



Bierton Church of England Combined School

Dear Parents,

I am so proud of all the children for their efforts and hard work this term. They have all worked incredibly hard and have been making some good progress across the curriculum.

It has been an absolute delight to watch all the children perform in the Christmas Productions again this year. Every child put in so much energy and enthusiasm and spoke with such clear voices so that the audience could hear clearly. They have performed to such a high standard and I am very proud of all of them! I would like to thank all the staff for all their hours of hard work preparing the children for the performances, creating dance routines, learning songs and producing props. I would also like to thank all of the parents for supporting their children in learning their lines and sourcing costumes. Finally, I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Lemonius who has volunteered numerous hours of time to support in choreographing some of the Key Stage 2 dance routines.

After Christmas we have parents evening. This time we are going to try using an online booking system with ParentMail for you to book your own appointment. This works best on the APP so if you have not yet downloaded the APP it is worth doing so this week as the booking system will go live on Thursday evening at 7pm.

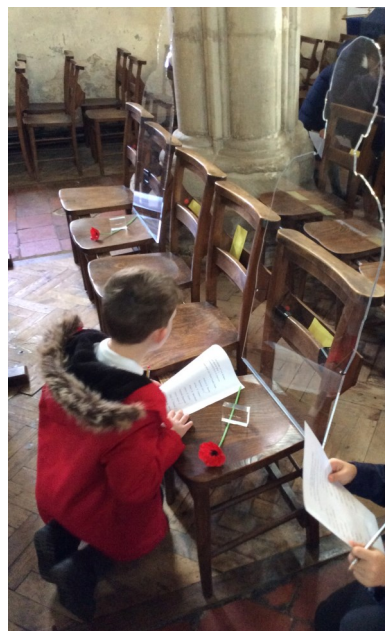


Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you all are able to have a lovely time with family and friends.

Ms Martin
Headteacher

Remembrance at St James'

For remembrance day Beech and Birch class were invited to the church and were lucky enough to see the 'There But Not There' Installation. We were able to see two outlines of 'Tommies' by the War Memorial and 18 perspex silhouettes placed in the nave. The silhouettes represent the 18 soldiers from the village who were killed during the war. Each silhouette had a named block identifying the men - a powerful reminder of the personal cost of war. The children were given a list of all the 'Tommies' names and were able to go around the church to find each one. They then completed some colouring of poppies which were made into a reef and displayed in the church.



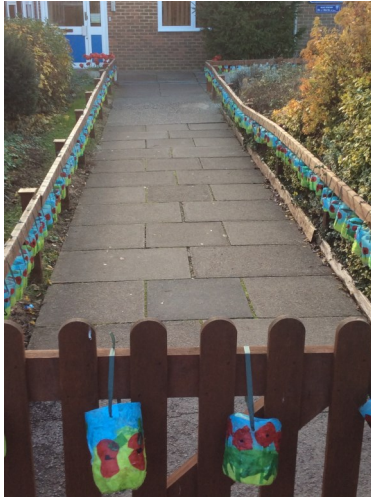
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Remembrance

On Friday 9th November, we held an Open Afternoon for Parents to come into school and make Lanterns as part of our Remembrance Work. The Tower of London were marking this years celebrations with candles and so we wanted to pay tribute to this with our own lanterns lining the path. We were overwhelmed by how many parents attended the afternoon, with over 55% of children having someone come in to help them with their lanterns.

We have now lined our walk way outside with the lanterns made by the children. Each with their own individual candle inside.

Thank you to all those that attended and helped Bierton CE Combined School to Remember!



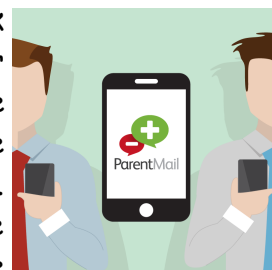
ParentMail

ParentMail is now up and running and we will be slowly introducing you to new features using this electronic system which will hopefully make things easier for you in the long run. It is lovely to see that 98% of our families have signed up to the email and text messaging service and that 67% of parents have already downloaded the APP.

