



Birchensale
Middle School

Weekly News

1st May 2026

Bank Holiday

Just a reminder school is closed on Monday for Bank Holiday



Swimming Gala

A huge congratulations to our KS2 & KS3 swimming teams who both finished 1st in their district competition on Tuesday. KS3 won every single race in the event!

Well done all.



Music Lessons with Severn Arts

Instrumental and Vocal tuition in school - 2025-26



Severn Arts provides music tuition in your school. If your child would like to continue learning an instrument* or is interested in starting, tuition should be booked directly with Severn Arts. Invoices will be issued three weeks before the start of each term and payment is due before lessons commence.

Tuition is available as 20-minute individual lessons (£16.54/lesson), 30-minute individual lessons (£24.81/lesson) or small group tuition (£8.27/lesson, pays for the 10 min portion of 2 sharing a 20 min lesson or 3 sharing a 30 min lesson).

Severn Arts teachers are enhanced DBS checked and have undertaken formalized safeguarding training.

To book lessons at your school, please follow this link, [School Music Tuition](#) or scan the QR code below. Once you have ordered tuition, Severn Arts will confirm availability and issue an invoice. **Payment is not requested during the booking process but is required before lessons commence.** Severn Arts will agree lesson details with your school.

Severn Arts also has a large stock of quality instruments available to hire (free for those who meet specific [criteria](#)). Instrument hire can be ordered through our [website](#) or by going to [Instrument Hire](#). Please note, **we do not hire guitars** or keyboards, but we may be able to help with these items where students qualify for free hire. In this case, please enquire by emailing instruments@severnarts.org.uk.

Making music and learning a new skill can have a huge benefit to your wellbeing and can be lots of fun!

For further information or any queries please contact Severn Arts:

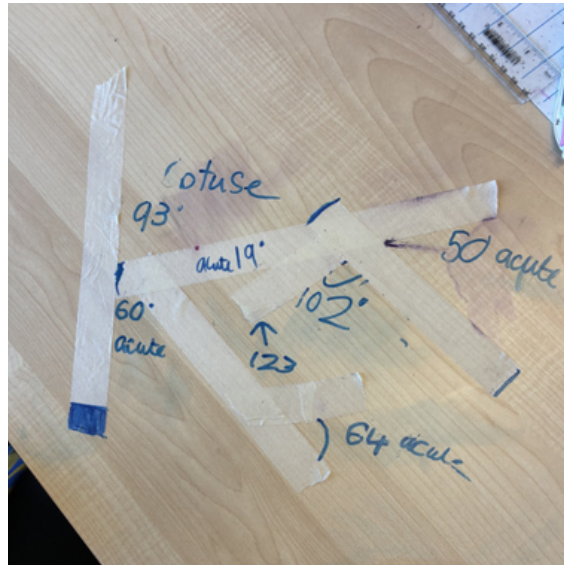
registration@severnarts.org.uk
www.severnarts.org.uk

*Instruments taught differ between schools



Year 5 - Maths

Some of Year 5 had the luxury of writing on tables this week! We were measuring angles with tape on the tables which fits into our Maths topic.



EARLY CAREERS

WORK EXPERIENCE

A CHANGE IS COMING

Business leaders - join the free **Work Experience Business Forum** on **Wednesday 13th May** at
Visit **Worcestershire New Road**
www.rebrand.ly/MWEX

Let's make it work.

New Equipment

Last year, we applied for a grant from Worcestershire County Council's Educational Wellbeing Fund. We were delighted to receive £3,000, which we used to make our playground a more fun and active place. We installed new basketball hoops for children to use at lunchtime, and they have been thoroughly enjoying them.

It's lovely to see how much the children appreciate the small improvements we are making to our playground. We are also pleased to share that we have been awarded funding for a sensory garden, so watch this space!



Year 6 SATs Week 2026

Y6 SATs

This year's KS2 assessments take place over four days from
Monday 11th 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!



Eco Council
Bottle Top Collection

We need your plastic bottle top lids!

Our Eco Council is running a recycling project, and we're collecting **clean plastic bottle tops** of any colour or size. These will be reused for eco-art and sustainability activities in school.

Please bring all bottle top lids to: C3

A small contribution from each family helps us reduce waste and protect our planet.

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**



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.



Awesome Sports Camps 2026

Open to Boys & Girls Ages 5 -12

OPEN TO ALL SCHOOLS

Awesome Sports Camps are a fun, exciting action packed programme of sports and friendly Competition. Our active and flexible programmes are designed for the different ages and experiences of the children attending. Children really enjoy the variety, choice and flexibility we offer, as it allows them to try new activities, learn new skills and make new friends.

Dates	
EASTER	Tues 31st March Wed 1st April Wed 8th April
MAY	Wed 27th May
SUMMER	Wed 22nd July Wed 29th July Wed 5th Aug Wed 12th Aug Wed 19th Aug Wed 26th Aug
OCT.	Wed 28th Oct

FOR BOOKING FORM SCAN THE RELATED QR CODE

Times

Arrive: 8.45-9.00am
Activities: 9.00-3.00pm
Collection: 3.15pm

How Much?

£20.00 Per Day

Discounts available for multiple days

SPORTS ON OFFER*

-Dodgeball	-Activity Trail	-Boxercise
-Rounders	-Athletics	-Fitness
-Cricket	-Tennis	-Forest Skills
-Team Building	-Basketball	-Dance
-Football	-Tag-Rugby	-Soft Archery

and much more!!!

* Due to weather conditions and group suitability activities may vary

FUN - FITNESS - FRIENDS



Camps Run By Qualified Coaches with DBS, 1st Aid & Child Welfare Training

Tel: 07512 466250 Email: awesomesportscamps@yahoo.com

Birchensale Middle School, Bridley Moor Road, Redditch. B97 6HS

Save the Date

Family Quiz Night

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 2026

Birchensale Middle School



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

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/

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

4-7s website

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/

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/

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/

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/

Follow us on social media

For up to date information and advice:

@CEOPUK on Twitter

ClickCEOP on Facebook



www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents



PE Clubs and Fixtures



W/C: 04/05/2026	Before school 8:15– 8:45	Lunch <u>time</u> 12.40 – 1.10	After school 3.15 - 4.30
Mon	BANK HOLIDAY		
Tues	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)	Rowing	Year 7 SELECTED PUPILS Rowing <u>Sportshall</u> (PHO)
Wed	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)	Rowing	Year 7 & 8 Boys Contact Rugby Field (JSP)
Thurs	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)	Rowing	All Years Couch 2 5k Playground (SPU) All Years Rounders Field (ATA) Year 7 & 8 Boys Cricket Playground (JSP)
Fri	All Years SELECTED PUPILS Sensory Circuits Dining Hall (ATA, ASH)		All Years Dance Dining Hall (ATA)
		Year 7 & 8 SELECTED PUPILS Rowing Competition @ BMS (PHO, ATA, AWL, JSP)	

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

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



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

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 & Friday 5th June -

Year 8 trip to Stratford

Thursday 11th June -

Year 5 trip to Safari Park

Friday 12th June -

Year 8 trip to Drayton Manor

Thursday 18th June -

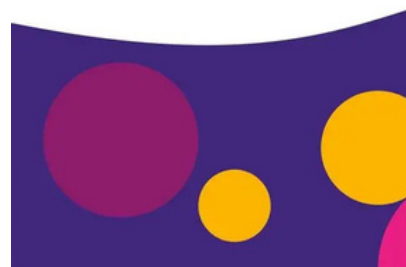
Year 7 trip to Cadbury World

Friday 19th 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