



Birchensale Middle School

Weekly News

27th February 2026

Welcome back to school!

✨ Welcome Back, Students! ✨

We were delighted to welcome everyone back on Monday. We're ready for five productive weeks of hard work – with a little fun sprinkled in along the way! 🎉

A quick reminder to parents and carers:

💧 Please ensure your child brings a refillable water bottle each day.

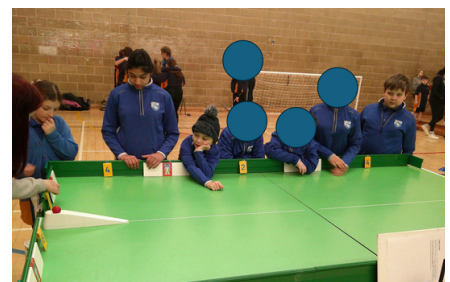
🍴 Don't forget to top up tuck/lunch money via your MCAS account.

Let's make it a great half-term! ❤️

Multi-Skills festival

On Friday 13th February, some of our pupils attended the multi-skills festival at Trinity High School. They took part in lots of activities including: boccia, archery, table cricket, curling, goal ball and much more.

All of our pupils had a fantastic afternoon and were a credit to the school.



Introducing Our New Optional Summer Polo Tops

As we look ahead to the (hopefully!) warmer weather of the summer term, we're pleased to share that we will be introducing an optional school polo top for pupils to wear from after the Easter break until the end of the academic year.

Over the last few years, we've experienced some very hot end-of-year weather. While we've sometimes relaxed expectations around ties to help pupils stay cool, we also want to keep everyone looking smart and feeling comfortable. The new polo tops offer a practical, cooler alternative while still maintaining a tidy, consistent school appearance.

Key Information

- **Available from:** The start of the Easter break
- **Supplier:** Orchard Clothing
- **Price:** £9.95 each or 3 for £25
- **When they can be worn:** Throughout the summer term only
- **Optional:** Yes—completely optional

Pupils may continue wearing their usual white school shirt and tie if they prefer. However, unlike in previous hot spells, we won't be saying "no ties" this year. Children who choose to wear shirts will still be expected to wear their ties as normal. The summer polo top is simply an additional option designed to make everyone a little more comfortable on those warmer days.

Looking Ahead

This is not a one-off—summer polo tops will be allowed every summer term going forward. From September, we will return to our standard uniform of white shirt and tie as usual.

We hope this small change helps pupils stay cool, comfortable and confident while continuing to represent our school with pride.

If you have any questions, please just let us know



World Book Day and the Scholastic Book Fair



The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school next Monday and Tuesday (2nd and 3rd March) for the run up to World Book Day and will be open during the lunchtime for all pupils to browse and buy books.

Also, on Monday morning all pupils will receive a £1 World Book Day Voucher that they can use at the book fair on books that are priced £2.99 or over.

There will be over 200 of the books children really want to read, from award-winners and new releases to beloved favourites and bestsellers, all at amazing prices. Plus, for every book bought, you help to earn free books for our school!

Please note that the Book Fair will be cash only.

On Thursday March 5th we invite 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.

We will also be holding an assembly, have prizes and pupils will take part in reading activities during English.

We also have a special menu to celebrate from the ladies in Birchensale Kitchen.



Borcelle

Books & Bites Delight!

March 5th Menu in Sight!

BFG Scrumptious beef burger
or

Matilda's macaroni cheese
or
Jumping jacket potatoes



Served with

Hungry Caterpillar's herby dice potatoes
or

Augustus Gloop's baked beans
or
Peter Rabbit's peas



Followed by

Wonka's iced chocolate cake
or

Queen of Heart's jam tarts



Year 5 spring curriculum

ENGLISH:

Reading:

Year 5 will be reading range of text extracts from different genres to broaden comprehension skills.



Writing:

Year 5 will start the term writing a gripping narrative, focusing on building suspense.

After that, we will be writing a character description based on Lemony Snicket.

Finally, we will end the term with a non-chronological report about a mythical creature.

MATHS:

Year 5 will firstly be learning about Fractions, Decimals and percentages this half term.

Decimal	Percentage	Fraction
0.5	50%	$\frac{1}{2}$
0.25	25%	$\frac{1}{4}$
0.75	75%	$\frac{3}{4}$
0.2	20%	$\frac{1}{5}$
0.1	10%	$\frac{1}{10}$
0.3	33.3%	$\frac{1}{3}$

The next topic will be Perimeter and Area.

Times Tables Rockstars weekly homework will continue for every class.



