



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer, spending time together as a family. It has been an absolute delight to see so many smiling faces coming back to school in the mornings and adapting to their new classrooms.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our newest children into Reception and those who have joined us from other schools locally. We all hope that both the new children and their parents, will feel very welcome and happy during their time with us. I would also like to say a very warm welcome to the new members of staff that have joined our team.

If you have any questions or concerns at any point, can I please remind you to speak initially to your child's class teacher. This is most appropriate after school as staff are busy setting up for lessons in the morning. If it is more than passing a quick message on, the class teacher will then arrange an appointment with you after school one day at a mutually convenient time.

We look forward to working with you to continue to provide the best for all the children throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,
Ms Martin
Headteacher

Meet and Greet the Teachers

This year we have decided to hold 'Meet and Greet' meetings to give you the opportunity to come and meet your child's class teacher, hear a little bit about what they will be covering in school this year and trips that they will be attending, and to give you the opportunity to ask the teachers any questions you have.

Monday 9th September 3:30pm—Years 3+4 Meet and Greet session. This will take place in Cherry Classroom.

Tuesday 10th September 3:30pm—Years 5+6 Meet and Greet Session. This will take place in Hawthorn Classroom.

Thursday 12th September 3:30pm—Alder, Beech and Birch Meet and Greet Session. This will take place in Beech Classroom.

Once you have picked your child up from their classroom you can make your way to the meet and greet.

As part of the Meet and Greet Session, the Years 3 +4 team will be sharing information about the residential trip to Shenley Lane and the incredible experiences available to the children during this trip. We look forward to sharing this information with you on Monday.

S
E
P
T
E
M
B
E
R
2019
N
E
W
S
L
E
T
T
E
R

School Uniform

It has been lovely to see so many children coming into school looking smart in their school uniform. We have noticed a few children who have not got complete uniform and so we wanted to confirm what is expected.



Hair that is longer than the jaw line should be tied up. If an Alice band is worn it should be plain navy blue with a small bow.

White Shirt / Blouse that should be tucked in.

Children in Reception and Year 1 may wear a white polo shirt.

Bierton School Tie. This can be elastic or clip on.

Navy Blue V neck Jumper or cardigan with the school logo.

Grey knee length skirt, knee length shorts, trousers or pinafore dress.

Grey / Black or White socks.
Grey or black tights.

Black or grey flat / low heeled smart shoes



Please ensure all uniform is clearly named

Items that do NOT form part of school uniform:

- Trainers (other than in PE kit).
- Large bows / jo-jo bows in hair.
- Headbands that have cat ears etc on them.
- Nail Varnish is not permitted and should be removed before school.
- Make Up is not permitted and should be removed before school.
- Jewellery is not permitted other than small stud earring and a basic watch. (When jewellery is part of religious beliefs it may be worn but must be kept tucked under clothing to avoid it catching and causing a health and safety concern.)

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2019–2020 Academic Year

We wanted to share with you some updates for this academic year and to give you an idea of some of our priorities for the year.

Building Work Update:

We know that the building work has been ongoing for over a year now and we appreciate the patience you have shown when entrances have changed. Throughout the whole process we have ensured that it has had minimal impact on the children. In fact, the children have been quite excited each time a new part of the expansion has opened up.

We have now completed phase 1 + 2 of the expansion plan. This has resulted in an extension to the school hall, a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), an extended playground area, a new canopy on the playground to provide shade and shelter, a new BOSC (Bierton Out of School Club) room, two new classrooms which children in Cherry and Cedar Class are enjoying and a new kitchen.

Phases 3 + 4 are well underway creating new classrooms for future reception children, a new staffroom, restructured classrooms for future Year 1 children, an outdoor learning area for Reception, new offices, a new main entrance way and an addition of a nursery room. All the building work, you will be glad to hear, is scheduled to finish at the end of November 2019!

Kitchen:

We are very excited to be working with a new school dinner provider who is now able to cook meals on site. This has resulted in the delicious smell of freshly cooked bread and other food roaming the corridors throughout the day. Children had their first taste of the freshly cooked meals this week and most plates were completely empty when they went to clear away.

"It goes to show how good homemade pasta can really taste!"

(Child in Year 6)

"It's like being at the Harvester"

(Child in Year 3 who was super excited about being able to select for himself from a huge range at the salad bar!)

The children and staff that have pre-ordered meals so far have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

So remember to get your meals pre-ordered on ParentMail!

Nursery:

As part of the school expansion work, a new nursery room is being constructed. A consultation about the nursery will be coming out later this term and the aim is to open the nursery in September 2020. We are already working hard behind the scenes to ensure that this provision is a positive addition to the school and forms one of our priorities for the school year to ensure everything is ready in advance of September.

S
E
P
T
E
M
B
E
R
2019
N
E
W
S
L
E
T
T
E
R

2019—2020 Academic Year Continued

Priorities for this school year:

Each year we have set priorities that we are working towards whilst also maintaining all other areas. The priorities are not in any particular order but form our main focuses for the school year.

1) Our first priority is always the progress and attainment of the children across the school.

Teaching staff plan differentiated lessons to challenge children at all levels and constantly monitor the progress and achievement of the children. In weekly team meetings this progress is discussed and children who require any additional support with a particular area are raised and discussed. This means we can try to address any gaps quickly.

