



News and Information

Date: 9th September 2022



Yesterday, marked a huge and momentous moment in history. It is with deep and profound sadness that we have learned about the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Although none of us know her personally, I am sure her passing has had a deeper impact than anyone may have predicted on each of us. For all of us, she is the only Queen we have ever known and whatever your thoughts about the royal family, her dedication to her work and lifelong commitment to her role cannot be ignored. She has been an inspiration to so many.

We held a short assembly today to share the news with the children. The aim of the assembly was to remember the important role of the Queen and to remind ourselves that she was a person who had a sense of humour as well as a serious job to do.

We know that for some of our children, this news may bring up memories of close family members that have died or worries about people they know dying. The use of language for our children is so important. We all naturally try to protect them by using more kind words and softer words, however, this can often lead to confusion and more fear for some. For example, We've 'lost' our Queen, or they've 'Lost' their mother/grandmother. But the word lost brings questions about 'why can't they find her?'. 'Gone to sleep' is often a term used but again for some children this can make them scared of bedtime and going to sleep themselves.

Whinston's Wish organisation have written a good article about the use of language and supporting children to understand which can be found at: <https://www.winstonswish.org/talk-to-children-about-death-of-queen/>

In the meantime, our Thoughts and prayers are with the royal family who are not only grieving for their queen but also for a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.





News and Information

Date: 9th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all managed to have a good summer and make some memories with family and friends.

In this first newsletter of the year I wanted to partly reflect on last year and then also share some key pieces of information about this year.

The specific subject advice will appear in the next whole school newsletter in a fortnights time.

We know the start of the year you are bombarded by information but hopefully it allow you to have a greater understanding of what is happening within school and when. Along with this newsletter you will receive the calendar for the events throughout the year to allow you to see what is coming up.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

Parking on Parsons Lane



Thank you to all those parents who walk or park further away and stride to and from school.—it really helps with the congestion down Parsons Lane. For those that do need to turn into Parsons Lane please can we remind you to park with respect for our neighbours and community. Please avoid parking on the grass verges as this churns it all up and destroys the community environment. Please can we also ensure we refrain from parking in front of driveways or on corners. If we all work together it makes for a more pleasant environment for us all.

Thank you

Key Dates coming up:

September

Friday 2nd—Inset Day

Monday 5th—Inset Day

Tuesday 6th—School Reopens

Tuesday 13th—Secondary School Transfer Practice Test

Tuesday 13th—3:15pm Years 3+4 Residential Parents Information Meeting

Thursday 15th—Secondary School Transfer Test

Friday 16th—Fairy Tale Workshop for Key Stage 1

Monday 19th—10:30-12 Year 2 Parents invited in for DT session.

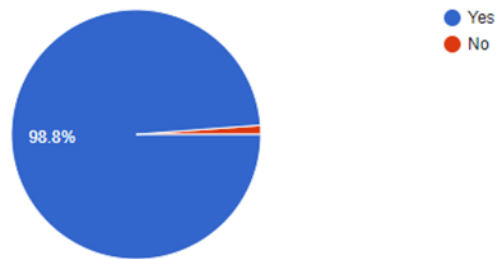
Thursday 22nd—2-3pm Year 2 parents invited in for ART Session.

Parent Survey - July 2022

At the very end of last year we asked parents to complete a short survey about the school. Here is a summary of the results.

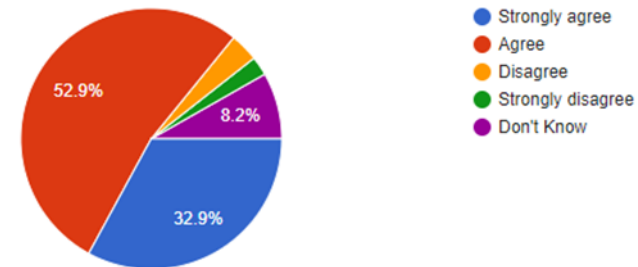
I would recommend this school to another parent

85 responses



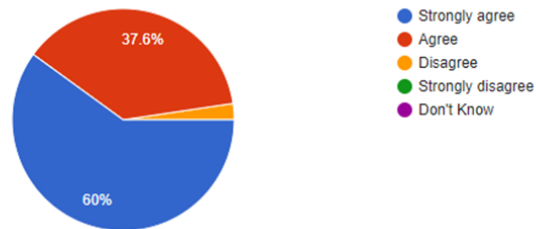
The school has high expectations for my child.

85 responses



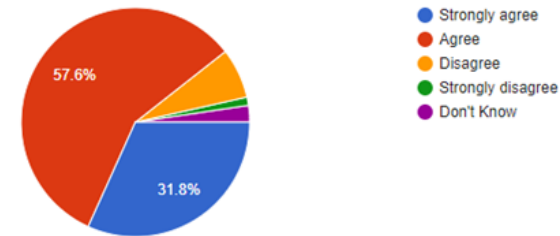
My Child is happy at Berton CE Combined School

85 responses



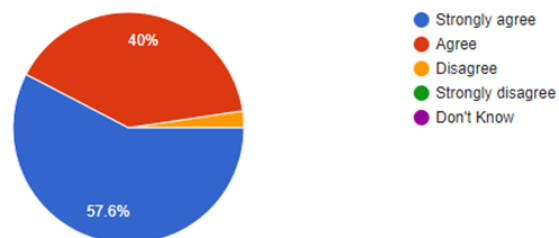
The School lets me know how my child is doing.

