



# News and Information

Date: 4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The COVID situation has appeared a lot more positive this week with only 3 new positive cases—this is the lowest level since the start of this term. Thank you for your support with slowing transmission. These last few weeks have been more challenging than any other period in the last two years; however, it is clear that this school community rises to a challenge and comes out the other side with their lights shining brightly. I have every confidence that the second half of this academic year will be a happier and brighter time for our whole community with lots of trips and experiences planned for the children and sporting events appearing on the calendar. It was amazing to see the children dressed up for Number Day—their costumes were absolutely brilliant.

Have an amazing weekend everyone

Mr W Gadsby

## School Council Update

We had our last meeting on Wednesday 26th January. We talked about what rules and responsibilities we wanted at playtimes—this helped create our play charter.

Some of these ideas include:



We have the right to have fun and play; We have a responsibility to ensure everyone can have fun and can play.



We have the right to be respected by everyone; We have the responsibility to respect everyone.

We will look to include some of these ideas in our children's charter to make sure that play time is fun and safe.

## Key Dates coming up:

### February

W.B. 7th—Children's mental Health Week

Tuesday 8th—Safer Internet Day

W.B. 14th—Diversity Week

Tuesday 15th—Reception & Year 6 photographs

Thursday 17th—Cine Night (FOBS event)

Friday 18th—School closes at 3:15pm for half-term

Monday 28th—School re-opens

### March

Friday 4th—World Book Day

Friday 11th—Spanish Day

Friday 18th—Comic Relief Day

Monday 21st—Year 5/6 Trip to The Space Centre; Teaching Talons Workshop in school for KS1

Wednesday 23rd—FOBS Meeting

Friday 25th—Progress reports go out

Monday 28th—Nursery Parents Evening (1:00pm—4:00pm)

Tuesday 29th—Parents Evening (3:30pm—6:30pm) - includes Nursery

Wednesday 30th—Parents Evening (3:30—6:30pm)

Thursday 31st—School Disco (FOBS event)

# Literacy at Bierton

## Vocabulary

### modal verbs

These are verbs which change or affect the other verb in the sentence. They indicate the likelihood, ability, permission or obligation.

These include:

can	could	may	might
will	would,	shall	should
	must		

"The Sea Monster **should** go away"

Should is the **modal verb** here as it shows the likelihood of the monster leaving.

They can be used to show the possibility of something happening.

"It might rain tomorrow."

They can show permission.

"Can I have a biscuit?"

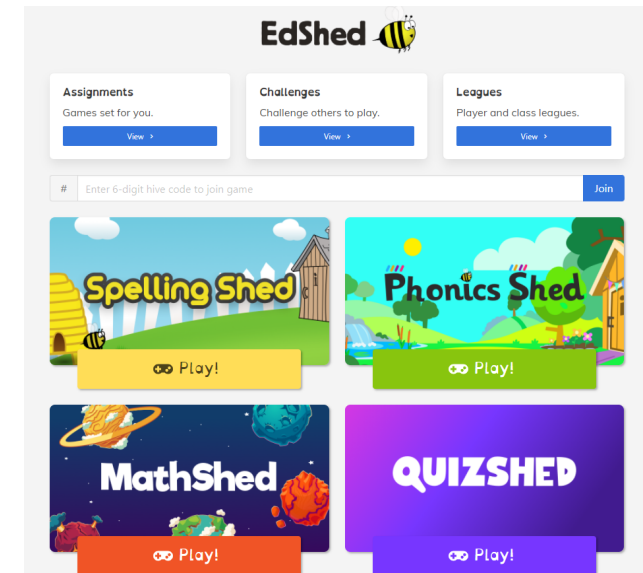
ll would should cou  
y can shall must mi  
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## Spelling Shed

From year 1 onwards, we use Spelling Shed to set our weekly spelling homework. Each week they will have an assignment to complete based on their spelling step. When they first log in any assignments that they have had set will show at the top. These activities are a great way for them to practise the spellings which increase their chance of passing their test at the end of the half term.

Once they have completed their homework they can continue to play the games. They can use their spelling words in the games or they can also use different lists that are on the site. They can also challenge their classmates and see who gets the highest score.

Phonics Shed is a great resource for those who are working on their phonics. It has a range of games to practise identifying the start sound on missing sounds.



