



News and Information

Date: 20th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so incredible seeing so many parents attend our open events over this last half term. I don't think we have ever had so many Years 5 +6 parents attend a session— particularly where sewing is involved! So thank you to all that have given up some of your time to come in and participate in DT sessions or attend the Harvest Festival led by Year 3 today.

I would also like to thank all of you who so generously donated items for the Harvest Collection. We fully appreciate how tough it is for families at the moment and so to see so many donations just shows the 'Love', 'Cooperation' and 'respect' values of our whole school community. Thank you so much, the donations were really gratefully received by the food bank and only just fitted into the car!

Tomorrow we have an Inset day at school where all the staff are going to be learning and refreshing their phonics knowledge in order to ensure we continue to provide high quality sessions across the school for the children.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and restful half term break and we look forward to seeing all the children on Monday 31st October.

Ms Martin
Headteacher



Key Dates coming up:

October

Friday 21st—INSET Day

Monday 31st—School Re-opens.

November

Thursday 3rd—Individual School Photographs

Monday 7th—Years 5+6 Trip to Ufton Court

Tuesday 8th—Year 1 Workshop in school.

Friday 11th— Years 3 +4 Parents DT Session

Friday 11th—Year 4 and Year 1 Led Remembrance Assembly.

Tuesday 15th—Year 2 Parents DT Session

Friday 18th—Children In Need

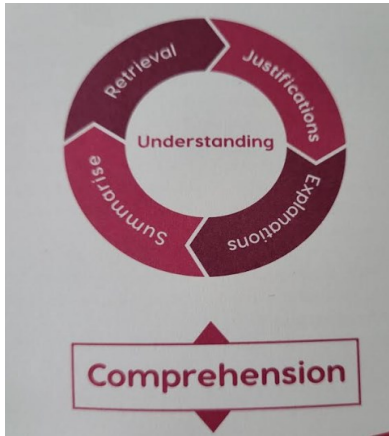
While you are out and about over the half-term, please could you look out for reasonably sized pebbles and stones as we will need these for our Remembrance project when we return after half-term.

Many thanks.



Literacy at Bierton

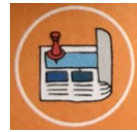
Another strand of the reading rainbow are the stylistics. These focus on the comprehension of the text.



The questions we ask are based around certain areas for example, the setting, the impact and the underlying themes.

There are different types of questions that we can ask linked to each lens

Text layout and structure



- The words are in bold because...
- ⇒ The front cover tells us ...
- ⇒ The pictures and diagrams add ..

Yes and No relationships



- ⇒ The characters that are friends are ...
- ⇒ Problems occur in the relationship when ...
- ⇒ The characters that are enemies are ...

Interrogating (Facts and opinions)



- ⇒ I have found three facts. They are ...
- ⇒ The characters opinion on ... is ...
- ⇒ If I reviewed the book I would say ...

Our book review

The Little Witching lives on her own in her mountain top and more than anything else, she wishes for a friend. So when her spell book tells her that the secret ingredient is the fur from a little girls favourite teddy, she knows what she must do.

But the teddy belongs to Lily, who can't bear to part with him. Will the Little Witching give up her dream of a real friend? Or maybe there is a way for her an Lily to make the wish come true together?



Phonics at Bierton



“Keep up not catch up”

At Bierton we aim to support our children to keep up with the phonics learning rather than spending time catching up with their reading skills later in their learning journey. Therefore any children who we identify as not making the expected progress we will give them extra support in order to make good progress. This might include: 1 to 1 tutoring outside the phonics lesson, extra time looking at the sounds, 1 to 1 reading or small group sessions.



Word Types

During our RWI sessions we talk about two different types of words. Green words which we can sound out and red words are words which can't be sounded out using our phonics, we teach the children to recognise these by sign.

This is how you can support your child to read the different types of words.

Green words: Use Fred Talk – point with your finger under each phoneme as you make the sound, then run your finger under the whole word to blend those sounds together to say the word. Over time, as they get more confident, encourage them to instantly sound blend so they are saying the sounds in their head quickly then saying the word out loud.

Red words: The children should be told these words and practise sight reading them (without blending).

Vocabulary

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

This week's term is **Vowel digraph**

Two letters that together make one vowel sound. Examples: *ai, oo, ow*.

Developing children's blending

Blending is a method used to help children learn to read by combining different sounds, also known as phonemes, to form words. Blending sounds together teaches learners how words are sounded out, which will help them to decode long and unfamiliar words when they're reading.

Blending is an effective method that's used to help children learn to read. Through blending, pupils will join together individual sound-spellings in order to form a complete word. This skill helps children to decode words that they are unfamiliar with.

In RWI we call the sound out Fred Talk. When reading unfamiliar words we encourage the children Fred Talk” before reading a word.”

There are many games you can play to encourage this skill

This game might include:

- **I Spy**.— “I can spy with my little eye a h-a-t.”
- **Giving instructions**—While giving an instruction break one of the words into isolated sounds: “Can you please put this in the b-a-g?” or “Put the c-u-p on the table.”
- **Talk like a robot**—Encourage your child to speak like a robot by breaking their speech up into syllables.
- **Listen and Draw Game** - This is a fun game to play with 2 people. The first person says a segmented word and the second person draws it. They can take turns to be the person segmenting or drawing.

Maths at Bierton Times Tables in Year 2

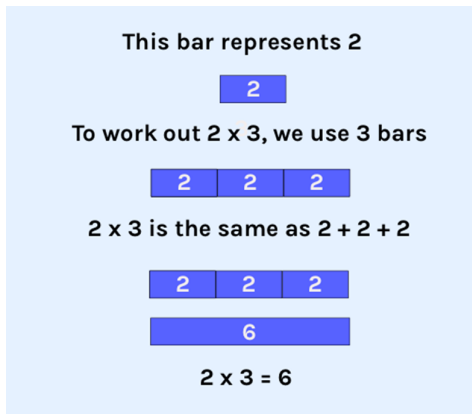
By Year 2, your child should be able to write number sentences independently (e.g. $4 \times 2 = 8$). This is important as writing problems down will help them to keep track of their thinking and enable them to spot mistakes even if they have moved on to another part of the question. By the end of Year 2, children need to know the 2, 5 and 10-times tables.

Bar modelling

Bar modelling is a visual representation of maths.

It uses long rectangles (bars) to show how the method works, and they're great for helping children to understand what the numbers in maths really mean.

Here's an example of how you might use bar modelling to explain multiplication to your 6-year-old, based on the calculation 2×3 .



Use real life maths at home to master multiplication

When you go shopping, ask questions that will get them thinking and give you a chance to demonstrate the answer (using concrete manipulatives if needs be.)

"If I buy 2 bags of 5 cookies, how many will there be altogether?"

"How much will 3 bags that cost 5p each cost altogether?"

"If 100g of cheese costs 50p, how much will 300g cost?"

Although this may not seem like much, it is one of the best ways to help your child with times tables at home!

Multiplication is commutative

In Year 2, children learn and need to understand commutativity. Commutativity means that changing the order that the calculation is done in does not change the outcome of the calculation. Through practical examples, children learn that multiplication is commutative but division is not commutative.

This example provides a quick explanation:

We can switch the numbers we multiply around, and we'll still get the same answer:

$$2 \times 3 = 6$$

$$3 \times 2 = 6$$

That's because multiplication is commutative.

If we try the same with division, it doesn't work.

$$6 \div 2 = 3$$

$$2 \div 6 = 0.333333333333$$

In the classroom, children would repeat the 'stem sentence' (the writing in blue) to help this information move into their long-term memory.

What we do in school?

In the Spring Term, children will start having a times table fluency session each fortnight. Here is an overview of what they will cover:

Consolidate counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 in order from 0 up to 12x.

Count in steps of 2 and 5 from 0 up to 12x fluently.

Recall multiples of 10 up to 12x10 in any order, including missing numbers and related division facts with growing fluency.

Recall multiples of 2 up to 12x2 in any order, including missing numbers and related division facts.

Recall multiples of 10 up to 12x10 fluently.

Recall multiples of 5 up to 12x5 in any order, including missing numbers and related division facts.

Recall multiples of 2 up to 12x2 in any order, including missing numbers and related division facts with growing fluency.

Count in multiples of 3 to 12x3 in order from 0.

Recall multiples of 2 up to 12x2 in any order, including missing numbers and related division facts fluently.

Recall multiples of 5 up to 12x5 in any order, including missing numbers and related division facts with growing fluency.

Count in multiples of 3 to 12x3 in order from 0 with growing fluency.

Recall multiples of 5 up to 12x5 in any order, including missing numbers and related division facts fluently.

They will be introduced to these concepts using a range of strategies, including:

- Counting objects in groups of 2, 5, 10 & 3
- Sing counting songs
- Hundred square
- Number lines
- Array with concrete resources
- Pictorial representations on display

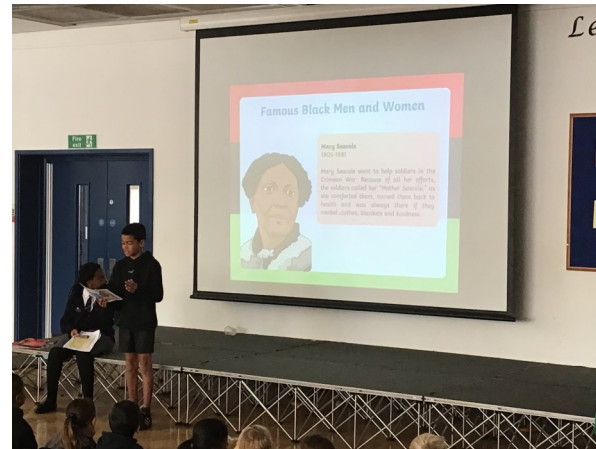
BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT BIERTON

October is Black History month and although Black History is interwoven into our curriculum throughout the year, the children have been busy learning about significant individuals and events.