85 responses



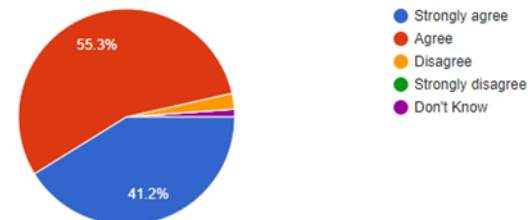
My Child feels safe at this school

85 responses



There is a good range of subjects available to my child

85 responses



Parent Survey - July 2022

We asked parents what makes Bierton special and we are incredibly proud of the responses that were given. Here are just a sample as there were too many to fit on the newsletter but we have read and value every single response:

The teachers are very caring and friendly and they make the lessons interesting which makes my child love going to school.

A happy and vibrant community that makes my child feel safe and cared for.

They go the extra mile to support each child individually

Smaller school, great Head teacher and teachers, very approachable school.

The staff really care

The school is very inclusive and gives everyone a chance to participate in activities

It's like a family.

The focus on the children's health and well being with all the outdoor activities and sporting opportunities. Promoting kindness and equality to all. Preparing children for the world that they live in today and the future. Good staff morale and dedication of those who give time to the after-school clubs. Updates and information posted on parent mail. Friendly, smiley and helpful office staff. Head and deputy head visible especially in the mornings at drop off times. Lovely end of year letter to the children.

The school celebrates every child and their achievement and are like a big family. Everyone is made to feel included.

It seems to be a caring school with a strong leadership team

Clear communication with parents & overall good school

Parental Involvement

We would really like to be able to get parents more involved again in the children's learning in school. Therefore, this year we have decided to hold open sessions to parents throughout the year to invite you to come in and get involved in the classroom with your child. For this year we have decided to link these to our Art and DT weeks. Each half term the classes will have an Art and DT focus week and within this they will have one particular day where we will open up to parents to come along and support your child with their project. Due to classroom sizes, we would ask that only one parent/carer/guardian attends each time but we hope that with six sessions happening across the year you will be able to divide these among different family members.

The whole school calendar provides you with these key dates throughout the year so that you can organise these against your own diaries. There is absolutely no obligation to attend, but I know the children will thoroughly enjoy your presence if possible and we would love your involvement in the children's learning.



Children's Performances

This year we have decided to spread our celebration performances across the year groups as we have grown in size. Therefore, each year has taken responsibility for a different celebration. Parents of that Year group will then be invited in to school to join us for that particular celebration.

Year 1 and Year 4 will be taking responsibility for Remembrance

Year 3 will be responsible for Harvest

EYFS, Year 2 and Year 5 have the main parts in the Christmas Productions. However, all children are still involved in this event through class dances and songs.

Year 6 will have their end of year Performance.

Dates of each event are shared on the school calendar and reminders to specific year groups will also come out nearer to each event.



Online Safety

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as online daters, in-app purchases and contact with strangers.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games 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 ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS
Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS
These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES
Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS
Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING
Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS
If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING
If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS
At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

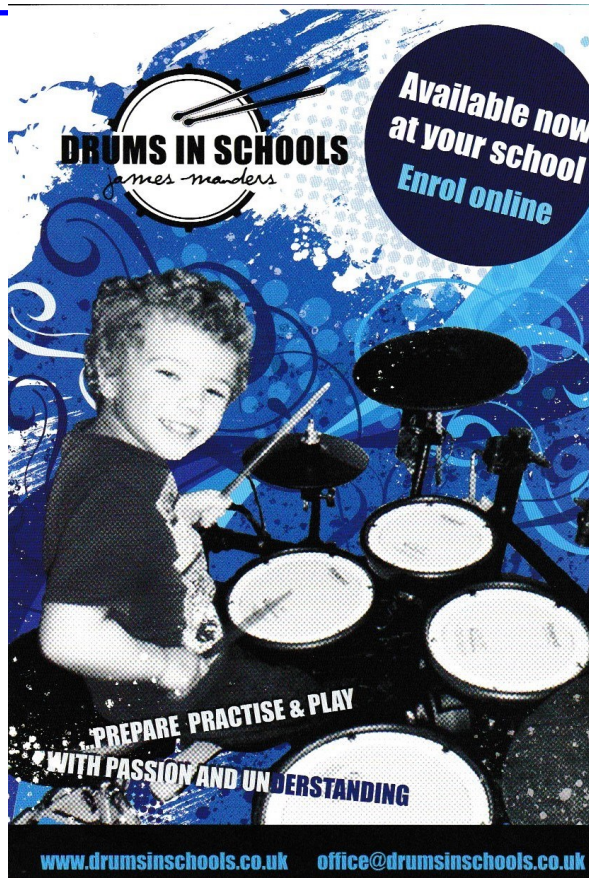
Back in July Mr Manders (guitar) and his son Jack (drums) performed to the school in assembly. Jack only 13 years of age wowed the children with his amazing drumming and Mr Manders got the children (and teachers) singing along to his guitar playing. It was a real celebration of music!

