



News and Information

Date: 9th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The last couple of weeks have been full of children letting their lights shine brightly. Nursery and Early Years kicked off our Christmas performances with their version of the nativity. It was full of absolutely everything you would want from Nursery and EYFS Nativity—children waving at parents, shouting out to mummy and daddy and of course singing to their hearts content. A massive well done to all the children who stood up on stage in front of a daunting 160 people.

Key Stage 1, then blew our socks off with their performance. The King did an incredible job and remained in role throughout. I think I am actually a little bit scared of his character—such a brilliant job Ajen—your light was shining so brightly and should continue to be the presence on stages for years to come! A huge well done to all the children who also had to step in and take on extra lines due to a few last minute absences. The whole key stage sang their songs so beautifully and clearly and the class dances were fantastic! An absolutely brilliant job to all, well done!

Today, we enjoyed our Hot Christmas Lunch where the atmosphere in the hall was full of merriment and joy and hundreds of smiling faces. A great way to start the Christmas celebrations.

Next week, we have the joy of the KS2 Panto to look forward to where I am sure our older children in the school will shine brightly.

Ms Martin

Headteacher



Poppy Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who purchased Poppies, badges, wristbands etc and donated to the Poppy Appeal. We raised a total of £310.14 which is fantastic.

Key Dates coming up:

December

Monday 12th—2-3:15pm EYFS Parent Open Session

Tuesday 13th—Year 1 Parent DT Open session

Wednesday 14th—Nursery and EYFS Messy Church at the Church.

Thursday 15th—Please bring an Orange into school to make Christingles.

Thursday 15th—Key Stage 2 Performances 9:15am and 1:30pm

Friday 16th—Key Stage 2 Performance 9:15am

Monday 19th—Christmas Party Day - Children can wear Mufti and Christmas Jumpers—please consider the weather.

Tuesday 20th—School closes at 1pm.



Recorder Recital

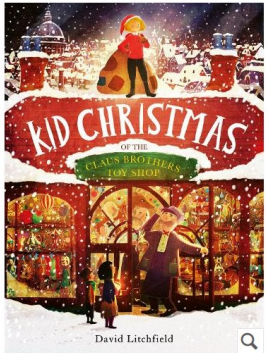
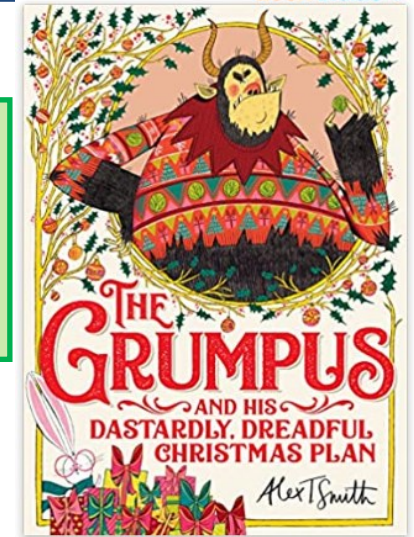
This week I also had the pleasure of attending our record clubs performance to parents. There may only be four children in the club but they have practised really hard and performed some Christmassy songs to their parents. It was an absolute delight to watch and it was really clear how hard these children have been working to practice these tunes.

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!

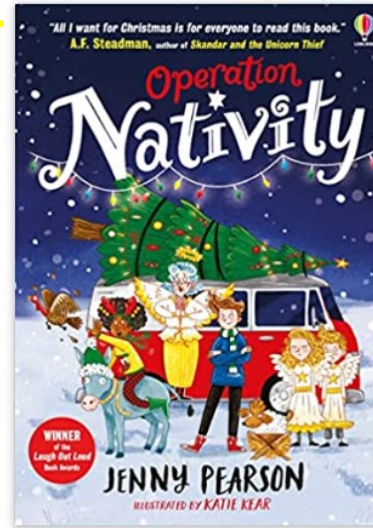
Younger chapter book

The Grampus is a heart-warming story that celebrates the true meaning of Christmas.



Picture book

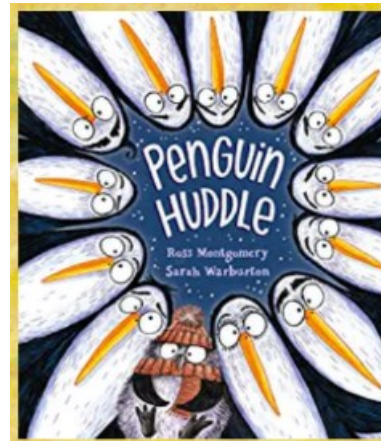
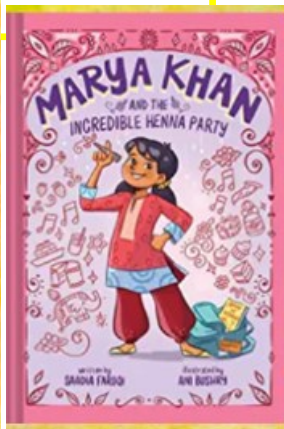
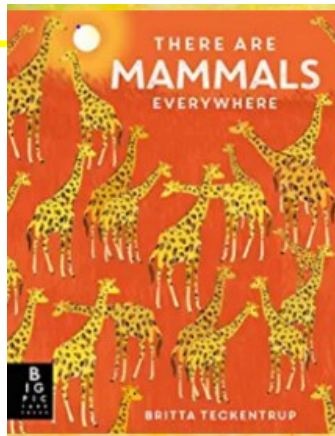
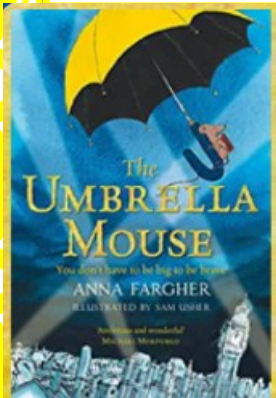
This charming tale tells the story of little Nicky Claus, who wanted to make every child happy, if only just for one day.



Older chapter book

The race to save Christmas is on. When Oscar and Molly rush outside to investigate a crash in the night, they're not expecting to find a dazed Angel Gabriel wandering around their grandparents' back garden. And they're certainly not expecting to find themselves in a race to save Christmas.

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



Phonics at Bierton



Autumn term assessment

Last week all the children in Key Stage 1 and Reception completed this term's phonics assessments to show off their amazing learning this term. We are so proud of all the children and their progress.

Over the next week you will receive a Parent Mail to inform you of your child's new group for the Spring term, their phonics teacher and some ways you can help at home.



What is Fred Talk?

If your child's school is using *Read Write Inc. Phonics*, teachers will introduce your child to a toy frog called Fred once he or she is ready to start reading words.

Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. Fred will say the sounds and children will work out the word. For example, Fred will say the sounds **c-a-t**, and children will say the word *cat*. This is Fred Talk: sounding out the word.

Vocabulary

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

Trigraph: A three letter grapheme where three letters represent one phoneme or sound eg air, igh, ear

Useful websites

The internet can be a minefield of different information and with so many phonics schemes, it is hard to find the information you need as a parent.

Here are some links which related to the Read Write Inc programme which we follow at Bierton.

This parents guide has a range of videos and resources which will help you understand more about Read Write Inc and how we teach this early stage of reading. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

This link will take you to the Oxford Owl Ebook website where you can create a free account and access a wide range of books which are closely matched to your child's phonics progress. https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-site/find-a-book/library-page?view=image&query=&type=book&age_group=&level=&level_select=&book_type=&series=Read+Write+Inc.#

This link will take you to the Oxford Owl book shop where you can purchase additional resources for you to use at home. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/bookshop/read-write-inc-phonics-reading-at-home/>

This link will take you to the Ruth Miskin parents page which has more information about Read Write Inc. <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents/>

OPAL in Action

We have continued to develop our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning Provision) at lunchtime and wanted to share with you a few moments that we caught on camera. What is incredibly nice to see is children of different ages engaging in tasks together.



Online Safety

Online safety guide on HiPal.

HiPal is a trending social media app which turns phones into walkie-talkies, allowing people to have voice conversations with friends or strangers. There are two account options: one for users aged under 12 and one for those aged 12 or above. The former has fewer features and limits interaction with strangers; enabling use of the walkie-talkie feature or photo sharing with friends and family only. The 12+ accounts offer more options, including adding strangers as friends, sharing photos and videos publicly, send private messages and holding voice chats with strangers as well as friends.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as contact with strangers, dangerous challenges and intrusive features.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information to help have an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many 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 HiPAL

AGE RESTRICTION
12+
(with reduced functionality for under-12s)

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

HiPal's under-12 accounts don't allow direct connections with strangers (although children seeking more friends can share their 'Friend Code' on other platforms), but for older users, chatting with strangers seems to be the app's main appeal. The 'Public Square' shows nine online users (hitting 'refresh' replaces these with another nine), and clicking on someone's profile starts a conversation.

SEXTING AND SUGGESTIVE PICS

Almost immediately after our expert downloaded the app, strangers began to message privately – asking for provocative images or sharing explicit photos of themselves. Likewise, in the 'Explore' feed, many of the pictures and videos are innocent – but some are far more salacious. There is always the risk of other users secretly saving a revealing photo and re-sharing it elsewhere.

NEED FOR VALIDATION

Some users – particularly girls – post photos on apps of this type hoping for positive reactions and comments to boost their self-esteem. Suggestive images tend to attract more flattering feedback, encouraging the user to post more frequently and with more explicit content. Conversely, receiving unkind comments about their picture can impact a young user's confidence and sense of self-worth.

NO AGE GATES OR MODERATION

Although users are given an initial choice of the under- or over-12 profile, there is no verification method to confirm someone's age; it is quite clear that the 'older' option offers a more complete experience on the app, but there seems to be no content moderation in place. Likewise, there is a reporting button for users to make a complaint but these reports do not appear to be followed up.

INTRUSIVE FEATURES

HiPal's walkie-talkie gimmick is no different from a normal phone call and seems rarely used; although it allows conversations to still be heard while a phone is locked, which could have awkward results. HiPal also offers 'Boom' messages: unmissable large-text notifications which are highly distracting and briefly take over the phone – users can't access other apps until the message fades.

LARGE GROUP CHATS

The app offers group chats with up to 100 people – both friends and unknown users. This not only means excessive 'Boom' messages taking over your child's device, but near-constant notification alerts and – most worryingly – the potential for walkie-talkie chatting and sharing photos with strangers outside parental supervision and apparently with no moderation from the platform itself.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Remind your child of the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Some may be using the app innocently; others may have more sinister intentions. Encourage your child to consider what information they disclose in private messages and emphasise that they should inform a trusted adult if someone on the internet ever attempts to persuade them to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It can be an awkward conversation (which young people are often reluctant to have), but it's vital to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sharing explicit images, as well as the emotional impact. Make it clear your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that they should tell a trusted adult if they receive any unwanted explicit images.

BUILD RESILIENCE

With HiPal's lack of moderation, it's imperative that children are prepared for comments they might receive after uploading an image. You can build their resilience and equip them to manage these situations by having them show you any comments they've received. Together, discuss how the nice ones made them feel – and what they could do if someone posted a comment that upset them.

AVOID OVER-SHARING

Young people should think carefully about what they share in their profile, bio and posts. Talk to your child about not disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, other social media accounts or images which could reveal where they live or go to school. It's essential for children to recognise that strangers can assemble a detailed profile of someone based on things they can find online.

CONSIDER MENTAL WELLBEING

Many users on HiPal publicly share photos that are intended to be alluring in the hope of gaining more likes, friends and positive feedback – boosting their self-esteem and making them feel more self-assured. When young people regularly engage with social media platforms, it's important that parents and carers keep in mind the potential impact such platforms can have on mental wellbeing.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

<https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

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#WakeUpWednesday

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