



News and Information

Date: 3rd May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy few weeks since returning from Easter. This newsletters contains lots of information and celebrations to share with you. Several of our children have been involved in trips, workshops and incredible experiences which are giving them long lasting memories. We are delighted to share these with you in this newsletter, along with some ideas for supporting your children at home as well as in school.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

Bucks Mental Helath Support Team—Parent Well Being Questionnaire

As a school we work very closely with Bucks Mental Health Team and have been able to access their service to support families and run groups in school. All staff are very aware of the importance of supporting children's mental health and wellbeing and we are working with Bucks Mental Health Team to undertake an audit of the work we already have in place so that we can develop the provision and way we work over the year ahead. To ensure that we collect information from across our community, we are asking you as parents and carers to complete this short questionnaire by Friday 10th May using this link to a Google form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQt_ckBLjhVfQdrt0vQkTb3X7XMGrsvdsciu3DFNmSuFgQA/viewform?usp=sf_link

May:

Wednesday 1st—Year 3 Trip to Waddesdon Manor

Monday 6th—Bank Holiday—School Closed

Friday 10th—9am Coffee Morning

W/C 13th —Year 6 SATS Tests

Friday 17th—Mufti Day in exchange for Summer Fair Donations.

W/C 20th—Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential

Tuesday 21st—Imagination Gaming Workshops

Wednesday 22nd—Imagination Gaming Workshops

Thursday 23rd—Imagination Gaming Workshops

Friday 24th—Close at 3:15pm for half term.

W/C 27th—Half Term

As a school we are part of 'Challenge Partners' which is an organisation set up to enhance the life chances of all children by enabling collaboration between schools to combine wisdom., accelerate school improvement, leadership development and pupil progress. As part of this some of our senior staff have been out to visit other schools and work in teams to review their provision, provide support and offer challenge to their leaders.

Last week, we had our review from a team of challenge partners' reviewers. Our Review team consisted of four people working across the UK. One member worked directly for Challenge partners after years of Headship, One member was CEO of a Trust of schools and the other two members were Assistant Heads in their schools. We asked the team to review certain aspects of our curriculum and provision, including: Reading, Science, Humanities, EYFS and our SEND Provision. We wanted to share with you some snippets from the report:

Leaders have a positive ethos and vision for the school. This ethos is not just words but is deeply ingrained in the school's culture. It is integrated into the curriculum and daily school life.

Leaders have worked determinedly to ensure that all pupils receive the very best education and opportunities that the school can provide. They have been proactive in adapting their approaches in the light of the changing pupil profile within the school. This ambition is shared by the dedicated staff team, who are committed to the pupils and put them first in everything they do.

Middle leaders feel empowered and well-supported. The careful and thoughtful development of subject leaders over the last few years has created a happy, collaborative and confident team.

The school's wider curriculum offer is impressive. It includes special theme weeks, collective worship and celebrations, work with local charities, the school choir, and sports clubs, all of which strongly contribute to pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Leaders have planned an ambitious and stimulating curriculum. They have identified precisely what they want pupils to know and experience in each subject, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience. The curriculum in all subjects is coherently planned and builds pupils' knowledge and skills progressively.

The school has a strong local reputation for meeting the needs of pupils with additional needs. Staff have the same high expectations for pupils who are disadvantaged and have SEND. Leaders constantly reflect on the needs of these pupils and seek ways to adapt practice.

Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They have very positive attitudes to their learning and engage well in lessons. Staff have high expectations of behaviour, and routines are consistently embedded. There are warm relations between staff and pupils.

Reading and oracy skills are a high priority across the school. This emphasis begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage, where the phonics programme is well-planned and delivered consistently well, laying a solid foundation for language development.

As with all reviews, there are elements that we can continue to work on and develop further but nothing came as a surprise as all leaders were aware of the next steps for development. I would like to thank all staff for all their commitment and enthusiasm to providing the best for all the children at Bierton. Thank you.

Playtime at Bierton - OPAL



Platinum Award

We are delighted to announce that we had our OPAL audit assessment last week with our play mentor and have been awarded the highest award—**Platinum OPAL play award**. This is an incredible achievement and is testament to the hard work and dedication displayed by our whole school community. We became an OPAL school in 2022 and since this time have transformed our play provision so that on a daily basis we are making use of our whole school site and providing rich play experiences for our children

We will be having a special award celebration where we will be presented with our platinum certificate and we will be inviting the whole school community to play together.

Donations

A big thank you to everyone who donated this half term. We have received so many items which we will be able to use on the playground.

