



Birchensale Middle School

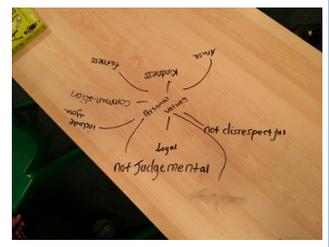
Weekly News

13th February 2026

UK Safer Internet Campaign

On Tuesday this week our whole school took part in the UK Safer Internet Campaign. We learned all about the positive and negative uses of AI and how to stay safe and respectful online.

We had some great work and discussions produced by all!



Medication and Paracetamol in School

The school keeps a very small supply of paracetamol on site for emergencies. If you have given consent for your child to receive paracetamol when needed, please send in a labelled bottle of Calpol or paracetamol with your child's full name clearly written on it.

If your child requires any other medication during the school day, such as antibiotics, this must be sent into school in its original box or packaging, with your child's full name clearly displayed. A form also needs to be completed by the parent/carer, this can be obtained from the school office. This ensures we can administer medication safely and in line with school procedures.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.



KS2 Spring 1 Highlights...



It's been another busy half term in KS2. Here are some of the highlights:

- *5REV, 5AGA, 5AGA, 5SJO and 5CLE have presented wonderful class assemblies to parents and peers*
- *Attendance, behaviour, subject and 'zero heroes' awards assembly*
- *Y6 Weight Lifting Workshops*
- *Y5 have explored the solar system in the visiting Planetarium to support their Science topic*
- *Pupils have taken part in the Panathlon competition - many coming back to school with medals!*
- *Y6 have taken part in swimming lessons this half term*
- *Pupils have competed in the County Cross Country Competition*

Keep up the great work KS2.



A polite reminder



Please ensure your child brings a refillable water bottle to school each day. Staying hydrated is important for helping them concentrate, energy levels and stay healthy throughout the day.
Thank you for your support

On Thursday 5th March 2026 we will be celebrating World Book Day.

We will have an assembly, prizes and then take part in reading activities during English. The pupils will also receive a £1 book voucher and have an opportunity to buy a World Book Day book.

We invite the pupils to dress up in the following:

Year 5 and 6 in Pyjamas or as their favourite book character

Year 7 following the theme of Murder and Mystery

Year 8 following the theme of Gothic Horror

Year 7 and 8 if you need any help with ideas please talk to your English teacher.

These costumes can be put together with things that you already have at home.

**WORLD
BOOK
DAY**

Can you help?

We are setting up Sensory Circuits to support pupils with known motor and sensory needs 🧠🌟

If you're having a half-term clear-out, do you have any unused equipment at home – maybe hiding in a shed or garage – that you or your children no longer use? 🗑️🏠

We would be very grateful for any donations!

Items we are looking for include:

- Trampettes
- Skipping ropes
- Space hoppers
- Exercise / fit balls
- Hoops
- Exercise bands / resistance bands
- Beanbags (any size)
- Wobble boards
- Exercise ribbons
- Foam rollers

If you have anything to donate, please drop it off at Reception.

Thank you so much for your support! ❤️



[The Old Needle Works- Wellbeing Hub in Redditch](#)



The Old Needle works is a community wellbeing centre in the heart of Redditch focused on supporting positive mental health for people of all ages. They offer 1- to 1 talking therapy, support for groups, and community activities to help individuals and families feel emotionally well, build confidence and make lasting changes in their lives.

There is also a friendly Healthy Mind Cafe where you can relax and enjoy affordable food and drinks, meet others, and take part in creative social groups. For more information click on the image and follow the link.

Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're excited to share what your child will be learning this half-term. Here's an overview of the Year 7 curriculum:

<p> Science</p> <p>Earth and Atmosphere – Exploring the structure of the earth and the composition of the atmosphere.</p>	<p> English Writing</p> <p>Poetry –Poetic devices and analysis of different styles of poetry.</p>
<p> English Reading</p> <p>A range of text extracts from different genres to broaden comprehension and analytical skills</p>	<p> Mathematics</p> <p>Directed number; Fractions & percentages; Perimeter and area.</p>
<p> Geography</p> <p>Middle East Matters – Investigating physical landscapes, population patterns, and cultural diversity within the Middle East region.</p>	<p> History</p> <p>Power and Conflict 15th Century History – Exploring key monarchs, political tensions, and how conflict shaped medieval England.</p>
<p> RE</p> <p>Sikh teachings on equality – Understanding how Sikh beliefs inspire service to others and influence modern-day actions and communities.</p>	<p> PE</p> <p>Netball / OAA / Dance / Basketball – Developing teamwork, movement skills, tactical thinking and physical fitness across a range of activities.</p>
<p> Music</p> <p>Rap – Exploring rhythm, flow, lyric-writing and performance within the rap genre.</p>	<p> DT</p> <p>Global Charity – Designing products with a focus on global issues, sustainability and helping communities in need.</p>
<p> Art</p> <p>Line and Perspective: Techniques for depth and dimension.</p>	<p> Spanish</p> <p>My free time – Expressing hobbies, preferences, and weekend activities using key vocabulary and verbs.</p> <p> PSHE & Citizenship</p>
<p> Computing Hardware and Software – Understanding computer components, how systems work and the difference between hardware and software.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing – Managing anger, mental health and puberty.</p>
<p> Wider Experiences Worcestershire Skills Expo – Pupils explore future careers, develop communication skills, and meet local employers.</p>	<p>Thank you for your continued support! Warm regards, Mrs A Evans Associate Assistant Headteacher– KS3</p>

Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 2

Dear Parents and Carers,
 We're excited to share what your child will be learning this half-term. Here's an overview of the Year 8 curriculum:

<p> Science</p> <p>Electricity – Understanding electrical circuits, current, voltage, resistance and how electricity is used safely and effectively in everyday life.</p>	<p> English Writing</p> <p>Gothic Literature – Exploring atmosphere, suspense, setting and characterisation, while creating original Gothic-inspired writing.</p>
<p> English Reading</p> <p>Genre extracts – Analysing structure, language and themes across a range of fiction, non-fiction and media extracts.</p>	<p> Mathematics</p> <p>Percentages, indices, and data representation – Solving multi-step problems involving powers, percentage change, statistical diagrams and interpreting data sets.</p>
<p> Geography</p> <p>Unpredictable UK and UK's Uneven Coast – Understanding UK weather hazards, coastal processes and how landscapes constantly change.</p>	<p> History</p> <p>Industrial Revolution – Exploring how technology, factories and migration transformed British society in the 18th–19th centuries.</p>
<p> RE</p> <p>Buddhist teachings – Learning about the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path, mindfulness and how beliefs influence actions.</p>	<p> PE</p> <p>OAA / Volleyball / Netball / Basketball – Developing teamwork, problem-solving, coordination, movement techniques and tactical play.</p>
<p> Music</p> <p>Four Chord Melodies – Understanding chord progressions, composing using four-chord patterns and performing as an ensemble.</p>	<p> DT</p> <p>Cooking – Preparing savoury dishes while learning about nutrition, food hygiene and practical kitchen skills.</p>
<p> Art</p> <p>Line and Perspective: Techniques for depth and dimension.</p>	<p> Spanish</p> <p>Media – Talking about TV, films, music and online activities using key vocabulary and opinion structures.</p>
<p> Computing</p> <p>Devices and Components – Understanding hardware, internal components, storage, input/output devices and how systems work together.</p>	<p> PSHE & Citizenship</p> <p>Living in the Wider World – Stereotypes, internet safety and digital literacy</p>
<p> Wider Experiences</p> <p>Army Cadets Engagement – Teamwork, leadership skills and resilience-building through practical activities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your continued support Warm regards, Mrs A Evans Associate Assistant Headteacher – KS3</p>

KS3 Half-Term Highlights

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another full, productive and exciting half term in KS3. Here are some of the fantastic things our pupils have been involved in:

Personal Development

- Year 7 VR Experience – Some pupils took part in a VR workshop run by Virtual_Decisions focusing on understanding anti-social behaviour and its impact on communities.
- Year 7 Planetarium Visit - WonderDome brought the universe to life with an immersive planetarium experience, giving pupils a chance to explore space from inside a dome right here at school.
- Year 8 Residential – Seventy pupils spent four days at Boundless Outdoors in Malvern. The residential encouraged perseverance, teamwork, resilience and independence. This was an unforgettable experience for all involved.

Careers

- Year 8 Careers and Finance Workshop - The Talent Foundry delivered their final session, helping pupils explore attitudes to money, needs versus wants and responsible decision-making.
- Year 7 and 8 Careers - Worcestershire Apprenticeships delivered an informative assembly introducing pupils to a wide range of local apprenticeship opportunities and pathways.

Sports Leaders

-  Our KS3 Sports Leaders supported Year 2 pupils from local first schools during the Sports Hall Athletics event—a fantastic demonstration of leadership, responsibility and teamwork.

A few reminders for when we return:

Uniform

The full uniform policy is available on our website. Please help us by ensuring pupils follow the guidelines.

Essential Daily Equipment

Handwriting pen
Pencil
Planner
Reading book

Key KS3 dates for your diary

- 4th and 5th March – Year 7 Worcestershire Skills Expo at Sixways Stadium, Worcester
- 10th March – Year 7 Army engagement assembly
- 10th March - Year 8 Army engagement session
- 15th April – Year 7 and 8 workshop to build confidence, communication and self-leadership.
- 22nd April – Year 7 Parents Evening
- 10th /11th June – Year 7 Financial Education workshops
- 12th June – Year 8 trip to Drayton Manor
- 18th June – Year 7 trip to Cadburys World
- 2nd July – Year 8 Leavers Party

We look forward to seeing all pupils back after the half term break.

