



News and Information

Date: 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

These first few weeks have been incredibly busy but I have been so proud of how well all the children have been settling into their classes and new routines. Thank you for supporting your child with their transitions.

As you will have now seen, we have moved to a new platform for homework. The reason behind this, is after much research by our STEM Leaders, PurpleMash offers the best opportunities for our computing curriculum and has the added bonus of being able to also work for setting homework. Staff are all new to this and so we know there may have been a few teething problems. Please bare with us. We have official training from Purple Mash themselves next week which should help to answer any of our staff's questions. We have already taken on board some feedback and are in the process of putting all links to different platforms, such as Numbots, on PurpleMash in the 'To Do' section so that it is easier for you as parents to see what the children have to do and also navigate to the different platforms. Hopefully this will help.

Ms Martin

Headteacher

Hellos, Goodbyes and Changes



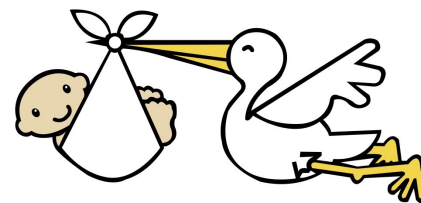
At the beginning of this term we welcomed a few new members to our team.

- Mr Nieysto has joined our teaching staff and is teaching in Year 4 in Pear Class this year.
- Mrs Glanney has also joined our teaching staff in Year 5/6 in Sycamore Class this year.
- Mrs Page has joined our office team as our Admin assistant and so will be answering lots of your calls and supporting Miss Dell with greeting you as reception.
- Mrs Tollyfield has re-joined us on our learning support assistant team and this year is mainly supporting in our year 5 and 6 classes.
- Miss Keeler has joined our Nursery Team working with all our nursery children.

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.

Congratulations

A huge Congratulations to Mrs Bailey who is expecting her first baby. All being well she is due to start her maternity leave at the beginning of January.



Key Dates coming up:

September

Friday 30th—Years 3+4 Parents DT Session

October

Thursday 6th—Pirate Themed Hot School Dinner

Monday 10th—Year 1 Parents DT Session

Tuesday 11th—Year 2 Trip to the Guttman

Thursday 13th—Cine Night

Friday 14th— Reception Open Session for Parents 2-3:15pm

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
- Maths Fluency
- SEN Provision

To develop Children's communication and interaction skills both orally and socially.

- Develop Oracy Skills
- Offer opportunities to develop a wide vocabulary
- Develop children's ability to think and discuss topics.

To Develop Middle Leadership deeper understanding of their curriculum areas.

- Curriculum leaders tightly monitoring their subjects across the whole school.
- Evaluate current provision and identify actions for impact.

To ensure consistency in behaviour and develop respect for others.

- Consistent Behaviour Expectations across the school.
- Opportunities to explore diverse and inclusive curriculum.

To further develop and embed the skills and practices of early reading.

- Focus on reading skills
- Ensure high quality phonics teaching
- Early identification of language support.

THANK YOU

We all know that the cost of living is going up and as a school we have been looking at how we can support parents whilst still being able to offer the children the wide range of experiences. During the summer holidays I contacted the Griffin Trust in Bierton to see if they would be willing to support the school in continuing to provide experiences and trips to the children. This week, I am delighted to say that the Griffin Trust have very generously agreed to cover the cost of the majority of the trips and experiences for the children this year. Most of the remaining cost is generously being covered by our amazing FOBS who have raised money through events over the last year.

A Massive thank you to the Griffin Trust and to FOBS in supporting the school to allow us to support you as parents during this difficult time.

Apart from the residentials and swimming sessions, all other trips, experiences and workshops will be covered by the school and these generous donations and grants for this academic year. Hopefully, this will allow the children to still have these amazing, memorable experience whilst not putting any additional stress and pressure on families. Letters will still come out about each individual trip to keep you informed about where the children are going and what they may need to wear and bring for their trips.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT BIERTON

Christian Value of the half-term

This half-term we have been focusing on:

RESPONSIBILITY



The children have all thought about what this might look like in school and created candles for their Spirituality displays in class with words and pictures that represent this. Throughout the half-term we refer to this value and highlight good examples of responsibility in action which we believe is essential at this time of year. Many children have been recognised as great role models for this value and their achievements acknowledged in our Celebration Assemblies.

GLOBAL NEIGHBOURS



From recycling, saving energy and litter picks to growing and donating food for local people, pupils and staff at Bierton CE Combined School have been working hard to take their place as global citizens.

Bierton Church of England Combined School in Aylesbury has achieved **Bronze Award** status in Christian Aid's Global Neighbours scheme in recognition of its wide-ranging steps to love their global neighbour.

