



Birchensale
Middle School

Weekly News

27th March 2026

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another busy term, it's wonderful to look back on everything our school community has achieved. The spring term has flown by, and it's hard to believe the summer term is already just around the corner.

We've enjoyed huge sporting success once again, earning top results in local and national competitions, strengthening our reputation for excellence. Our sports leaders continue to shine as they support events in our local first schools—true role models for our community.

Our school groups have worked incredibly hard, and a special well done goes to the School Council for running a very successful Comic Relief cake sale. Everything sold out quickly—so we'll definitely be baking even more next time!

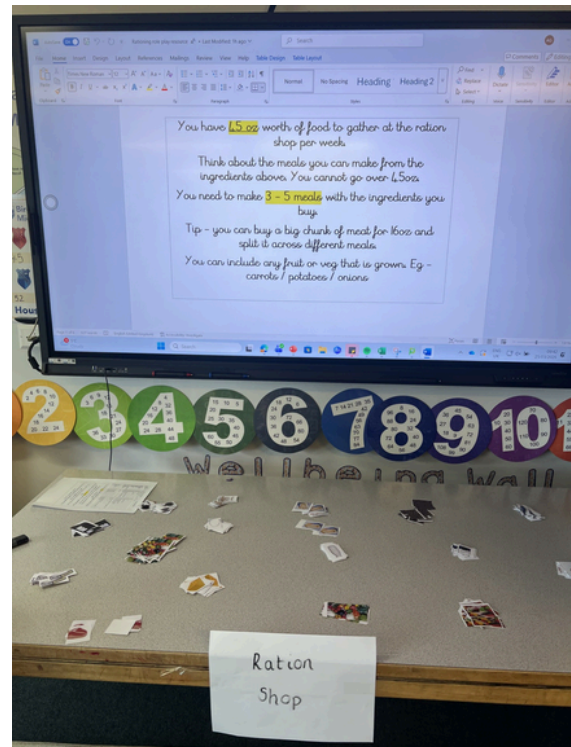
Over Easter, new basketball hoops will be fitted on the playground as we continue to make breaktimes more active and fun. Our school meals have also been very well received since taking over the kitchen contract, and our fantastic kitchen team works hard each day to provide lunches that are both nutritious and enjoyable.

We wish all our families a restful and well-deserved Easter break. Thank you to everyone who joined us for achievement assemblies and coffee mornings. We look forward to welcoming you back for the summer term.

Emma James
Headteacher

World Maths Day Meets WW2: Cooking with Rations in 5AGA

Following our WW2 topic, 5AGA explored meals they could make from foods that were rationed or hard to get during the war. This activity was also part of World Maths Day as they need to calculate the amount of food / share food to ensure it was within the limits they were allowed. Lots of groups came up with fish, chips and vegetables as these foods weren't rationed as much. The pupils enjoyed coming up to the shop to 'buy' their ingredients.

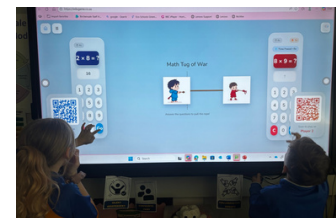


Times Tables Tug of War in 5SJO

5SJO have been working hard on their times tables this week, using a lively 'Tug of War' maths game to build both confidence and fluency. The classroom was full of excitement as pupils competed in friendly pairs, each trying to pull the answer to their side by solving multiplication problems quickly and accurately.

The activity encouraged teamwork, determination, and lots of mathematical thinking. Pupils supported each other brilliantly, celebrated their successes, and showed real resilience when the questions became more challenging. The game created a fun, energetic atmosphere – and the class absolutely loved it!

Well done to 5SJO for showing such enthusiasm and effort in their learning.



Bowling and Brilliant Behaviour: Year 6

Reward Trip

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a fantastic bowling trip on Tuesday as part of their attendance reward. They had a great time together, demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout, and represented Birchensale brilliantly. It was a pleasure to see them celebrating their hard work and dedication in such a positive way.