KS1 learnt about Martin Luther King and thought about their own dreams for the future. Amber, Y2 wrote, "I have a dream that everyone is able to let their light shine."



Y5 & Y6 took part in an activity to gain a deeper understanding of the idea of segregation and the feelings that this would have created in society. Lily, Y6 said, "Just because people have differences doesn't mean they should be treated differently."



One of our Community and Spirituality Ambassadors, Gabbie, and Head Boy, Jayden, took part in the KS2 assembly on Black History which encouraged the children to research various

individuals who have had an impact on society and culture, both past and present, from all different countries such as England, Wales, America, South Africa and the Caribbean. They also looked at the legacies of Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Pablo Fanque as well as life for black British people today.



Playtime at Bierton - OPAL



Opal This Term

This term has seen our playground develop in to our second academic year.

We have introduced the new reception children to all the activities which we have to offer at lunch time.

We have continued to develop our routines for play, eating lunch and tidying up time with the help of our new OPAL ambassadors.

We have continued to have play assemblies in order to discuss and develop our play

We have started to discuss our development plans for this year with the children and taken on board their ideas.

Last year we were gifted lots of items from our wish list. It was very exciting to receive all the donation which families had bought.

We have updated our list with some new items which we would love for the winter. Please pass on our wish list to anyone who you think can help.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/23XBPX7UXM58W?ref=wl_share

What is Opal—Outdoor Play and Learning?

Opal is a project that we started to develop at Bierton last year. Through this project we are to making playtime fun and engaging by providing more opportunities at lunchtime. By improving the quality of play at lunch time we aim to encourage the children to be more creative, collaborative, imaginative and social. This video shows a school which have undertaken a similar project. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm7lfAEsjqI>

What is next?

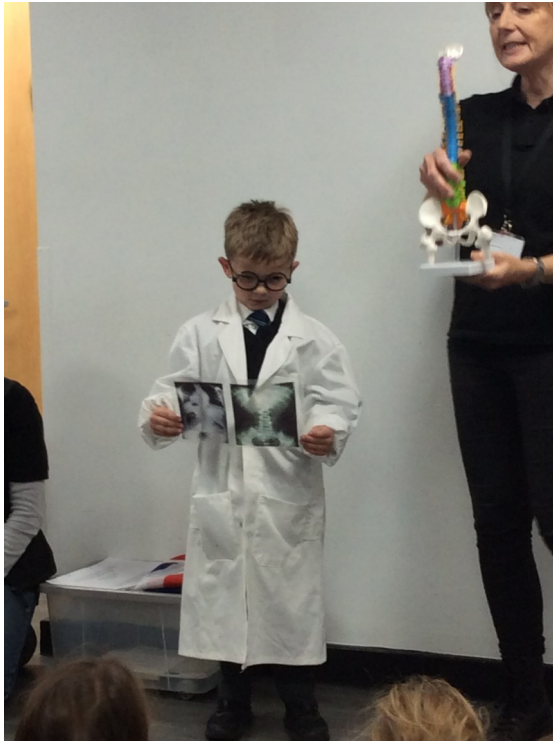
As the seasons change we have to adapt the activities on our play ground. We can't sun ourselves on Bierton Beech on a rainy winters day. So we will be reintroducing the winter activities such as digging in the mud, den building, ways to keep our bodies warm and curling up in our outside library with a good book.

Our fabulous play leaders have spent some time this term sorting out our equipment ready for the winter and have collated a donation list for this term.

- Ride on and push along toys
 - Scooters/skateboards
 - Babies, dolls and prams
 - Pogo sticks or stilts
- Old pots and pans for the digging area.
- Children's gardening equipment.
 - Toy cars
 - Soft balls
- Planks of wood or natural for den building
- Old sheets or blankets for den building.

If you have any of these items which you are able to donate please bring them to the school office anytime in the school day.

If you have anything else which you think we might be able to use on the playground please let us know.



Year 2 trip to National Paralympic Heritage Centre—Stoke Mandeville

On Tuesday 11th October Year 2 visited the National Paralympic Heritage Centre and discovered the importance of this historic site to our local history. The children were able to take part in various roleplay activities that helped them learn all about the amazing life of Ludwig Guttman, the founding father of the Paralympics, and his role in setting up the Stoke Mandeville games for spinal injury patients. They explored the museum at the centre and were able to interact with a number of artefacts to help them understand the challenges that would have faced Paralympians of the past. The children also went on a tour of the athletics track and learnt more about the history of the centre that even hosted the Paralympic games in 1984. The important message that children came home with was of inclusivity and how all people regardless of ability should be able to access and enjoy sport.



