



News and Information

Date: 20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy couple of weeks at the start of the term but it has been lovely to see all the children smiling and taking part in activities with enthusiasm.

We have launched our 'Sparkle' afternoons again this term. These are sessions where children from across the school will be selected to take part in an activity that they may not normally get a chance to do but in which they will be able to sparkle and shine. We will keep you updated on the sessions that have taken place through the newsletters and our website.

Please take a few minutes to read through this newsletter with all the information from different curriculum leads to update you and show you how you can support your child in different areas.

Have a good weekend.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

Key Dates coming up:

January

30th—Year 1 DT Session in afternoon

February

1st—2:30pm SEN Coffee Afternoon.

2nd—Ash and Alder Parent Session 9-10:15am.

3rd—Years 3 + 4 Trip to Tring Museum

7th—Young Voices at Wembley

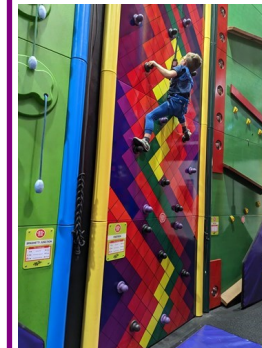
9th—FOBDS Disco

10th—3:15pm School Closes for half term.

13th—17th—Half Term.

Demonstrating Spirituality

Our children continue to amaze and inspire us with their kindness and generosity to others. They are constantly thinking about people other than themselves and reflecting on how they can help others.



One of our Year 2 children, George, has decided that he is going to raise some money for Jollypop Entertainment's Warm Hug Campaign. They visit hospitals, dressed up as different characters to give presents to children who are unwell and have also run events for children from Ukraine. To raise money, Georgie has decided that he is going to climb the equivalent of Mount Everest—1106 climbing walls! What an incredible idea George and we look forward to hearing about your success.

Supporting Together – Environment, Parents, Schools

STEPS

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) would like to offer parents an opportunity to join them on a short workshop presentation in

Overcoming Childhood Anxiety

The workshop will help you as parents understand when anxiety might be a problem (as opposed to a 'normal' developmental phase) and describes different anxiety issues. It is also an opportunity to learn brief key treatment strategies and understand the important role you play as parents in supporting your children and young people that may be struggling with anxiety.

There are various sessions planned to take place on:

Monday 20/2/23 – 18:00-19:30 – Virtual via Teams

Wednesday 1/3/23 – 13:00-14:30 – Virtual via Teams

Friday 10/3/23 – 09:30-11:00 – Virtual via Teams

If you are interested in attending either of these event's, please click on the link below or scan the QR code to complete a short form of interest. Further details and links will then be sent out closer the time.



<https://forms.office.com/e/uTyjnsmkxr>



Phonics at Bierton



Vocabulary

Blending

This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme (letter) and identifying which sound they make and merging these together to make a word. We practise this in our phonics sessions using Fred talk to help the children to first sound out the word and then say the word.

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WOIddcU3/nZYewP7D>

Book bag books

The children that are in red group up to grey group will now have started to bring home book bag books along with their phonics book. The book is matched alongside their phonics books to give them an extra opportunity to practise the sounds that they now. The story will often also have the same characters or themes as their phonics book. This second book for your child to read to you, they may need some encouragement when reading. It could be by pointing at the words as they go or reassuring them that they can read the word first and then say the whole word.

On the inside cover of the books there are red words, which cannot be sounded out and green words which can. Practising these before reading the story will help the children to feel more confident at reading them when they come across them in the book.

When your child has read this book to you there are pictures at the back which they can use to help them retell the story in their own words and questions to discuss which helps to build their comprehension. Reading both this book and their phonics book more than once will help to increase their fluency and bank of known words which will support them as the books become longer and trickier.

Videos

Blending <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WOIddcU3/nZYewP7D>

Fred talk—<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OCn7owjF/8WQ2tJ0a>



Maths at Bierton Times Tables in Year 4

Year 4 is important when it comes to building a good foundation for primary maths. Children start to multiply bigger numbers using written methods and they also look at decimals. By the end of Year 4, children should know their multiplication and division facts up to 12×12 .