Comic Relief Cake Sale Winners

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Comic Relief Cake Sale! We were blown away by the amazing cakes and the fantastic number of entries we received. The creativity and effort from our pupils made judging incredibly tough.

We are delighted to announce our winners:

3rd Place:

Lily and Heidi Boniface (7CPO & 5SJO)
Digestive Biscuit Faces



2nd Place:

Thea and Caleb Tromans (5CAM)
Smiley Face Cakes



1st Place:

Imogen Jones (6PBA)
Rice Crispy Cakes



A huge well done to our winners and to everyone who contributed. Your baked creations helped make the event a big success for Comic Relief!

Grit, Determination, and Success: Birchensale at the National Rowing Finals

National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships

Following another excellent set of curriculum rowing lessons finishing with a very successful interhouse rowing competition, Birchensale entered the National Junior Indoor Rowing Competition again. This was a chance to compete at NATIONAL level, against the best of the best!! This year's event took place in the Copperbox Arena, at the Olympic Park in London.

In the build up our pupils trained extremely hard using free time at lunch and after school to build their stamina and prepare for the gruelling individual races and team relays. This amazing preparation paid off with all individuals performing extremely well. Our pupils were gritty, determined, positive and an amazing credit to the school!!!



The results:

Year 7 Girls (106 entries)

Isabelle Jack 1st – winning by 20 metres

Year 8 SEND

Florence O'Neill 1st!!!

Year 8 Girls (180 entries)

Amelia Kesterton	22nd
Lily Monckton	30th
Ella Hill	47th
Flo O'Neill	52nd
Emilie Mears	54th
Autumn Shuck	68th
Millie Ballard	89th

Year 8 Boys (117 entries)

Bailey Bunegar	2 nd – 1 metre behind the winner
Oscar Sandbrook	4 th – 1 metre behind 3 rd pace
James Pope	11th
Jacob Andrews	23rd
Henry Gibbs	60th
Nivin Sajan	95th

Relays:

Year 8 Boys (92 entries:

A – 8th

B – 61st (rowing as a team of 2 instead of 4!!!)

Year 8 Girls (85 entries)