## Book Review

[Leonora Bolt: Secret Inventor](#) Author: Lucy Brandt

Inventor Leonora Bolt has never left the remote island she lives on with her pet otter and an eccentric housekeeper! When a young castaway washes ashore, she begins to learn all about the mainland - which is in terrible danger. Can Leonora and her friends save it?



If you have read a great book recently and would like to share your review please let me know. You can send me your review to [year34team@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:year34team@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk) or bring it to my classroom. Maybe your review will appear in the next newsletter.

# Phonics at Bierton



## Using alternative sounds in spelling.

The same sounds can be made by different groups of letters, for example:

- oy and oi (as in 'toy' and 'coin')
- ai and ay (as in 'rain' and 'say')
- ir, er and ur (as in 'dirt', 'fern' and 'turn')
- ow and ou (as in 'cow' and 'round')
- ow and oe (as in 'flow' and 'toe')
- ue and ew (as in 'glue' and 'flew')
- ie and igh (as in 'pie' and 'sigh')
- or, ore and aw (as in 'for', 'more' and 'raw')

## Vocabulary

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

This week's term is : Decoding

Decoding is the ability to apply your knowledge of letter-sound relationships, including knowledge of letter patterns, to correctly pronounce written words.

## Developing Fine Motor skills

Fine motor skills are those skills that involve a refined use of the small muscles which control the hand, fingers and thumb. With the development of these skills, a child is able to complete important tasks such as writing.





























## Hand Writing Rhymes

As the children begin to learn their letter sounds they will be introduced to handwriting rhyme.

The handwriting rhyme helps the children to visualise their letter shape as they write it.

This helps the children to distinguish between letters that look or sound similar.

a  Around the apple and down the leaf.	b  Down the laces to the heel and around the toe.	c  Curl around the caterpillar.	d  Around the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck & down to his toes.	e  Lift off the top and scoop out the egg.	f  Down the stem and draw the leaves.
g  Around the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.	h  Down the head, to his hooves and over his back.	i  Down the body and dot for the head.	j  Down his body, curl, dot for his head.	k  Down the kangaroo's body tail and leg.	l  Down the long leg.
m  Down Maisie, mountain, mountain.	n  Down Nobby and over his net.	o  All around the orange.	p  Down the pirates plait and around his face.	qu  Round her head, up past her earring, down her hair, and flick.	r  Down the robots back and curl over his arm.
s  Slither down the snake.	t  Down the tower, across the tower.	u  Down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle.	v  Down a wing, up a wing.	w  Down, up, down, up.	x  Down the arm and leg, repeat the other side.
y  Down a horn, up a horn and under head.	z  Zig-zag-zig.				



## Fluency Facts

Each fortnight, we will share some fluency facts for you to learn and recall with your child. If your child can recall the fact when asked by a teacher, they will receive a dojo.

Early Years	<b>Making 5</b>	
	4 and 1	
	3 and 2	
Year 1 and 2	<b>Making 9</b>	
	0 and 9	9 and 0
	1 and 8	8 and 1
	2 and 7	7 and 2
	3 and 6	6 and 3
Year 3 and 4	<b>Multiplying and dividing by 10</b>	
	<p><b>Multiplying by 10, each digit moves one space to the left. (e.g. <math>54 \times 10 = 540</math>)</b></p> <p><b>Dividing by 10, each digit moves one space to the right. (e.g. <math>540 \div 10 = 54</math>)</b></p>	
Year 5 and 6	<b>Converting lengths</b>	
	10 mm = 1 cm	
	1 mm = 0.1 cm	
	100 cm = 1 m	
	1 cm = 0.01 m	
	1000 m = 1 km	
1 m = 0.001 km		

# Maths at Bierton

## Meet the Maths Ambassadors

Hi, I am Kruthi and I love maths, reading and dolphins. My friend Amelia B is a Maths Ambassador like me. I have a little sister called Jashwi. My other friend is Chloe S. My favourite sport is football. I am in Red House and my favourite colour is blue. I like playing tag at school and snakes and ladders at home with my sister. I am also a peer mentor and an anti-bullying ambassador so you can come to me when you have a problem. The other anti-

This photo shows just some of the maths resources we purchased thanks to the very generous donation from The Griffin Trust.



bullying ambassadors are in the BOSC room and are approachable.

