



# Bierton CE Combined School

Aim High, Achieve Success, Find your Sparkle and Shine



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody for making me feel so welcome in my new role as Headteacher. I am sure you will join in wishing Ms Martin a huge congratulations as she embarks on her new journey as a mother. It is amazing to believe that we are now almost half way through this academic year. We have achieved so much already but there is lots more to look forward to. Our children continue to make us very proud here at Bierton; there has been so much to celebrate this month so please take the time to read this newsletter.

Our Vision is to 'let our light shine and show our good deeds'. Our children have really taken ownership of this so I can't wait to see what they achieve in the coming months.

Mr Gadsby

### Turning Circle

I have been delighted with how successful the turning circle has worked this week. Thank you to all the parents and carers who have used it: I hope you have found it a more convenient way for dropping your child off at school. We are always looking to improve in everything that we do so if you have any feedback, please let us know via the school office. I will continue to explore options for opening the turning circle in the afternoon and I will update you with any progress in due course.

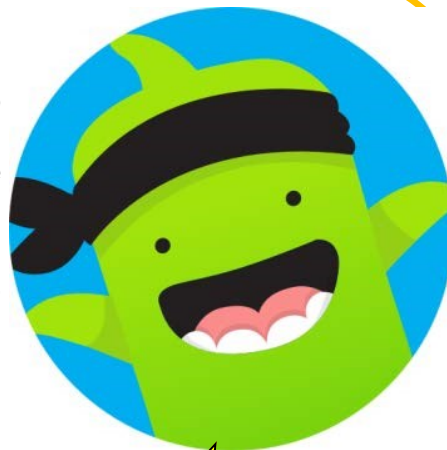
### Attendance—December & January

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 December & January:

- Ash = 94.47%
- Alder = 90.39%
- Beech = 95.83%
- Birch = 97.06%
- Cedar = 96.32%
- Cherry = 94.76%
- Chestnut = 96.6%
- Holly = 95.63%
- Hazel = 95.84
- Hawthorn = 94.66%



### **Congratulations!**

Well done Birch Class on 97.06% attendance for December and January.  
5 DOJO points each!

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# Vision and Values

Recently parents were invited in to find out more about the school's Christian vision and values. Understandably many parents were unable to attend due to work commitments so we would like to provide some information here. Additionally, the powerpoint from the coffee morning is available on the school's website.

Our Christian vision is 'Let your light shine' and is directly linked to our school motto of 'Aim high, achieve success, find your sparkle and shine.' At Bierton we want our children to be the best they can possibly be and let their light shine by showing our Christian values. One value is given a focus each half-term but the children are encouraged to show all these values.