A – 19th

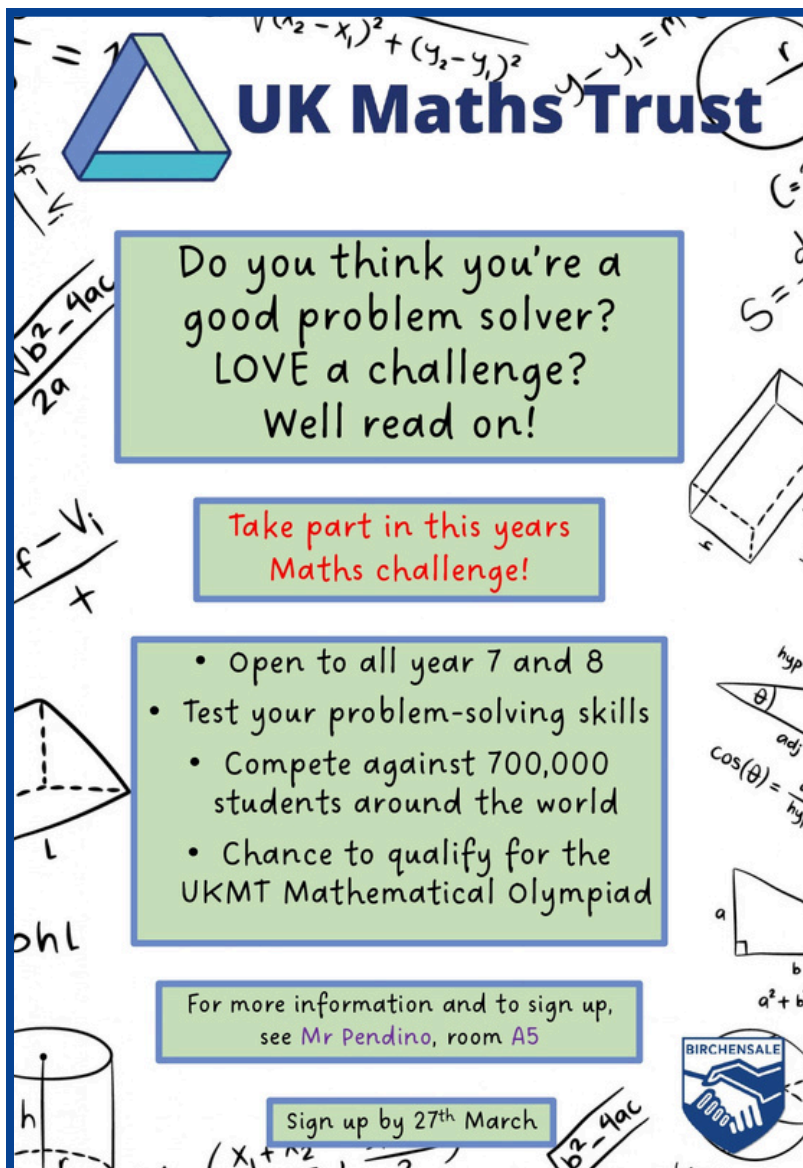
B - 30th



Take on the maths challenge!

This week, some Year 6 students took part in the UKMT Primary Maths Kangaroo. The Primary Kangaroo, which is part of the UK family of Kangaroo papers, is linked to the papers set by the International Kangaroo Organisation, which form one of the largest Maths Competitions in the world. This exciting competition is a multiple choice paper aimed at students aged 9-11; combining fun and accessible problems with just the right amount of challenge to inspire a love of maths.

There is still time for KS3 students to sign up to the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge - limited spaces available! See the poster for more information.



UK Maths Trust

Do you think you're a good problem solver?
LOVE a challenge?
Well read on!

Take part in this years Maths challenge!

- Open to all year 7 and 8
- Test your problem-solving skills
- Compete against 700,000 students around the world
- Chance to qualify for the UKMT Mathematical Olympiad

For more information and to sign up, see **Mr Pendino**, room A5

Sign up by 27th March

BIRCHENSALE 0000

The poster is decorated with various mathematical diagrams and formulas, including a Möbius strip, a 3D box, a right-angled triangle with sides labeled 'a', 'b', and 'hyp', a cylinder, and several algebraic expressions such as $\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}$, $\frac{f - \sqrt{d}}{x}$, $\cos(\theta) = \frac{\text{adj}}{\text{hyp}}$, $a^2 + b^2$, $(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2$, $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$, and $\frac{1}{2}bh$.

KS3 Half-Term Highlights

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy half term in KS3. Here are some of the fantastic things our pupils have been involved in:

Personal Development

- Interhouse Rowing – Year 7 and 8 took part in the Interhouse Rowing competition along with a range of other house-related activities throughout the day. All pupils showed excellent resilience and demonstrated great support for their peers and houses.
- World Book Day – Pupils came into school dressed as characters linked to the themes of murder and mystery and gothic horror. All pupils attended an assembly where the best-dressed pupil in each form class was celebrated.

Careers

- Year 8 – The Army Cadets delivered a practical first aid workshop alongside an interactive session showcasing kit, equipment and career opportunities available within the British Army.
- Year 7 – Pupils visited the Worcestershire Skills Expo at Worcester Sixways Stadium. They spoke with a wide range of companies and educational institutions, exploring possible future pathways.

Ambassadors

- Interhouse Rowing – Some of our ambassadors supported the PE department by helping run the rowing event and motivating pupils throughout the day.
- Big Walk and Wheel – Ambassadors have been collecting travel-to-school information from pupils across different year groups as part of the initiative.

A few reminders for when we return:

Uniform

Our full uniform policy is available on our school website. Please support us by ensuring pupils follow the guidelines. Socks must be plain black. PE trousers should be plain black with no stripes on the side. Our new polo top will be available from Orchard clothing for the summer term.

Essential Daily Equipment

Handwriting pen

Pencil

Planner

Reading book

Key KS3 dates for your diary

- 15th April – Year 7 & 8 workshop on confidence, communication and self-leadership
- 22nd April – Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 3rd and 4th June – Year 7 Financial Education workshops
- 5th June – Year 8 trip to Stratford-upon-Avon
- 10th and 11th June – Year 7 Financial Education workshops
- 12th June – Year 8 trip to Drayton Manor
- 18th June – Year 7 trip to Cadbury World
- 2nd July – Year 8 Leavers' Party

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

From the KS3 Team

Year 7 Curriculum Newsletter

Summer 1

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>DNA and Inheritance – Exploring how characteristics are passed from parents to offspring, the structure of DNA, and how variation occurs.</p>	<p> English Writing</p> <p>Macbeth – Developing analytical and creative writing linked to Shakespeare's tragedy, focusing on themes, character development and atmosphere.</p>
<p> English Reading</p> <p>Genre extracts – Reading across fiction, non-fiction and media texts to develop inference, comprehension and analysis skills.</p>	<p> Mathematics</p> <p>Speed, distance and time, Properties of number - Students build confidence applying formulas, solving real-life problems, and strengthening number fluency.</p>
<p> Geography</p> <p>Africa's Assets – Investigating the human and physical geography of Africa, including economies, environments and cultural diversity.</p>	<p> History</p> <p>Power and Conflict – 16th Century - Understanding how key events, monarchs, and changes shaped Britain during the 1500s</p>
<p> RE</p> <p>What does it mean for Christians to believe in God? - explore what Christians believe about God and how belief shapes moral choices,</p>	<p> PE</p> <p>Athletics / Cricket / Rounders – Developing technique, coordination, teamwork and tactical awareness</p>
<p> Music</p> <p>African Drumming – Learning complex rhythms, ensemble performance and cultural musical traditions.</p>	<p> DT</p> <p>Product Design – Exploring materials, tools and design principles through practical and creative projects.</p>
<p> Art</p> <p>Materials and Texture – Investigating how artists use texture and mixed media to create depth and interest.</p>	<p>ES Spanish</p> <p>My School – Describing subjects, teachers, facilities and opinions using key vocabulary and sentence structures.</p>
<p> Computing</p> <p>Website Creation – Designing simple webpages, understanding layout, hyperlinks and responsible online communication.</p>	<p> PSHE & Citizenship</p> <p>Relationships – Learning about friendships, respect, communication and healthy boundaries.</p>
<p> Wider Experiences</p> <p>Sports Day</p> <p>InnerSpark - Motivational speaker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your continued support Warm regards, Mrs A Evans Associate Assistant Headteacher – KS3</p>

Year 8 Curriculum Newsletter

Summer 1

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>Digestion and Energy - Students explore how our bodies process food, the role of enzymes and nutrients, and how energy is transferred and used.</p>	<p> English Writing</p> <p>The Tempest - Pupils study Shakespeare's language, characters, themes and dramatic techniques, using the play to inspire analytical and creative writing.</p>
<p> English Reading</p> <p>Genre extracts – Reading across fiction, non-fiction and media texts to develop inference, comprehension and analysis skills.</p>	<p> Mathematics</p> <p>Interpreting and representing data, Angles in parallel lines and polygons, Tables and probabilities - Students build problem-solving confidence through practical, real-world applications of mathematical concepts.</p>
<p> Geography</p> <p>UK's Uneven Coast – exploring how and why coastal landscapes differ across the UK.</p>	<p> History</p> <p>Women's Suffrage – learning about the struggle for voting rights and how activists campaigned for change.</p>
<p> RE</p> <p>What is good and challenging about being a Muslim teenager today? – examining beliefs, identity and modern experiences.</p>	<p> PE</p> <p>Athletics / Cricket / Rounders – A focus on physical skill development, teamwork and resilience across a variety of sports.</p>
<p> Music</p> <p>Songwriting – composing original pieces and understanding structure, melody and harmony.</p>	<p> DT</p> <p>Cooking – Savoury dishes – developing practical kitchen skills, hygiene and nutrition knowledge.</p>
<p> Art</p> <p>Materials and Texture – Investigating how artists use texture and mixed media to create depth and interest.</p>	<p> Spanish</p> <p>Holidays – developing vocabulary and grammar relating to past and future holiday activities.</p>
<p> Computing</p> <p>Coding Languages – Python – building foundational programming skills.</p>	<p> PSHE & Citizenship</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing & Relationships – supporting emotional literacy, healthy choices and respectful interactions.</p>
<p> Wider Experiences</p> <p>Sports Day</p> <p>InnerSpark- motivational speaker</p>	<p>Thank you for your continued support Warm regards, Mrs A Evans Associate Assistant Headteacher – KS3</p>

KS3 Clubs Summer Term 1

Monday

- Computing Club (IT Room) – Lunchtime
 - Choir (B2) – Lunchtime

Tuesday

- Homework Club (Book on MCAS) – 3:15–4:15

Wednesday

- Gardening Club – Lunchtime
- Mindful Creative (Science Lab) – Lunchtime

Thursday

- Italian Club (B5) – Lunchtime
- Art Club (Art Room) – Lunchtime
- Forest School (Book on MCAS) – 3:15–4:30
 - Girl Band (Invite Only) – Lunchtime
- Couch to 5K (Book on MCAS) – 3:15–4:15

Friday

- Film Club (A4) – Lunchtime

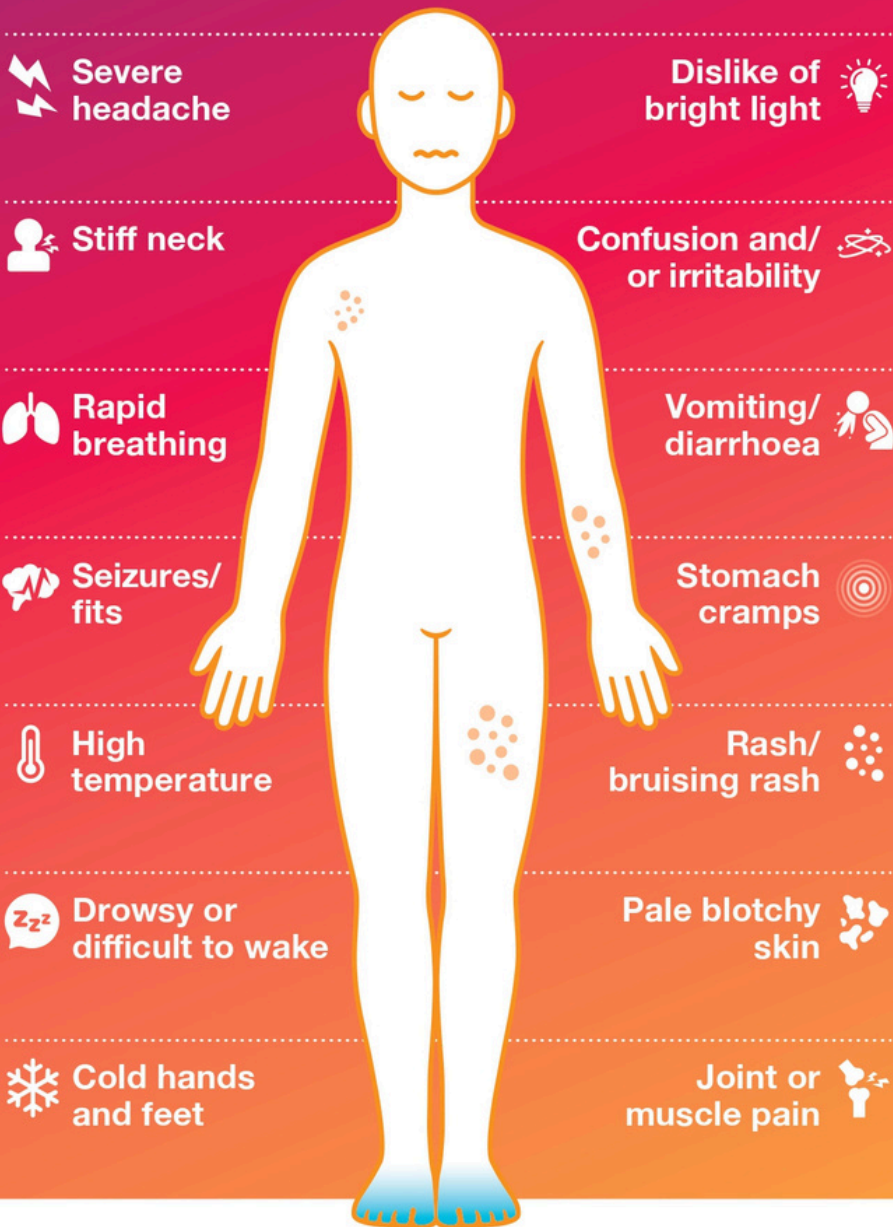


UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS



Meningitis and septicaemia



**Meningitis can
kill in hours**

These are just some of the warning signs. If you are worried for yourself or someone else get medical help immediately. Call NHS 111.

Find out more:

**Find out about the
MenACWY vaccine**

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/men-acwy-vaccine/



**Signs and symptoms
of meningitis
and septicaemia**

www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/symptoms/





World Autism Acceptance Month is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together to raise not only awareness, but true understanding and acceptance of autism. Throughout the month, people across the world take time to learn more about autism, celebrate autistic individuals, and promote inclusive communities where everyone feels valued.

You can show your support wherever you are – at home, in school, or in the workplace. Small everyday actions can make a big difference. By listening, learning, and showing kindness, we can support our autistic family members, friends, pupils, and colleagues. Together, we can help create an environment where autistic people feel respected, understood, and able to thrive.



World Autism Acceptance Month
April 2026

What are you doing this Autism Acceptance Month?

At least **one in every 100** people in the UK are autistic. That means:

- An average primary school has at least two to three autistic students.
- An average secondary school has at least ten autistic students.

This could be your child, or your child's friend or classmate. As a parent or carer, there's a lot you can do to understand autism and help your child show up for their autistic classmates and friends.



Five simple steps to take

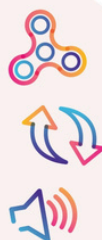
1. Learn about autism

Did you know? The autism spectrum is not a straight line between 'more' or 'less' autistic. Every autistic person is different, with a unique combination of characteristics, strengths and challenges.

An autistic child or young person may:

- find social situations difficult or confusing, need more time to process information, or use and understand words literally
- have a strong passion for a hobby or interest, an entertainment figure or series, or a favourite toy
- repeat movements or behaviours such as hand flapping, hair twirling, spinning around, or listening to something on repeat
- need to know what is going to happen, want rules to be the same for everyone, or need a routine or favourite toy to feel calm
- be much more or less sensitive to sound, light, smell, taste, touch and other senses for balance, spatial awareness and emotions.

Visit autism.org.uk to learn more.



2. Access e-learning and resources

Deepen your understanding with our e-learning modules, including:

- Understanding autism
- Women and girls on the autism spectrum
- Supporting young autistic people's mental health
- A guide to the mental health experiences and needs of autistic teenagers

www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/autism-know-how/training/e-learning

Explore our **Know yourself** resources designed for teenagers at www.autism.org.uk/Knowyourself. These resources empower young autistic people to better understand themselves and their needs.

3. Talk about autism

Discuss autism at home, with family and among friends. Reflect on how you and your child can help make society more accepting and accessible for autistic people.



4. Show up for autistic people

Every autistic person is unique, so take the time to find out from someone you or your child knows, what you could do to be a better friend. Some examples of how you or your child can show up for your autistic friends are:

- Give time: Allow autistic friends more time to process information.
- Be clear: Use straightforward and unambiguous language.
- Be inclusive: Think about ways to make activities or events more comfortable. For example:
 - offering a quiet area at class parties
 - considering sensory needs when planning group activities.



