



Bierton Church of England Combined School

Dear Parents,

It is almost the Christmas Holidays. The children have worked extremely hard this term—I cannot believe that we have reached Christmas already. It has been a fully packed term with lots of events happening throughout. Over the last couple of weeks Beech and Birch Classes have taken part in an exciting school trip, the whole school completed a Santa Run to raise money for charity and there have been several sporting events that groups of children have taken part in. There is further information about these events within this newsletter.

All the children have also performed in their Christmas Productions which were all brilliant. Key Stage 2 children performed with such confidence and the 'one liner' jokes throughout had us all in fits of laughter. Early Years and Key Stage 1 put together an excellent version of a nativity, again all speaking with such confidence and loud voices. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that every single child did an excellent job and that we are very proud of all of them! Well done for all your hard work and effort!

I would like to take a minute to thank all the staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to put the shows together as we all know this does not come easily. I would also like to thank all of you as parents for supporting your children to learn their lines, songs and support in finding costumes. Thank you!

Despite the snow, the shows all went on—at a slightly rearranged time, but it was worth the wait!

Thank you to Mr Arnold and Miss Nutbrown for spending last Monday shovelling snow in order to clear the site and ensure all the fire exits were accessible so that we could bring the children back into school on Tuesday.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the time with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Ms Martin
Headteacher



Love



Responsibility



Honesty



Respect



Cooperation

Dates for your diary

Key dates

December:

Tuesday 19th—School Closes at 1pm.

January:

Wednesday 3rd—INSET Day

Thursday 4th—School Opens

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Beech and Birch Trip to the deHavilland Aircraft Museum

On the 28th November, Beech and Birch class visited the deHavilland Aircraft Museum in London Colney. This trip brought to life our topic, 'Flying High'. In class, children have explored the history of flight and found out lots of information about Amy Johnson, the first female pilot to fly solo to Australia. As soon as the children arrived at the museum they could already see a huge range of deHavilland planes from the coach windows and were very keen to start exploring. After a short introduction to the history of deHavilland aircraft, the volunteers at the museum made us feel very welcome and showed us round the hangars. It was amazing to see that these fantastic planes, which flew in World War Two, had only been made out of wood and fabric. After finding out about Amy Johnson throughout the Autumn Term, the children were thrilled when they discovered a DH.88 Comet replica aircraft; the plane that Amy used to compete the England to Australia air race in 1934. In addition to this the children were then able to climb on board a selection of different aircraft, ranging from fighter jets to luxury airliners. They even got a chance to sit in the pilot's seat! It was a memorable day which was enjoyed by all!



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Santa Fun Run 2017

On Tuesday 5th December, Bierton School was inundated with Father Christmases, elves and even a reindeer or two! This was all in aid of Bierton's first ever Santa Run!

We began the event with the whole school taking part in stretches and warm up exercises, before the rest of the school cheered on the Year 5 and 6 race. Next up were the Year 3 and 4s, shortly followed by Beech and Birch. These children all completed a course around the school, up past the church and down to The Coppice and back. During this last race, Ash and Alder also completed a tough course around the school site. Whilst it was a challenge, no one gave up and we all achieved a new personal best!



The aim of the event was to encourage the whole school in a sporting activity, which everyone could complete at their own level, showing everyone that exercise can be a social event as well as being fun! One child said, "I don't want this day to end because it was the Santa run and it was so fun." A really fun morning was had by all!

A special thank you to Austin and Lewis Golding's dad and Steve Knowles (our PE Governor) who ran the course alongside the Year 5 and 6s. As well as a big thank you to our amazing parents and teaching assistants who acted as fantastic marshals around the track. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces as we ran past and their support definitely spurred us all on!



Our Sport Ambassadors (Makoto Sato and Lewis Golding), were a fantastic help on the day: creating the course for Ash and Alder classes, holding up the finishing line, as well as cheering on all the children as they crossed the line. The dedication and enthusiasm they have both shown in their roles since September, continues to make all of us at Bierton proud.

We managed to raise a fantastic £366.79 for The Salvation Army, a charity that does so much for people during this time of year.

Thank you to everyone for taking part!

Miss Quinn



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A Message from One of Our JRSOs

As one of the Bierton School's Junior Road Safety Officers I want to bring to your attention the following which I feel is important to our Bierton School.

Often in the morning when I am walking to school and when I am walking home in the afternoon, cars are parked by the school with their engines running.

However, did you know that leaving the engine running on a vehicle parked up on the public road is an offence under regulations 98 and 107 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, which reinforces rule 123 of the Highway Code. If you fail to turn off your engine when instructed, you may receive a fixed penalty notice of £20, which will increase to £40 if unpaid within the specific timeframe.

More important is an idling engine can produce up to **twice as many emissions** as an engine in motion, impacting the surrounding area and the air that we all breathe. This is particularly important outside a school! The Royal College of Physicians estimate 40,000 deaths a year in the UK are linked to air pollution, with engine idling contributing to this.

