

Birchensale Middle School



Newsletter

25th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see our pupils settle back into life at BMS. Our pupils are now eagerly signing up for clubs during and after the school day. Our School Council has had their first meeting, and it will be exciting to see the ideas that they bring forward from their peers to improve our school further.

We have been working hard to ensure our pupils settle back into their lessons and have a big focus on uniform. A reminder that pupils should be either in full school uniform (black shoes, school trousers or mid-thigh length skirt, white shirt, school tie and optional school jumper), or in the correct PE uniform on the days they have a PE lesson. I would like to remind you that pupils that sign up to a PE club, need to bring PE uniform to change into if they do not have a PE lesson on that day.

Our KS2 pupils have been sitting PiXL tests with their teachers. These tests enable teachers to know how each child is doing in Reading, Grammar Punctuation & Spelling, and Maths. These also help us provide targeted intervention support where appropriate. Well done to all of Year 5 and 6 for giving your best in these tests, they really do help us support you to achieve your best!

As we head deeper into the autumn term and the weather becomes more variable, please send your child in with a coat as this will enable us to keep them outside during break and lunch time if it's not too wet.

And finally, our next big community event is our Open Evening on Thursday 1st October. We look forward to seeing any of you that have year 4 pupils who are interested in joining us in September 2027. We also ask that if you have friends, neighbours or anyone that has a child that will be looking for a middle school, you share this date and encourage them to attend our event and meet our wonderful team and pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mr P Clifton
Headteacher



YOU ARE WELCOME

BIRCHENSAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

- High expectations •
- Excellent teaching •
- Calm and positive culture •
- Good progress made by all pupils •
- A thriving extra-curricular offer •
- Strong core values •



Contact Us: 01527 68430

**THURSDAY 1ST
OCTOBER 2026
5:30 PM ~7:00 PM**

**WITH
HEADTEACHER PRESENTATION
AT 5:45 PM AND 6:30 PM**



Building character ■ Building opportunity ■ Shaping futures

Picture News and Careers Education

As part of our Future Citizens Programme (Personal Development), pupils engage weekly with the Picture News Story of the Week, exploring current affairs from local, national and global contexts.

In KS3, each story is linked to a career focus, helping pupils connect their learning to future pathways and develop their aspirations. Each week, the school newsletter will include a Take Home activity, discussion questions and a QR code to a career linked to the news story.

We encourage families to use these resources to start meaningful conversations at home about current events and future opportunities.



Do wild animals have as much right to the land as we do?

In the news this week

Nepal has announced that its wild tiger population has more than tripled, rising from 121 tigers in 2010, to 429 today. Officials say the turnaround is the result of years of protected wildlife corridors and local communities working hand-in-hand with conservationists to protect the big cats. With tiger numbers now increasing, more encounters between tigers and nearby villages are leaving experts asking how people and wildlife can safely share the same land going forward.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you think it's fair that wild animals need the same land that people want to use? Why?
- If you lived near a forest with tigers, would you feel excited, nervous, or both? What would help you feel safe?
- Is there an animal, plant, or wild space near where you live that you believe deserves more protection? What would or could you do to help it?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



© Picture News 2020



CAREER FOCUS

Exploring the job linked to our Picture News story



Agricultural Inspector

▶ WATCH: Learn about this job



1

What does an agricultural inspector do?

2

What skills or qualities would someone need to be an agricultural inspector?

3

What would make someone want to become an agricultural inspector?

Friday 25th September

Video link: <https://youtube.com/ZpsVE2amJ?si=I7XUWoIWAIOYjEpM>

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy Consultation

We are currently reviewing and updating our **Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy** to ensure it reflects the latest government statutory guidance.

As part of this process, we are inviting parents and carers to share their views. The draft policy is available to read here:

<https://www.every.education//Open/DocumentTracker?guid=bb5aaf3c-af99-43cf-9b91-44233d43806c&vkey=228545&ppk=1641>.

We welcome any feedback.

Please send your feedback to enquiries@birchensale.bmat.co.uk by **Friday 3 October 2026**, using "**RSHE Consultation**" as the email subject line.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a high-quality curriculum and positive learning experiences for all pupils.

KS2 Lunch time clubs

YEAR 5 LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Come and join a club!

Day	Club	Room	Staff
Monday	Colouring 	C3	Miss Johns
Tuesday	Timetables 	C12	Mrs Amireh
Wednesday	Board Games 	C2	Mrs Bate
Thursday	Bingo 	C10	Miss Gardiner
Friday	Lego 	C9	Dr Austin



Sandwich

Room C3 = Miss Haffner

IT club = everyday

Try something new!

YEAR 6 CLUBS

Get involved!

MONDAY

 **Football / Games club**
in C13
with Mr J Pearson

TUESDAY

No club

WEDNESDAY

 **Bingo**
in C15
with Miss R Evans

THURSDAY

No club

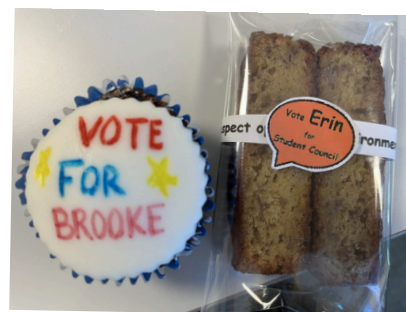
 **Sandwiches**
Every day
in C5
with Miss M O'Brien

IT CLUB

 **Every day**
in IT1
with Miss Haffner

Make new friends ★ Learn new skills ★ Have fun!

6REV



Pupils in 6REV have been putting maximum effort into their school council election campaigns (much to the delight of the class) .