5. Get involved

To learn more and take part in **Autism Acceptance Month** activities, visit: www.autism.org.uk/waam

Let's work together to create a more inclusive and accepting world for autistic people.

A letter from our Mrs Nelsey – Pupil Wellbeing Lead and Autism Mentor

Dear Parents/Carer,

Every day, I see how important it is for children to have spaces they feel calm, safe, and able to explore the world in their own way. A sensory garden provides exactly that.

Unlike a traditional garden, the aim is to create a space where children can engage with nature through sensory experiences, encouraging curiosity, relaxation, and exploration. Although sensory gardens are particularly supportive for children with autism, every child benefits from access to nature and sensory play.

Creating this space is a community effort, and parental support can make a dramatic difference.

You may be able to help by:

- Donating plants such as lavender, rosemary, lemon balm, fluffy grasses, lambs' ear, bamboo, mint, and any plants of vibrant colours.
- Water elements – old funnels, small buckets, watering cans.
- Children's gardening tools.
- Wood off cuts especially MDF.
- Any left-over bags of gravel, compost, or wood chippings.
- Milk bottle tops and old CDs to make wind chimes and ornaments.
- Left over drainpipe pieces for creating a water feature.

We are looking forward to seeing the garden grow and sharing this special space with our pupils in the coming months.

Mrs Nelsey

Pupil Wellbeing Lead and Autism Mentor

Summer Polo Shirts – Available to Purchase Over Easter

We are pleased to let families know that our new school polo shirts will be available to buy from Orchard Clothing during the Easter break.

These polo shirts are not part of the PE uniform.

Instead, they may be worn by pupils during the summer term as an alternative to the traditional white shirt and tie.

Pupils who prefer can continue to wear their usual school shirt and tie. Please note that, unlike in previous hot spells, we will not be introducing “no tie” days this year.

Children who choose to wear the standard school shirt will still be expected to wear their tie as normal.

The summer polo shirt simply provides an additional, more comfortable option for those warmer days, while ensuring pupils remain smart and ready to learn.



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

If you have any questions, please just let us know

Paracetamol in School – Important Information for Parents

If you would like the school to be able to administer paracetamol to your child during the school day, please ensure that you do the following:

1. Provide a supply of paracetamol

- The medication must be in its original box – not loose strips.
- It must be clearly labelled with your child's full name and date of birth.

2. Give consent on MCAS

Please log in to MCAS and complete the consent section allowing school staff to administer paracetamol if needed.

We cannot give any medication without parental consent, and completing this on MCAS avoids the need for us to call home during the day.

3. Do not send medication in pupils' bags

Pupils must not carry medication in their bags or self-administer it in school. For safety reasons, all medication must be stored securely and administered by staff.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep all pupils safe.

Lunch & Tuck Money

If your child buys tuck or lunch in school, please ensure their account has sufficient funds.

Keeping accounts topped up helps us avoid having to contact parents during the day and prevents accounts from going into a negative balance. Thank you for your support.

Ready, Set, Learn!

Please remember to come into school with your planner, reading book, refillable water bottle, and all your equipment ready for the day

How you start your morning sets the tone for the whole day—start strong!



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

Friday 27th March -

School closes for Easter holiday

Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April -

Easter holiday

Monday 13th April -

Pupils return to school

Wednesday 22nd April -

Parents evening for years 5, 6 and 7

Monday 4th May -

School closed for May Day Bank Holiday

Wednesday 20th May -

SEND coffee morning 9.30am to 10am

Friday 22nd May -

School closes for half term

Sunday 31st May -

Wembley trip

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May -

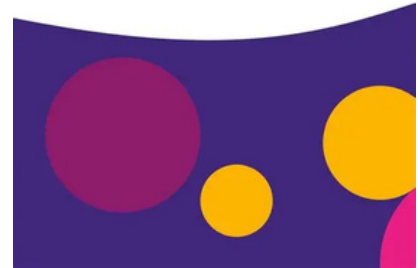
Half term

Thursday 4th 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



HOME
START
North East
Worcestershire