2) Our Second Priority this year is about further developing the teaching and learning in Mathematics.

We want to ensure that we are providing the best possible teaching and learning opportunities in mathematics which allow both staff and children to understand the different mathematical concepts and develop the depth of thinking during problem solving scenarios. All staff have already had a whole day intensive training with WhiteRose Maths Hub looking at building children's knowledge from concrete to pictorial to abstract. They have also had a session on using bar-modelling to help understand complex problems. There is further training scheduled later on this term. In addition to this we have also linked with the Enigma Maths Hub to develop teaching for mastery.

3) Our next priority is linked to parental involvement and communication and further improving this area.

ParentMail allows us to communicate messages directly to parents so that things are not lost in book bags. Whilst there will still be some information sent via paper we want to reduce the amount of paper we are using. We will therefore continue to encourage ALL parents to sign up to parentmail. Following on from the success of the SEN Coffee Catch ups, we are going to introduce coffee mornings once a fortnight with a different focus each time so that parents can drop in, enjoy a coffee and discuss a particular area in an informal setting. Details about these coffee mornings can be found on the calendar of events.

4) Another priority this year is looking at continuing our work on Inclusion and Community Involvement and how we fit in with society.

Under this priority we want to strengthen our pupil voice and increase the work of school council representatives. Last year, Year 5 started a project called 'Make a difference' which was all centred around tackling loneliness particularly in the elderly. We therefore want to continue with this work and host further events at school and visits to the local care home. We are also looking at the 'Autism Friendly School Award' and beginning the initial process of evaluating the current offer in school. In addition to this we are also taking part in a school linking project with another school in the area. This project will be taken by children in Birch Class this year.

5) Our final priority is our work with the Church and developing our Christian Ethos further.

Under this priority we will be ensuring our school ethos is reflected clearly around the school and through all the staff and children. This will also link in with our priority on community involvement. We have been informed that a new vicar has been appointed to St James' and we want to welcome them to our school and involve them fully within our school community.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

2019–2020 Academic Year Continued

Sparkle University:

As part of our positive behaviour policy we have introduced 'Sparkle University Time' this year. This will take place every Friday afternoon for a short period of time. This is a reward for all the positive behaviour that children have demonstrated throughout the week. In EYFS + Key Stage 1, children will be able to choose what they wish to play with during this time. In Key Stage 2 children will be given the opportunity to sign up to an activity for the half term. In each session they will then develop their skills in their chosen activity. Some examples of activities on offer in this first half term include Drawing skills workshop, Modelling structures with wire workshops and Creative writing workshops. Children who forget to model their manners and expected behaviour will receive reminders at first (following the behaviour policy) and then will have minutes deducted from 'Sparkle University' time.

Dojo Points:

Last year we introduced Dojo points as part of our reward system. When children demonstrate good behaviour, provide a great answer or thinking in class, model our school values or produce good pieces of work that they have put effort into, they are awarded a dojo point.

This year we would like to share this information with you. In the near future we will be sharing how you can login to see how many dojo points your child has got and this will allow you to discuss the positive rewards with your child.

Staffing Changes:

Mrs Smijth-Windham is delighted to announce that she is expecting her first baby and will be going on maternity leave in January. I am sure you will join me in wishing her and her husband huge congratulations.

We have placed an advert for a teacher and will keep you updated as to who will be in post for January to work in Ash Class.

I am also delighted to say that I am expecting my first baby. My little bundle of joy is due at the beginning of February and I will therefore also be taking my maternity leave from Mid-January.

I have already met with Governors and proposed a plan for my absence to ensure that the high standards in place are maintained and there is no impact on the children. Governors are now in discussions and finalising their plans. They will write to parents by the end of October to detail how the school will be covered during my absence.

S
E
P
T
E
M
B
E
R
2019
N
E
W
S
L
E
T
T
E
R

Parking

Please can I remind parents to consider where they park to drop off and pick up children. Please ensure that you do not park on bends/comers and that you do not block the drive ways to any houses of our neighbours.

I would like to encourage parents to **park in the layby up on the main road** and walk down to school crossing at the traffic lights. This would help to ensure all the children are kept safe and Parsons Lane is kept as clear as possible.

If you do have to drive down Parsons Lane, I would also like to ask that you **set a good example to the children** by showing respect for each other and for the local residents. This may mean demonstrating patience and thinking carefully about whether it is appropriate to pull forward or whether it is more sensible to wait and let some traffic through so as to not cause a blockage.

We appreciate your support with this matter!

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.

Emailing the Office

Can we please remind all parents not to email the school office with emergency pieces of information. We only access the emails once a day and may not receive important information in time to pass on to children. **Can we please ask that you phone in to school or ideally inform the class teacher in the morning (in writing) of any changes to pick up etc.**

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.

Friends Of Bierton School—FOBS

We are really pleased to have so many people volunteering to be part of the FOBS team. Anyone is welcome to join, no matter how much time you are able to provide—every little truly helps!

The Next FOBS Meeting is Tuesday 17th September at 6:30pm at Bierton CE Combined School.

At this meeting we will be discussing events that are planned to take place throughout the year.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER