



# Bierton CE Combined School

Aim High, Achieve Success, Find your Sparkle and Shine



Dear Parents,

We would like to warmly welcome those families who have joined us over the last half term. It has been a very busy half term with lots of activities and learning opportunities. We hope that you are enjoying the fortnightly updates from year groups about the learning they have been covering and what is to come.

It was a delight to see so many faces at our Harvest Festival this morning. Once again, we were overwhelmed with donations for the Aylesbury Food Store. They were astounded by the amount when they came to collect this afternoon. A huge Thank you for your generous support.

Hope you have a good half term break and enjoy some time with family and friends.

Ms Martin  
Headteacher

### Holidays

Absences during school time hinder the progress of your child. Please try to ensure breaks are taken during the school holidays.

In line with our revised attendance policy, **ALL holidays** taken during term time will be classed as **unauthorised**.

Any parents wishing to take their children out of school during term time **must complete the necessary leave of absence forms** which can be requested from the school office.

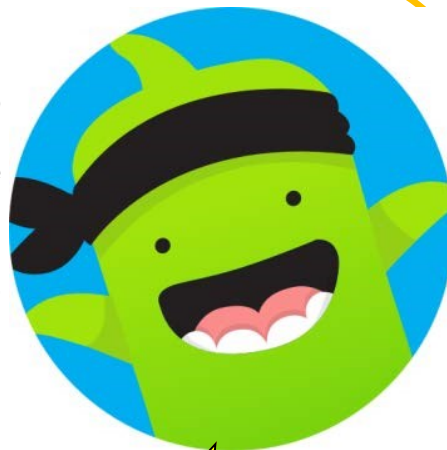
### Attendance—September 2019

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 = 98.4%
- Alder = 95.8%
- Beech = 95.8%
- Birch = 96.4%
- Cedar = 97.9%
- Cherry = 95.3%
- Chestnut = 96.8%
- Holly = 97.3%
- Hazel = 97.3%
- Hawthorn = 95.7%



### Congratulations!

Well done **Ash Class** on 98.4% attendance for September.  
5 DOJO points each!  
Congratulations!

OCTOBER  
2019  
NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of the exciting new service that will be taking place within the school as of this year.

Bierton CE Combined School is going to be implementing Buckinghamshire Mind's Peer Support in School's service where some of our Year 5s and Year 6s have been trained by Bucks Mind staff to become peer mentors to students within the school.

The role of a peer mentor includes the following:

- Being a listening ear for other students
- Being on duty in the drop-in room or outside on the playground
- Being a mental health ambassador within the school
- Creating promotional posters and assemblies for the service
- Passing on any worries to a teacher

As well as the training day, Bucks Mind staff also come in throughout the year and hold feedback sessions with our mentors and students who have used the service, this is to gain feedback and see how the service is going but also to offer support where it may be needed.

We would also like to inform you of the parent coffee morning that is included within the peer support service as well. This session will be open to parents across the school to attend to discuss topics around mental health, learn more about the peer support service and to gain information on local and national useful organisations. We will be sending out invitations and more information on this in due course.

We look forward to seeing our peer support service flourish over the next year. If you would like any further information on this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## The Listening Club (TLC)

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 20 of our Year 5 and Year 6 students received some 'Peer Support' training from Bucks Mind. The reason these children were selected is because they volunteered to be peer mentors at Birtton and to support the other children in our school with their worries. The training involved learning about different types of mental health and worries that children and young people might experience. They played a range of games to get to know each other and even had a go at role playing as a student with worries coming to see a mentor. They also learnt about the importance of confidentiality and safeguarding.

Some memorable quotes for the day included:

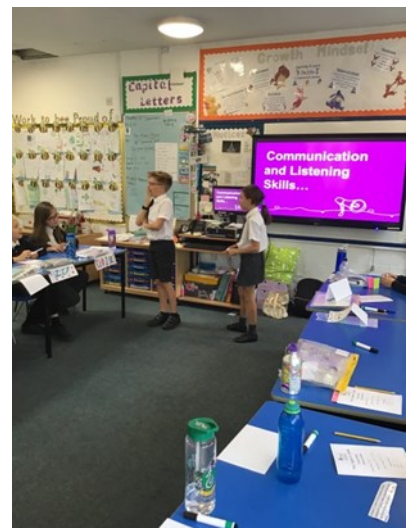
'Everyone has a mental health because everyone has feelings'- Logan

'Mental health is just as important as physical health'- Lilyrose

'You can't always see if someone is struggling just by looking at them'- Daniel

Since the training, the peer mentors have had a meeting to discuss what the next steps are. They have decided they would like to be called 'The Listening Club (TLC)' instead of peer mentors. There will be 4 children from TLC on duty outside at lunchtime to support any children who are feeling sad or who have nobody to play with. In addition to this, 4 children from TLC will be on duty inside school for children to 'drop-in' and have a chat if they need to. TLC will be wearing blue personalised bibs so they are easily identified and they will be launching their service in an upcoming assembly.

This is an exciting new role and our peer mentors displayed excellent listening skills during the training session, with the staff from Bucks Mind saying that they were the most focused and engaged primary school students they had trained! They are going to be wonderful ambassadors for mental health across the school and they are keen and ready to get started!



# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

**Net Aware**

O<sub>2</sub> 😊 NSPCC  
Let's keep kids safe online

Have you ever wondered what your child is doing online, either on a phone, tablet or computer?  
Do you feel confident in supporting them and giving advice and guidance?  
This month's top tip focuses on Net Aware and how they have updated their website and services.

