



News and Information

Date: 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been lovely to see all the children settling into their new classes. We send a big welcome to all the new families that have joined our school community over the last few weeks.

Our whole school newsletters aim to bring you updates about different subjects and how you can support at home. They will also include celebrations of different events and reminders of upcoming events.

Every Friday you will also receive a 'Friday Round Up' which will contain final reminders and information about the next week.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

Hellos, Goodbyes and Changes

At the beginning of this term we welcomed a few new members to our team.

- Mr Howard has joined us as a Site Assistant and will be working alongside Mr Arnold to ensure everything in the school is clean, tidy and safe for us all. He will be out on the turning circle most mornings so please do say hello.
- Mr McDonald has joined our Higher Level Teaching Assistant Team and will be teaching classes across the school.
- Mrs McNulty has joined our Learning Support Team and will be working in reception this year.
- Mrs Twyford has also joined our Higher Level Teaching Assistant Team and will be teaching in several classes this year.
- Mrs Welland has joined our Nursery Assistant Team.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming all these members of staff to our amazing team here at Bierton. They are all working incredibly hard already to get to know everyone and where things are but please be patient with them if they need to consult another member of staff for the answer at the moment.

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.

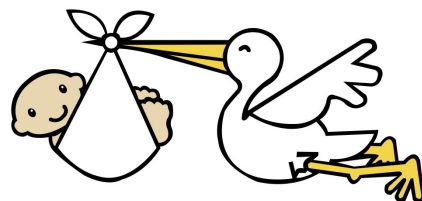
Thank you



Congratulations

A huge Congratulations to Miss Keller who is expecting a baby in a couple of months. All being well she is due to start her maternity leave in October.

Congratulations to Mrs Bramley who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Both Mum and Bay are doing really well and have already been in to visit the staff for cuddles.



School Development

We wanted to share with you some of the key focus areas that we are focusing on this year. This does not mean that other things are not happening, it just means these areas are our main focus for the year.

To Ensure the quality of Teaching and Learning is consistently high quality across the school.

- Focus on Writing
- Reading and Reading for Pleasure

To further develop and expand on the children's access to a wide, rich set of experiences and opportunities preparing them for life in the wider community.

- Opportunities to Let their Lights Shine
- High aspirations for their futures

To further strengthen the roles and skills of leaders at all levels.

- Curriculum leaders have a clear and accurate understanding of their areas.
- Governing Board continues to reflect and evaluate.

To ensure consistency in behaviour and develop respect for others.

- Build and Develop children's understanding of a Growth Mindset to support their Resilience.
- Opportunities to support and understand their own Mental Health and Well Being.

EYFS—To ensure children are provided with the skills and knowledge to develop their social and emotional development allowing them to be prepared and ready to learn.

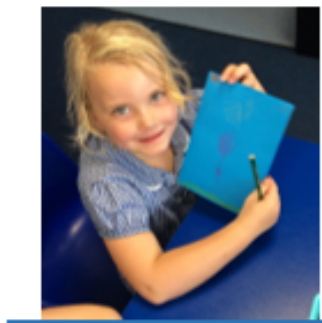
- Children are provided with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to develop in PSED
- Children are prepared physically, socially and emotionally to transition into Year 1.



Inclusion Week - Mental Health



The children were focused on inclusion and mental health for our first week back in school, powerful messages were received to start our year on the right track for wellness. Our school Mental Health Support Team delivered an assembly to KS1 and KS2, followed by a workshop for year 6, encouraging the children to think about ways to support their own mental health. The charity Red Cross held a further virtual workshop for Year 6, this time focusing on empathy and migration, supporting the children to think about the challenges faced by others and the mental health of those around us. In Reception, we were delighted to be joined by the Creation Station, the children took part in a 'Rainbow Fish' craft workshop, focusing on kindness and inclusion. We had a lovely whole school finish to the week with a Kindness Workshop from the charity 52 Lives (www.52-lives.org) and their School of Kindness! We learned that kindness has three qualities - being friendly, generous and considerate. We found out about the science of kindness and the positive impact it has on our physical and mental health. To put our kindness into action, we thought of someone we knew who could do with a little kindness. We then made them something in our classrooms and gave it to our friends or brought them home to family. Finally, we looked at the quote 'be the change that you want to see in the world' and decided that **we** can help to create the kind of world we want to live in. The School of Kindness has a Kids' Club which is free to join where you will get a free newsletter with kind challenges, stories, activities, jokes, competitions and videos to watch. Just visit www.schoolofkindness.org/kids-club to sign up.



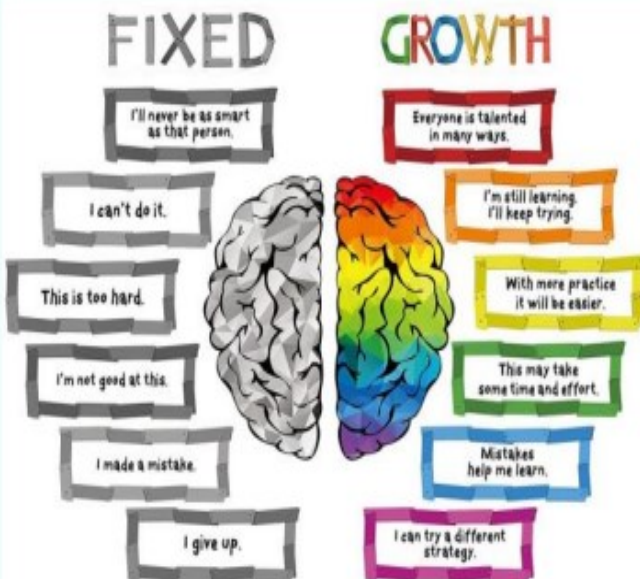
Growth Mindset

 This year at Bierton, we are introducing **Growth Mindset!**

A **growth mindset** is the belief that intelligence and abilities can be developed through effort and practice. People with a growth mindset believe that they can learn new things and improve their skills, regardless of their natural talent. This belief can lead to positive outcomes, such as increased motivation, perseverance, and achievement. We want the children in Bierton to have **growth mindset** compared to a **fixed mindset**.

A **fixed mindset**, is the belief that intelligence and abilities are fixed traits. People with a fixed mindset believe that they are either smart or not smart, and that there is not much they can do to change their intelligence. Therefore, having a negative impact on their learning.

At the end of each month/term, children will be praised for showing a **growth mindset** by being awarded a certificate. Also, we will be rewarding children with dojos for showing a **growth mindset**.



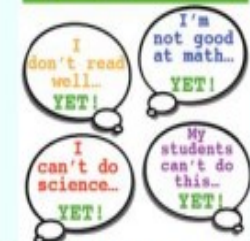
Books that promote a growth mindset that could be read at home:



All children in Bierton will be having weekly wellbeing/resilience sessions where they will be focusing on learning about **growth mindset** and completing activities to help develop/encouraging their **growth mindset**.



The power of **YET!**



We want to teach children that it is okay to make mistakes and we learn from them. All staff are also going to start using phrases in the classroom to encourage a **growth mindset**. You can also use the sayings at home 😊

Phrases which encourage a fixed mindset	Phrases which encourage a growth mindset
You're a great writer / footballer / artist	It really shows when you work hard at your writing / football / painting
We are so proud that you got X marks	The effort you put in makes us so proud
I'm not sure it was worth all that effort	You tried so hard – I can see that
That took you ages	That was a struggle for you and you kept going – well done
What a shame you only got 15/20	Let's look at those mistakes – they're a real chance to learn
You did that so easily – what a bright spark you are	You did that so easily – maybe it wasn't enough of a challenge
You're not a natural swimmer	You can't swim yet, but if you keep trying, you'll get there
You're really talented	Your commitment and practice have paid off
Don't worry I was never good at Maths at school	I found Maths tricky at school but I needed to keep going and learn from my mistakes

FAIL
FIRST
ATTEMPT
IN
LEARNING



Miss Reilly-Wheeler

Maths at Bierton

Maths Homework Expectations

Reception: Reception will gain access to Numbots after half term.

Year 1 and Year 2:

- Weekly maths activity on Purple Mash.
- At least 15 minutes per week on Numbots.
- Year 2 will gain access to Times Table Rock Stars later in the year.

Year 3 and Year 4:

- Weekly maths activity on Purple Mash.
- At least 30 minutes per week on Numbots (until diamond stage has been completed).
- At least 30 minutes per week on Times Table Rock Stars.

Year 5 and Year 6:

- Weekly arithmetic task posted on Purple Mash (30 minutes).
- At least 30 minutes per week on Times Table Rock Stars.