HISTORY:

Pupils will be investigating about World War 2, including the Blitz, rationing and evacuees.



Year 5 Curriculum Overview Spring 2026



Thank you for your continued support.

SCIENCE:

Year 5 will be learning about Animals and Humans, their life cycles, reproduction and offspring.

MFL: SPANISH

Family and pets



ART:

Pupils will study art illusions and create their own.

MUSIC:

All the learning in this unit is focused around one song: The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Pupils will listen and appraise music and create their own.

PE:

Pupils will be learning about Māori dances and will learn the steps for the Ka Mate Haka. Pupils will be learning about the different aspects of ball sports including, passing, shooting, dribbling and defending.

RE:

In spring 2, pupils will be learning about what matter most to humanists and Christians.

PSHE:

Pupils will reflect on their aspirations and will think about what targets they will want to set themselves in order to achieve their goals. Pupils will also think about the environment and how to protect it.

COMPUTING:

Pupils will be learning about computational thinking and how it applies to both real life and computing.

Year 6 spring curriculum

<p style="text-align: center;">ENGLISH: Reading:</p> <p>Year 6 will be reading range of text extracts from different genres to broaden comprehension skills.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Writing:</p> <p>We will be writing an overview for a very moving short film called the Piano. Also, we will be writing a persuasive advert for a theme park.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MATHS:</p> <p>During this half term, pupils will deepen their understanding of how fractions, decimals and percentages are connected, learning to convert confidently between them in different contexts. They will also explore area, perimeter and volume, using efficient strategies to calculate, compare and solve real-life problems. These skills help strengthen pupils' mathematical reasoning and prepare them for more complex problem solving.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">GEOGRAPHY:</p> <p>We will be exploring the country of Greece, including their food, culture and sustainability. Children will have the chance to taste some traditional Greek cuisine and make a menu from their experience!</p>	<p>Year 6 Curriculum Overview Spring 2 2026</p>  <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SCIENCE:</p> <p>Year 6 children will learn how characteristics are inherited from parents and how variation occurs within a species. They will also explore how animals and plants adapt to their environments over time, leading to evolution, with evidence from fossils.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MFL: SPANISH</p> <p>Clothing items and descriptions.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">MUSIC:</p> <p>Music in Spring 2 is all about playing the ukulele and learning chords.</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">PE:</p> <p>Pupils will be learning about different types of dance and will be putting together a routine of their own. Pupils will be learning about the different aspects of ball sports including, passing, shooting, dribbling and defending.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RE:</p> <p>In this unit, pupils will be looking at the Creation of Science and debating whether it is conflicting or complementary to beliefs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PSHE:</p> <p>Year 6 will be learning about the changes that occur during puberty. Pupils will receive information about physical changes but also the emotional changes which occur during this time. Pupils will examine ways they can cope with these changes whilst understanding the reasons behind them.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COMPUTING:</p> <p>Pupils will be looking at and understanding flowcharts and algorithms.</p> 

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.

Primrose Hospice

Children and Young People's Service

Here to support you and your family

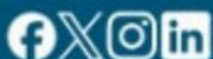
Our dedicated specialist children's team offer:

- ♥ Support when a family member has a life-limiting illness
- ♥ Support with **any** bereavement
- ♥ Telephone advice and support
- ♥ One to one sessions
- ♥ Group sessions

Please speak to your pastoral lead or visit our website to find out more including how to make a referral.



For more information:
primrosehospice.org
01527 889799



Primrose Hospice, St Godwald's Road, Bromsgrove, B60 3BW
Registered charity number: 700272



 primrose
hospice
Care Compassion Community



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



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

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

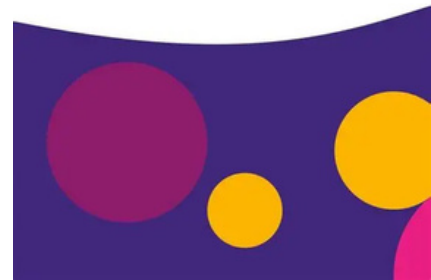
Sunday 31st May -
Wembley trip

Thursday 4th June -
Year 8 trip to Stratford

Friday 5th June -
Year 8 trip to Stratford

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

WORCESTERSHIRE
FAMILY HUBS 



Information, Advice
and Support Service
**Herefordshire &
Worcestershire**

BEST START 
WORCESTERSHIRE



Herefordshire and
Worcestershire

**Don't let bugs
play on your mind.**

If your child is unwell, use the HANDI App to check
their symptoms and get instant, NHS-approved
medical advice.

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

HANDi

**HOME
START**
North East
Worcestershire