I feel that it is important that the pupils walking to Bierton School are not subjected to such unnecessary harmful emissions.

Alex – JRSO



Unforeseen School Closures

Please can I ask that in the event of the school being shut for any unforeseen circumstance (snow, etc) that parents check the Bucks County Council's website on www.buckscc.gov.uk and or listen to the local radio station (Mix 96—96.2 on FM waveband).

I anticipate that if the school is to be closed then a decision will be posted on the above website as early as possible in the morning.

In addition to this, we will endeavour to send out other communications (Emails / Text / Facebook Message) to inform you of any such circumstances.

Facebook Group

If you are not already a member of our facebook group, you can find us by searching for Bierton CE Combined School in the groups section. Our official group is the one with our Bierton Bird Display. We try to put reminders out on this group to keep you updated of upcoming events.

Head lice



Please can you take a few minutes to check your child's hair for Head Lice. Having Head Lice does not mean you're dirty—In fact Head Lice thrive in clean hair! Head lice do not have wings but move from person to person through close contact of hair. They can become quite irritating for the person if they are left untreated. However, they are very easy to treat with a whole range of different shampoos and products available on the market.

Can I please ask that all parents ensure their child comes to school with their hair tied up where long enough. This helps to reduce the spread of Head Lice but also keeps children's hair out of the way when they are working.



A reminder that we are now a **NUT FREE zone**. Thank you for ensuring that your children do not have any products with nuts in their school lunch boxes.

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Sporting News

Winners of the Year 6 Dodgeball!



On Wednesday the 29th of November, six of our Year 6 pupils visited The John Colet School to compete in a Dodgeball Competition. In total, we played five matches. First of all, we were up against Bedgrove School and we played a thrilling first game, managing to successfully beat them with a score of 3-2. Next was a disappointing round due to a loss of 7-1, however we managed to win our next two games, which won us a place in the final!

In the final, we played courageously and with sheer determination we managed to win! A great competition and a fantastic achievement by all! Congratulations to Lewis, Biranna, Georgia, Sean, Levi and Jack!

A special mention to Sean Dover, who was praised for his fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship- something we definitely strive for at Bierton School! Well done everyone!

Written by Lewis and Makoto, Year 6 Sports Ambassadors.

Year 5 and 6 Football Competition

On Thursday 30th November, 9 Year 5 and 6 pupils were invited to a football tournament at The Mandeville School. The team consisted of Josh McDonald, Alfie Harrison, Liam Blacknell, Arthur Husbands, Adrian Simmons, Nathaniel Thomey and our two fantastic goal keepers: Oliver Scott and Alex Cable. Even though it was one of the coldest days of the year, we did not let this deter us and we all played really well. Our best score line was 8-0. We may not have come first but we all really enjoyed it!

Written by Adrian Simmons

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Keeping Children Safe Online—This Month's Top Tip

You can find further information by visiting:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/tech-gifts-christmas>

As Christmas approaches there are plenty of new gadgets that parents and carers may be thinking about buying for their children. But before you wrap up your presents, have you checked out the safety features? We've got lots of advice for parents and carers to help you get to grips with the safety features available on the most popular gadgets this Christmas.

Smartphones, tablets and games consoles

Our [parents' guide to technology](#) gives useful and practical advice when buying a new smartphone, games console, tablet, connected TV or other internet-connected device. This guide looks at some of the most frequently asked questions about devices as well as looking at the safety features that are available on these devices.

One idea is to have a look at the device before you hand it over to your child on Christmas day and take the time to install the parental controls that you want onto the device. This way you know how the device works and don't have to worry about finding time to install parental controls once your child already has access to the device.

Setting up parental controls on your home internet

It's also important to look at what parental controls you have set up on your home internet, as this will help reduce the chances of children stumbling across something inappropriate while browsing the web. Your internet provider will offer free parental controls that you may find useful. You can read the full guide to [parental controls offered by home internet providers here](#).

Internet Connected toys

Internet connected toys may also be on top of your child's wishlist and they can offer fun and interactivity, but also can present new risks and challenges. It's important therefore that you ask questions about the toy in the shop before you make a purchase.

One of the questions you may want to think about before you buy your child an Internet Connected Toy is what information the toy collects. Does it require location services to work or will you be able to turn this feature off? Will the toy take pictures of your child? And it's also important to know where the information the toy collects will be stored. It's always worth asking about what privacy controls and safety settings you can use to make the device work for your family.

Whatever presents you're buying for your children this Christmas, one of the most important things you can do is have an open conversation with your child about technology and the internet. By maintaining an open dialogue with your child and encouraging them to talk to you about their internet use you can help your children access the amazing resources the internet has to offer whilst keeping them safe online. These [conversation starters](#) are a great ways to talk about the internet with your children.

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