Hi, I am Amelia and I enjoy maths, reading, Times Table Rock Stars and dogs. I have a dog called Willow, a budgie called Topaz and a rabbit called Mascara. One of my best friends is called Kruthi and she is the other Maths Ambassador. My best friend is called Noorhanfa and she is really nice. Some more of my friends are Chloe, Lucinda, Lyla and Keira-Mae. I am in Red House and I have achieved the stage diamond on Numbots and am

## Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots Challenges

The classes who come first (highest percentage of children playing) in Times Table Rock Stars and Numbots each fortnight will win extra playtime!

Well done to **Ash and Pine (Numbots)** and **Chery and Sycamore (TTRS)** for topping the leaderboards. One of your fluency sessions will be spent having extra playtime!



## Teacher Challenges!

On **Thursday 17th February**, Mrs Glover will complete a Rock Slam against any willing opponents on Times Table Rock Stars. If you would like to compete, please challenge her by **Wednesday 16th February**.

Anyone who completes the challenge will receive a dojo and anyone who beats him will receive 5 dojos!

Well done to the 15 children who challenged Mr Glanney. You will all get a dojo! A special well done to David F who beat him. You will get 5 dojos!

## Vocabulary

This week's words are:

### Tens and ones

A ten can be thought of as a set of 10 ones.

### Working Out Place Value

This video (created by Twinkl) explains place value, tens and ones.

<https://youtu.be/m6cxpRXaeSw>

# Tribute to Linda Green

Sadly, the Berton Community lost a former member of staff last week.

Linda Ann Green joined Berton as a Learning Support Assistant in 2009 and spent 9 happy years supporting children in Reception. She was a keen gardener and would love to do some planting with the children; Linda was also keen baker and would fill the staff room with lots of treats.

Linda was also very resourceful outside of the classroom and would spend many hours of her spare time creating resources for the children and the classroom, including curtains and cushions; dinosaur jellies and salt dough. Linda was a very creative soul and would love to share her creativity with the children. She was very resourceful and spent many hours of her spare time sourcing items that could be recycled in school. Linda would visit the local tip and purchase photo frames to frame and celebrate children's work.

She was a warm, caring and happy individual who always put the children first. Linda had a brilliant sense of humour and when she wasn't bringing a smile to the children's faces, she was bringing joy and laughter to the staff room. She was an incredible team player who will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.



# R.E. and Global Neighbours



Our value this half term has been **LOVE**.

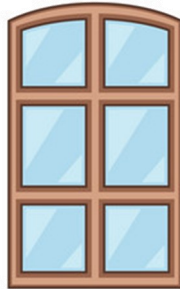
As a school we feel our children are very good at demonstrating this value through their actions and by showing kindness to others. We have also been learning, 'All you need is love' by the Beatles in our singing assemblies and talking about the im-

Our global neighbours objectives fed very nicely into our value this half term.

We looked out onto the world, looking at the lives of children in Kenya through the charity Karibuni.



The children were really thoughtful about this many commenting on how unfair it was.



We reflected on the differences between our lives and theirs. Especially the things we should be thankful for.

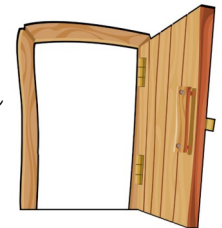
But we also looked at some of the amazing skills they had. We were



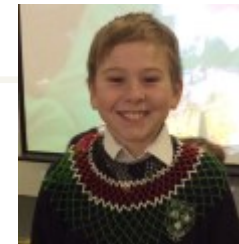
especially surprised by the brilliant toys and jewellery they made.



We acted on this by collecting donations to give to the children.



We raised £240 worth of donations on top of the 3 full to bursting bags of stationary.



First we want to thank all the parents who donated stationary. This really means a lot.

We learnt about how the children in Kenya can't go to school, only some have the opportunity to go because they can't afford it and the days are long. Parents have to pay **and** the uniform is very expensive. We saw pictures of some children having lunch and some sitting on the ground not eating anything at all. We don't realise how lucky we are to have our lunch and enjoy its taste.