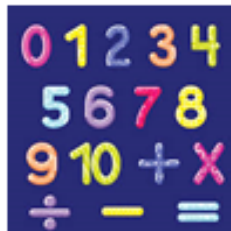
"Designed by
brgfx/
Freepik"

Daily Maths Sessions

Nursery: Twice weekly carpet time where the weekly maths activity is introduced and modelled. Maths songs and nursery rhymes are sung. In addition, maths activities are promoted during continuous provision.

Reception: 20-minute daily lesson based on Mastering Number, with linked activities available during continuous provision.

Key Stage 1: 1-hour daily lesson (separated with a 15 minute break) following Maths No Problem. 15-minute daily fluency session based on Mastering Number at Key Stage 1 (additive reasoning).



Key Stage 2: 1-hour daily lesson (separated with a 15 minute break) following Maths No Problem. 15-minute daily fluency. Year 4 and 5 are beginning Mastering Number at Key Stage 2 (multiplicative reasoning) while Year 3 and Year 6 follow our school's long-term plan.

Upcoming Events

Friday 6th October:
Numbots and Times Table
Rock Stars Day



Children will come into school dressed up to celebrate our re-launch of Numbots and Times Table Rock Stars. A letter containing additional information has already been shared via ParentMail.



Tuesday 10th October: Year 1
Child and Adult Mastering
Number Workshop

Adults are invited into school to complete fluency games and activities with their children.

Additional information will be shared via ParentMail.

Knowledge Organisers

In order to help parents and carers stay up to date with their child's learning, we have started to create knowledge organisers for all of the Maths No Problem chapters taught from Year 1 to Year 6. The knowledge organisers will include:

- the learning question for each lesson in the chapter
- new vocabulary introduced within the chapter, including a definition
- other vocabulary used within the chapter
- representations and methods used within the chapter.

These will be included within our phase newsletters and can also be found on our school website: <http://www.biertoncombined.co.uk/Maths-1/Knowledge-Organisers> They will be added and updated throughout the year.





Phonics at Bierton

Reading books

Any children who are on the Read Write Inc programme will bring home a reading book in line with their progress. Please ensure that you practise this book a few times to develop their fluency.



Where else can I find information about Read Write Inc.?

Watch video tutorials on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/> to help you to understand more about Read Write Inc. Phonics and how to help your child read and write at home.

Other useful websites:

Ruth Miskin Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Free e-books for home reading:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/ruthmiskintrainingedu?mc_cid=63bfb74b56&mc_eid=4ec2ad9cea

Parent Phonics Workshops

Monday 25th September will see the start of our parents phonics workshop.

This workshop will be a 'Introduction to Read Write Inc' for Reception Parents.

Monday 25th September 9am

What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read. Phonics works by breaking words down into it's individual sounds. There are 44 different sounds in the English language. Learning to read with phonics is therefore a bit like learning a code, after learning just a few sounds, you will be able to use this code to read 100's of words. The more sounds you know, the more words you will be able to work out how to read.

At Bierton we follow a Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme called Read Write Inc which supports all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling.

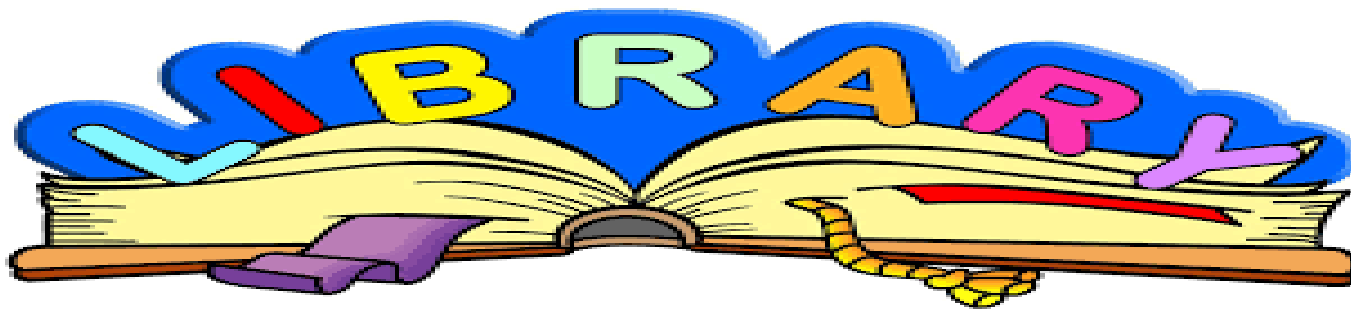
The phonic teaching split into two parts.

