



Bierton Church of England Combined School

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a enjoyable half term break. This half term is fully packed with Remembrance Activities, Children in Need, Speaking and Listening Week and the Christmas Productions.

Throughout the term we will keep you up to date with information using Parent Mail. It is fantastic to see that so many of you have already signed up to ParentMail. The next step is to install the APP onto your phone to allow you to get instant messages from us.

We'd like to encourage ALL parents to download the APP as there are a number of benefits both to you and for the school.

You don't need to login to pickup messages or attachments when you use the APP.

The APP stores all the messages we send you in one place so you don't have to search.

Every message sent arrives as an instant alert on your mobile.* **(important - see below)**

*At the moment you'll be aware that we send text messages to you from time to time especially for urgent situations, but these are expensive costing the school hundreds of pounds each year. If we can persuade parents to use the APP we can stop sending text messages completely and put the money spent to better use.

You can download the APP for free from either the [Apple APP store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#) and it will really help you to get the best experience from the ParentMail system.



Ms Martin
Headteacher

Bierton Christian Values

Our Christian values at Bierton are Love, Cooperation, Responsibility, Respect and Honesty. The Christian value this half term is Respect. Children at Bierton are respectful in lots of ways. Every day we are encouraging children at Bierton to respect the adults at school and at home as well as helping children learn how to respect their peers. During this half term our value links well with anti-bullying week and parliament week which we will be focusing on during 12th-16th November. This week will give children the opportunity to respect each other, the school and all of our resources but most importantly they will learn to respect themselves.



Respect

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Online Safety Top Tip

Reporting online safety concerns

While using electronic devices, both at home and at school, many children are accessing and using a range of websites, apps and games. Children enjoy using the devices for a range of purposes, including supporting their learning and for social activities. Despite supporting them and monitoring their use, there may be occasions when you are concerned about something they have viewed or accessed. This monthly top tip provides information on how to report these concerns.

Reporting to CEOP

The following advice has been provided by ThinkuKnow and CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection).

CEOP is a command of the National Crime Agency and are dedicated to protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation both online and offline

You can report concerns about grooming and sexual abuse directly to CEOP. Remember, as a parent or carer you know your child better than anyone. If you feel something isn't right, you can report it to CEOP.

When should I report?

If you're worried that your child is being groomed online or sexually exploited you should report your concerns to CEOP. It is not always easy to spot the signs of online grooming and sexual exploitation so if you have any concern at all about someone your child is in contact with, you should get in touch.

You should always report if your child is or has been in contact with someone who is:

- Chatting online to your child about sex
- Asking them to do sexual things on webcam
- Asking to meet up if they've only met them online
- Requesting sexual pictures
- Forcing them into sexual activity
- Making them feel unsafe

CEOP can investigate what is happening - with the assurance that the safety and well-being of your child is paramount at all times.

If you are concerned that your child is in immediate danger, please call 999.

What happens when I make a report?

You will need to complete an online form which will ask you for your contact details and information about what has happened. It will ask:

- What happened?
- Who did it happen to?
- What do you know about the suspect involved?

Do I have to give my name?

When completing a CEOP report you are reporting suspicions of crime to law enforcement so we can't receive anonymous reports.

If you want to discuss your concerns with someone first then call the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Who receives the report and what happens next?

- All of the reports are first reviewed by child protection social workers. They will:
 - Read the report and assess the risk to your child
 - Look to make contact with you to discuss next steps
 - Give safeguarding advice and support

Supporting your child

It is important to remember that it can be difficult for a child to come forward and tell an adult what has happened to them - they are often embarrassed, fear adults won't understand, scared they will get into trouble or that adults will over react. Ensure you tell your child that whatever has happened, it is not their fault and you are on their side.

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Reporting to BSCB

Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) also provide a reporting service. This service enables people to report concerns about a child's safety. This service does not exclusively focus on online safety concerns; it also allows people to share concerns about abuse and neglect.