If your child is interested in learning either the Guitar or Drumkit there are lesson slots available to students year 3+.

For more information on lessons and how to enrol please visit...

www.guitarinschools.co.uk

www.drumsinschools.co.uk

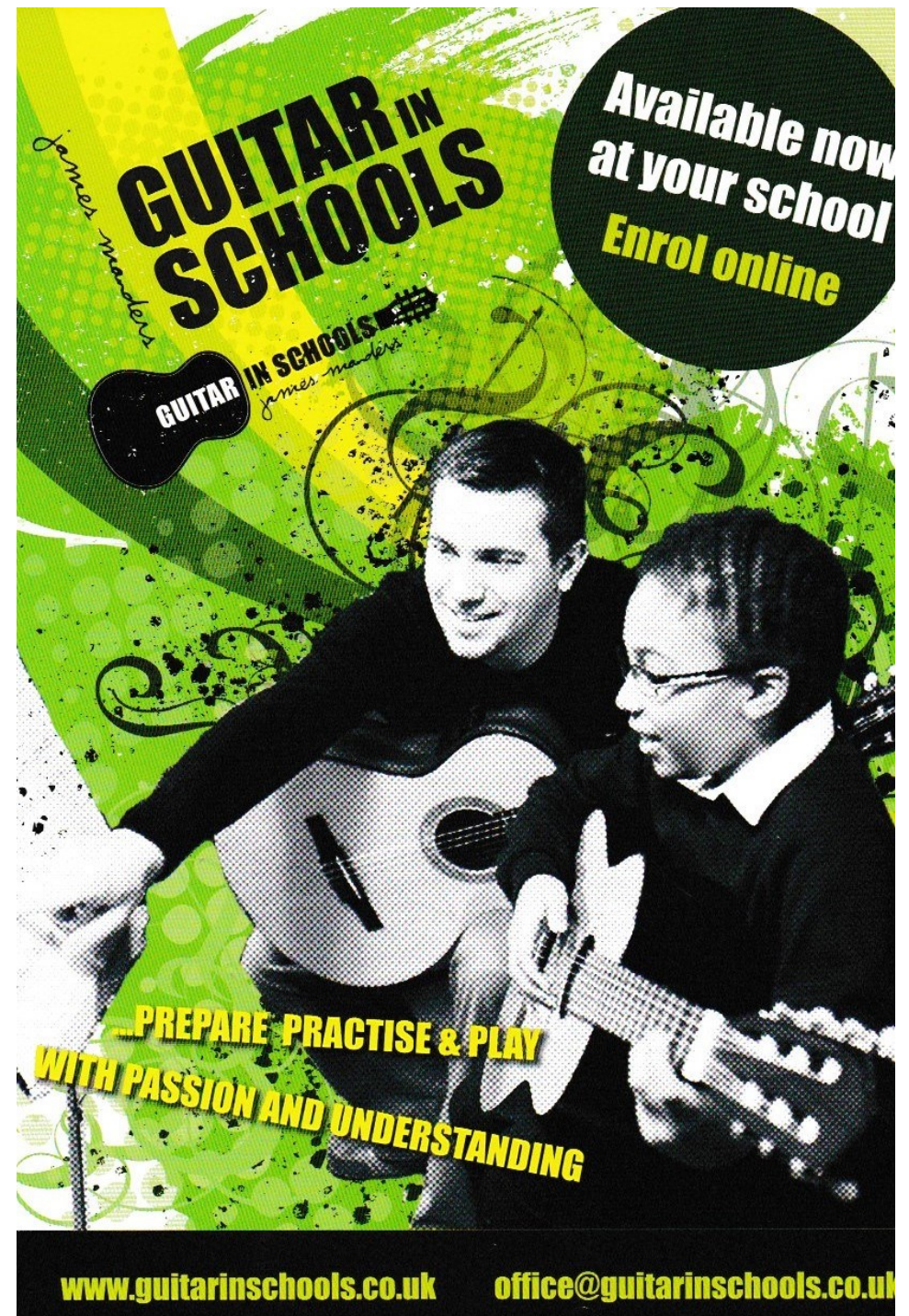


DRUMS IN SCHOOLS
James Manders

Available now
at your school
Enrol online

...PREPARE PRACTISE & PLAY
WITH PASSION AND UNDERSTANDING

www.drumsinschools.co.uk office@drumsinschools.co.uk



GUITAR IN SCHOOLS
James Manders

Available now
at your school
Enrol online

GUITAR IN SCHOOLS
James Manders

...PREPARE PRACTISE & PLAY
WITH PASSION AND UNDERSTANDING

www.guitarinschools.co.uk office@guitarinschools.co.uk