We still need:

- Large/Long planks or sticks.
- Large sheets, blankets or bedding
- Scooters

If you have any of these items to donate please drop them to the school office anytime during the school

Vanessa Ruck—The Girl on a Bike

Our first assembly for this half term was delivered by Vanessa Ruck, also known as 'The Girl on The Bike'. This was an amazing start to the half term as the assembly focused on utilising a growth mindset, which we have been promoting this year.

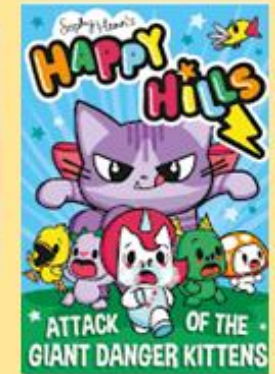
Vanessa began the assembly by sharing some of the many things she has achieved over the past few years, including being the first ever female to enter and finish the Tunisia Desert Challenge. She then rewound seven years and divulged that she had been in a serious car accident, which affected her life dramatically. It was inspiring to hear how she used such a life-changing event to re-write her goals and aspirations. Vanessa explained how she used a growth mindset and how she set herself small goals which contributed to her meeting larger goals. Later in the day, children in Year 4, 5 and 6 participated in a workshop with Vanessa, where they discussed their goals and how they may achieve them.



Literacy at Bierton

Author visits

We have been lucky to have two author visits in the last fortnight. Our first was Sophie Henn who came into speak with KS1. She had the children laughing at cheering as she spoke all about her book - Happy Hills Attack of the Giant Danger Kittens. She showed the children how to draw some of her characters and then they had a go them selves.



KS2 had a fantastic assembly with the author Ash Bond. She came to talk about her new book— Perigrine Quinn and the Cosmic Realm . She told them all about the characters in her book and what had inspired her to write her book.

Book Fair

This week we have had a visiting book fair. This was a great opportunity for children to see a wide range of books that are available to buy. It was fantastic to see so many families come to the fair after school each day. Thank you for all your support with this event as a result of your purchases we will be getting some new books for the school. They will be on display in the library soon.

Book Review

The book— I love books by Mariajo Ilustro—is a fantastic story that celebrate the joy of discovering the enchantment of reading. Perfect for convincing reluctant readers it follows a girl's transformation from hating books to embracing their wonder.



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 currently learning about shape, we have chosen to focus on Pythagoras.

Pythagoras of Samos

Key facts:

- Born: 570 BC
- Died: 490 BC
- Nationality: Greek



Areas of expertise: Geometry and trigonometry

Achievements:

- Developing Pythagorean Theorem
- Inspiring the Pythagorean Cult, which was one of the first groups to actively study mathematics.
- According to legend, Pythagoras discovered that musical notes could be translated into mathematical equations.
- In ancient times, Pythagoras and his contemporary Parmenides of Elea were both credited with having been the first to teach that the Earth was spherical, the first to divide the globe into five climatic zones, and the first to identify the morning star and the evening star as the same celestial object (now known as Venus).

Maths Week.

During the last week of term, we are having a maths focus week. As part of this week, children will be participating in workshops led by Imagination Gaming. This company visited us a few years ago and it was great to see the children apply their maths skills while playing fun and engaging games. We are really looking forward to them visiting us again. The children will also get a chance to learn about different well-known mathematicians and will complete a selection of mathematical activities.



A letter containing further information will be shared in the upcoming weeks, including details about our 'Design a Mathscot' competition and after-school sessions where parents can accompany their children.

Shoutouts!

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

	March		April	
	Numbots	TTRS	Numbots	TTRS
Reception	Alexander N		Alexander N	
Year 1	Mabel C		Nancy B	
Year 2	Tiyansh M	Tiyansh M	Tiyansh M	Tiyansh M
Year 3	Riley G	Albert R	Adbhyo M	Albert R
Year 4	Corey P	Molly J	Corey P	Molly J
Year 5	Lilly S	Stephen C	Heze F	Franek D
Year 6	Alfie P	Anissa J	Vinusan V	Juliet O

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BIERTON

Christian Value of the half-term

This half-term we have been focusing on:

Selflessness and helping others



At Bierton, we believe that helping others and taking time to think about how we can help people is really important. It not only shows our values of love and respect but also makes us feel really good too.

This year we continue to support the Bridge the Gap food bank, Children in Need and Comic Relief but also have made new links to our Global Neighbours partner schools in Malawi and China. Unfortunately, the school in Malawi has been severely damaged by flooding and we are now thinking of ways we can raise money for them (see our latest letter from them on the next slide).