Love



Cooperation



Respect



Responsibility



Honesty

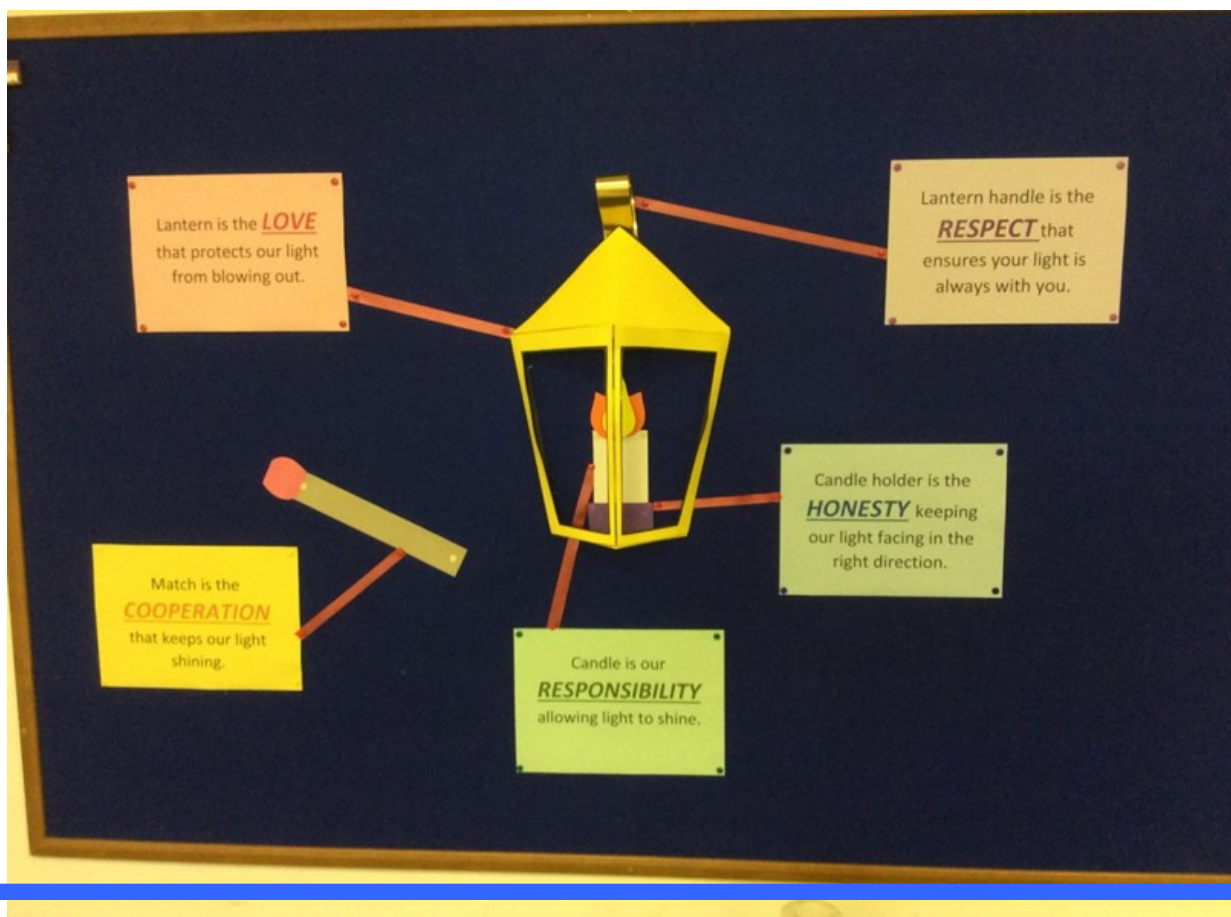


Children are clear on what these values look like in school and are encouraged to nominate each other on 'Christian values' slips to acknowledge acts of kindness. They are collected and shared with the class at the end of the week and teachers select a child for Christian Values certificate each week for demonstrating one of the values really well. These are celebrated in our assemblies on Friday. We hope you have seen these coming home and make a fuss of your children for displaying excellent values!

As well as delivering our vision through the way we interact with each other, there is a strong focus on using our vision to think of others and help those in the community and in the wider world. Our commitment to the 'Make a difference challenge' has meant that children have sought opportunities to reach out and connect with older people in the community as a way to combat loneliness and a number of events have taken place to invite older members of the community into school for performances and special events. These are well attended and feedback is always positive. In addition to this, we have formed a strong link with Hulcott nursing home and children have been out to visit the residents there on a number of occasions. The children value these experiences and it enables them to develop understanding and empathy.

We have also linked to the 'Raise a Smile' charity supported by St James' church. This seeks to support community projects in Uyoba, Zambia. Recently, the children have discovered more about this charity and its purpose and they all wrote letters to the children in Zambia. Many have been selected and sent to the charity and we are currently deciding on how best to support this charity.

If you would like to find out more about RE, Collective Worship or our links to the church please visit the website and visit the 'Church' tab.



# Community

## Hulcott Nursing Home

On Tuesday 27th January, six Year 6s visited Hulcott Nursing Home for our monthly visit. During this visit, the children (Holly, Christina, Natalie, Lulu, Neve and Maya) thoroughly enjoyed a game of balloon badminton. Visiting Hulcott is something that we do monthly and it proves an invaluable experience for both the residents and the children. The children were a complete credit to the school, interacting with the residents with beautiful manners and consideration. When we first visited Hulcott, many of the residents rarely left their room; now, the numbers are growing and that is because of the interactions with the children of Bierton.



