Pear)	Albert (Pine)
Year 5	Alex (Spruce)	David (Sycamore)
Year 6	Asha (Walnut)	Mia (Walnut)





**Year 3 trip to Tring museum** – The children had a fantastic time last week when we visited the Natural History Museum in Tring linked to our science topic 'Animals including humans'. We looked at all the amazing animals that have been collected by Walter Rothschild and thought about how they were adapted to their environment. We also had a workshop on bones and skeletons and had to identify different animals from their skeletons,