Online Safety

Online safety guide on

FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA's focus remains firmly on FIFA Ultimate Team – a mode in the game that can tempt players of all ages to spend actual money on recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as age-inappropriate chat, scammers and addiction.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FIFA 23

FIFA 23, like its many predecessors, is a massively popular football simulator featuring lifelike recreations of thousands of real-world players, drawn from teams around the globe. While the gameplay is subtly improved year on year, the publisher EA Sports' tweaks tend to focus on FIFA Ultimate Team mode, which can tempt gamers of all ages to spend real money recruiting better players for their side. With each new release of FIFA comes a host of new players to unlock – meaning that youngsters can feel pressured to keep buying to compete with their friends.

AGE RATING
PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- RELEASE RAZZAMATAZZ**

FIFA 23 will be the last in the blockbuster series, before EA goes solo with its own football title next season. This 'end of an era' vibe – coupled with a huge advertising budget making the new release almost impossible to miss – will elevate FIFA 23 into even more of a 'must have' for football-mad young gamers, no matter how minor the updates are on last year's version.
- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CHAT**

Based on a popular sport which appeals to people of all ages, the FIFA franchise draws a huge audience of both children and adults. Communication is a key element, with many players enjoying in-game audio chat via headsets. With the mixed age range of players and a lack of regulation, however, chats can often turn offensive or toxic – especially in the heat of competitive matches.
- IN-GAME PROMOTIONS**

Unless precautions are taken, dedicated FIFA fans can spend significant sums when attempting to improve their Ultimate Team. Most top-level players can be unlocked by simply participating in matches, but some sought-after stars can be obtained more quickly in limited-time promotions which cost a large amount of FIFA points (the in-game currency, often paid for with real money).
- CIRCLING SCAMMERS**

The popularity of FIFA Ultimate Team (FUT) mode has led to online scammers convincing many impressionable gamers to pay real money for non-existent FUT coins and player cards, or directing unwary FIFA fans to phishing sites. If your child gives these individuals their login details, the scammers can access not only their carefully built team but potentially your payment information.
- ADDICTIVE NATURE**

One match on FIFA (usually around 15 minutes, but often lengthened by extra time and penalties) almost invariably leads to another. It can be a powerful temptation for young players, regardless of unfinished homework or an approaching bedtime. If the 'just one more game' mindset starts to impact a child's daily routine, it could be a sign of gaming disorder: a recognised mental health issue.
- GAMBLING-ADJACENT BEHAVIOUR**

Ultimate Team has become a major feature in FIFA due to the revenues it generates. It can also be addictive, with children striving to earn coins and level up while swapping, selling and buying players. Spending FUT coins to open a player pack (which many experts have likened to gambling) is designed to be an exciting act – with bright lights, fanfare and attention-grabbing prizes.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- BE SELECTIVE WITH CHATS**

It's enormous fun for FIFA players to chat online with friends, even as their teams do battle in the game. It's probably the safest idea, though, to restrict contact with strangers. By turning off voice chat in FIFA and allowing cross-party chat in their device's settings, your child can speak to people who are already on their friends list but won't be able to talk to (or hear) strangers online.
- CONTROL SPENDING**

If your child plays Ultimate Team mode on FIFA, ensure their account isn't linked to your payment methods – so they'll need your permission to make in-game purchases. Alternatively, you could use parental controls to limit spending – or set up a pre-paid 'allowance'. When excitedly clicking options on screen, it's easy for a young person to forget the real-world repercussions of online purchases.
- STAY ALERT FOR SCAMS**

There are some key things to remember about potential FIFA scams. Firstly, EA never contacts users via any method other than emails to the account holder (which may well be you). Neither will they ever ask for a player's username or password outside the game itself. EA's terms and conditions outlaw the buying of FUT coins, so anyone selling them should be treated as suspicious.
- AVOID 'EXTRA TIME'**

If your child's spending a lot of time on FIFA 23 and seems less enthusiastic about other activities in their life, you could consider restricting how long they can play for each day with the parental controls in their device's settings. Even if they're not playing on console or computer, there's a FIFA companion app for smartphones – but that can be limited through parental controls, too.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time fan of the FIFA franchise, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.

10

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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.dexerto.com/gaming/your-gamer-spends-over-1000-the-scar-highest-in-gaming-industry-game-designer/>
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<https://www.gameres.net/18-our-search-courts-are-calling-for-better-regulation-of-100-basis-following-new-report>

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