



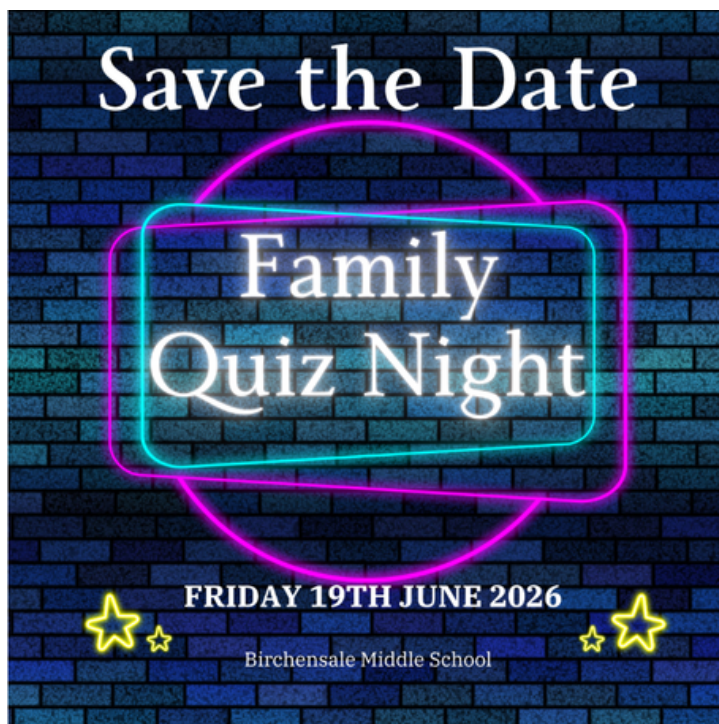
Birchensale
Middle School

Weekly News

17th April 2026

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the new term! We hope you all enjoyed a lovely, restful Easter break and are ready for the exciting weeks ahead. This term promises to be a busy and enjoyable one, with lots of fun trips, visits and special events planned, alongside a period of national testing for some of our pupils. As always, there will be plenty of hard work in classrooms, balanced with engaging learning experiences, memorable opportunities and important transition work to help all pupils prepare confidently for their next steps. A reminder too that our new summer polo shirt is now available from Orchard Clothing. We are really looking forward to a term full of learning, discovery and achievement together.



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!

The benefits of daily reading



Parents: Do you know the benefits of 15 minutes of daily reading?

Research on more than 2.2 million students shows that 15 minutes of daily reading is the threshold at which children start making above-average gains in reading ability. Below it, progress stalls. Above it, growth accelerates – and keeps accelerating.

How long should a child read each day?

15 minutes is the minimum that makes a measurable difference. Analysis has shown that children who read for fewer than five minutes a day saw the lowest growth in reading ability. Those reading between five and 14 minutes made sluggish progress that fell below national averages. But at 15 minutes and above, reading gains rose sharply – exceeding the average and continuing to climb. Students reading just over half an hour a day saw the greatest gains of all. In short, 15 minutes is the point at which reading practice stops being tokenistic and starts doing real work.

What happens to vocabulary when children don't read enough?

According to research, a child who averages 30 or more minutes of daily reading between reception and Year 13 will encounter roughly 13.7 million words over their school career. A child reading fewer than 15 minutes a day will meet just 1.5 million. The difference is more than 12 million words.



KS2 Half Term Highlights



It was another busy half term in Key Stage 2.
It was only a 5 week half term, but we have managed to pack
a lot in!

House Rowing Day: This was a brilliant day where we all pushed ourselves and showed that we are truly resilient.

Imam visit: Imam Shammass visited us in assembly and talked about Ramadan with us all. A big thank you to him for coming along to our assembly.

World Book Day : We had a great day and dressed up as our favourite book characters, or in our cosy pyjamas, taking part in quizzes and house activities.

Bowling Trip: Pupils achieving attendance goals enjoyed a morning of bowling.

Holyoakes Visit: Some Y5 pupils were invited as VIPs to the opening ceremony of the new trim trail at their former first school. They even met our local MP, Chris Bloore, who cut the ribbon. We were delighted to see their former teachers again and to be VIPs for the morning!!

Red Nose Day: We all wore red accessories and the School Council organised a cake sale to raise money for Children in Need. Thank you for all of your delicious contributions.

Achievement Assemblies: We celebrated spring term's successes. Certificates were awarded for 100% attendance, zero heroes, values awards, subject awards and pupils of the term. Well done everybody.

There are more experiences and opportunities planned for
this half term. Thank you for your continued support.

KS2 Team

ENGLISH:

Reading:



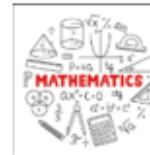
We will continue reading a range of genres and focusing on different question types.

Writing:

We will be finishing our non-chronological report on mythical creatures and then exploring formal letters whilst writing about animal preservation.

Later in the term, we will be ending the year with non-fiction writing, creating a leaflet.

MATHS:



Pupils will be exploring two-dimensional shape and space topics: Geometry, including angles and 3D shapes. Followed by Position and Direction where we will teach about co-ordinates, translations and symmetry.

GEOGRAPHY:

We will start our new unit 'All about Brazil.'