Erin and Aryana (Spirituality Ambassadors) have been investigating why our children think it is so important to help others:

“Because it shows people that you are kind and respectful,” Shaivi—year 6

“It is important to be selfless because it makes you feel good” - Hansi—year 6

“If you are good then goodness will come back to you,” Laasya—year 5

“If you help people then your family will be proud of you” Zayna— year 2



What have School Council been up to recently?



School Council came up with the idea of having a school allotment. First, they spoke to their classes and decided which fruit and vegetables they would like to grow. We then approached the Bierton Community allotment to see if they could help us. Louise Gattward (who is also one of our governors) kindly came forward and offered to provide the fruit and vegetables and help the children plant them. So far, we have planted raspberries, strawberries, garlic, onions, potatoes and rhubarb. Some of the rhubarb has already harvested; Mrs Farmer kindly used these to make some rhubarb muffins which the school council really enjoyed trying. Yum!



Year 3 visit to the Waddesdon Manor

On Wednesday, Year 3 visited Waddesdon Manor to complete orienteering, fieldwork and mapwork activities. As the children are currently learning about the local area in their geography lessons, these activities provided a great insight into using a key and creating their own maps.

Throughout the morning, the children worked in groups to complete an orienteering course around Waddesdon Manor. This involved them cooperating, while following a map, using a compass and locating orienteering markers! It was wonderful to see their skills and confidence develop throughout the morning.



In the afternoon, each group was given their own area of Waddesdon Manor to map. During this activity, they had to create their own key and also consider the position and size of locations. The staff and volunteers at Waddesdon Manor were very complimentary of the children and we are extremely proud of their achievements. It will be fantastic to see them apply the skills they have learnt when they create their own messy maps of Bierton in their upcoming humanities lessons.



We would like to thank The Griffin Trust for funding this visit.

Year 2 Claydon House

Last week Year 2 took a trip to Claydon House. We learnt some amazing things and even got to have a sit in Florence Nightingale's bed. (If only she knew!!) The children had a fantastic time, we took part in three workshops, the first one was a talk about the house and how Florence Nightingale ended up residing at the grand residents, the second was all about the war that gave Florence her calling and the last workshop was about how Florence setup a hospital to train nurses.



ECHOES AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL



On Monday 29th April, after several months of hard work and rehearsals, our Y6 Bierton choir travelled to the Royal Albert Hall to take part in Echoes 2024. They sang alongside many other schools as part of the 'Constellations' performance in the second half and were even able to watch the first half performance by other schools. The choir were treated to a sunny lunch in Kensington Gardens and a trip down the road to the Science Museum as well. Thank you to all the families who were able to come and watch the amazing show. We would also like to thank the Griffin Trust for covering the cost of all the coaches. It was a phenomenal event and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all the children involved, who sang loud and proud and let their lights shine!



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Are you a young person/parent/carer who is passionate about mental health and getting involved in projects that would contribute to the development of Buckinghamshire CAMHS?

We are putting together a working group for a new project in Bucks CAMHS and we need you!

The project is a collaboration with the NEURO Diagnostic team in CAMHS and some of the objectives we will be looking at include:

- Oversight of the proposed new model
- SPA process (our single point of access) - front door process, any new procedures within SPA and signposting after SPA
- Website review - Review current website for accessibility and usefulness
- Comms review - Specific Comms sent out and the information contained within these
- Building and environment for assessments - Review current post diagnostic offer and consider other options within resource availability

Other projects for parents :

- Looking at screening forms - Specific forms such as strength and differences questionnaire and other questionnaires sent to families prior to face to face appointment
- Post diagnostic letter and diagnosis sent to parents
- Parent information pack pre and post diagnosis

We would ideally like parents to be committed to looking at the whole process as detailed above in order to assess the family journey from start to end. However we are aware this requires a time commitment and therefore would be open to you selecting different objectives from above to be involved in and only focus on what you are passionate about!

It would be great to hear from people who are currently being supported by CAMHS or have been previously, or have lived MH experience, or have a sibling with lived experience. However, we are open for a discussion with YP/parents/carers with a passion for mental health.

Some benefits of being part of this project include:

- Meeting new people, increasing self-esteem and confidence
- Sense of purpose from helping others
- Sense of achievement from taking part
- Getting experience to add to CV's or job/college application forms

To express interest please email Roxy, Participation Lead, at roxy.uritescu@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk by the end of May.



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