The first new features is [Parents Evening Bookings](#). To allow you to select convenient times for yourself and to also ease staff workloads, you will now book your own appointments using this system. On Thursday 13th December at 7pm the system will go live and you will receive an automatic notification to alert you to the fact that you are able to book your appointments.

- In EYFS+KS1 you will make one ten minute appointment with the class teacher.
- In Years 3+4 you will book one 5 minute appointment with the class teacher and one five minute appointment with the Maths teacher,
- In Years 5+6 you will have a ten minute appointment with the Year 5+6 Team as a whole so that they can discuss how your child is getting on in all aspect altogether.

There is only one appointment booking slot per child, so we do ask that wherever possible, that separated parents put their differences aside to meet to discuss their child together. We recognise that there are some exceptions to this but where possible we would ask for you to attend the same parent meeting. If this is not possible, please contact the school office to make the second appointment—please bare in mind that additional slots are limited.



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UK Parliament Week/ Anti Bullying Week/ Speaking and Listening Week

The week beginning 12th November brought a lot of excitement to Bierton School. During this week, we celebrated UK Parliament by learning lots of things about law and democracy. In Year 5/6, they celebrated the one-hundred-year anniversary of women being allowed to vote; in Year 3/4, they carried out debates where the children were encouraged to challenge their own views and opinions, and in KS1, they looked at democracy and the process of voting. All classes were given the opportunity to conduct a ballot box vote for the children to vote for their favourite speech. In literacy lessons, the children looked at what makes an effective speech and created their own 'steps to success'. Following on from this, the children in EYFS/ KS1 discussed and wrote about what makes them special and unique. In KS2, the children wrote their own manifesto about how to make Bierton a more respectful place to be. It was a fantastic week with the theme for anti-bullying week - respect - being a central part of the children's learning.

Attendance—November 2018

Attendance at school is vital to allow a child to progress in their learning and their social development. It is expected that a child's attendance should be above 95%.

Each month we are going to celebrate the class with the highest overall attendance by awarding the whole class with dojo points which add together to form rewards.

Attendance for November:

Ash = 97.1%

Alder = 95.7%

Beech = 93.8%

Birch = 97.6%

Cedar = 97.2%

Cherry = 95.5%

Chestnut = 96.2%

Holly = 97.3%

Hazel = 96.7%

Hawthorn = 98.5%



Congratulations!

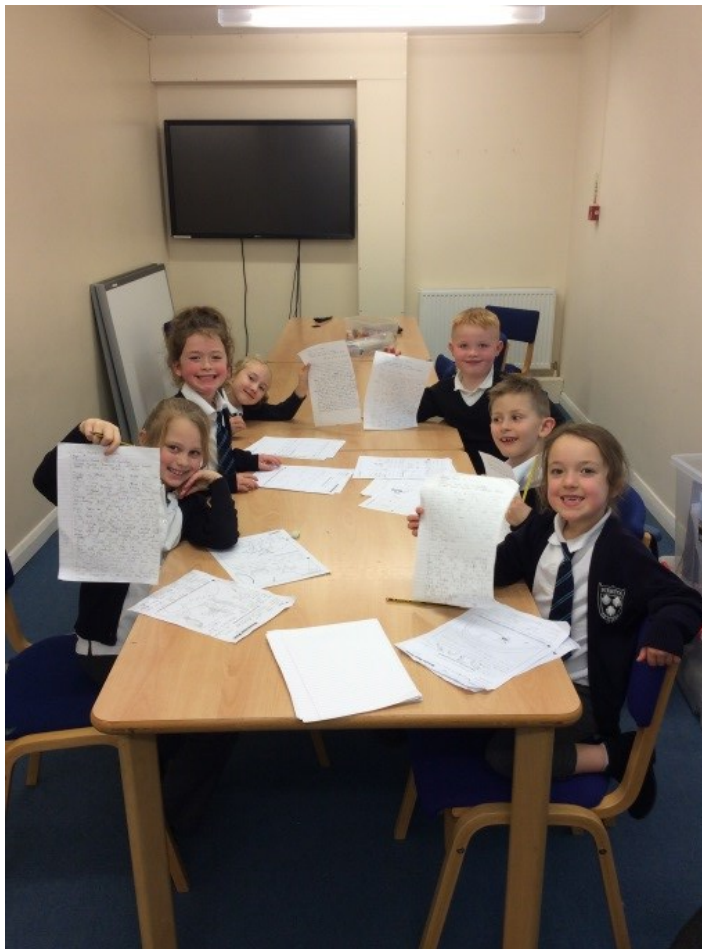
Well done **Hawthorn Class** on having the highest attendance at 98.5% attendance for November.