The accreditation scheme celebrates schools that are helping pupils learn about global poverty and the Christian responsibility to tackle it, as well as giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world

Year 3 and 4 visit Waddesdon Manor to learn about the Paralympics.

On Tuesday 20th September Year 3 and 4 went to Waddesdon Manor. We were able to take part in many activities to learn about the Paralympics.



Some children got to meet Paralympian Will.



Children got to take part in many fun activities that helped them to learn and understand about the Paralympics.



Some groups learnt how to play boccia. This is a para-sport that does not have an Olympic equivalent.

We looked at different Paralympic memorabilia, including medals, torches and sporting equipment. We also learnt how prosthetics have advanced over the past 20 years.

After lunch, children got to sing with a band.



We also saw a beautiful floral exhibit created to celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

Maths at Bierton

Times Tables

Children need to learn their times tables in primary school. They are essential when learning many new maths skills and concepts from the national curriculum, such as division, fractions, decimals and factors. Times tables can often prove problematic for young children to learn.

Within our next few maths updates, we will look at why it is important to learn time tables, how we teach them in school and how to support your child at home. This advice will be separated into year groups (starting from Year 1 in the next update).

Why is it important to be able to fluently recall times tables?

- Not knowing your times tables puts additional strain on your working memory when tackling new concepts in maths.
- This will hinder the long-term transition of the new facts to the long term memory.
- If you don't know your times tables by secondary school then you're starting at a severe disadvantage.
- Get counting and developing recall facts for times tables is important from an early age.
- Research says at primary age, practising times tables 'little and often' has the potential to make most difference.

General tips for teaching times tables

- Use times table chanting
- Make times tables fun with songs and multiplication games
- Make use of times tables grids
- Use concrete resources
- Get active
- Use your child's interests to engage them with times tables

Further information and guidance for specific year groups will b provided in future updates.

What we do in school?

- Each week, children in Year 3—Year 6 have a 15 minute fluency session focused on learning and recalling times tables. The structure of these lessons will change depending on the age and needs of the class.
- From the Spring Term, Year 1 and Year 2 will also have a weekly times table session.
- Children in Year 3—Year 6 have weekly homework on Times Table Rock Stars. Year 2 will also have this homework later in the year.
- Children receive certificates and recognition for their performance on Times Table Rock Star.
- If you need another copy of your child's login details, please contact their class teacher.



Literacy at Bierton

The importance of reading

Reading is such an important skills for a child to develop early in their lives. This is because it feeds into all other areas of their learning. Here is video from Read Write Inc with some points to consider when reading to your child.

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lzvAvGxf/wh0KdNXv>



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

It teaches children to find adventure, ideas and answers through books.

Reading helps children to make connections to new places, people and concepts.

Reading allows us to experience new things.

Reading everyday creates lifelong readers allows a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.

It expands and improves cognitive development and mental processing skills.

It increases their attention span and helps them to focus.

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

It lasts a lifetime . Confident readers have the tools they need to become successful students.

It increases communication skills by interpreting the words and actions of the characters.

Phonics at Bierton

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:



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.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read. Phonics works by breaking words down into its 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 chil-

Vocabulary

Each fortnight, we will share a phonics term with you.

This week's term is **phoneme**

A phoneme is a single sound that can be made using more than one letter.

Online Safety

Online safety guide on Reddit.

Reddit describes itself as a 'social news' site where users connect and share stories, opinions and support; debate issues; ask questions; and chat to people with similar interests. Discussion topics are organised into communities (known as subreddits) that are created, run and populated by users, who remain anonymous throughout. Free speech is encouraged and users – or 'redditors' – can vote posts 'up' or 'down' so they get more (or less) attention. Reddit is free to join, although signing up to Reddit Premium unlocks an advert-free version of the platform.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as harassment, trolling and fake news.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many platforms which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about REDDIT

