



# News and Information

Date: 15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an absolute delight to watch our children in Nursery, Reception and Year 5 put on their Christmas Nativity and Pantomime over the last few weeks. All the children did an absolutely amazing job with their words and songs. Their lights were definitely shining brightly. A huge thank you to all the staff involved in putting these performances together and also a thank you to you as parents / carers for supporting your child in learning lines and providing costumes. It has most definitely put us into the Christmas spirit now!

We wanted to share with you a few extra things that have happened across the school and provide you with some activities that you could do over the Christmas holidays as well.

In the new year we are looking forward to hosting several more authors at the school. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the author visits this term and many have purchased the books giving them a wide selection of texts. We look forward to continuing this next term.

We wish all our families a safe, healthy and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

## December:

Monday 18th—Christmas Party Day—Children invited to wear Christmas Jumpers

Tuesday 19th—Children's Christingle Services

Tuesday 19th—School closes at 1pm.

## January:

Thursday 4th—School Reopens

Thursday 4th and Friday 5th—Urban Strides Dance session for each year group.

W/C 8th January—Assessment Week Years 1/2/3/4/5

W/C 15th January—Assessment Week Year 6

Tuesday 16th—Year 3 Trip to Natural History Museum

Wednesday 17th—Reception Parent Workshop—Mastery Number—9am

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

# Christmas Challenges!

If you fancy a fun, festive reading or writing challenge over the Christmas period have a go at one of these!

## Christmas Phonics


Can you write these words using your phonics sounds?



You could even write a sentence including these words.

## CHRISTMAS

### Reading Bingo

Read beside the Christmas tree.	Read aloud to someone in your family. <small>Maybe on a video call!</small>	Read tucked up in bed.
Read by torchlight.	JUST READ! 	Read somewhere unusual.
Read in the comfiest chair you can find.	Read in your pyjamas.	Read in a cosy den you've made.

## The 12 Days of Bierton

The 12 days of Christmas is a famous Christmas Classic, but it can be easily adapted to anything, Can you write your own song? It could be about your favourite animals, or foods, it could even be about the teachers at Bierton.... And a Gadsby in a pear tree!



How many words can you find in the words

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



This is a great activity for the whole family, remember you can only use each letter once., And to keep track of all the words you find. Bring in your lists in the new year to see who has the most!

If you complete any challenges bring them in to show your teacher and I'm sure some form of suitable reward will be found!

# Maths at Bierton Christmas Activities

There are lots of fun and exciting ways you can incorporate maths into your Christmas celebrations. Here are just a few ideas and suggestions:

## Subitising

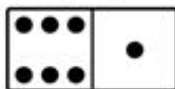
**Perceptual subitising:** This form of subitising refers to instantly recognising the number of objects or items in a group without needing to count them.

**Dice:** A great way to practise this skill is by using a standard (dotty) dice when playing a boardgame. Encourage children to say how many dots there are without counting them.



**Conceptual subitising:** When we are looking at groups that contain larger numbers of objects, we use conceptual subitising. This form of subitising means that we recognise how many there are by combining smaller groups.

**Dominoes:** Encourage the children to play with dominoes. Can they say the number that the domino shows by quickly combining the two groups?



**Dice:** Play games that involve rolling two dice. Can the children subitise each dice pattern and combine without counting?

**Subitising in the environment:** At home (e.g. a collection of mince pies on a plate) or when out and about (e.g. a group of ducks on the canal), look at groups of objects and ask: what do you see? How do you see them?



## Measurement

If you are doing any cooking or baking over the festive period, encourage your child to help you measure and weigh and ingredients. This will help them get used to using different measuring equipment and read scales with different denominations.



For older children, you could discuss scaling. For example, this recipe is for 4 people, how many ingredients would we need for 8 people? How many ingredients would we need for two people?

## Addition and Subtraction



**Monopoly:** Monopoly is a great game to play with children and it encourages them to use their addition and subtraction skills

when buying properties and collecting rent from other players.

## TV Shows

**Numberblocks:** Most children in Early Years and Key Stage are familiar with Numberblocks. It is a show available on BBC iPlayer. From number bonds to patterns, missing numbers to solving equations children can learn all the basic concept of maths with 10 friends.



**Monster Math Squad:** Available on Prime Video, this show follows three monsters who go on different missions where they have to solve different maths problems.

## Time

Everyone enjoys a nice festive movie and this provides a great opportunity to practise telling the time and to learn about durations of time.



**Telling the time:** Share the starting time of the film with your child. What times does it start? What time does it finish?

**Calculating durations of time:** If we know the starting time and the ending time, how long is the film?

**Converting time:** If we know the film is \_\_\_ hours and \_\_\_ minutes, what would this be just in minutes?

## Apps



**Numbots:** Children can continue to complete story and challenge mode activities over the festive period.

**Times Table Rock Stars:** Although children have no homework sessions to complete, they can continue to use the different game modes to improve their fluency with multiplication and division facts.

**1-Minute Maths:** This helps children to build greater number confidence and fluency. It covers many topics, from subitising to multiplication and divisions. It's all about targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks!

# Eco-Warrior Update

We have a fantastic group of children who are part of our eco committee. We are working really hard to achieve an 'Eco Schools Green Flag accreditation'. As part of this our children have been taking part in weekly litter picks with Mr Howard and they have been handing out eco stickers to the children they notice being eco-friendly! We also have a visit from the Aylesbury Wombles in the new year. Remember—as a community, it is **all of our responsibility** to keep our environment clean and tidy.



