



News and Information

Date: 15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all managing to keep warm in this cold weather. We have had a busy start to the term all ready. We jump started our term with some Street Dancing with the Urban Strides workshops for all the children. These were thoroughly enjoyed and involved children learning lots of moves!

We are also excited to be welcoming more Authors back into school this term. Jess French is coming shortly to visit Key Stage 2 children and then we have Olaf Falafel visiting both KS1 and KS2 in early March.

This newsletter includes information about supporting different subjects as well as some links to courses for families.

If your home circumstances change at any stage, whether that be a change of address, change in financial circumstances or change in family make up, please do keep us updated so that we can support you and your children. Please talk with Mrs Beesley, our family liaison Officer, one of our designated safeguarding leads or another member of school staff who will listen and direct you towards the most appropriate information/service/person.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

January:

Monday 22nd—Reception and Year 6 School Nurse Height and Weight checks.

February:

Friday 2nd—9am SEN Coffee Morning for parents.

Friday 2nd—2:45pm Open Classroom events to see your child's work.

W/C 5th—Speaking and Listening Focus Week

Monday 5th—Rob Bradley Rap Artist workshops for the children.

Tuesday 6th—Parents Consultations Evening online

Wednesday 7th—Parents Consultation evening online

Friday 9th—FOBS Break the Rules Day

Monday 12th—16th—Half Term

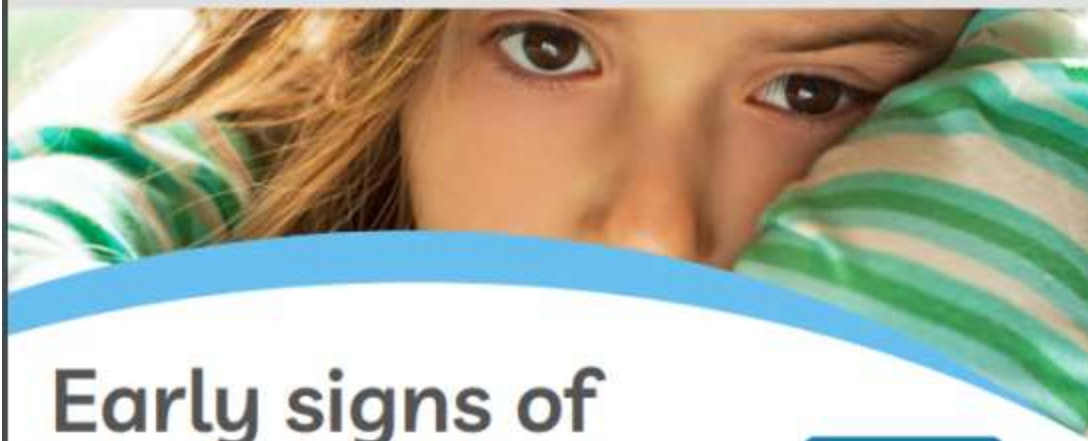
Welcome

We would like to welcome the new families which have joined our school and hope that you are settling in to life at Bierton.

We would also like to welcome some new staff to the school. Mrs Mills, Mrs Sunderland and Miss Malocaj have all joined our team as Learning Support Assistants across the school. Mrs Brooks has also joined our Nursery Team this term to support three days a week. We are delighted to have them join our team and know that you will all make them feel welcome.



Family Support Service



Early signs of exploitation

Information session for parents

A workshop for parents to learn about the early signs of exploitation.

Information on:

- What child exploitation is
- Teenage development and the new 'normal'
- Recognising early warning signs
- How to respond if you're concerned
- The importance of asking curious questions
- Where to get help

SCAN ME



No need to book, scan the QR code to find the teams link to join

Date

Tuesday 16 January 2024
6:30pm to 7:30pm

Location

Online - Microsoft Teams

Maths at Bierton

Famous Mathematicians.

As our children are gaining a wider understanding of the world, we thought we would share some information about famous mathematicians. As some year groups are studying Hinduism this half term, we have chosen to focus on Fibonacci.