From the KS3 Team

Spring Term 2
KS3 After-School and Lunchtime Clubs

Monday

-  KS3 Computing Club (Game Development) – Lunchtime
-  KS3 Mindful Creative (DT Workshop) – Lunchtime

Tuesday

-  KS3 Gardening Club – Lunchtime
-  KS3 Homework Club (Book on MCAS) – 3:15–4:15pm

Wednesday

-  All Years Choir – 12:50pm - Lunchtime
-  All Years Gardening Club – Lunchtime

Thursday

-  All Years Italian Club (B5) – Lunchtime
-  KS3 Art Club (BTU Art Room) – Lunchtime
-  KS3 Forest School (Book on MCAS) – 3:15–4:30pm
-  KS3 Girl Band (Invite Only) – Lunchtime

Friday

-  KS3 Film Club (BTU Art Room) – Lunchtime
-  All Years Horrible Histories Club (B2) – Lunchtime
-  KS3 Dance (Book on MCAS) – 3:15–4:30pm

Why join a club?

Make new friends • Learn new skills • Have fun outside
lessons 



BMS Chatty Families



SUPPORTING PUPILS & PARENTS WITH ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

WHAT IS CHATTY FAMILIES?

BMS Chatty Families is a welcoming group for pupils and parents at Birchensale whose first language is not English. Led by Mrs Okonska, our EAL Lead, the club helps pupils build their English language skills and supports parents in feeling more confident using English at home and with school work.

JOIN US!

Come along for a cuppa, biscuit and friendly conversation. Meet other families from around the world and enjoy sharing:
Cultures Languages Experiences
The journey of becoming part of life in the UK



OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

This year we are proud to have 20 families from 10 different countries taking part! Represented countries include:



 Latvia  Romania  Pakistan  Albania  Poland

EVERYONE BELONGS HERE

Come along, get involved and be part of our warm and supportive community

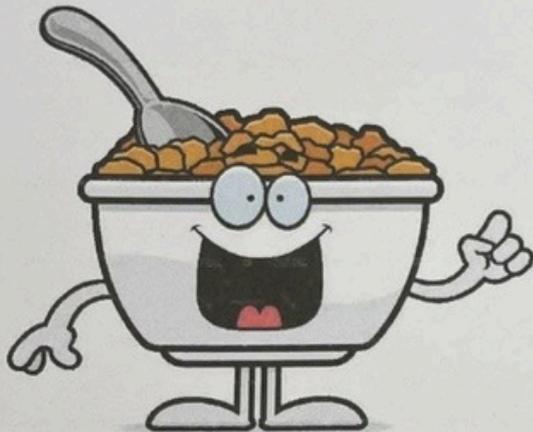


If you would like attend Chatty Families then please email us and someone will contact you with more information.

enquiries@birchensale.bmat.co.uk



HOLIDAY BREAKFAST CLUB FOR FAMILIES



Where?

Redditch Baptist Church

When?

9.30am – 10.15am

Monday to Friday

From 16th to 20th February

Entry is free. We aim to offer children and parents:

Cereal and fruit. Toast, crumpets and bagels with various toppings.

Orange and apple juice, squash, tea and coffee.

Toys and activities for younger children.

And always a warm and friendly welcome!

Redditch
BAPTIST CHURCH
Where Christ is the centre and people matter

Contact the Breakfast Club at

whatson@redditchbaptist.org.uk

We are generously supported by

TESCO

Want to make a real difference at



Birchensale?

We are looking for parents to join our PTA and help us create amazing experiences for our pupils!

From helping to run exciting events like our Christmas Fair to fundraising and building strong links with the local community, there are so many ways you can get involved.

We're looking for enthusiastic parents who want to help Birchensale become even better.

Why should you join?

- Meet parents from other year groups.
- Meet the teachers in a less formal setting.
- See the school from a different angle.
- Make new friends by working alongside members of the local community.
- Learn new skills.
- The satisfaction of knowing you have made a contribution.
- The knowledge that you have helped make the school you chose an even better place

If you would like to join or would like anymore information please email us [**enquiries@birchensale.bmat.co.uk**](mailto:enquiries@birchensale.bmat.co.uk)

Your ideas, energy, and support can make a big impact—
so come and join us today!



Birchensale Safeguarding Team



Designated Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)
Mrs Pugh



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
Miss Dawson



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
Mrs James



Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
Mr Clifton

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), Mrs Pugh, if you have any concerns.

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

Dates for your diary

Friday 13th February -
Last day of half term

**Monday 16th February to Friday 20th
February -**
Half term holiday

Monday 23rd February -
Pupils return to school

Thursday 5th March -
World book day

Friday 27th March -
School closes for the Easter holidays

Monday 20th March to Friday 10th April -
Easter holiday

Monday 13th April -
Pupils return to school

Wednesday 22nd April -
Parents evening for year's 5, 6 and 7

Monday 4th May -
School closed for May Day Bank Holiday

[Click on the images
below to find help
and information](#)

