



Year 6 SATs Week 2026

**Y6 SATs**

This year's KS2 assessments take place over four days from

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 14th May 2026.**

The week looks like this:

**Monday 11 May – English grammar, punctuation and spelling**

**Tuesday 12 May – English reading**

**Wednesday 13 May – Mathematics (arithmetic and reasoning)**

**Thursday 14 May – Mathematics (reasoning)**

SATs week is a shared experience that calls for kindness, reassurance, and teamwork between schools and families. When children feel supported from all sides, they're more likely to approach the tests with calm confidence. The most important message we can send is this: they are more than a test score, and their wellbeing matters most.

Breakfast Treats



To give pupils a great start to each day, there will be breakfast rolls (a vegetarian option is provided too). This allows us all to have breakfast together. Teams that eat together experience stronger bonds, improved communication and higher performance.

Why does attendance matter so much right now?



Every lesson between now and May counts. Children who attend regularly are better prepared, more confident, and more likely to do their best in their assessments. Missing school in the weeks leading up to SATs means missing teaching, practice and the support their teacher can offer.

[How can you support at home?](#)



Parents also play a vital role in helping children feel supported and balanced during SATs week. Here are some practical tips:

- **Keep Things Low-Pressure** - Avoid last-minute cramming. Reassure your child that SATs don't define them and remind them of their strengths outside the classroom too.
- **Maintain Healthy Routines** - Ensure your child gets enough sleep, eats regular meals, and has time to relax and play. A good night's sleep is more helpful than late-night revision.
- **Be Positive and Encouraging** - Offer praise for their effort, resilience, and attitude, not just test scores. Let them know you're proud of them no matter what.
- **Keep Mornings Calm** - Plan ahead to avoid rushing. Make sure your child has everything they need—pencils, water bottle, and a positive mindset.
- **Talk, Listen, Reassure** - Ask how they're feeling each day. Be a sounding board for worries and help them find perspective if they're feeling overwhelmed.

**[If you have any questions, the Y6 Team are always happy to help!](#)**



## ***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!***

# Year 8 Sportshall Athletics County Finals

## Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

Following their brilliant success at the Redditch Competition in January, our amazing year 8 athletes represented the town in the county finals at RGS Worcester. For many pupils this was their 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row making it to this level.

The competition was tough but rarely do you see such impressive effort, grit and determination, coupled with phenomenal team work and support for each other!!

Both teams started as they meant to go on, winning their obstacle relays comfortably. They then performed brilliantly in all the individual events and finished with two of the best relay wins I have ever seen!!

The Year 8 girls finished 2<sup>nd</sup> across the whole of Worcestershire, building on their 3<sup>rd</sup> place in year 7.

The boys finished 1<sup>st</sup>, building on their runners up medals from the year 7!!

I could not have been prouder of all of these amazing competitors!!!

Mr Homer





*Thank you!*

**A big thank you to everyone who attended parents' evening on Wednesday.**

**It was great to see so many of you there.**

**We appreciate your continued support.**

**Thank you!**

**inner.  
spark**

As part of the school's Personal Development programme, KS3 pupils welcomed Kelly Tamplin from Inner Spark for an inspiring session focused on confidence, communication and self-leadership. Pupils engaged enthusiastically throughout, with many volunteering to take to the stage and step confidently outside of their comfort zones.

# Spanish



Our pen pal programme is still up and running after some customs related issues.

Our partner school in Granada has received our second set of letters and they are excited to answer them back.



## 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.

# Year 8 SEND Parent Coffee Morning at Trinity High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to warmly invite you to our SEND Parent Coffee Morning to support your child's upcoming transition to Trinity High School in September.

This informal session will provide an opportunity to:

- Meet members of the SEND team
- Learn more about how we support pupils with additional needs during transition
- Ask questions and share any concerns in a relaxed setting

Our SEND Parent Coffee Morning will take place on:

Monday 11th May

9:30 – 11:00

Room 5, Trinity High School

We hope this will be a helpful and reassuring opportunity as we work together to support your child's move to high school.