The pupils will learn about Brazil's location, human and physical features (including The Amazon Rainforest), and the ways of living.

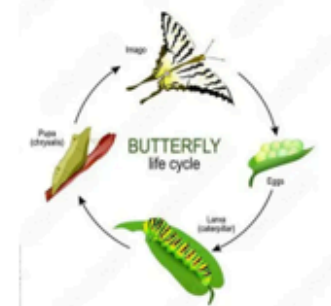
**Year 5 Curriculum Overview
Summer 1 2026**



Thank you for your continued support.

SCIENCE:

Pupils will be learning about different animal and plants lifecycles.



MFL: SPANISH

Topic: School



DT:

We will be making block bots out of wooden blocks.



MUSIC:

Pupils will be exploring the song *Dancing in the Street* with a focus on musical dimensions, singing and playing instruments.

PE:

Athletics: Including running, jumping and throwing.

Striking and fielding: Learning key skills such as throwing, catching, batting and fielding.

RE:

Pupils will be exploring the question 'How can following God bring freedom and justice?'

PSHE:

Pupils will be exploring personal hygiene and ways to stay safe in the sun. They will also explore some of the emotional changes during puberty.

COMPUTING:

Pupils will be using Scratch to create a program.

ENGLISH:

Reading:

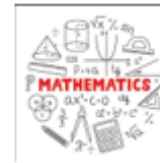


We will continue reading a range of genres and focusing on different question types.

Writing:

In writing we will be creating a persuasive leaflet about a theme park we create. Then we will be writing a letter of complaint about it! We will be ensuring the language we choose for both tasks is succinct and carefully chosen.

MATHS:



Pupils will be revising their four operations topics and developing their reasoning skills in preparation for upcoming tests. This work forms an important part of their overall readiness for the SATs assessments.

Teachers will also be revisiting key areas of the curriculum to ensure pupils feel confident and well-prepared ahead of the testing period especially focusing on arithmetic skills across the curriculum.

HISTORY:

Pupils will delve into Crime and Punishment across the ages, exploring consequences from being branded to being exiled. Through case studies, we will become judge, jury and executioner to decide if the punishment really did fit the crime!

**Year 6 Curriculum Overview
Summer 1 2026**



Thank you for your continued support.

SCIENCE:

Pupils will be completing their in-depth study of inheritance and evolution.



They will then move on to the topic of investigating electrical circuits.

MFL: SPANISH

Topic: House and Town



ART:



In this still life unit, pupils will learn to observe and draw everyday objects with accuracy, focusing on shape, shading, and composition.

MUSIC:

In this pentatonic unit, pupils will explore the five-note pentatonic scale and learn how it is used to create simple, tuneful melodies.

PE:

Athletics: Including running, jumping and throwing.

Striking and fielding: Learning key skills such as throwing, catching, batting and fielding.





PE Clubs and Fixtures



W/C: 20/04/2026	Before school 8:15– 8:45	Lunch time 12.40 – 1.10	After school 3.15 - 4.30
Mon	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)		All Years Cheerleading Sportshall (AWI, MVE) Year 5 & 6 Cricket Playground (ATA)
		Year 5 & 6 Girls / Year 8 SELECTED PUPILS County Sportshall Athletics @ RGS, Worcester (ATA, PHO)	
Tues	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)	Rowing	Year 7 & 8 Contact Rugby Field (JSP) Year 5 & 6 Dance Dining Hall (ATA)
Wed	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)	Rowing	Year 5 Girls SELECTED PUPILS Football Tournament @ Woodfield (ATA)
Thurs	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)	Rowing	All Years Couch 2 5k Playground (SPU) All Years Rounders Field (AWI, ATA)
Fri	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)	Rowing	All Years Dance Sportshall (ATA)
		Year 5 SELECTED PUPILS Football Festival @ Arrow Vale (AWI, ATA)	



CHANCE TO SHINE
STREET

FREE STREET CRICKET

AGE 8-15



GIRLS ONLY INDOOR CRICKET

COMMUNITY CRICKET SESSIONS PLAYED WITH A SOFTBALL
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED, NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

THURSDAYS

5 - 6PM

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

GROVE SREET,

REDDITCH,

B98 8DS

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

SCAN HERE



WORCESTERSHIRE
CRICKET FOUNDATION

For more information contact:

jamie.watson@worcestershirecricketfoundation.co.uk

07376 534926



WORCESTERSHIRE
CRICKET FOUNDATION

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



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

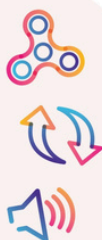
1. Learn about autism

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.

Summer Polo Shirts – Available to Purchase from Orchard Clothing

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



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

Wednesday 22nd April -

Parents evening for years 5, 6 and 7

Monday 4th May -

School closed for May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 15th May -

Year 6 Cinema Trip

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 -

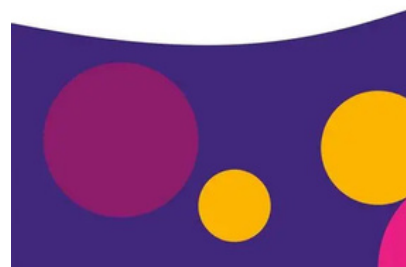
Half term

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