



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to welcome back all of our families. I hope that you had a good summer break. I would also like to welcome all of our new families that have joined us this year. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and settling really well into their new classrooms and routines.

I would also like to welcome the new staff that have joined our team this year – Mrs Rhodes (Yr 2), Mr McMahon (Yr4) and Miss Millington (Willow Class) as new teachers to the school; Miss Clegg and Mrs Gehnich as learning support assistants and Mr Orlandi as our new site assistant. I know you will help to welcome them all into our community.

We have so many exciting experiences and opportunities that we want to share with you across the year. These will be shared in our newsletters – whole school and phase newsletters. We are also aiming to share some experiences and opportunities with you on our facebook page - so please do follow us on facebook.

Attendance at school is so important. In the summer term we shared with you the new Government measures that came into force in August. There is a reminder of this information within this newsletter.

Please can we ask all our families to consider carefully where they are parking in the morning and at collection time. Please do NOT park in front of driveways or on corners of roads. In the morning if you are driving down Parsons Lane, please use the turning circle. If you want to walk your child into the gate then we ask that you please park further afield and walk down Parsons Lane.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

September:

Monday 23rd – Parent Coffee Morning 9am – All welcome. The focus of this coffee morning is 'Understanding and supporting your child's behaviour'.

Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th – Parents Evening Virtual Appointments.

October:

Friday 4th October – Inset Day – School Closed for staff training.

Tuesday 8th – 6pm FOBS Meeting – All Parents Welcome

Friday 11th – 9am Year 1 Maths Mastery Number Workshop for Parents.

Wednesday 16th – KS2 Author Visit – Hannah Gold

Friday 18th – School Nurses Flu Vaccinations

Friday 18th - 9am Supporting your child with reading Workshop for Parents.

Friday 18th – FOBS Break the Rules Day

Monday 21st – Parent Coffee Morning 9am – All Welcome. The focus of this coffee morning is 'Behaviour at Bierton'.

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards
and we will donate ££s to schools.

CASHPOT
FOR
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Download and
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HERE'S HOW

- 1 Download the Asda Rewards app & sign up today
- 2 Opt-in to Cashpot for Schools and follow the steps in your app
- 3 Shop, scan and we donate

We have registered, as a school, with 'Asda's Cashpots for schools'. If you shop with Asda, please can we encourage you to select us in your rewards APP. It is nice and simple to do.

Within your rewards APP, click on 'cashpots'; 'Join Cashpot for schools'; type in our postcode 'HP225DF' and then select Bierton Church of England Combined School. Then carry on with your shopping!

The screenshot shows the 'Cashpots' section of the Asda Rewards app. At the top, there is a balance of £0.00. Below this, under 'Available Cashpots', there is a 'Christmas Saver' option which is currently 'Inactive' and has an 'Activate >' link. A section titled 'What is a Christmas Saver?' explains that it allows users to save Asda Pounds for use in Asda and George during the festive period. Further down, the 'Cashpot for schools' section features a 'Cashpot for Schools!' icon, a call to action to join and support local schools, and a total raised amount of £1.92 million. A blue button at the bottom says 'Join Cashpot for Schools'.

The screenshot shows the 'Choose your primary school' screen. It has a search bar with the text 'Search by postcode or school name' and a 'Clear' button. The search bar contains the postcode 'HP225DF'. Below the search bar, it says 'Showing 1 school'. A single school is listed: 'Bierton Church of England Combined School' with a green checkmark icon. Below the school name is the address 'Parsons Lane, Aylesbury, HP22 5DF'. At the bottom of the screen is a blue 'Continue' button.



Penalty Notices for School Attendance

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following will come into force for absences that start after 19th August 2024. This is nationwide and across borders if you move school or house. **Term Time Leave is only allowed in exceptional circumstances when communicated in advance with evidence provided as soon as possible to the Headteacher.**

FIRST OFFENCE

The first Penalty Notice issued for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, the amount of the fine will be £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days and reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid with 21 days

SECOND OFFENCE

For the second Penalty Notice (within three years of the first offence) issued for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, the amount of the fine will be £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered

THIRD OFFENCE AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave of Absence or Irregular Attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. If found guilty there could be up to a maximum fine of £2,500 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 3 months.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

In law only the headteacher of a school can authorise a child's absence. A pupil's attendance forms part of their official school record.

Parents do not have an automatic right to remove their child from school during term time for the purpose of a leave of absence and are strongly advised not to do so.

Headteachers are unable to authorise leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The fundamental principles for defining 'exceptional' are rare, significant, unavoidable and short. 'Unavoidable' implies that an event could not reasonably be scheduled at another time.

10 sessions in 10 weeks

Penalty Notices will be considered for any 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in 10 weeks.

5 consecutive days of term time absence can trigger a Penalty Notice.

