



Birchensale Middle School

BELONG MOTIVATE SUCCEED

<https://www.birchensale.worcs.sch.uk/>

Newsletter
6th June 2025



Attendance Matters – Let's Keep Climbing!

We're proud to share that our current whole-school attendance stands at 93.8%, placing us in the top 15% of schools nationally - a fantastic achievement that reflects the commitment of our families and students to education. Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority.

However, we've noticed a slight dip in our figures this last term, dropping to 93.5%, largely due to an increase in term-time holidays. While we understand the temptation of lower prices and family availability, we kindly remind parents and carers that holidays should be taken during the 13 weeks of school holidays available each year.

Headteachers are only permitted to authorise leave during exceptional circumstances, and in line with national policy, unauthorised term-time holidays may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.

Every day in school counts - not just for learning, but also for friendships, routines, and preparing for future success. Let's continue working together to maintain excellent attendance and give our students the very best chance to belong, be motivated, and succeed.

Thank you for your support.



Exciting News: Our New Build is Nearing Completion!

We're thrilled to announce that our new development is entering its final stages—and it's looking fantastic! This project marks a major milestone for our school community, bringing with it a host of new and improved facilities designed to enhance everyone's experience.

🎉 What's New?

- A modern, purpose-built facility
- An extended playground offering more space and fun for children
- Thoughtfully designed areas to support learning, play, and community engagement

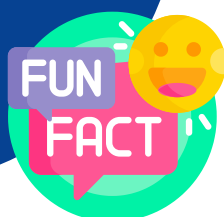
We can't wait to welcome you to the new space and see it come to life with activity, laughter, and learning.

Thank you for your continued support—this wouldn't be possible without our amazing community.



Sharks existed before trees.

Sharks have been around for over 400 million years, while trees appeared about 350 million years ago.



Important Update: School Meals from September

We'd like to inform parents and carers that from September, our school meals will no longer be provided by AIP. Instead, they will be freshly prepared by the Birchensale Middle School kitchen team. We're excited to introduce new menus and bright new uniforms as part of this change!

How your child pays for meals will remain the same, but we kindly ask that all pupil meal accounts are brought to a zero balance by Thursday, 18th July, the last day of term.

If your child's account is in credit after this date, you will need to request a refund directly from AIP. Please note that this can be a lengthy and sometimes difficult process, so we strongly recommend keeping an eye on your child's account over the next six weeks and only topping up as needed.

Thank you for your support as we make this exciting transition!



BK
BIRCHENSALE
KITCHEN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 8 WWI VR Experience – Thursday 19th June

Year 8 students will be taking part in an immersive World War I Virtual Reality experience on Thursday 19th June. This exciting activity offers a unique opportunity to explore life during the Great War through cutting-edge technology.

There is a small cost associated with this event. Full details, including payment information, can be found on the My Child At School app and in the letter sent home.

Birchensale's Summer Concert

 Date: Wednesday, 25th June

 Location: Birchensale Middle School

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music and celebration as Birchensale showcases the incredible talents of our students!

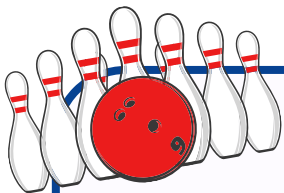
 Ticket details coming soon – stay tuned!

Year 6 Bowling Trip Reminder!

We're excited for our upcoming Year 6 bowling trip on Friday, July 4th!

Please ensure that all payments are made via the My Child at School app by Monday, June 23rd.

Thank you for your support—we can't wait for a fun-filled day!



Year 7 Bowling Trip Reminder!

We also have our upcoming Year 7 bowling trip on Friday, July 11th!

Please ensure that all payments are made via the My Child at School app by Monday, June 16th

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage is an NHS-funded, interactive therapeutic game designed to help children aged 7–12 manage mild to moderate anxiety. It aligns with NICE mental health guidelines and is co-developed with clinicians, educators, and young people.

Key Features:

- **Therapeutic Approach:** Uses graded exposure therapy and psychoeducation, core elements of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).
- **Child-led and Parent-supported:** Encourages self-management in a non-stigmatizing, age-appropriate way.
- **Digital and Safe:** CE-marked as a Class 1 medical device, GDPR compliant, and includes built-in safeguarding features.
- **Data Sharing:** Progress and outcomes can be securely shared with authorized professionals via the VitaMind Hub.
- **Use Cases:** Suitable for early intervention, waitlist support, or as an adjunct to specialist care

For more information click on the image and follow the link



Remember to bring your equipment to class every day, this helps you focus on the day without distractions. Don't forget, we have a school shop in the library where you can purchase pens, pencils, rulers, and sharpeners. You can only pay with cash.

Manuscript handwriting pens

Pencil

Ruler

Rubber & sharpener

Glue stick

Planner

Reading book

Pack of pencil crayons



A Polite Reminder About Parking Considerately

We kindly ask all parents and carers to park responsibly during school drop-off and collection times. Please help us keep our school community safe and respectful by following these simple guidelines:

- Do not block residents' driveways – everyone deserves access to their home at all times.
- Avoid parking on corners – this reduces visibility and creates hazards for children crossing.
- Never stop or park on double yellow lines – it's illegal and puts others at risk.

Let's work together to ensure our streets remain safe, accessible, and neighbourly for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Keeping Your Child Safe: Key Safeguarding

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, here are key contacts that can help:

- **School - Your first point of contact. Speak to the designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if you have any concerns, Mr Kearns and Mrs Pugh.**
- **CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) - For concerns about online safety, grooming, or exploitation. Report at www.ceop.police.uk**
- **NSPCC - Provides confidential support and advice on all safeguarding issues. Call 0808 800 5000 or visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>**
- **Kooth - Free, anonymous online mental health support for young people. Visit www.kooth.com**
- **Police - If a child is in immediate danger, call 999. For non-emergencies, call 101.**

me, you, us
safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Meet your safeguarding team



Sarah Pugh
Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Pete Clifton
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Emma James
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Dates for your diary

June 18th - Year 5 Library trip

June 19th - Year 8 WW1 VR Experience

Jun 25th - Summer concert

June 27th - Year 8 trip to Drayton Manor

July 1st - Summer school games

July 4th - Year 6 bowling trip

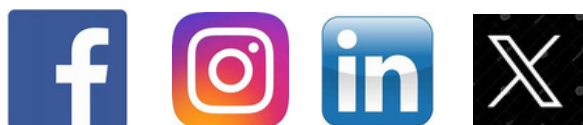
July 7th - New pupil transition evening

July 9th and 10th - Transition days

July 11th - Year 7 bowling trip

July 17th - Year 8 leavers party

July 18th - School finishes for summer




Follow us on social media

NHS

Not sure what to do when your child is unwell?

Download the free HANDi Paediatric app and get expert advice, support and guidance for common childhood illnesses.



Search "HANDi Paediatric"

Available on the App Store and Google Play.

EARLY HELP IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Help and support for Children, Young People and their families or carers.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE FAMILY HUB:
WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/FAMILYHUB



WORCESTERSHIRE CHILDREN FIRST

BEST START WORCESTERSHIRE



Visit the Best Start website for information, advice and services to support you and your family in pregnancy and the early years.

worcestershire.gov.uk/beststart

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



SEND Information, Advice and Support Service
Herefordshire & Worcestershire