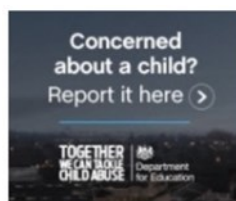
Accessing Support

Links to both CEOP and BSCB can be found on our school website (www.biertoncombined.co.uk). When you click on the picture, you will be directed to the specified website.

CEOP



BSCB



Additional Information

For further information, please visit the CEOP and BSCB websites.

CEOP: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

BSCB: <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/concerned-about-child/>

If you would like a copy of the Parent/Carer Reporting to CEOP factsheet (provided by Thinkuknow), please contact Miss Mayer.

RE Week took place during 15th-19th October and throughout the week the children had the opportunity to explore Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity and Islam as well as places of worship. It was fantastic to see the whole school get involved and broaden their knowledge as well as take part in different activities to widen their experiences.

On Monday 15th October we had a visit from Mr Singh, a Sikh man who came to speak to us about his religion and place of worship. We had a whole school assembly followed by workshops for each year group where the children had the opportunity to ask questions and develop their understanding of Sikhism.

As the week continued children completed various activities linked to the focus religion each day such as drawings, pieces of writing and many more. On Friday 19th October both Key Stage One and Key Stage Two took part in their Harvest performance at the church which were extremely successful and showed the children's understanding of Harvest and how this is celebrated.

RE Week was very rewarding for both children and adults and it was fantastic to see children exploring different religions and showing their knowledge through their work.



Attendance—October 2018

Attendance at school is vital to allow a child to progress in their learning and their social development. It is expected that a child's attendance should be above 95%.

Each month we are going to celebrate the class with the highest overall attendance by awarding the whole class with dojo points which add together to form rewards.



Attendance for September:

Ash = 96.8%

Alder = 96.3%

Beech = 96.5%

Birch = 99.1%

Cedar = 96.8%

Cherry = 95.9%

Chestnut = 96.0%

Holly = 96.1%

Hazel = 97.3%

Hawthorn = 97.4%



Linked to our Stone Age topic this term, the children have undertaken the exciting prospect of building their own 1/4 scale stone age hut. First they made walls of woven branches, which they will cover in daub and then laid a basic rook foundation of willow rods in preparation for thatching.

Mr Shaun Branch, a master thatcher, has been running on site workshops with the children, giving them the opportunity to learn a little about this craft and allowing them to actually thatch the hut themselves. I hope that you will agree that the hut is beginning to look amazing and we hope to use it as an outdoor learning space once completed. We are looking forward to Mr Branch's next visit early in November and would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank to him as he has not only generously given up his own time to be involved in the project but also donated the materials free of charge.



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Sparkle Opportunity

Across the school year we run different 'Sparkle Opportunities' for children across the school to allow them to experience something different or allow them to show a passion in a particular area.

On Monday 15th October, six of our Year 6 children attended a science workshop at Stone School. It was a fantastic day and definitely not one for the faint hearted as we had the opportunity to stroke a variety of interesting and unusual insects, reptiles and amphibians!

The day began with an interesting talk on how animals adapt in the wild and we learnt how different animals have evolved over the years to stay alive. For example, the centipede produces slime when attacked, which tastes horrible to any predator trying to eat it.

Interestingly, the slime that is produced by these creatures is in fact iodine! We then saw different spiders and looked at how they shed their skin - we even touched a tarantula!



We then looked at the life cycle of different insects and the metamorphosis process of butterflies and moths. It was sad to think that the moth that the guide had brought with him would be dead in less than a week. The guide also predicted that in 20-30 years we would all be eating bugs, as there would not be enough land to keep sustaining cattle. He even told us not to be so shocked by this, as the red food dye in Smarties is made from bugs!

We then had the opportunity to examine different beetles and discover how camouflage is used in the wild. Some insects, such as the tiger beetle, use their yellow spots for recognition when approaching other beetles. We even looked at the largest beetles that have ever been found in the wild!



Afterwards we discussed the evolution of snakes and how the species once even had legs! After lunch, we then looked at the skin that had been shed by an anaconda and the head of an alligator! The guide also showed us lots of different pictures and videos of creatures in the wild and answered all our questions.