Year 4 Multiplication Check

When children are in Year 4, they complete a statutory times table check. The purpose of the check is to determine whether each child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help us as a school to identify any children who may require additional support. Here is some information:

- Year 4 children complete the check in June (between Monday 5 June and Friday 16 June 2023).
- Children will complete the in school on either an iPad or Chromebook.
- Altered access arrangements will be provided if necessary.
- The questions will require them to recall their times table facts up to 12×12 .
- There will be 3 practise questions followed by 25 times table questions.
- They will be given 6 seconds to answer each question.
- There is no pass mark for the check.
- Parents will be informed about their child's performance once the school has received their results.

If you would like further information regarding the Year 4 multiplication check, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents>

Parent Survey

We would really appreciate you completing a short questionnaire about maths : <https://forms.gle/H1eXJrL2tirL3EJw9>

Top Tip for Year 4 Multiplication

Regular times tables practice makes multiplication in Key Stage 2 is essential.

As well as practising on Times Table Rock Stars, reciting multiplication and division facts is really important.

Multiplication facts are stored in our verbal memory so saying (and hearing the sound pattern of the phrase (e.g. seven threes are twenty-one) is important. (Piazza and Dehaene, Source: NCETM)

In school, we are practising saying the whole multiplication sentence as this will help children to remember and recall the facts with greater accuracy and efficiency.

Try recalling the facts in order and out of order.

Written multiplication

Following on from Year 3 multiplication, in Year 4 children will multiply 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number.

They will learn the expanded column method and will also be introduced to the compact column method.

2	1	8		
x		4		
	3	2	→	$8 \times 4 = 32$
	4	0	→	$10 \times 4 = 40$
+	8	0	0	→
	8	7	2	→
				→
				→
				→

Learning multiplication facts in school

In school, we have reviewed the order and ways in which we teach multiplication and division facts for children. The order has been devised to support children in making connections between different facts and therefore supporting their understanding and recall.

An example is included below but further information will be sent out in the future.

Year 4					
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Autumn 2	$0 \times 6 =$	$5 \times 6 =$	$7 \times 6 =$	$12 \div 6 =$	$24 \div 6 =$
	$1 \times 6 =$	$10 \times 6 =$	$9 \times 6 =$	$30 \div 6 =$	$48 \div 6 =$
	$2 \times 6 =$	$3 \times 6 =$	$11 \times 6 =$	$18 \div 6 =$	$42 \div 6 =$
	$4 \times 6 =$	$6 \times 6 =$	$6 \div 6 =$	$36 \div 6 =$	$54 \div 6 =$
	$8 \times 6 =$	$12 \times 6 =$	$60 \div 6 =$	$72 \div 6 =$	$66 \div 6 =$

Science Enquiry Skills

Over the course of their time in Bierton, pupils should carry out several investigations which involve different types of enquiry:

- **comparative / fair testing**
- **research**
- **observation over time**
- **pattern seeking**
- **identifying, grouping and classifying**
- **problem solving**



We might start talking about comparative or fair testing with children by first talking about what can be changed (the 'variables') and whether this might make a difference to the outcome.



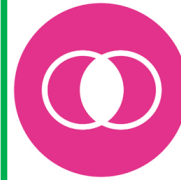
For research, pupils might use pictures, books, websites or information sheets that have been pre-prepared to help them to find out answers to questions about any area of science. They may visit a museum or talk to a visitor in school or parent about science.



All sorts of questions can be answered through observation over time. The period of time might be seconds, minutes, days or even months depending on the question asked.



Pattern seeking often starts with a question about a possible link between two events or phenomena (variables).



Young children (ages 4 -5 years) perform simple grouping tasks, sorting items by simple observable features such as colours, shape and size. As children develop their knowledge of plants, animals and materials, they will sort and classify living things and materials using specific criteria. Older children may make charts or keys to help identify different animals and plants according to their observable features, and materials according to their properties.



To help children develop independence in scientific enquiry, pupils should be encouraged to use their own initiative in problem solving. Often, posing problems with a real life context will stimulate children's interest and thinking.