**In other exciting news ...** Ruby and Suzy will be back in January! We have had to make adjustments to their fence and so they will be spending Christmas at The Goat Centre but we can't wait to welcome them back!



A poster competition as part of National Recycling Week was held in November. We had several entries—Good Luck to all of the children who entered!





# Bierton Christmas Choir



The choir also went to sing for the Tuesday Club at the Jubilee Hall in Bierton. This was a chance for some of the older residents in the community to enjoy some Christmas cheer!

The choir were full of confidence, even when the music stopped half-way through, and were each treated to a little chocolate surprise!

The Bierton Christmas choir have had a busy half-term!



We held a carol concert in school and the choir sang beautifully, despite some nerves as this was their first public performance. It was lovely to see so many people join us to kick start the festive season for a great sing-a-long. Thank you to FOBS for organising the delicious hot chocolates and treats and to Michael Anthony Estate Agents for sponsoring the stall. All proceeds raised will go back into the school to benefit the children so thank you to all who attended



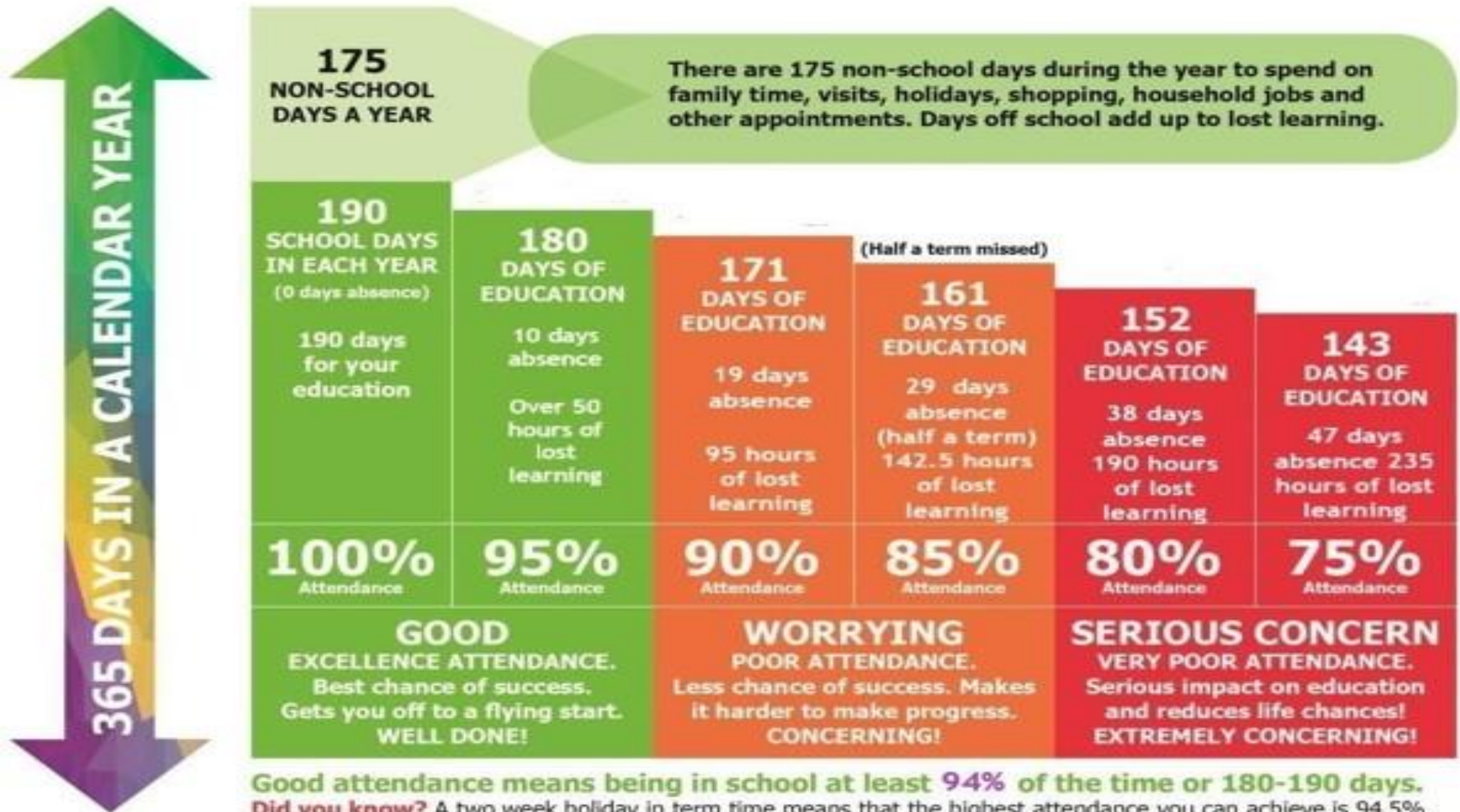
# Children in Need at Bierton

This year's Children in Need was filled with a range of fundraising opportunities, including wearing spots or pajamas and completing our bear-pee challenge. The day began with a whole school assembly presented by members of the School Council and the children loved watching Mr Gabsby have a bear-pee challenge against our head boy (Mr Gabsby was later overheard claiming the result was rigged and counted inaccurately). Throughout the day the children took part in a range of sponsored events and some fun games and activities. Your donations exceeded our £500 target and we were delighted that we managed to raise £654.00 for amazing children's causes in the U.K. Many thanks for your support.



# EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Don't miss out on the education you deserve.



Good attendance means being in school at least 94% of the time or 180-190 days. Did you know? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.5%.