## St James' Church

Last month, the children in Key Stage 1 were treated to a messy 'Christmas themed' play session at St James church. They were set at tables and given two craft activities to create: a lovely star for the Christmas tree and a festive candle. Both these activities enabled the children to literally let their light shine and hopefully they became a welcome addition to your Christmas decorations!



# SPARKLE DAYS

## KS1

We had a fantastic Sparkle Day at the start of term to launch our exciting new topic, Blue Planet! We started off the day by doing a variety of different activities: Alder class made sea creatures out of clay, Beech class made rainbow fish by weaving paper and Birch class looked at different sea creatures and watched some Blue Planet live! We then all did a carousel of different activities. Firstly, we discovered the size of a whale! We had to all lie down on the playground and we measured how big a whale was and we were fascinated at their size! We then learnt about the 5 different oceans and what might be found there. We had a go at feeling around in Tuff trays and we had to guess which ocean we might be feeling. I think the ice cubes and the penguins feely tray was very obvious and the children couldn't believe how cold the Arctic ocean is! Finally we had a think about how different animals move and we had to move around pretending to be that animal! It was a really fun morning! In the afternoon we used our plastic bottles to make jellyfish! It was really tricky cutting the legs on the jellyfish and twirling the legs! The finished products looked fantastic! We had an amazing day and the children all seemed really engaged and excited in our new topic!



## Year 3/4 Sparkle day for Crime and Punishment

This week we started our new topic of *Crime and Punishment* with an exciting Sparkle day. We completed a carousel of activities through the day. We started by looking at some of the British laws that we have today and comparing them to other laws we had in history. We also looked at the different types of trials that were used to decide if someone was guilty. We really enjoyed looking at the medieval laws and trying to work out which punishments matched the crimes.



## Year 5/6 Sparkle Day - Victorian Crime and Punishment

Our History-based topic 'Crime and Punishment' began with our Sparkle Day on Monday 13th of January. During the day, the children experienced what it would have been like for children during the Victorian Period in England. Once welcomed into the classroom, they were greeted by blackboards and chalked-out displays of the Lord's Prayer and the alphabet.



During the morning, the children learnt the importance of the Three 'Rs' for the Victorians: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, as well as chanting their 7 times tables. We even had a go at learning some rhyming phrases, such as, "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" and "which witch is which?" The teachers ensured that some of the Victorian rules were also in place throughout the day, such as, not allowing the children to speak unless spoken to, only

writing in their right hand and for children to not ask questions. The dunce hat was even used on a few unlucky children if their handwriting was not as neat as a Victorian Teacher would have liked!

As photography was invented during the Victorian Period, we



spent some time discussing this and attempting to sketch some of the scenes of London that had been taken at the time. It was fascinating to hear how long men,



women and children would have had to stay still for when having their photograph taken, as well as some of the more unusual methods the Victorians took when attempting the 'perfect' pic-

ture.

After lunch, we spent the afternoon enjoying traditional Victorian games, such as, hoops, skipping and balls made out of material. We also attempted to make spinning tops and thaumatrope.



**Maths Week:** At the beginning of January, the whole school participated in Maths Problem Solving Week, which began with our ambassadors (Abi, George and Suwayne) leading our collective worship. It was amazing to see the children cooperating when tackling a range of problem solving activities, as well as utilising their growth mindset to be resilient and resourceful. Read below to learn about the different things the classes completed within the week.

**Imagination Gaming Workshops:** Throughout Thursday and Friday, Nigel from Imagination Gaming provided hour workshops for all classes. The children were especially enthusiastic about these sessions and played a variety of games which encouraged them to think systematically while also applying a range of mathematical skills. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and constructive dialogue taking place throughout the room. It was also wonderful to see so many families joining their children to play games within the after-school gaming workshops. Following the workshops, the school has been given all of the games used and therefore in future lessons we will be using some of the games to further our learning and understanding. We would like to thank The Griffin Trust for helping us fund this event.

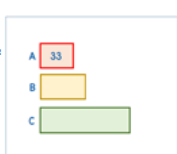


**Active Maths:** Research has proven that physical movement and activity have a positive impact on learning. As a result, all classes had an Active Maths session. This involved the children working in groups or pairs and solving different mathematical problems, while also being active. It was also wonderful to hear about the amazing maths activities Key Stage 1 and Reception completed during their Forest School sessions.