5 DOJO points each!
Congratulations!

Sparkle Opportunity



On Thursday 15th and 22nd November six enthusiastic writers in Year 1 and 2 were invited to attend a sparkle opportunity in writing. The children were Lucinda Holding, Violet Wright, Annabel Money, Harrison Wright, Isabella Marsden and Lenny Morris. During the sessions, the children produced fantastic stories of their own design which they have chosen to enter the Story Shop Young Writers Competition where they have a chance to win prizes and even have their work published! The children should be very proud of what they achieved and I thoroughly enjoyed working with these very skilful authors.



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Online Safety - Monthly Top Tip!

Do you know how much time your child spends playing game?
Are you aware of ways to keep your child safe when they are playing games online?



The Association for UK Interactive Entertainment has completed research into online gaming and have found:

There are 23.1 million people aged 6 and 64 playing games in the UK, which is 49% of the population in that age group.

On average, 11 to 64 year-olds in the UK spend 10.3 hours per week playing games.

Gaming can be a great way for young people to relax, socialise with their friends and have fun. Children can play on games consoles, apps or websites, and chat to other players or watch them play through live-streaming. But there are some dangers. And, with so many games available online, it can be hard for parents to know how to keep their child safe.

What are the risks of online games?

Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.

Some players can be abusive towards others or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.

Children may play with adults they don't know. People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of grooming.

Some children may find it hard to stop playing games or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.



5 ways to help children play safe

1. Check the game's content.
2. Know how to mute, block and report.
3. Be Share Aware.
4. Activate safety settings.
5. Keep the conversation going.

Further information can be found at.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games-helping-children-play-safe/>

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Online Safety Update - Grooming and Live Streaming

Earlier this year, Home Secretary - Sajid Javid, visited The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CEOP) and was astounded by some of the statistics linked to online grooming. Below are some of the statistics he shared in his speech and other information provided about grooming and live streaming:



Grooming

In the past 5 years, there has been a 700% increase in the number of grooming incidents.

The victims of the cases prosecuted last year:

25% were under 11 years old.

62% were between 12 and 15 years old.

In the UK, it has been estimated that around 80,000 people pose some form of sexual threat to children.

Research from the NSPCC suggests that some children are being groomed online in less than 45 minutes.

CEOP estimates that 15% of girls and 5% of boys experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 16.



Live Streaming

Live Streaming figures from videos found: incidents:



98% of the images were of children below 13 years old.

28% of the images were of children below 10 years old.

96% were girls.

96% were children on their own.

During his speech, Sajid Javid also shared this information,

"The growth of the internet has given potential offenders who previously may have had no access to children the opportunity to meet and groom and abuse victims online on gaming sites and on social media and to get access to more abuse material than ever before. And as parents and guardians, we can all play an important role in tackling online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

We don't send our kids out to play in the park or teach them to cross the road alone without giving them advice. But when it comes to their time spent on the internet or glued to their smartphones, it's often a different story.

Too often we're afraid to ask our kids the questions that really matter for their safety.

Who are they speaking to online?

What forums are they using?

What are they sharing online?

It is clear that we cannot afford to shy away from having these frank and open conversations with the children in our lives.