If you have any questions and would like to book in a place, please contact the SEND department at Trinity High School via reception at 01527 585859



# Helpsheet

*parents and carers: primary*



Education from  
the National  
Crime Agency

## 8 steps to support your child to be safer online

- 1. Explore together.** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
- 2. Chat little and often about online safety.** If you're introducing them to new websites and apps, talk to them about how to stay safe on these services and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them whilst online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
- 3. Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried.** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
- 4. Be non-judgemental.** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.
- 5. Supervise their online activity.** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult is able to supervise. Children of this age should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.
- 6. Talk about how their online actions affect others.** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
- 7. Use 'SafeSearch'.** Most search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, allowing you to limit the content your child can access online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, often shaped like a small cog.
- 8. Parental controls.** Use the parental controls available on your home broadband and all internet enabled devices in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website.

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

# Helpsheet

*parents and carers: primary*



Education from  
the National  
Crime Agency

## Support your child with CEOP Education resources

CEOP Education films and games are a great way to start and continue chats about online safety:

### 4-7s

#### **Jessie & Friends**

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/)

A three-episode animated series which helps keep 4-7s safer online.

#### **4-7s website**

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4\\_7/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/4_7/)

Featuring characters from Jessie & Friends, the 4-7s website helps children to recognise worrying or scary situations online through four interactive badges covering: watching videos, sharing pictures, online gaming, chatting online.

### 8 – 10s

#### **Play Like Share**

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/playlikeshare/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/playlikeshare/)

A three-episode animated series that helps keep 8-11 year olds safe from risks they might encounter online.

#### **Band Runner game and advice website**

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8\\_10/](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/)

A fun interactive game that helps reinforce key messages about online safety.

## Other recommended resources

**NSPCC PANTS.** A simple way to keep children safer from abuse, by teaching them to remember the 5 rules that spell 'PANTS'. [www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/)

**Internet Matters.** A useful tool showing how to set parental controls across a range of devices and websites. [www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/](http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/)

## Follow us on social media

For up to date information and advice:

**@CEOPUK** on Twitter

**ClickCEOP** on Facebook



[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

Birchensale Middle School

# The Importance of Online Safety

**Stay Safe, Stay Smart!**

The internet is a powerful tool but it can also be dangerous. Protect yourself and others by practicing good online safety habits.

## Apps and their age ratings...



13+



13+



13+



13+



## Tips for Staying Safe Online:

- Use strong passwords
- Think before you click
- Be kind and respectful
- Share your concerns with a trusted adult
- Ask for help adding privacy settings

## Support:

If you have concerns regarding yours (or others) Online Safety you can:

- Report to **parents/carers**
- Report to school (either a **trusted adult** or the **school reporting system**)
- Report to **CEOP Education**



# Save the Date

## Family Quiz Night

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2026

Birchensale Middle School



# 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.





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](mailto:jamie.watson@worcestershirecricketfoundation.co.uk)

07376 534926



WORCESTERSHIRE  
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# KS3 Clubs Summer Term 1

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## 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

## **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May -**

School closed for May Day Bank Holiday

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May -**

Year 8 SEND Coffee Morning at Trinity

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May -**

Year 6 Cinema Trip

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May -**

SEND coffee morning 9.30am to 10am  
all years at Birchensale

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May -**

School closes for half term

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May -**

Key Stage 3 Wembley trip

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May -**

Half term

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June -**

Year 8 trip to Stratford

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June -**

Year 5 trip to Safari Park

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June -**

Year 8 trip to Drayton Manor

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June -**

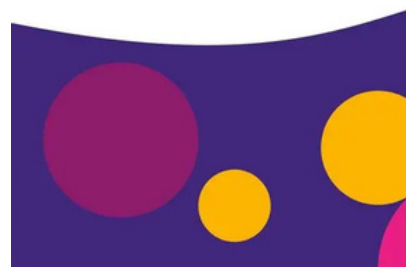
Year 7 trip to Cadbury World

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June -**

Family Quiz Night

**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