The people in Kenya have such a unique style in clothing. Some things we saw were long thick cloths which women could wear as skirts or to carry large bottles, as well as beautiful jewellery made from beads.

Once again we want to say thank you for all the wonderful donations from us at Berton and from the people in Kenya again

by **Pahal Patel** - Spirituality and Community Ambassador.



# School Travel plan

Spring 2022



## Living Streets—Travel Tracker

We are continuing to monitor our travel to school using the Living Streets Travel Tracker. Children log how they got to school on the class i-pad or on the interactive whiteboard every day.

There is a trophy for the class who have the highest percentage of active journeys throughout the month and the competition between classes is very fierce. However, Spruce class have been the top class on Travel Tracker in September, October, November and December and look well on their way to retaining their trophy in January.

Children earn badges by recording at least one active journey a week, every week of the month. Living Streets provide our badges which are made out of recycled plastic cups and this year's badges have been designed by children in other schools through a competition run in the summer. Our badges for last half term were a polar bear for November and an orangutan for December. Badges for this term will be an otter (January), a sea turtle (February) and an antelope (March). We have so many active journeys I have had to order more badges!

We are also now able to compare ourselves to other schools, both in Buckinghamshire and across the country. A lot of new schools joined the scheme across the country in September and that is why our ratings appear to have dropped to drastically compared to other school in the country.

Month	In Buckinghamshire	Across the Country
September	9th	52nd
October	18th	150th
November	16th	135th
December	14th	150th

## Modeshift Stars Awards

I am delighted to say that we have maintained our Bronze Award for this year. Accreditation is awarded based on, among other things:

- activities we take part in to reduce road traffic such as Cycle to School Week & Walk to School Week
- Safer travel initiatives such as Bikeability, road safety
- Junior Road Safety Officers presenting to the school in assemblies
- Increase the use of Park and Stride locations
- Most importantly – reducing the number of cars dropping children off at school.

We are not able to get our Silver Award until we reduce the number of cars coming to school by 10% over 4 years. Watch out for news about some exciting ideas we have to meet this target.

We appreciate all the support you have given us to help achieve our Bronze Award and thank you for your ongoing support this year.



Thank you to everyone who took part in our last Walk to School Week. We will be taking part in the Five Day Challenge Walk to School Week in the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> May. More details to follow after Easter.

# Let's Celebrate!

## Spelling Shed

Top classes	Top scorers KS1	Top scorers KS2
Holly	Gracie	Danielle
Spruce	David	Liam
Cherry	Ellis	Jasmine



	Top Classes (% of pupils playing)	Highest Number of Coins	Biggest Improvement in Studio Speed	Fastest Current Studio Speed	Most Improved (Accuracy)
Key Stage 1	1st: Cherry 2nd: Cedar	1st: Mahi B 2nd: Dylan W 3rd: Gracie B		1st: Pranshu D 2nd: Inaaya K	1st: Bernadette H 2nd: Elsie P 3rd: Thomas L
Key Stage 2	1st: Sycamore 2nd: Pine 3rd: Walnut	1st: Jessica G 2nd: Zachary E 3rd: Emma L	1st: Maxwell Su 2nd: Ethan Al 3rd: Henry E	1st: Micah F 2nd: Zachary E 3rd: Tommy S	1st: Movitha K 2nd: Pearl G 3rd: Sara R

**Current Rock Heroes:** Amelia B, Zachary E, Maxwell Sa, Micah F, Toby H, Sumaiyah K and Tommy S



UNDER 1 SEC

Class	Number of quizzes (last 14 days)	Class average pass rate % (last 14 days)
Cedar	164	81.0
Cherry	146	81.0
Hazel	275	87.1
Holly	203	89.4
Pine	152	92.0
Spruce	114	87.6
Sycamore	68	89.0
Walnut	55	88.6



3,395

2,845

2,177

3,044

Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2	
(last 14 days)			
Top Classes	Highest Number of Coins	Top Classes	Highest Number of Coins
1st: Ash 2nd: Alder 3rd: Cherry	1st: Elliott S-L 2nd: Angelyssa L 3rd: Oscar E	1st: Pine 2nd: Hazel 3rd: Holly	1st: Jessica D 2nd: Maxwell Sa 3rd: Oscar E