Do not forget that Penalty Notices are issued Per Parent. Per Child. i.e. Two siblings absent would result in each parent receiving 2 fines. This could amount to £640

On the 19th August 2024, a new framework came into force from the Government. This means that unauthorised term time absences may be liable to and receive a penalty notice.

A reminder of our term dates for this academic year.

School Term Dates 2024-25

Term	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn	Wednesday 4 th September 2024	Friday 25 th October 2024 at 3.15pm
-	Monday 4 th November 2024	Friday 20 th December 2024 at 1pm
Spring	Tuesday 7 th January 2025	Friday 14 th February 2025 at 3.15pm
-	Monday 24 th February 2025	Friday 4 th April <u>2025</u> at 1 pm
Summer	Wednesday 23 rd April 2025	Friday 23 rd May 2025 at 3.15pm
-	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	Wednesday 23 rd July 2025 at 1 pm

Inset Days as follows

Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Friday 4th October 2024
Monday 6th January 2025
Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Monday 2nd June 2025

Kindness Week

Remember to send off your child's Kindness week pack if they want to receive their Purple Kindness Badge!

For the first 3 days back in September, we celebrated Kindness week! We spent day 1 thinking about how we could be kind to ourselves, day 2 was focused on how we could show kindness to others and the final day was centered around how we can be kind to our environment. There were some really lovely activities going on across the school, for example, creating a jigsaw that could be given to someone hiding a secret message, making cupcakes, planting seeds, writing acrostic poems and much more!



Here are some photos of some of the things that the Classes got up to across the school!

No act OF KINDNESS no matter HOW SMALL IS EVER WASTED



Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2024 Summary

Thank you to all the parents/carers who completed the school questionnaire at the end of July 2024. We wanted to share with you some of the results from the questionnaire.

99% of parents/carers stated that their child is happy at this school.

100% of parents/carers stated that their child feels safe at this school.

99% of parents/carers stated that our school promotes positive behaviours through our school values.

99% of parents/carers stated that their child does well at this school.

99% of parents/carers stated that the school is welcoming and a pleasant place to visit.

97% of parents/carers stated that the school is led and managed well.

98% of parents/carers stated that the school makes me aware of what my child is learning.

97% of parents/carers stated that the school is good at keeping parents up to date via parentmail.

100% of parents/carers stated that there is a good range of subjects and learning experiences available to their child.

99% of parents/carers stated that their child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.

99% of parents/carers would recommend this school to another parent.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2024 Summary

We then asked what do parents/carers think are the best things about Bierton CE Combined School and these are some of the responses:

Communication, newsletters, verbal communication with class teachers and ATs, SEN support is really good, friendly staff, welcoming in the mornings, really good office staff friendly and very helpful.

The range and frequency of opportunities available to children beyond academic curriculum such as school day trips, author visits, residential trips etc. widen their horizon and inform their experience of the real world. My child has benefited immensely from this exposure. We didn't have this in our previous school. Coming to Bierton made me appreciate its value and impact on children.

I love the culture of the school and the teachers are truly passionate about my daughter's progress and about the wellbeing of the students.

The inclusion of parents in their child's learning such as doing open classrooms, family picnics, music shows etc.

Nurturing environment . My son is progressing well.

Leadership team and inclusivity

Staff are all committed and caring with the pupils best interests at heart. Lovely community feel to the school.

Friendly staff and a wide choice of after school clubs. I'm glad that this school takes into account the individual needs of students and supports them to develop their potential, passions and interests!

My daughter has additional needs and the school is more than helpful with her day to day needs and make sure she feels safe and welcome always. They are very understanding and strive to help whenever they can, miss martin is an excellent head teacher who always goes above and beyond for her pupils staff and parents. The staff at the school are lovely and always want whats best for the pupils and I am beyond happy with there hard work.

I believe the management of the school is very good, it feels controlled and they take pride in the school. I love the community feel to the school and have enjoyed the events that have been put on for the class this year.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire 2024 Summary

We then asked if there is anything in particular you'd change about the school? Here are some of the elements mentioned that we have already actioned:

You Said	We have done
Larger grass area	We have a football pitch sized field on the other side of forest school as well as grass around the MUGA pitch. Unfortunately, this is all the land that the school has available. We utilize the school field as much as possible. It is opened up to different year groups throughout the week at lunch time (while the weather is good) in order to provide further space and opportunities.
It would be extremely helpful if the school sent a reminder of important events and dates closer to the time.	We have renamed the Friday Round up to Friday Reminders which gives you a reminder of events taking place the following week.
More availability of wrap around care	We conducted a school wide survey of wrap around care needs to review provision available.
If parents could know each year what content will be covered like a syllabus at early stage it would be good for myself to understand where my son stands	This will be available shortly on our school website for you to access at any point across the year.
I would like the lunches to offer simple sandwiches with no seeded bread . As my children do not like the deli option atm.	The AIP menu does contain three main meals as well as a deli option each day. The deli option varies in terms of bread, wraps and rolls across the year. This should allow a range of options for you to select each day.
Behaviour isn't always consistently dealt with.	Behaviour Policy has been reviewed for September 2024. This will be going on the school website shortly. A new Behaviour Curriculum has also been introduced across the school and workshops for parents relating to behaviour have been scheduled for this term.

