



News and Information

Date: 16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of term, I look back with great pride and happiness of what we have managed to achieve in such difficult circumstances. We are so lucky to have such amazing staff here at Bierton who work tirelessly to ensure provision is always high-quality whilst and providing experiences for the children despite many barriers which enable the children to flourish and let their lights shine. We are so lucky to have such amazing children who continue to amaze and inspire us with their resilience and growing confidence. We are so proud of them all. Over the last few weeks, we have been treated to 7 live performances from Nursery, Reception/ KS1 and KS2. I'm sure you will agree that the children were inspirational and made us very proud. If you are able to get a copy of this week's Bucks Herald, you will see lots of photos from the shows on pages 7-12.

I would also like to give a special thanks to FOBS (our PTA) for all of their hard work this term. They have raised invaluable funds for the school whilst also providing amazing experiences such as the Christmas disco and also significantly contributing to the Christmas Pantomime—both of which, the children thoroughly enjoyed. Finally, thank you to parents and carers for all of your support this term. Your kind donations for harvest, senior citizen hampers and raffle prizes; your attendance for the Christmas performances and your prompt communication regarding testing has been duly appreciated. We are not sure at the moment what January will look like and as a school, are planning for multiple outcomes but we will update you as soon as we can. In the meantime, I would like to wish our whole community a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022!

Mr W Gadsby

Key Dates coming up:

January

Tuesday 4th—INSET Day

Wednesday 5th—School reopens

Monday 10th—Reception/ Year 6 Height & Weight Check

February

Sunday 3rd—Working Party Day for OPAL Project

W.B. 14th—Diversity Week

Friday 18th—School closes at 3:15pm



Phonics at Bierton



Phonics Assessment

Each half term we assess the children's phonetic knowledge 1 to 1 with an adult .

We use this information to group the children based on what the children need to learn next. In KS1 and Reception, children will start in their new phonics/reading groups on the 10th January.



Using phonic to support writing.

As the children continue with their phonic journey, they will begin to use their phonic sounds to help them write words and sentences. The children will go through 4 stages before they are able to write a sentence independently

1. Writing the letter sounds
2. Segmenting words
3. Writing a dictated sentence or phrase
4. Writing an independent sentence.

How to support your child to segment to develop writing?

Before children learn to write words, they need to orally segment. Segmenting is simply the skill of separating words up into their component sounds. For example, 'pig' becomes 'p-i-g'. 'Dog' becomes 'd-o-g'. It does not matter how the word is written. You are splitting up the sounds not the letters. So 'chain' would be split into three – 'ch-ai-n.'

When children are able to identify the initial sound, move on to try the end and middle sounds. Again, sun is good to use as you can hold the final sound to emphasize it. Other words to try include sat, sit, mat, man, map, nap. Think of short 3-letter words that have a consonant, vowel and consonant (CVC).

Once your child is able to orally segment then they should practise sounding out the word and writing it down. At this stage the children might not use the correct spelling of words but the words might be phonetically plausible.

What does phonetically plausible mean?

A word is phonetically plausible if it can be identified for what it is, even if it is not spelt correctly.

Children learning to write will create phonetically plausible versions of words before they learn the correct spellings. This is because they only have a limited knowledge of phonic sounds which they can use. For example a child may write 'beecos' instead of 'because', since this is a phonetically plausible version of the word.

Correct spelling	Phonetically Plausible word
Person	'Pursun'
Meal	'Meel'
Parent	'Parunt'

Vocabulary

Each fortnight, we will share a phonics term with you.

This week's term is **Sentence**

A sentence is a combination of words which is used to communicate with people.

In school, we will encourage children to create phonetically plausible spellings to develop there independent writing skills. As the children learn more and more sounds, they will begin to spell more words correctly. In Year 2, children have regular discussion about spelling patterns and rules and are expected to spell more words correctly.

Literacy at Bierton

Reading a good Christmassy story is the tradition that we all need in our lives. If you're not sure which one to go for this year, then feast your eyes on these brilliant festive delights!



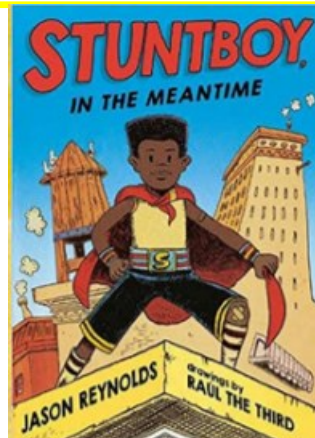
- How Winston Delivered Christmas Alex T. Smith
- Tinsel Sibéal Pounder
- Last Stop on the Reindeer Express Maudie Powell-Tuck & Karl James Mountford
- A Boy Called Christmas Matt Haig & Chris



If you are looking for a new book for your child this Christmas you could try one of these.



Jory John & Pete Oswald
Harper Collins 5+
Smart Cookie tells the tale of a cookie that is overcome with self doubt and feels useless. Finally she finds something that she can succeed at and starts to believe that maybe she is a smart cookie! PERFECT!