In future newsletters, we will be sending out further advice and top tips on how to promote a safe and healthy online attitude. However, if you require any information or advice, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Miss Mayer

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Speech Cup Final 2018/19

I always look forward to this event as every year, the children of our school, never fail to amaze me with their excellent speaking and listening skills and levels of confidence. This year, the standard was so high that us teachers were delighted that we didn't have to make the difficult decisions! We had children queuing up at their class' poll station to make their vote count. During the final, the class winners were all absolutely brilliant, delivering their speeches with such aplomb. They should all be very proud!

The class winners were:

Ash: Louie Pierre, Neo Dunn

Alder: Poppy Newing, Jack Ashall-Lewis

Commendations (nominated by class teacher): Thomas Nelms; Sienna Dover

Beech: Joseph Tilbury, Violet Wright

Commendation (nominated by class teacher): Layla Wakely

Birch: Isabella Marsden; Stanley Baldwin

Commendations: (nominated by class teacher) Karenza Devitt, Lucinda Holding, Kyle Spring, Jayden Nleya

Cedar: George Eaves, Caspar Morris

Commendation (nominated by class teacher): Nicole Collins

Chestnut: Zack Rudge, Emily Gibson

Commendations (nominated by class teacher): Finch Goodwin, Skye Turnbull

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Cherry: Millie Fowler, Bobbi-Rose Hamer

Commendations (nominated by class teacher): Jacob Allwood-Deeley, Kieran Gross

Hazel: Joshua McDonald; Owen Flanagan

Commendations (nominated by class teacher): Tia Bannerman, Joshua Woodstock

Hawthorn: Lilyrose Myers; Isabella Newing

Commendations: (nominated by class teacher) Micah Beer, Harry Darvell

Holly: Keira Woodley; Isabelle Sweetman

Commendations: (nominated by class teacher) Rosie Neale-Simonds, Priya Floura

Overall winners:

EYFS/ KS1 Winner: Stanley Baldwin

Year 3/4 Winner: Emily Gibson

Year 5/6 Winner: Isabella Newing

Thank you to our judges Julie Ward (local councillor) and Tim Dutfield (Chair of Governors) for judging this special event.



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. It is very much appreciated.

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Year 5 and 6 visit to Ufton Court

Vivaciously, we rushed onto the coach (which had already arrived) - agitated, we waited for our presence to be counted and verified. At last the day had arrived! The day we had all been waiting for; the day we were going on our trip to Ufton Court...

What felt like a day later, our tedious journey came to an end. Feeling excited, we were about to exit the bus when disaster struck; our fellow companion had been sick! Despite this unfortunate event, our spirits were still high and in a while it was cleaned up and we promenaded to the barn in which we would be accommodated. The activity co-ordinator directed us into our groups. Then, we were told what we would be doing throughout our day. Like intrepid adventurers, we commenced to



our first activity (which was battle skills). We had a variety of perilous weaponry (these were not real!) like axes, swords and shields. We were taught different techniques of using a shield and an axe. Soon after, we were guided back to the barn as our next activity was due.

During the activity, we were analysing different artefacts which were used by the Vikings during their daily deeds. We saw an elaborate goblet which had a charming snake pattern which went with it. Adding to this, there was a fine leather water bottle that could be carried around. We saw many others, including: a jewellery box with elegant rubies and jewels on it; a timber candle holder; a Viking toy and last but not least a steal Viking fork.

We had our lunch in great haste as we were ravenous and then proceeded onto our next activity. We ambled back into the forest where we found a variety of activities. First, we learned how to make wool which was used to make clothing that the Vikings wore. We smoothed out the thick and wiry cotton into a fine, smooth strand by using two sharp combs. Next, we used a spinner to make it into a long thread. We journeyed onto our next task which was making a wall (not a real wall, of course!) out of bamboo sticks. After five minutes, we made a wall and next we attempted to make sparks using flint and steel. This task was extremely difficult so we had another go using different equipment.



Finally, our tiresome day came to an end. We got on the coach and travelled home. We were very tired (some of us even slept...). When we got to school, we were very late. We all enjoyed our excitable day at Ufton Court.