This day left us with a thirst to delve deeper and a great introduction to our Evolution Topic in the Spring Term.

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The Great Fire of London Workshop

Beech and Birch classes were lucky enough to take part in a Great Fire of London workshop run by 'Perform'. An actress came into school where she played the role of Samuel Pepys. She took the children on a journey back to 1666. The children helped Samuel Pepys and the baker to make bread in the bakery. They created a sound-scape for what the fire might have sounded like and made a timeline with actions to show the build-up of events that lead to the fire finally being extinguished.



Read For Good



A huge well done to all the children who took part in the 'Read for Good' sponsored reading. You raised a huge **£275** which has helped to bring the magic of books and stories to children in hospital.

Well done and Thank you!



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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PE and SPORTS



Year 5 Boys Football

Another exciting sporting year kicked off with the Year 5 Football competition!

On the 4th of October 2018, eight of our Year 5 boys entered into a football competition at the Mandeville School. We tried our hardest and showed fantastic sportsmanship and teamwork. Our goalie was Johnny, who managed to save some truly impressive shots! Although we didn't succeed in reaching the final, we had fun developing our agility skills, working as a team, as well as playing against different schools. Thanks to Austin, Jay Jay, Matthew, Johnny, Archie, Jake and Fabian for representing Bierton School.

Year 5 and 6 Girls Football

On the 11th of October, Bierton School was back at the Mandeville School to compete in the Girls Football competition. Thanks to all our lovely parents, we were able to take 14 girls, allowing us to play as two teams. Both teams played amazingly, showing great passing and footwork- Hope even managed to score a fantastic goal in their first game! Our perseverance paid off as we came 4th overall!

Thanks to Hope, Cherry, Florence, Katie, Issy, Ruby, Maya, Ellie, Nevaeh, Florence, Katy, Alex, Kiera and Ruby for competing.

Year 6 Handball

Straight after school on the 11th of October, seven of our year 6s represented Bierton in the Handball competition at the Aylesbury Grammar School. It was a great experience, especially as we played on full-sized pitches! Our amazing goalies Theo and Tommy managed to save some really spectacular attempts at the goal. We narrowly lost to Bedgrove School but managed to win both our matches against Turnfurlong and Haddenham, resulting in Bierton coming 3rd overall! All the children showed great agility, coordination and teamwork.

Thanks to Theo, Freddie, Florence, Hope, Tommy, Josh and Arthur for making Bierton so proud!



PE Superstars!



Each newsletter we shall be celebrating one of our PE Superstars here at Bierton.

October's superstar

Alex Gibney

Earlier this month, Alex received an award at his football-training club for the most improved member!

He shows great dedication to the sport as he attends every Monday evening and always gives 100% effort when playing. Even when he is at home, he is always training to further improve his football skills and is keen to keep fit and healthy.

Congratulations Alex!

Please email Miss Quinn at

sport@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk if your child is a sports superstar and keep an eye on our PE board for all of our Sports Superstars across the school!

November sporting dates for your diary!

Saturday 3rd KS2 Cross-Country at Turnfurlong School -9am -12pm

Wednesday 14th Year 5 Dodgeball at The John Colet school -1.30pm-3pm.

Wednesday 28th Year 6 Dodgeball at The John Colet school -1.30pm-3pm.

Thursday 29th Change for Life Festival: 10am -12am at The Mandeville School.

Exciting Recognition from the Minister of State for School Standards



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Ms Jenny Martin
Bierton Church of England Combined School
Parsons Lane
Aylesbury
HP22 5DF

7 November 2018

Dear Ms Martin,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2018 phonics screening check.

Achieving early fluency in decoding is a necessary first step in acquiring the key skill of reading.

There is a significant body of evidence, which demonstrates that systematic phonics is the most effective method for teaching early reading. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 98 per cent of pupils at Bierton Church of England Combined School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top 4 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 89 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading teacher assessment, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in reading, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulations again to you and your staff for all you have achieved.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,