Jason Reynolds & Raul The Third 7+

Stuntboy tells a story of a boy who is navigating life and his parents' constant arguing! A fun story with brilliant illustrations that will be enjoyed by anyone that picks it up!



Lucy Hope 9+

A thrilling adventure set in 1900s Bavaria. Cassie Engel's life is changed when a cherub flies through her window during a storm. A story of friendship and mystery with some brilliantly fascinating characters. An excellent debut from Lucy Hope that will instantly earn her plenty of new fans!



Fluency Facts

Each fortnight, we will share some fluency facts for you to learn and recall with your child. If your child can recall the fact when asked by a teacher, they will receive a dojo.

Early Years	Subitising What do you see and how do you see it?
Year 1 and 2	Adding to 20 How do we make 20? Circling 10 and adding on. 2, 5 and 10 times tables $3 \times 5 = 15$ $4 \times 10 = 40$ $2 \times 2 = 4$
Year 3 and 4	3 and 4 times tables $3 \times 4 = 12$ $4 \times 3 = 12$ 7 and 8 times tables $7 \times 8 = 56$ $8 \times 7 = 56$
Year 5 and 6	$1 \div 2 = 1/2$ so $1 \div 2$ is the same as $1 \times 1/2$. $1 \div 3 = 1/3$ so $1 \div 3$ is the same as $1 \times 1/3$. $1 \div 4 = 1/4$ so $1 \div 4$ is the same as $1 \times 1/4$. $1 \div 5 = 1/5$ so $1 \div 5$ is the same as $1 \times 1/5$.

Maths at Bierton

Maths Mastery

Within our last update, we began to explain the elements of a mastery approach in the teaching and learning of maths at Bierton. This update provides further information:

Children are challenged by deepening their understanding of a topic, rather than being accelerated through the curriculum:

For those children that have mastered the skill, concept or procedure they will be presented with higher order thinking activities, rather than accelerating through the curriculum. This approach is used as it ensures that children have a secure and deep understanding of the mathematics being learnt. Challenge activities and problem solving tasks provided will require the children to develop higher-order mathematical thinking and application.

Speedy teacher intervention and pre-teaching opportunities are used to help children keep up, rather than catch up:

This year we have introduced maths pre-teaching sessions to prepare children for the concepts that will be taught during the daily maths sessions. Pre-teaching sessions introduce the children to the concept in order to equip them with the basic skills and knowledge they need before the main lesson. Where applicable, those children that have not met the expected outcomes or have gaps in their understanding, will be helped by receiving short, immediate support. This will help consolidate their understanding.

Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots Challenges

The classes who come first (highest percentage of children playing) in either Times Table Rock Stars or Numbots between the fortnightly updates being sent out, will win extra playtime!



Teacher Challenges!

On Thursday 13th January, Mrs Soffe will complete a Rock Slam against any willing opponents on Times Table Rock Stars. If you would like to compete, please challenge him by Wednesday 12th January.

Anyone who completes the challenge will receive a dojo and anyone who beats her will receive 5 dojos!

Well done to Tommy S who beat Mr Gadsby!

Vocabulary

This week's words are:

Addend

Any numbers added together.

$$8 + 3$$

Subtrahend

The number that is to be subtracted. The second number in a subtraction.

$$8 - 3 = 5$$

3 is the subtrahend.

Christmas at Bierton

Nursery performance:

A huge congratulations to our littlest members on their beautiful Christmas performance. A lovely first performance that took a lot bravery and courage. We look forward to seeing these little actors and actresses in future performances



KS1 performance:

A massive well done to our KS1 children who put on a lovely rendition of the nativity play. Our poor midwife had quite the challenge trying to find Mary and Joseph in that stable. Backed by an enthusiastic and exuberant cast bedecked in dazzling costumes with an organised choir that belted out some cheery ,catchy songs.



KS2 performance:

Hats off to our KS2 performers who put on a lovely, funny play that encapsulated some of the humorous elements of this time of year. An amazingly competent young headteacher led the cast through the ups and down of pre-performance rehearsals and performances. A special well done to the children who had to step up to cover peers last minute. Last but not least congratulations to all the other classes who choreographed an amusing and engaging set of dances.

Getting Active over Christmas

1. Do ten jumping jacks and shout “Merry Christmas!” during each one.
2. Roll a dice and do that amount of press-ups. How many can you do on your toes without having to rest on your knees?
3. Do 10 sit-ups while Counting down, saying ‘Ten Christmas trees, nine Christmas trees,’
4. Stand on your tiptoes and try to balance for as long as you can. How long can you manage ?
5. Hold a beanbag or a Christmas object. Throw it in the air and say “Merry Christmas!” before you catch the object.
6. Reach down and touch your toes. Try to keep your legs straight and as close as possible.
7. Stand up straight. Run on the spot as fast as you can for one minute. While you are doing this, sing :‘Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer’.
8. Go into plank position. You can support yourself on your hands or your elbows. You can also rest on your knees if you need to. Move out your left foot and then bring it back in. Repeat with your right foot. Try to get faster while you are doing it and sing ‘Jingle Bells’ at the same time.