Recount written by: Rushikesh - Year 6

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Year 5/6 Viking Celebration Day!

On Thursday 29th of November, we rounded off our Viking unit with a day of Viking-related activities! During the day, we completed a rotation of activities that tested our writing, maths, geography, art and design skills.

To begin the day, we continued creating our two-page spreads, all about a chosen topic. Within all classes, there were a variety of topics: Viking weapons and warriors, longboats, entertainment, lifestyles, clothing, runes and the Gods. Firstly, we had to plan and research an area, then, we had to consider our audience and purpose when presenting our information on the page.



Next, we examined longboats and looked at artwork that contained them. We were able to choose different art mediums to create a sunset background and contrasted it with a silhouette longboat in either black sugar paper or paint.

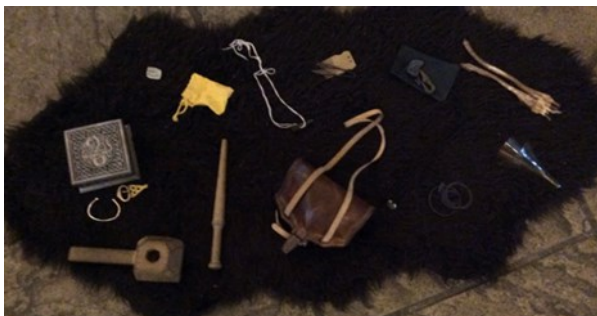
Lastly, in Hawthorn class, we examined where the Vikings had a settled and how we can trace back their existence due to the names of counties and places today. For example, if a place ends it 'by', such as Whitby, it means that the Vikings settled there as the word originated from the Viking language!

To complete the activity, we had to use our map skills to locate all the different Viking places.

After lunch, we examined artefacts and discussed what we could discover about the Vikings from examining them. We looked at the materials they would have had and the skills needed to create the objects. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to draw and use clay to create representations of the artefacts. During the afternoon, our parents and grandparents were also able to join us to celebrate all our hard work over the term. We showed them our books, artwork and DT projects and were able to tell them all the information and fun facts that we had learnt about the Vikings since September. It was fantastic to have the opportunity to create clay artefacts with our parents and grandparents too.



It was a great day and we are already looking forward to our Spring Topic!



Sparkle Opportunity



Energize Performance 2018

On Wednesday 14th November, our incredibly talented choir performed as part of a collaborative group at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, with a completely full audience!

Since September, Bierton's choir have been working extremely hard towards this performance. A large group of schools from the Aylesbury area all had a part to play in the show. The performance was called 'History Matters' and we had to learn lots of different songs linked to History, for example, a song about Kingdom Brunel and Florence Nightingale. The children really enjoyed learning all the songs and learning some things about History along the way! We also took centre stage when we performed our dance, which depicted a snow storm and was a story about Scott of the Antarctic.

We were so proud of the children when they performed on the stage and the commitment and dedication they have all shown through choir club and practicing the songs at home too has been amazing. It isn't easy to stand on a stage and perform to a full crowd, so all the children should be really proud of themselves! We look forward to the exciting Echoes performance at The Royal Albert Hall in March. If your child is interested in joining choir, remember to return the club letter that will be coming out shortly. Well done to our fabulous choir!

Miss Smith and Mr Glanney



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PE and SPORTS



Cross Country highlights! Turnfurlong 3rd November

On a sunny Autumn day, children from all over Aylesbury came together at Turnfurlong school to participate against one another in the first cross country race of the season. First up were the Year 6 girls (Alex, Eloise and Ruby) who kicked off another year of cross-country competitions with a great race. Afterwards, the Year 6 boys had a cracking start. All the boys showed fantastic perseverance and out of around 50 boys competing, Rhys came 7th! Next, the Year 5 boys showed off their determination against the other contestants, as well as Kiera, who represented the Year 5 girls. The year 4 boys and girls completed a slightly longer race than they had the previous year and smashed it! Lastly, it was the year 3s, who competed in their very first inter-school competition!