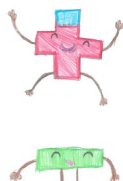


**Bar modelling:** Many classes practised using bar models to solve a range of contextualised problems. The problems promoted fantastic discussion and as they were challenging, the children were resilient and cooperated within one another to find solutions. Here is an example of an Upper Key Stage 2 problems - how would you solve it?

A shape is made of 3 rectangles.  
The total area of the shape is 150 cm<sup>2</sup>  
The area of rectangle A is 33 cm<sup>2</sup>  
Rectangle B is half the area of C.  
What is the area of rectangle C?



**Maths Mascot:** During Collective Worship, Captain Conjecture was introduced! Captain Conjecture is going to have an important role in developing our reasoning skills and as a result, we spent time designing our own Maths Mascots. They all looked incredible and it was brilliant to see the effort and imagination that went into the designs.



# SPARKLE OPPORTUNITIES

On Thursday 23rd January a group of Year 6 boys went to Stone School to attend a writing workshop. The session was led by the Author Nick Cook. The topic of our day was 'Tornados'. They watched videos and created their own mini tornado in the school hall to prepare them for their writing. They planned their own stories and in the afternoon created a breaking news report which was filmed using special effects. The boys all had a great day and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



## School Council

This month, in our School Council meetings, we have been busy discussing a range of different topics: whole school rewards, what to include in our prayer spaces, which charity to support and how we can help the environment. The charity we have chosen to support this year is a project in Uyoba, Zambia. We have discussed how we can raise money for a local school and library to be refurbished and provide resources, such as books, stationary and toys. In the terms of the environment, we have decided on a few rules that we are trying to implement in our classrooms, e.g. turn lights off when we leave the room; turn screens off on computers when not being used and not waste so much paper. This is just a start but every little bit will make a difference. We have also visited our local community to update them on the turning circle by delivering letters explaining our plan. We also spoke to a few residents to explain how we are trying to reduce traffic congestion. We have also helped change what happens outside at lunchtimes. We found out what children want to do and helped plan with Miss Quinn how we could reduce fall outs whilst increasing physical activity. This is an ongoing project but we already have a timetable for the MUGA with a different activity each day: basketball, handball, multi skills, football and tag rugby. Many thanks, Charlie Eccleston (Head Boy) and Isabella Newing (Head Girl).

### Representatives:

Ash: Imogen Holding and Neal Shetty; Alder: Olivia Payne and Maxwell Sullivan; Beech: Ethan Ali, Harper Smith; Birch: Poppy Newing, Dakota Kyme; Cedar: Amelia Haedicke & Jayden Nleya  
Cherry: Keira-Mae Bamford, Sufyan Khan; Chestnut: Finch Goodwin & Grace Nelms  
Hawthorn: Emily H & Johnny K; Hazel: Archie Court & Ruby Wynn; Holly: Daniel Assereuy & Olivia Saunders



### Year 3 and 4 Basketball Competition

On Monday, Year 3 and 4 took part in a Basketball Competition. Bierton entered two teams into this competition which saw the best teams from the local area go head to head. The traditional basketball rules were modified to create an exhilarating fast paced game where the hoop was replaced by a person catching at the end of the court. Both teams showed great skill with fast paced passing and nifty runs. A special mention to George who showed great team spirit and passing! Well done!

### Badminton highlights!

On Tuesday 21st January, Bierton started 2020 with a Year 3/4 Badminton at The Aylesbury Grammar School.

It was a fun-filled festival, in which the children showed off their badminton skills through different team activities.

These included, passing the shuttlecock to one another, hitting a shuttlecock through a hoop and completing an obstacle course. The children showed off their incredible talent, with Elliot being mentioned by the sports coaches for his incredible ability to hit a very small target, three-times in a row. Gabby also got a special commendation from the Sports Coordinator of The Aylesbury Grammar School for her skills throughout the festival. Thank you for all the boys and girls for representing Bierton School!