← R/FUNNY **AGE RATING 13+** **R/TRENDING →**

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MINIMAL MODERATION**
As sharing opinions on Reddit is easy (and anonymous), offensive or age-inappropriate content is frequently posted. Moderation by admins and bots does occur, but can't cover every community – so Reddit relies on users voluntarily moderating these spaces. Subreddits marked NSFW ('not safe for work') can contain anything from profanity to pornography, so are not suitable for under 18s.
- HARASSMENT AND TROLLING**
If someone on Reddit doesn't agree with your child's opinion, they may feel compelled to say so – in no uncertain terms. This could lead to a public bombardment of hurtful messages. Likewise, Reddit users are highly likely to encounter trolling (where someone posts a deliberately inflammatory comment to provoke a reaction) on the platform, which can be distressing.
- FAKE NEWS**
Absolutely anyone can post a story on Reddit, so sub-reddits are occasionally prone to bias, misinformation and opinions being repeated as if they are genuine. News articles often grab users' attention with catchy or controversial headlines, and Reddit is no exception. It's important that young people are able to identify fake news – and disregard it rather than sharing it.
- GIFTING AND SPENDING**
Users can gift awards to the authors of posts that they like (thereby encouraging their favourite redditors to keep contributing) by spending Reddit Coins. This virtual currency can be bought on demand (with real money) or received as part of the paid-for premium package. Users sending a gift can also leave an anonymous private message, a feature which has been abused by groomers.
- 'SUPPORTIVE' STRANGERS**
By definition, Reddit users interact with strangers in public through their community – but also have the option to do so privately. Groomers could repeatedly up-vote a child's comments or respond encouragingly to their posts to win their trust. Once they've built a rapport, the predator then begins messaging the child in private to obtain personal details or try to lure them into meeting in person.
- NEVER-ENDING NOTIFICATIONS**
Reddit's default is for all notifications to be on. There are a total of 26 types of notification on the platform, ranging from chat messages and comments to updates and mentions of username. This would lead to a child's device being pinged almost constantly with alerts, frequently causing them to be distracted by incoming notifications rather than being present in the moment.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- Sort the Settings**
Reddit's user settings can help ensure that minors don't view adult material. Under the 'Feed Settings' tab, switch the Adult Content toggle to 'off', and enable Safe Browsing Mode (this blurs out any explicit images). Also in settings, you can turn off all unnecessary notifications, to prevent your child being distracted by every post or comment on Reddit, allowing them some tech-free time.
- Rise Above It**
If a person says something critical or offensive to your child on Reddit, it's natural that they'll want to respond. Explain to them, however, that is exactly the reaction that trolls look for. Don't give them the satisfaction! Instead, report the comment to Reddit Support for investigation. Blocking a user stops them from messaging or following your child on the platform.
- Encourage Critical Thinking**
It can often be difficult to tell if something online is real or fake – particularly for young people. It's important to encourage your child to double-check with reputable sources if what they're reading is genuine. Remind them to consider what motives might be in the message – and to watch out for scams. Chatting about this regularly helps to develop critical thinking skills and good online habits.
- Avoid Private Messaging**
Through their Reddit profile, young people can control who's able to message them privately – with options including 'no-one' and 'accounts older than 30 days'. These controls help ensure potential groomers can't talk to your child in private, and that Reddit's admins and other users will be able to moderate and report anything they spot which causes them concern.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.redditinc.com/policies/privacy-policy> | <https://www.redditinc.com/policies/content-policy>



The chance to connect with like-minded people who have walked in your shoes.

Walking With You is a parent led support group for anyone supporting children and young people, up to the age of 25, experiencing mental health difficulties.

You can take part discussing shared experiences with other parents and carers as well as having **mental health professionals from CAMHS** on-hand to support and answer any questions you may have.

Currently sessions are being ran by Microsoft Teams. you can join or leave as any point (meetings are not recorded).

Our next three sessions are:

Friday September 23rd 10-11.30

Anxiety and challenges around going back to school

Friday October 14th 10-11.30

School avoidance and exclusion

Friday November 25th 10-11.30

Gender dysphoria and gender difficulties

If you would like to join our session/s or would like further information, please contact:

Oma Nwajiuba, Participation Lead
at ekeoma.nwajiuba@barnardos.org.uk

Please also confirm your consent to use your e-mail address.

What is WWY?

WWY stands for Walking with You. WWY group is a safe space where you can talk freely among people who are walking the same path as you, there is no judgment, and it is completely confidential.

Who is WWY open to?

The group is open to anyone who is supporting a child/young person experiencing difficulties up to the age of 25. (You do not need to have a child/young person under CAMHS to join the group).

Who runs and plans the sessions?

WWY is run by parent volunteers alongside the Participation Lead. All Parent Volunteers who lead the group have completed **safer recruitment checks** (including DBS checks and references). They have also completed **Barnardo's volunteer induction training**

How do the sessions run? Are there any professionals present?

At each session we have representation from CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health service) who are available to answer any questions you may have and to support/signpost.

The session generally starts with an introduction – Participation Lead, parent volunteers and CAMHS staff/guest speakers.

We will generally have a theme and invite along the relevant professionals.

In the past we have had psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and neurodevelopmental professionals attending.

There is also plenty of opportunity to share/talk to other parents who also have a wealth of knowledge, but if you would rather just listen that is fine as well.

