



Birchensale Middle School

BELONG MOTIVATE SUCCEED RESILIENT

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

Newsletter September 5th 2025

Welcome back to Birchensale! As we begin a new school year, we're celebrating our value of belong. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time—especially our new pupils—you're part of the Birchensale family. Over the summer, we've updated several classrooms and made exciting improvements around the school to make our spaces even more welcoming and inspiring. We've also added six brand-new classrooms to support even more great learning. We can't wait for you to see the changes and help make this year one to remember

Kind regards
Emma James
Headteacher



A plea for help!

Do we have any parents or carers who are good at sewing and would like to help? In our hall we need to replace a long pair of curtains to match the new decor. We are looking for a volunteer to make us a pair. We will of course buy all the materials. If you can help, please contact our enquiry email. Thanks in advance.



Meet Our New SENDCo – Mrs Phelan!

We're excited to welcome Mrs Phelan to Birchensale as our new SENDCo!
Join us for a relaxed coffee morning where parents and carers can:

Meet Mrs Phelan
Learn more about our SEND provision
Ask any questions in a friendly, informal setting



 **Wednesday 10th September**

 **Two sessions available:**

Morning: 9:00am – 10:00am

Afternoon: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

We'd love to see you there!

Our House Point System Just Got Bigger and Better!

We're thrilled to introduce our refreshed house system, now featuring four vibrant houses, each representing a core value of our school community:

 **Belong Beoley – Fostering a sense of community and inclusion**

 **Motivate Bordesley – Inspiring drive and determination**

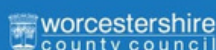
 **Succeed Studley – Celebrating achievement and progress**

 **Resilient Ipsley – Building strength and perseverance**

Each house is represented by a bright, colourful badge designed collaboratively by our talented pupils. Staff and pupils alike are proud members of their houses, working together to earn points through positive behaviour, achievements, and contributions to school life.
Let the friendly competition begin – who will earn the most points this term?



School Admissions



Worcestershire County Council

School admission applications for September 2026 are now open!
The deadline for High School applications is 31 October 2025.
The Primary, First, Infant, Junior and Middle application deadline is 15 January 2026.

For information and guidance on how to apply, please visit:

<https://worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

For families without internet access, Worcestershire Libraries provide free computer use and Wi-Fi at all library sites.

Save the Date!

Is your child starting Year 5 next September?

Join us at Birchensale Middle School for our Open Evening on Thursday 2nd October, starting at 5:30pm.

✨ What to expect:

A warm welcome and talk from our Headteacher

Guided tours of our school, including our stunning new build

Meet our passionate teachers

Sample some of the delicious food we serve at lunchtime

Chat with our uniform supplier

Learn about our wraparound care, provided by Redditch United Football Club

Come and see what makes Birchensale a fantastic place to learn and grow. We can't wait to meet you!

 **Birchensale Middle School**

 **Thursday 2nd October | 5:30pm**

Reporting a Student Absence

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please follow these steps to report their absence:

Use the MCAS App (MyChildAtSchool)

This is the quickest and most efficient way to notify our Attendance Team.

Email the School

If you're unable to use the app, please email us as early as possible at

 enquiries@birchensale.bmat.co.uk

Include your child's name, form, and reason for absence.

Call the School Office

If neither of the above options is available, you can call us on

 01527 68430 and select Option 1

Working Together for Excellent Attendance

We kindly ask all parents and carers to:

- **Prioritise school attendance whenever possible**
- **Contact us early if you anticipate any issues**
- **Understand that holidays during term time are not authorised**
- **Need Support or Have Questions?**

We're here to help. If you'd like to discuss attendance or support available, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Exciting New Rewards (2025/26):

We're launching a revamped rewards scheme to recognise attendance and effort with prizes like:

- **Football memorabilia and matchday experiences**
- **Vue cinema and Tenpin bowling tickets**
- **Live in-school concerts featuring rising UK music stars**
- **Theme Park trips and other major outings**
- **Halloween and Christmas parties**
- **A seat at the Women's FA Cup Final at Wembley**
- **Want a sneak peek at what's on offer? Check out our latest video here**

<https://youtu.be/T2j1geLY6xA>

📢 Clubs and Wraparound Care at Birchensale 📢

We're pleased to offer a variety of clubs and activities for our pupils:

📝 Homework Club

- Years 5 & 6: Mondays, 3:15–4:15pm
- Years 7 & 8: Tuesdays, 3:15–4:15pm
- This club is free of charge, but all children must be booked on via the MCAS app.

👧 Other Clubs Include

- Dance
- Football
- Cricket
- Rounders
- ...and more!
- These are free clubs but pupils must book on via MCAS.

⚽ United After School Club

Run by **Redditch United Football Club**, this wraparound care includes:

- Breakfast Club from 7.30 to 8.45am
- After School Club running from 3.15pm to 6pm
- At United After School help pupils can have help with homework, read, play games, meet new friends.
- For more information and to book please click on the image and follow the link



- Please note: booking is essential and fees apply.
- ➡️ For more information, follow us on social media (links at the bottom of the newsletter) or email us at:

✉️ enquiries@birchensale.bmat.co.uk

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



Teresa Dawson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Pete Clifton
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Emma James
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Dates for your diary

New term starts - Wednesday 3rd September

**Meet The Teacher evening 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- Monday 15th September**

**Open Evening 5.30pm to 7.30pm - Thursday
2nd October**

**Year 6 trip to Bell Heath - Monday 13th
October to Wednesday 15th October**

**Second year 6 trip to Bell Heath - Monday
20th October to Wednesday 22nd October**

**School photographer all day - Thursday 23rd
October**

Last day of half term - Friday 24th October

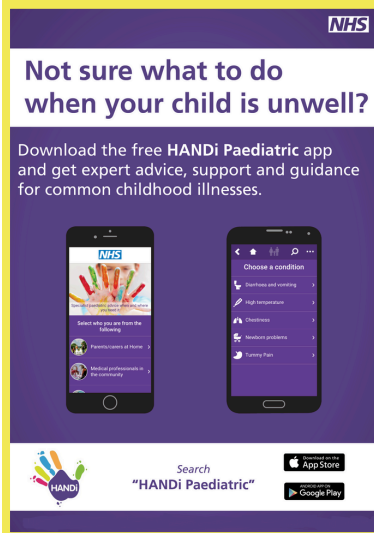
**Pupils return to school - Monday 3rd
November**

**School Christmas Fair (times to be
confirmed) - Friday 21st November**

**Parents evening for years 5, 6 and 8 3.30pm
to 7pm - Monday 1st December**

**Winter concert 5.30pm to 6.30pm -
Wednesday 10th December**

Last day of term - Thursday 18th December



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.

Two smartphone screens displaying the app interface. The left screen shows a 'Choose a condition' menu with options like 'Febrile convulsions', 'High temperature', 'Stomach ache', 'Sore throat', 'Cough and cold', 'Allergies', 'Skin problems', and 'Other'. The right screen shows a 'Select who you are from the family' menu with options like 'Parent/carer of child', 'Health professional in the community', and 'Family team'.

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.

Three circular images showing families and children. The first shows a woman and a child, the second shows a family of four, and the third shows a child playing.

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

QR code linking to the Family Hub.

**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**



**LUMI
NOVA**
TALES OF COURAGE

For 7-12 year olds