First we teach them one way to read and write the 44 sounds in English. We use pictures to help, for example we make 'a' into the shape of an apple, 'f' into the shape of a flower. These pictures help all children, especially slower-starters, to read the sounds easily.

Children learn to read words by sound-blending using a frog called Fred. Fred says the sounds and children help him blend the sounds to read each word.

Then we teach children the different spellings of the same sounds. For example, they learn that the sound 'ay' is written ay, a-e and ai; the sound 'ee' is written ee, e and ea. We use phrases and actions to help them remember each sound for example, ay, may I play, a-e – make a cake?

These lessons are taught daily to all children in reception and Key Stage 1 with additional support for some children in Key Stage 2.



This year we will be opening the library on a Thursday after school from 3:15 – 4:10. This will be an opportunity for you to visit the library with your child. You will be able to share a book together or choose a new book together to borrow.

We will be starting on Thursday 5th October.
We look forward to seeing you all enjoying our amazing library.

Author Visit

This week we were super excited to receive our first author visit of the year. Clara Vulliamy has Key Stage 2 children hooked as she talked all about her new book—The Dog Squad. She drew out one of the main characters with ease in front of our own eyes and then inspired the children to come up with their own character.



At the end of the session, she took time to sign books and speak to each of the children, who had purchased a book, individually. It was a fantastic morning!

Thank you to Tring Bookshop for organising authors to visit our school. We look forward to welcoming our next author for EYFS+KS1 in a couple of weeks time.



OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING



For those of you that are new to our school, OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is an initiative that we started exploring during the Autumn term of 2021, which was launched in February 2022 after several months of planning and preparation.

Our playtime provision is all inclusive and aims to ensure every one of our children finds something to do that they enjoy or want to try for the first time during playtime whatever the weather.

We aim to ensure that our children get out to play every lunch time so please ensure you send a waterproof coat or jacket in every day especially when rain is definitely on the forecast. Children without a coat will be able to go outside but will have to remain under the sheltered areas.

We want our children to play in environments where they can learn and experiment, work things out for themselves, collaborate with other children, take calculated risks and get a bit dirty occasionally.

During dry weather we take the opportunity to maximise the spaces we have around our wonderful school providing our children with a wider range of resources and activities to choose to engage with during lunchtime play.

We have a large timber trail which is available for every year group to explore and develop both physical skills and self confidence. It is great to see many of our children who were originally a bit wary by the size of this feature nimbly climbing around with their friends now. Alongside this we have a small climbing wall which is particularly popular with our younger children.

Our stage and surrounding area is popular for a variety of antics, including showing off dance moves, gymnastics, karate skills, imitation, and dressing up.

We have a very large sandpit, referred to as the beach which we have been able to open up this term on dry days. Children from every year group are having great fun digging for treasure, building sand castles and volcanoes. For many this is the first time they have been able to play in the sand which makes us realise how lucky we are to have this on site.

The crash mats are very popular with every year group but we can't get them out after heavy rain as the grass is too wet and slippery. These are mainly used for taking turns practising gymnastic type skills. It's nice to see children that participate in gymnastics clubs outside of school helping and showing others how to do handstands, flips etc.

On the front playground we have a variety of small world activities, which are rotated during the week dependant on weather. For example lego, duplo, cars, trucks, dolls house, train track, wooden toys, dolls, puzzles, dinosaurs, farm and zoo animals. This area also contains our outside water feature and is very popular with KS1 providing learning and stimulation in a quieter area.



OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING



Scooters, skateboards and ride ons continue to be a favourite whatever the weather providing lots of opportunity to improve balancing skills whilst travelling with a bit of speed down the side of the Y4 classroom. It's great to see so many of our new reception children using this area confidently whilst learning how to share and take turns.

Within the shelter playground we have our reading areas, table football, drawing and colouring. This area is also used for skipping, hula hoops and playground games.

The mud kitchen and digging areas are beginning to become easier to dig now, we ask that children change into wellington boots when using this area if muddy, we have many spare pairs for any children who do not already keep a pair in school.

We have lots of tyres located in this area, our children enjoy rolling these about, stacking them up and climbing on and over them which helps to increase core body strength at the same time.