Leonardo of Pisa (Fibonacci)

Key facts:

- Born: 1175
- Died: 1250
- Nationality: Italian



Areas of expertise: Number systems

Achievements:

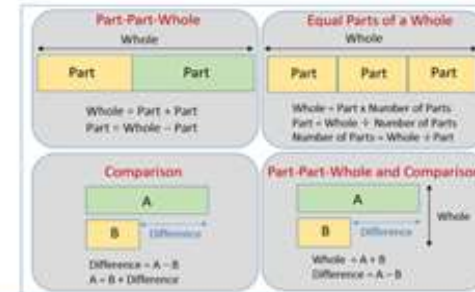
- He played a key role in introducing the Hindu number system to Europe.
- He wrote a book, 'Liber Abaci',
- This book talked about the concept of place value as well as prime numbers.
- His name was given to the sequence of numbers which is created by adding the previous two numbers together.



Mathematical Representations.

Bar Model

This method has become more and more popular in schools across the UK due to its success within the Singaporean education system. It works by showing a clear visual representation of a calculation. Throughout the school, the children practise drawing them and using them to help them understand problems and choose the correct operation to find the solution. Some examples can be seen below.



Shouty Outs!

Well done to the following children who have earned the most coins on either Numbots on TTRS in November and December. You will get 5 dojos each!



	November		December	
	Numbots	TTRS	Numbots	TTRS
Reception	Isaac H		Alexander N	
Year 1	Oliver H		Evie O	
Year 2	Willow H	Tiyansh M	Arya B	Tiyansh M
Year 3	Adbhyo M	Ajen P	Alex J	Ajen P
Year 4	Youssef H	Elliott S-L	Alex M	Elliott S-L
Year 5	Nirah S	Franek D	Nirah S	Stephen C
Year 6	Vinusan V	Vinusan V	Anissa J	Kavinuyan K

Maths at Bierton

Reception Mastering Number Workshop

Thank you to everyone who attended the Mastering Number workshop for Reception. We hope you found the event useful and informative. It was wonderful seeing the children demonstrate all of the amazing learning they have been doing, including: subitising, recognising parts and wholes and showing how different numbers can be composed.

The resources mentioned during the session will be shared via ParentMail on the next five Mondays.



Subitising

What is subitising?

Subitising is when you are able to look at a group of objects and realise how many there are without counting.

Perceptual subitising: This is the ability to recognise the number of objects in front of you without using any mathematical process - it's instinctual.

Conceptual subitising: This is where you are able to recognise a number by grouping in into small sets. For example, if you are shown a line of 6 black dots, it's likely that you will automatically group these into 2 groups of 3, and then know that there are 6 in total without actually counting each one.

Remember you can subitise at home, on your walk to school or anywhere you go!



Literacy at Bierton

Vocabulary

modal verbs

These are verbs which change or affect the other verb in the sentence. They indicate the likelihood, ability, permission or obligation.

These include:

can	could	may	might
will	would,	shall	should
	must		

"The Sea Monster **should** go away"

Should is the **modal verb** here as it shows the likelihood of the monster leaving.

They can be used to show the possibility of something happening.

"It might rain tomorrow."

They can show permission.

"Can I have a biscuit?"

ll would should cou
y can shall must mi
ll would should cou
y can shall must mi
ll would should cou
y can shall must mi

Reading with expression

Ever hear a child read like a robot? Not because they're trying to, but because they're struggling to read with inflection. No pauses for punctuation. Monotone voice. One long run-on sentence.

Try the following strategies to improve your child's oral reading expression.

Model

I know, this is obvious, and you're already doing it but keep doing it. Reading out loud to your child helps them hear your oral expression and pacing. As you read, point out punctuation marks. Show your child how readers pause for punctuation. Get creative with reading aloud. Try different voices. Read with a different accent, change your volume, or project a particular emotion in your voice such as:

sad person	fast / slow talker	cowboy	princess
whisperer	monster	robot	happy/joy

Ask your child to read in a silly voice too.

Chorus Read

Read together, out loud, at the same time just like a choir sings together. This helps your child mimic your natural cadence. Now you're not just modelling; your child is actually doing it with you.