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 that the quality of Teaching and learning of Reading and Writing is consistently high quality across the school.

- To further develop children's Growth Mindsets, resilience and knowledge of Behaviour expectations in the wider world.
- Ensure consistent behaviour expectations
 - Introduce a Behaviour Curriculum
 - Provide a range of opportunities to understand and support mental health and well being.

- To provide opportunities for children to become Active Citizens in their community.
- Provide opportunities for children to have an impact on their community.
 - Opportunities to Let their Lights Shine

Further strengthen the roles and skills of leaders at all levels, including Governorship, in continuing to improve the accountability of all leaders in their areas of responsibility.

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

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.

To ensure the learning environment is engaging and purposeful for all children.

To further develop and embed the skills and practices of Early Reading and Writing.

LITERACY

Oracy

The Oracy framework has 4 strands that help to develop a child's oracy skills. One of these strands is the physical attributes of speaking. This includes; pace of speaking, volume, pronunciation and facial expressions.

Reader volunteers

If you are interested in returning as a volunteer to listen to our children read or if you are interested in started please contact the office. It really helps us to support the children to give them more opportunities to read to different people.

Reading allows us to experience new things.

It increases their attention span and helps them to focus.

Reading a book helps to build relationships and develop a bond with the person you share the story with.

Reading can increase the level of vocabulary that your child hears and in turn can use themselves.

Library

The children will have a weekly visit to the library where they will have the opportunity to take out a book to enjoy at home. We will be opening the library after school again this year for you to be able to visit the library with your child.



Maths at Bierton

Year 1 to Year 6 have a daily fluency session in addition to their maths lesson. In our next update, we will share more information about the daily maths lessons.

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Fluency

Each class takes part in a Mastering Number fluency session throughout the school day. The aim is to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. Over time children will leave, Key Stage 1 with fluency in additive reasoning and calculation and develop a confidence and flexibility with number.



Key Stage 2 Fluency

In Year 3, children consolidate their additive reasoning which they learnt in Key Stage 1 Mastering sessions. They then begin to improve their fluency and recall of times table facts. In Year 4 and Year 5, children are developing their multiplicative reasoning by participating in daily Mastering Number at Key Stage 2 sessions. Daily fluency sessions in Year 6 focus on consolidating skills and methods they have learnt throughout primary school, preparing them for the transition into secondary education.

Times Table Rock Stars

This maths programme aims to take all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division.



Numbots

Numbots is all about every child achieving the "triple win" of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating.



Shout Outs!

Well done to the following children who have earned the most coins on either Numbots on TTRS since returning to school. You will get a dojo each!

Children in Reception will receive their logins after half term.

	Numbots	TTRS
Year 1	Alexander (Birch)	
Year 2	Nancy (Cherry)	Harry (Cherry)
Year 3	Joshua (Hazel)	Tiynash (Hazel)
Year 4	Cade (Pine)	Ajen (Pear)
Year 5	Alex (Spruce)	David (Sycamore)
Year 6	Chloe (Walnut)	Stephen (Whitebeam)

Year 4: Multiplication Tables Check

In the Summer Term, each child in Year 4 will sit a statutory times table check. More information will be shared throughout the year but here is a suggested preparation plan shared by Times Table Rock Stars.



SEND Updates

In each school newsletter, there will be an update on SEND, where parents will be kept informed of any recent developments within the world of SEND and also signposted to different resources/material. We hope you find it useful.



The SENDCo's at Bierton School are:
Mrs G Bramley
Mrs V Tarling- EYFS

Family Links Nurturing Programme

Want some advice from school about whether or not your child may have SEND? Your first port of call is to discuss this with your child's class teacher. Then if needed, the class teacher will discuss with the SENDCo and decide on next steps.

This is a 10 week course and it covers understanding why children behave as they do, recognising the feelings behind behaviour (theirs and ours), exploring different approaches and discipline, finding ways to develop self-discipline and cooperation in children and learning the importance of looking after ourselves. The course starts on Thursday 26th September 9.30-11.30 at Broughton School. Please contact Mrs Bramley if you would like to be part of this course:

Senco@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk



For specific advice on SEND and where to get started, visit Buckinghamshire Council's Local Offer. Here you will find resources, information, training and much more.

[Bucks SEND Local Offer | Family Information Service \(bucksinghamshire.gov.uk\)](#)



FACT Bucks is a local voice for Parents and Carers of children with SEND. They run a parent forum and help parents advocate for their children.

www.factbucks.org.uk