Supporting our Community



On Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th December, our Head Boy, Head Girl and Community Ambassadors delivered hampers to the senior citizens in our community. Normally, we would invite them in to school for an afternoon of festive fun: watching the children's performances and enjoying some festive treats. However, we have been unable to do that again this year so Mrs Wheeler has kindly organised hampers to be distributed in our community. Thank you so much to parents and carers for all of your kind donations. Without so many donations, we wouldn't have been able to bring so much joy to so many people in our community. Everybody was so grateful and thankful for their hamper.





SEN Update

Wow, the first term has gone so quickly! I just wanted to thank all the parents and staff, who have made me feel very welcome at Bierton. As many of you maybe aware, I was meant to finish at the end of the Autumn Term. I am now staying until the end of the Spring Term but my days will change week on week. Mrs Bramley and I will be having a handover during the Spring Term and she will be also carrying out some of the annual reviews. Below are the dates that I will be in but this may be subject to change:

Wednesday 5th January PM
Monday 9th January AM
Tuesday 18th January Full day
Tuesday 1st February Full day
Thursday 10th February am only
Tuesday 15th February am only
Friday 4th March Full day
Tuesday 15th March full day
Thursday 31st March Full day
Tuesday 5th April Full day (last one)

We have held two coffee meetings, the first one was a success. Unfortunately, the evening SEN meeting on Zones of Regulation, I was sat lonely waiting! As we know, SEN coffee meetings are a fantastic opportunity for parents to form and build relationships and to gather information on understanding the school's protocol of supporting SEN. We will hold our next coffee morning on **Tuesday 1st February at 9am**, hopefully we can do this face to face.

Just a reminder to look at our website as there is useful sites to visit and parent courses listed (<https://www.biertoncombined.co.uk/School-Information/SEN/>).

Mrs J Makepeace

KS1 Christmas Nativity - Review



Recently, we have watched KS1 perform their Christmas play. They put on a great show for us and we really enjoyed it, especially with their sparkly costumes! They were encouraged by their teachers and didn't give up even when they felt scared.. KS1 worked very hard on their performance which is a modern version of the original Christmas story. They retold the story in a creative way that still respects the religious piece.



Singing and Performance

The youngsters recited the songs fluently and amazed us with their singing. The solos were delivered with great confidence. You must be so proud of your kids! A lot of them really did shine like stars! Their acting was fantastic and adorable, it made us smile. The lines were memorised perfectly in just a few weeks. KS1 were awesome and the humour in their voices when they had a joke to tell was so cute. They smiled the whole time, even when they made mistakes. This show is definitely worth watching!

Dancing and costumes

A lot of time and effort was put into the wonderful dances. All of us were encouraged to join in and clap to the beat. It was a breath-taking experience and as the little ones jiggled, their costumes softly flashed. When we sang, they danced and when we clapped they bowed. Everybody loved it! No-one here could have asked for a better little show! Well done KS1! This performance is definitely up for a winning act!

by Caoimhe Pritchard and Pahal Patel (Spirituality and Community Ambassadors)

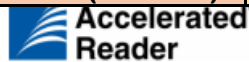


Let's Celebrate!



Spelling Shed

Top classes	Top scorers KS1	Top scorers KS2
Cedar	David	Gabbie
Spruce	Gracie	Louie
Walnut	Millie (Cedar)	Danielle



Top Classes (% of pupils playing)	Highest Number of Coins	Biggest Improvement in Studio Speed	Fastest Current Studio Speed
1st: Walnut	1st: Zachary E	1st: Emily H	1st: Micah F
2nd: Pine	2nd: Maxwell Sa	2nd: Harry E	2nd: Tommy S
3rd: Sycamore	3rd: Amelia B	3rd: Maxwell Sa	3rd: Zachary E

Current Rock Heroes: Amelia B, Zachary E, Maxwell Sa, Micah F, Toby H, Sumaiyah K and Tommy S



Class	Number of quizzes (last 14 days)	Class average pass rate (last 14 days)
Cedar	72	86.8
Cherry	46	87.4
Hazel	94	86.8
Holly	113	88.8
Pine	103	89.3
Spruce	87	88.1
Sycamore	74	93.2
Walnut	169	94.0



Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2	
Top Classes (% of pupils)	Highest Number of Coins	Top Classes (% of pupils)	Highest Number of Coins
1st: Ash	1st: Riley G	1st: Holly	1st: Leila B
2nd: Alder	2nd: Oscar E	2nd: Hazel	2nd: Morgan T
3rd: Cedar	3rd: Jasmine S	3rd: Sycamore	3rd: Amelia B

Completed Diamond: Amelia B, Sebastian B, Logan D, Micah F, Joseph S O and Tommy S.



8,191	8,196	7,920	8,100
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Congratulations to our next word millionaires
Grace N, Musa,