Every boy and girl showed fantastic perseverance, determination and teamwork. After each race, lots of Berton children stayed behind to cheer on and support their fellow school members.



Thanks to all the runners, who took part and to the parents and teachers who supported!

Written by the PE Ambassadors

Year 5 Dodgeball

On the 14th of November, 6 of our Year 5 children entered into a dodgeball competition at The John Collet School. In dodgeball, you have 6 or fewer balls and to begin the game, you place them in the middle of the court and stand against the back wall. The coach blows the whistle and everybody tries to get the balls, in order to hit somebody on the opposite team. Once they have been hit, they are out! Luckily, you are able to bring your team mate back on the court by catching a ball thrown by the other team. It's a great sport to play and can be played by all different people!

The team tried their hardest and showed fantastic agility skills and teamwork. We managed to come 4th overall! Thanks to Charlie, Kiera, Billy, Aiden, Connor and Ciara for representing Berton School.

Written by Isla

Year 5/6 Netball League

The year 5/6 Netball league has begun and so far we have played three nail-biting matches! Our first one was a home match against Buckingham Park, the next against Wendover, which was a 3-3 draw. Our last match was against Bedgrove School was an away match. Although we played fantastically, we unfortunately lost!



We shall begin again after the Christmas holidays!



PE and SPORTS

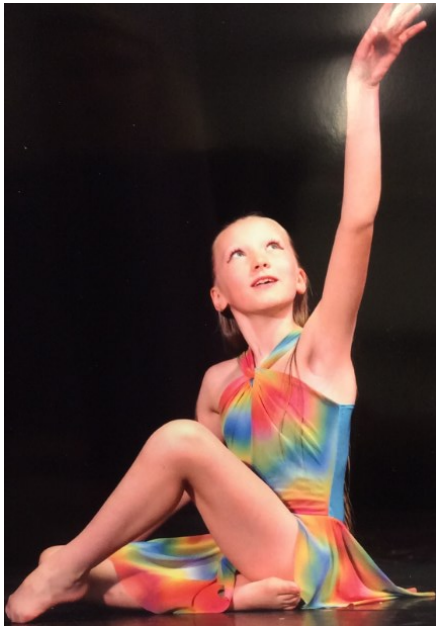


PE Superstars!



In each newsletter, we shall be celebrating one of our PE Superstars here at Bierton.

December's superstar is **Lily-Beth**



Lily-Beth joined Aylesbury Performing Arts Centre two years ago and since then has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the group - she even participates in 11 classes a week!

This is her in a dance festival, where she had to perform a lyrical dance.

Please email Miss Quinn at sport@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk if your child is a sports superstar and keep an eye on our PE board for all of our Sports Superstars across the school!

Year 6 Dodgeball

On Wednesday 29th of November, Bierton School was back at the John Collet School to compete in the Year 6 Dodgeball competition. We played amazingly, showing great passing, weaving and dodging - at one point, Josh was the only person still left in our team after 10 minutes! Our hard work paid off as we won 11 out of 12 games!

Thanks to Josh, Kyle, Rhys, Katy, Micah and Isla for representing Bierton School.

Year 6 Boys Football League

Bierton vs Bearbook -Wednesday 14th November 2018

On Wednesday, Bierton played a thrilling match against Bearbook school. We played a ferocious game and truly played our hearts out, with a close defeat of 4- 5.

From the start, Bearbook appeared to have more chances and scored two goals before half time. Undeafed we kept going and managed to hold them off in the remaining first half.

As the second half got underway, Bearbook scored again but only minutes later we managed to score! Unfortunately, this wasn't their last goal, as they quickly managed another goal. Unbeaten, Freddie managed to score an 'absolute banger' from 25 yards away! Then we scored again! Although we lost, it was a thrilling match and everyone showed fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm.

Thanks to the goal scorers and hopefully we will win our next game!

Written by the PE Ambassadors



Sporting dates for your diary!

Friday 14th December: Whole School Santa Run!