Echo Read

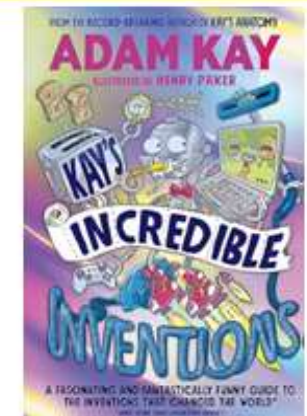
You read a sentence or two out loud while your child listens. Then, your child copies exactly what you read, matching your modulations. This can be so supportive for children who struggle with reading with expression.

Book Review

Kay's Incredible Inventions—Adam Kay and Henry Parker

Do you ever wonder where the stuff around you all came from? No, not from the shops. I mean, who had the amazing idea of making video games or the annoying idea of building a school.

In the latest laugh-out-loud book from the record-breaking and extremely handsome Adam Kay and Henry Parker, you'll learn about everything ever invented, from the daft to the disgusting to the downright dangerous.





Phonics at Bierton



How can I support my child to learn Set 1 sounds and to blend?

- Use pure sounds, not letter names. Watch the 'how to say the sounds' parent film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>.
- Watch the 'Reading the stretchy sounds with your child', 'Reading the bouncy sounds with your child' and 'Reading the digraphs with your child' parent films on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/> to see how to teach Set 1 sounds.
- Practise reading known Set 1 Speed Sounds cards speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.

We teach children to read and spell using Fred. He is a toy frog who can say the sounds in words, but not the whole word. Children have to help him.

To help children learn to blend, we say the sounds as Fred and then children repeat the sounds and say the whole word.

Here are two ways you can use Fred Talk at home:

1. play Fred Games together – see Fred Games document on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>
2. speak like Fred throughout the day e.g. time for l-u-n-ch! Let's p-l-ay!

Watch the 'Sound-blending' parent film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

How can I support my child to learn Set 2 or 3 sounds?

- Watch the 'Set 2/3 tutoring' film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>.
- Help your child practise reading known Speed Sounds cards speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BIERTON

Christian Value of the half-term

This half-term we have been focusing on :



LOVE

We have done lots of things to show our Christian value this half-term. Love is one of the most important values in our school because without love you are not able to show any of our other values. We believe it is being patient, kind, faithful and gentle. All the children have made candles and prayers for their classes as a way to express our opinion on this great Christian value. We must remember to love everyone in the same way that God loves us.

Erin and Aryana have been investigating what some people believe love is:

“I show love by playing with my friends” (Alisa—year 2)

“Love is when you’re kind to someone and enjoy being with them” (Annabelle - year 6)

“I think love is being kind and showing respect” (Ariya—year 1)

Aryana and Erin—Spirituality Ambassadors





Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the Internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels, but devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Maria Mitchell designs and delivers the UK's only specialist programme for children with special needs. They also provide the training and support to education and health professionals – helping them to understand and work with the knowledge and skills to help them set up a successful, accessible school for mental health of pupils and personal to parents.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

© National Online Safety. All rights reserved. This guide is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Please contact your local authority for further guidance. Please contact your local authority for further guidance.

Top Tips for

SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying their digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't test those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unwanted content. Go into the settings and scroll down to Screen Time. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think use acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

Most parental controls are identical to those on iPhones, however. If you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then create a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on their online play and the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and other users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike on Android devices, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the idea here is to set your kid up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can restrict the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under Broadcasting, you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Henry Collins is a social media and digital marketing expert with over 20 years' experience. He's worked for some of the world's leading brands and is a frequent speaker at industry events. He's also a frequent contributor to various media outlets and has been featured in the Guardian, BBC, and other major news outlets.



The National College



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Family Support Service



How to...

Move up to Secondary School Course for year 6s

Getting ready to move up to secondary school? Not sure what to expect? Our short, six-week course could help.

6 sessions cover:

- What to expect at secondary school
- Making friends and dealing with peer pressure
- Tackling your fears and worries
- Getting organised

Book by 5 February 2024

To secure your place, scan the QR code for more information.

If you need help email earlyhelpduty@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Courses start from week beginning 19 February 2024



Online
Tuesdays
5:30 to 6:30pm
Microsoft Teams



Aylesbury
Wednesdays
5:30 to 6:30pm
Elmhurst
Family Centre



Princes Risborough
Tuesdays
6 to 7pm
Risborough
Family Centre



SCAN OR
CLICK ME

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.