#### What is Net Aware?

Net Aware is a website which provides a guides on the latest and most popular social networks, apps and games children are using.

Net Aware, which is a collaboration between O2 and the NSCPCC, now includes more tips and advice. On the website, news stories which cover the latest trends and most pressing issues children face online can also be found.

#### How can Net Aware help you?

On the website, there is a range of information, as well as different support services.

#### Social networks, app and game reviews

Net Aware experts have reviewed some of the most popular social networks, apps and games which children are using, including: popular apps (such as Instagram, Snapchat and Tik Tok); new apps (such as Harry Potter: Wizards Unite); and other less familiar apps (such as Line and Monkey). Each review includes tips on how to keep your child safe when using the social network, app or game. There are also top tips from an O2 Guru.

#### In the news

Within this area of the website, you can find information to help keep you up to date with the latest goings on in the world of social networks, apps and games. There will be a focus on new platforms and online trends. The news section will help you keep track of the ever-changing online world. If a new game comes out, social media issues make the headlines (again), or there's just something they feel you should know, this is the place to look.

#### Net Aware newsletter

Net Aware are producing newsletters, which include the latest news and reviews. You can sign up to their mailing system and stay on top of what's going on in the world of social networks, apps and games.

#### Tips and advice

This area of the website provides answers to many important queries. Topics covered include: how to start a conversation with your child about online safety and understanding more about location services.

#### Help from O2 Gurus

The O2 Gurus are trained to help you keep your child safe online by answering your technical questions. You do not need to be an O2 customer to access this support and can book an appointment in a local store or telephone the Advice Line. Some examples of information given include: setting up parental controls, privacy settings and live-streaming.

Additionally, the O2 Gurus are creating videos (found on the Net Aware website), which provide bite-size advice on a range of topics.

For further advice and information, please visit the Net Aware website (<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>)

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



## PE and SPORTS



### Schools Games update!

Following our application at the end of the last school year, we are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the **Sainsbury's School Games GOLD Mark for a second year in a row!** We are very proud of the sporting opportunities we provide and this award reflects many of our improvements within PE provision in school, including:

- the quantity of high-quality PE lessons our children receive each week,
- the amount of children participating in extra-curricular sporting activities each week,
- the broad range of sporting activities within the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- the number of competitive events we take part in each year.

By receiving the Gold award, we are among the top schools in the County and Country for the opportunities we provide in PE. We are very proud of this award and hope it can be used as a springboard to develop our PE teaching even more!

Previous awards: Gold School Games Mark 2017-2018  
Silver School Games Mark 2017 - 2016

### **A few highlights from 2018-2019!**

- AVPSAA District Athletics large schools Group B 2019 winners.
- 79% of KS2 children attended an After School Sporting Clubs last year.
- A successful year for our Year 5 and 6 Football and Netball teams.
- Fantastic commitment shown by our cross-country runners, who competed come rain or shine!
- 100% of KS2 children had the opportunity to attend a sporting festival or competition last year.
- An excellent National Sports Week enjoyed by children from Reception to Year 6.
- An increased number of intra- competitions enjoyed by KS2 children.  
These included: Netball, Tag Rugby, Dodgeball, Benchball, Cricket and Badminton.
- Additional leadership opportunities on offer for our Year 5/6 children through organising sporting events, team leaders, writing up competition accounts and scores.

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# PE and SPORTS



**Year 5/6 Boys B Team Football**  
 Another exciting sporting year kicked off with the Year 5 Football competition! On the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, eight of our Year 5/6 boys entered into a football competition at the Mandeville School. We tried our hardest and showed fantastic sportsmanship and teamwork. 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 Fabien, Archie P, Ollie, Leo, Charlie, Caspar, Connor and Archie C for representing Bierton School!

**Year 5 and 6 Girls Football**  
 On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, Bierton School was back at the Mandeville School to compete in the Girls' Football competition. Our team played amazingly, showing great passing and footwork- we drew with Ashmead B Team and Keira scored two fantastic goals leading to a victory against Bedgrove B Team! Thanks to Alyssa, Millie, Bobbi-Rose, Jessica, Emily, Purbasha and Keira for competing.

**Sporting dates for your diary!**  
 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November: KS2 Cross-Country at Turnfurlong School. Please note that even if your child does not come to our cross-country club, they are still more than welcome to participate in this event! Please also make a note of the sporting events highlighted in our Sporting Calendar, which will be issued later this term.

**Introducing our new Sports Ambassadors!**  
 We are so pleased to introduce you to our fantastic new Sporting Ambassadors: Keira, Aidan and Billy. Here they are introducing themselves and why they wanted to become ambassadors.

**Keira:** Hi my name is Keira. One of my favourite things to do is sports: running, football and athletics. I think it is really important to be active and it is so vital to include everyone, which I want to do at Bierton School!

**Aidan:** Hello my name is Aidan! I really like sports because they are fun and I love encouraging others! Outside of school, I really enjoy playing as one of the central attacking midfielders for Aylesbury United.

**Billy:** Hi my name is Billy. I have a huge amount of passion for sports and helping others to enjoy sports is one of my many skills. I love playing football for Aylesbury United, especially as a CDM (central, defence and mid-field)

**Look out for their contributions in news reports, interviews and sporting write-ups in future newsletters!**