**Multi-Skills highlights!**

On Thursday 23rd January, Chestnut class participated in a multi-skills event with two other schools. After being split into three groups they rotated around the different activities that were being run by students from John Colet School. The activities involved lots of different skills. In one activity the children practise the accuracy of their throwing by trying to get bean bags into different hoops.

One of the favourite activities was the relay events, including an obstacle race and ladder climbing; they really enjoyed the competitive element of these.



**A report from our Cross-Country Team!**

On Saturday the 18th of January, our second race of the season took place at Wendover School.

The children showed their fantastic talents off and were incredibly supportive of one another! It was amazing to see the Year 3 girls be awarded their second team medal of the season. Thanks to all the runners



and to the parents who supported! It was great to see some new runners on the day too and we are always looking for new team members! Our next competition is on Saturday 29th of February at St Edwards School!

# SEND UPDATE

## Focus for January: ADHD

### **SEND provision at Bierton:**

Bierton CE Combined School is an inclusive school, where every child is provided with opportunities to reach their potential. If you ever have any worries or concerns regarding your child's development, discuss it with their class teacher and/or the school SENDCo, Mrs

Bramley: [senco@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:senco@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk)

Each half term, Mrs Bramley holds a coffee morning, where all parents are invited, whether their child is on the SEND register or not. This is a chance to discuss your child's needs if you wish, or just to have a coffee and cake, whilst meeting other parents. The next coffee morning for SEND is on Friday 14th February 9-10 in the school hall. EVERYONE WELCOME!

### **What is ADHD?**

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a behavioural disorder that includes symptoms such as inattentiveness, hyperactivity and impulsiveness.

### **Signs/Symptoms? Taken from the NHS website.**

The main signs of inattentiveness are:

- having a short attention span and being easily distracted
- making careless mistakes- for example, in schoolwork
- appearing forgetful or losing things
- being unable to stick to tasks that are tedious or time-consuming
- appearing to be unable to listen or carry out instructions
- constantly changing activity or task
- having difficulty organising tasks

The main signs of hyperactivity and impulsiveness are:

- being unable to sit still, especially in calm or quiet surroundings
- constantly fidgeting
- being unable to concentrate on tasks
- excessive physical movement
- excessive talking
- being unable to wait their turn
- acting without thinking
- interrupting conversations
- little or no sense of danger