To help our pupils to fully understand each scientific enquiry we have created some Scientific Enquirers.

We would like some help in naming our new characters. The following page has information about a competition we are running.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BIERTON

Christian Value of the half-term

This half-term we have been focusing on:

LOVE



The children have all been thinking about what this might look like in school and created candles for their Spirituality displays in class with words and pictures that represent this important value. Throughout the half-term we refer to this value and highlight good examples of LOVE in action. Many children have been recognised as great role models for this value and their achievements acknowledged in our Celebration Assemblies. We have also had a go at singing 'All you need is love' during our assemblies to reinforce this important message.



GLOBAL NEIGHBOURS

We have decided to set up a regular collection point in our main reception area to collect donations for 'BRIDGE THE GAP' a local foodbank. If you are able to donate an item from time to time please send it in with your child or drop it off in our front office. All donations will go to 'BRIDGE THE GAP' who do incredible work to support those in need in our community. Thank-you so much for your support, it really will make a difference to the lives of others.



Travel Plan News

Parent Parking Promise

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the Parking Promise. We have been overwhelmed with the response and hope you have all received your car stickers.

Please do display your car stickers as we have some very eager volunteers who will be looking to leave Thank You cards on a few cars each week. If you are lucky enough to receive one of these cards, pass it to your child who will receive 10 dojo points. If you have more than one child at the school, please write their names on the card when you return it to the school and I will make sure that they all receive 10 points.

Travel Tracker

Travel Tracker awards for December were awarded to

KS2 – Hazel Class

EYS& KS1 – Alder Class

Well done to all the children, and parents, for making such a super effort to make those active journeys to school. I'm sure the children will enjoy their well-deserved extra play time.

Travel Tracker Badge Competition

Every year we are invited to enter into the Living Streets competition to design a new badge for Travel Tracker. A panel of JRSOs and some members of staff will select 3 entries from all of the entries received. Entries must be made on the official entry form and handed in to school by Wednesday 22nd February 2023.

This year's theme is:
THE BRITISH NATURE WALK

This year's theme, *The British Nature Walk*, aims to bring pupils closer to the nature found across Britain!

Wherever we live, nature is all around. Take your children out for a stroll around your local area to see what nature has to offer in the local area. If you are on holiday over half term see look to see what other nature you can find there. Think animal or insects found in urban or rural areas, vibrant flowers or mighty trees, lakes, rivers, canals or coastlines. You can also draw a special memory of nature from a recent holiday around Britain or from a different season.

Large pictures work better as the badge may lose some of the detail of your picture if the details are too small.

Don't forget to write about why you chose to draw the picture you have.

LIVING
STREETS

LET'S
WALK TO
SCHOOL

Badge design competition 2023



WOW - the walk to school challenge

THE BRITISH NATURE WALK



WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?

This year's WOW badge design competition aims to bring you closer to the nature found across Britain!

WHAT SHOULD YOU DRAW?

Whether you live in an urban or rural area, nature is all around you. Go on an adventure outside your home and find out what nature has to offer in your local area and draw it. You can also draw a special memory of nature from a recent holiday around Britain or from a different season.

EXAMPLES MAY INCLUDE:

- Animals or insects e.g., squirrel, red deer, frog, Highland cow, dragonfly, stag beetle
- Lakes, rivers, canals or coastlines e.g., Lake Windermere, River Severn, Monkland Canal
- Vibrant flowers or mighty trees e.g., bluebells, daffodils, English oak tree
- Rolling hills or awe-inspiring views e.g. Snowdonia, Cheddar Gorge

Wherever your British Nature Walk takes you, draw it!

CLOSING DATE
TUESDAY 28 FEB 2023

SUSTAINABILITY
AND WOW BADGES



Our WOW badges are made in the UK from recycled plastic material, including old fridge trays, plastic plates and off-cuts of yoghurt pot material. Find out more: livingstreets.org.uk/recycling



PUPILS

Pupil name:

Age:

What did you choose to draw and why? Where did you discover it?

TEACHERS

School email:

School name and address:

Local authority: