



Bierton CE Combined School

Aim High, Achieve Success, Find your Sparkle and Shine



Dear Parents,

This term is flying by and all the children are working extremely hard across the curriculum. We have already been able to celebrate several children reading enough at home to reach all the destinations in our reading scheme and make it all the way around the world! Keep up the excellent passion for reading.

In addition to this, we have seen the children writing, learning and performing twists on fairytale stories. The Speech Cup finals was absolutely amazing, with children confidently telling stories to the whole school with such passion, expression and flair. The audience were gripped! A huge congratulations to all our finalists. The judges had an incredibly hard job to pick the three winners!

This term has also seen the official opening of our Library. We are extremely grateful to the Mike and Griffin Trust who have donated money for us to purchase further shelving, colourful blinds and new books. This has really transformed the Library and made it a vibrant place that children want to visit. In addition to this, we are also very thankful to the trust for providing the school with money to purchase new interactive boards for the classrooms to really enhance the children's lessons. These are already being used constantly and have made lessons more inspirational for the children. Thank you!

With only a few weeks to go, all the children are busy practising their gymnastic routines ready for our end of Spring Term Gymnastics Final. From looking around the lessons, I am sure this will be a spectacular event with high levels of gymnastic skills being showcased.

Hopefully, you have received your copy of the Digital Parenting Magazine that we sent home at the end of last week. Please take some time to read this through as it provides lots of top tips for you to help ensure your child is safe online.



Ms Martin
Headteacher

Staffing News

In March, we say a sad farewell to Miss Iapino who has taken the brave move to set up her own company delivering language lessons to children. This is a talent of hers and something that she has a real passion for. We wish her every success in her new career. Adios y Buena suerte! Thank you for all your hard work and particularly your enthusiasm in the teaching of RWI over the last few year.

The Value this Half Term

Our Christian values at Bierton are Love, Cooperation, Responsibility, Respect and Honesty.

The Christian value this half term is **Responsibility**.

Being responsible for their actions is very important skill for children to learn. Children at Bierton can show this value by being responsible for their own learning, taking care of themselves and others, looking after their own and others property and taking care of our school. Another important way we can all show responsibility is by looking after our planet. Bierton's Eco-warriors are leading the way by encouraging the pupils and staff to save energy and paper. At the end of term, Bible Alive Club will be performing the Christian creation story and talking about how important and wonderful the Earth is.

A reminder that we are now a **NUT FREE zone**. Thank you for ensuring that your children do not have any products with nuts in their school lunch boxes.

It is very much appreciated.



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Puppy Visit—Charity Work

Last year, all the children in the school raised money for the 'Guide Dogs' charity. This is a charity that is meaningful for the children and staff here as a member of our own community has benefitted from their work. As a result of all your donations, the Guide Dog charity actually allowed the children to vote on a name for a new puppy guide dog. Our Sponsored puppy is called Nadia and she has been working hard on the initial stages of her training.

On Monday 26th February, 7months after Nadia was born, we were all over the moon to actually meet Nadia for the first time. She came into school and worked her way around the classes to meet the children. The children had the opportunity to stroke Nadia and also to ask her trainer any questions.

Reading Awards!

As you know, all the children are working on a reading challenge to read enough hours to travel around the world. Before half term we had our first set of children who had read to an adult for enough hours to have reached every destination and read all the way around the world! To celebrate this amazing achievement we took this group of children for a very special dessert at The Works. Congratulations!

We look forward to the next set of children reading enough to an adult to reach all the destinations!

MARCH NEWSLETTER

E-Safety—Top Tip this Month

Have you heard of 'Musical.ly'? Well your child probably has. It is an APP that is the new craze. It allows people to make and share 15 second music videos. These videos can feature lip-syncing to the latest songs provided by the app, singing their own songs or doing comedy sketches.

What is the musical.ly's Minimum age?

The Terms and Conditions don't clearly specify but according to Common Sense Media 16+ would be recommended

How does it work?

Users or 'Musers' can create an account by using an email or their existing Facebook or Twitter account. To create videos users can record themselves miming to along to music or record their own songs. The app allows them to speed up or slow down the video. Once their happy with the video it can be posted to their followers and shared on other networks like Facebook Messenger, Vine or WhatsApp. Like other social networks, users can follow others, comment and like videos on the app. There is a search tool that allows users to watch other videos and search by trending hashtags (i.e. #UnitedKingdom). Hashtags are added to video when posting them; these can also be used to respond to challenges, i.e. GMACHallenge, BangChallenge.

What other parents say about the app?

According the Common Sense Media site, many parents believe that the app should be used by teens aged 16 year old and over. This is mainly due to the number of songs with sexual and explicit content featured on the app and the instance of inappropriate profile pictures and usernames being used.

Safety features

Blocking a user

If your child is receiving unwanted messages or comments, they can block the user on the app.

You can block a user by going to their profile and selecting the icon with three dots on the right hand corner and then choosing 'block this user'.

Reporting inappropriate content

If your child comes across any content that is not appropriate they can press the icon with three dots on the side of the screen and select 'report abuse' from the list of options.

For more information visit: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/expert-opinion/musical-ly-app-parents-need-know/>

7 things you can do to keep them safe on the app

1. Talk to them about Cyberbullying

Users can leave comments on videos posted so, this may leave your child open to receiving negative messages. Giving them guidance about what to do if they are cyberbullied or see others being cyberbullied will help them to keep themselves safe.

3. Make sure they are Share Aware

Help them to think more carefully about what they post and who it may be seen by so that they protect themselves.

4. Get familiar with the community guidelines

To make sure you know what is and isn't accepted on the app you and your child can read through the guidelines to help them to be inform about what they can and can't do on the app.

5. Switching 'hide location info' option on

This will make sure that their location is not shown when they post a video.

6. Make sure they know accounts cannot be totally deleted

There is currently no option to delete a musical.ly account but this may be available in the future.

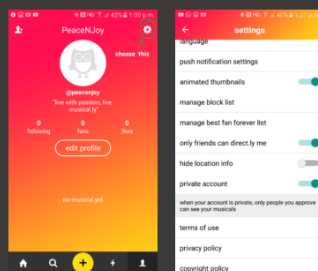
7. Be aware of explicit songs on the app

Some of the songs featured on the musical.ly app may have explicit language and sexual content that may not suitable for your child. It is best to review the app together with your child beforehand.

2. Make their musical.ly account private

Make sure that your child sets their account to be private by going to the cog icon on the right hand side and selecting 'settings'.

Once in 'settings' scroll down to 'Private account' option and turn it on. This will ensure that all videos that are posted can only be seen by approved followers but the profile will stay public.



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