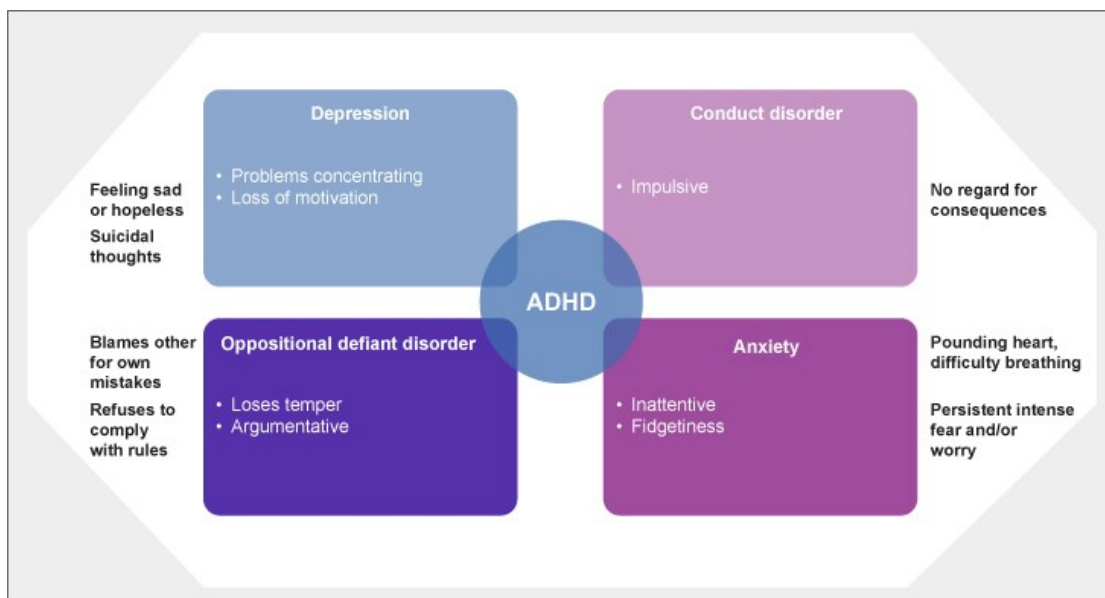
# SEND UPDATE

## Useful websites:

- <https://www.ukadhd.com/support-groups.htm> This points parents in the directions of support groups.
- <https://www.livingwithadhd.co.uk/> - Advice for children, parents and teachers on how to support a child with ADHD.
- <https://www.bucksmind.org.uk/category/guide/mental-health-categories/adhd-and-add/> - Information from Bucks Mind on the different pathways for children with ADHD.

## Recommended books to support your child:

- I have bees in my brain- Trish Hammond
- Mrs Gorski, I think I have the Wiggle Fidgets- Barbara Esham (not suitable for ages 5-10)
- Hank Zipzer- Henry Winkler, Lin Oliver
- Cory Stories- Jeanne Kraus
- Shelley the Hyperactive Turtle- Deborah Moss
- It's hard to be a Verb!- Julia Cook



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Do you own a smart speaker or are you tempted to purchase one over the festive period?

Are you aware of the benefits?

Do you understand how to use them appropriately and safely?

This month's top tip focuses on smart speakers. It's estimated that one in five homes in the UK use a smart speaker. Below you will find information about their advantages and possible things to consider when using them in your home.

#### What are smart speakers?

Smart speakers are virtual assistants and there are a range of models available from different manufacturers. They enable us to do a variety of different things, including: controlling wireless enabled lights, ordering various products and takeaways online; providing information such as the weather forecast, time, date and many more things. They can also stream music to the speakers themselves.

#### How do they work?

Smart speakers use voice recognition technology. This allows the smart speaker to understand what is being said and act upon it. Although manufacturers use different techniques, smart speakers listen to all speech and await a 'wake word'. Once the system hears the wake word it activates, records what is being said and sends this over the Internet. The voice recognition service, deciphers the speech and then sends a response back to the smart speaker.

#### How can smart speakers help?

Smart speakers can connect to a range of apps and enable you to:

- Stream music
- Play voice-based games
- Set reminders
- Shop online
- Support children with reading and other key skills



#### What do you need to watch out for?

Below are a list of things to watch out for when using smart speakers. Detailed information relating to each point can be found on the downloaded guided from Internet Matters (see link below)

- Use of personal data
- Hidden costs
- Streaming music and making purchases
- Changing interactions with technology.

#### Top tips to remember when setting up your smart speaker

- **Speak to your child about online safety** - share rules on how to use the smart speaker and remind children to not use inappropriate language.
- **Check the basics** - check what privacy settings are available and whether you can create child accounts..
- **Set parental controls** - review and set controls to filter specific types of content children could access. You can also use your broadband to limit their access to inappropriate content.
- **Understand how smart speakers work** - check the manual and website to learn how to support and help your children when using the smart speaker.
- **Use strong passwords**- use well-protected passwords for yourself and your child to avoid potential hackers.
- **Keep your software up to date** - ensure that you check for security and features updates.
- **Mute your speakers** - mute your device when you are not using it.
- **Review your voice and audio interactions** - you can control what is shared and potentially delete or prevent auto-saving of interactions.

For further advice and information, please visit the Internet Matters website (<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/smart-speakers-a-parents-guide/>). There is a downloaded guide with further information about 'what to look out for' and 'top tips to remember when setting up your smart speaker'.

# Cleaner Required at Bierton School



Cleaner required for immediate start

Hours of work: Monday to Friday afternoons, 3.30-5.30pm

Previous experience in a similar role would be preferred, however full training will be given. Own transport would be an advantage due to location. Due to the nature of the site, an enhanced DBS Certificate will be required.

**Rate of pay: £8.65 per hour**

To apply please email your CV to [pete.everbrite@gmail.com](mailto:pete.everbrite@gmail.com) or call 01296 432051 for further details