Adjacent to this area we have our own pet goats Ruby and Suzy loaned to us by the bucks centre goat farm in Stoke Mandeville, this area is quiet and peaceful for those who want to get away from the noisy or more energetic activities going on elsewhere.

The MUGA continues to be sectioned off into year groups with a goal for each to play football, an area for basketball and space to practice tennis racket skills when it's not windy.

We also have the lovely green field space beyond forest school during dry weather times, where we hope to be able to offer organised activities for each year group such as football, rugby, cricket and rounders. Whilst those who want to just run around with their friends can do so too.

We are very grateful for all the donations we receive from our Bierton school community, thank you. Naturally toys and equipment wear out or break, so if you have anything which is in good condition that you would be able to pass on to the school please check with the school office. We are currently in need of lego, footballs, buckets and spades, cars, other small toys and dolls, so if you have any of these in good condition that you no longer use please bring them to reception.

We would also like to start a small gardening group club up after half term and are looking for donations of small sized gardening equipment, tarpaulin, pebbles or small rocks, compost, plant trays, bulbs or seeds. If you are able to provide anything can you please contact Mrs Belardo our lunchtime play leader by emailing the school office for her attention— office@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk FAO:Mrs Belardo OPAL

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 3 will be responsible for Harvest

Year 4 will be responsible for Remembrance

EYFS (Nursery and Reception) will be responsible for the Christmas Nativity.

Year 5 will entertain us with a Christmas Pantomime.

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.



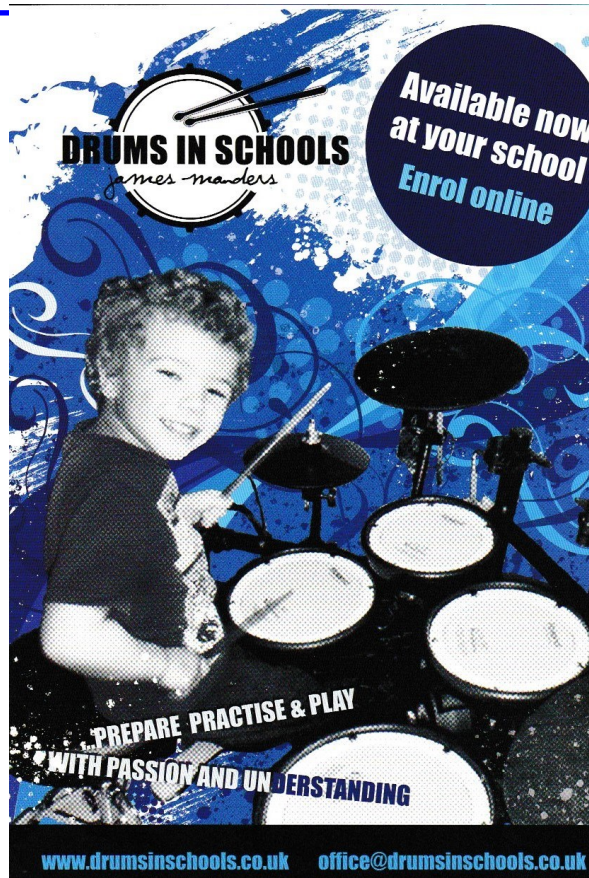
Back in July Mr Manders (guitar) and his son Jack (drums) performed to the school in assembly. Jack only 14 years of age wowed the children with his amazing drumming and Mr Manders got the children (and teachers) singing along to his guitar playing. It was a real celebration of music!

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

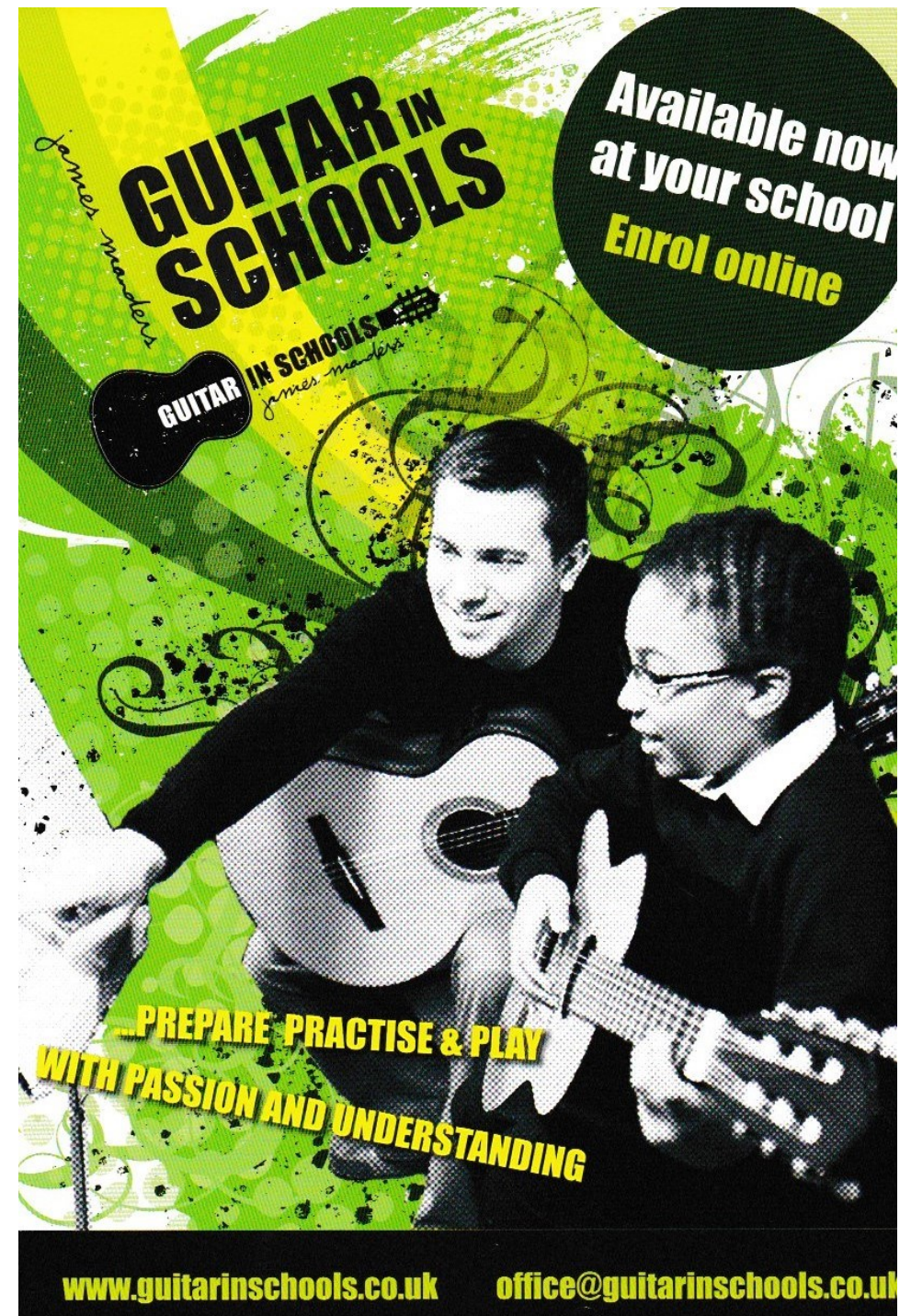


DRUMS IN SCHOOLS
James Manders

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WITH PASSION AND UNDERSTANDING

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Buckinghamshire Family Learning

What is my child learning in maths and how can I help get them ready for the end of Y6 tests?

What easy, fun activities can I do at home to help my child do well in maths?

Support your Child with Maths Y5&6

Join our **free**, 5 week online course,
For parents and carers of children in Year 5 or 6,
at school in Buckinghamshire

Starting next week:

[Thursday 21st September 9.30-11.30am](#)

To book your place, please click on the date above
or phone our enrolment team on: 01296 383592



Maths



buckinghamshireadultlearning



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Mental Health
Support Team
Buckinghamshire

MALE CARERS DROP IN

LETS TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL-
AGE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND
FAMILIES IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

WHAT WE CAN OFFER:

- **UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ANXIETY**
- **LOW MOOD**
- **SELF-ESTEEM AND RESILANCE**
- **UNDERSTANDING COMMON CHILDHOOD BEHAVIOURS**
- **SIGNPOSTING**



WHATS DIFFERENT:

THE GROUP IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR MALE CARERS PROVIDING A SAFE NON-JUDGEMENTAL SPACE TO ACCESS ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Venue: Princes Risborough Family Centre

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Date: 11th October 2023

www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/bucks/mhst

buksmhst@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

01865 904 566