So much enthusiasm and fantastic speeches by all candidates, it was a very close vote, well done to each and every candidate, it takes real courage to stand up and deliver a speech.

♥ WEAR YELLOW FOR WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY ♥

Friday 9th October

Show Your Support. Start a Conversation. Make a Difference.

Join us in raising awareness for **World Mental Health Day** by wearing a **yellow accessory** on Friday 9th October. This could be:

- ♥ Yellow ribbon
- ♥ Yellow tie
- ♥ Yellow socks
- ♥ Yellow hair accessory
- ♥ Yellow badge or wristband

Every yellow accessory helps to show support for mental health awareness and reminds us that it's okay to talk about how we're feeling.

Please note that this is not a non-uniform day. Full school uniform must still be worn, with only the addition of a yellow accessory

Mental Health Matters. Let's work together to:

- Reduce stigma around mental health
- Encourage kindness and understanding
- Support one another within our school community
- Promote positive wellbeing for everyone

Wear Something Yellow on 9th October! Small accessory, big message.

♥ **Together We Can Make Mental Health Matter** ♥



Wear yellow, say hello.

Join us for our 10th Hello Yellow! Wear yellow, start a conversation about mental health and raise money where you are – so we can be there when young people need us most.

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS



SAVE THE DATE

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER
5PM–7PM

HEADTEACHER'S SPEECHES AT 5PM AND 6PM

High School Open Evening dates

Trinity

Thursday 8th October
5pm-7pm

Arrowvale

Tuesday 22nd September
5:30pm start

Tudor Grange

Wednesday 23rd September
5pm-7pm

St Augustines

Thursday 24th September
5pm start



Forest School



If anyone is having a clear-out, we would be very grateful for any donations for our Forest School mud kitchen.

We are looking for kitchen items such as wooden, metal or plastic utensils (please no knives or other sharp objects), as well as old pans, saucepans, pots, metal teapots, cups, and any other suitable kitchenware.

Any contributions, big or small, would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you for your support!

Touchstones

Touchstones 15th Anniversary Charity Ball

in support of bereaved children and young people

Saturday 14th November 2026

Britannia Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa,
Bromsgrove, B61 0JB

Eat, drink, dance — and change lives!
This Christmas season, celebrate with heart.
Join us for a fabulous evening of food,
friendship, music and fun...
with all proceeds going to help grieving children thrive

7:00pm for a reception drink on arrival
Delicious 3 course meal and coffee / tea
After dinner live DJ. Silent Auction and Raffle
Carriages at 12:30pm
(Smart Party wear - Black Tie / Lounge Suit)

Individual Tickets £55

Tables of 10 £500

Reserve your places by;

texting / ringing 07491 968695 or

emailing rob@touchstones-support.org.uk

Overnight room rates available @ £75 per double room
including breakfast and Spa entry
(call 0161 923 0300 and quote code TOUC2603220)

Touchstones Child Bereavement Support is a registered charity - #1168091





EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS



& Fixtures



DAY	CLUB	YEAR GROUP	LOCATION	STAFF	TIME
<i>Monday</i>	Badminton Trampolining	7 & 8 7 & 8	Sportshall Sportshall	Mr Spafford Mr Spafford	LUNCH 3:15-4:30
<i>Tuesday</i>	Dance	All Years	Dining Hall	Miss Taylor	3:15-4:30
<i>Wednesday</i>	Basketball Tag Rugby Football Comp	7 & 8 6, 7 & 8 6 (selected)	Sportshall Playground Woodfield	Mr Spafford Mr Spafford ATA, HLA	LUNCH 3:15-4:30 3:30-5:30
<i>Thursday</i>	Football KS3 Dance	5, 6 & 7 7 & 8	Field Dining Hall	Miss Lavery Miss Taylor	3:15-4:30 3:15-4:30
<i>Friday</i>	Football Festival Netball	6 (selected) All Years	Arrow Vale Playground	ATA, JSP Mrs Williams	12:40-3:15 3:15-4:30

Week Commencing: 28th September 2026

★ Get Involved, Have Fun, Try Something New! ★





AUTUMN TERM 1 CLUBS

Please sign up on MCAS for all after school clubs
Choir starts 30th September

DAY	CLUB	YEAR GROUP	LOCATION	STAFF	TIME
Monday	Games	6	C13	JPE	12:40 – 1:00
	IT Club	5 & 6	IT1	LHA	12:50 – 1:20
	Colouring	5	C3	SJO	1:00 – 1:20
	Homework Club	5 & 6	Library (A11)	AHO / NHI	3:15 – 4:15
Tuesday	Ukulele Club	All Years	Music (B6)	DHU	12:50 – 1:20
	IT Club	5 & 6	IT1	LHA	12:50 – 1:20
	Timetables Club	5	C12	CAM	1:00 – 1:20
	Homework Club	7 & 8	Library (A11)	AHO / NHI	3:15 – 4:15
Wednesday	Bingo	6	C15	REV	12:40 – 1:00
	Choir	All Years	B4	ECR	12:50 – 1:20
	IT Club	5 & 6	IT1	LHA	12:50 – 1:20
	Board Games	5	C2	CBA	1:00 – 1:20
Thursday	Computing	7 & 8	IT2 (A10)	KHU	12:50 – 1:20
	IT Club	5 & 6	IT1	LHA	12:50 – 1:20
	Bingo	5	C10	AGA	1:00 – 1:20
	Forest School	7 & 8	Forest School	AGR / SJO	3:15 – 4:30
Friday	Film Club	7 & 8	A4	BTU	12:40 – 1:10
	Italian Club	All Years	B5	LRP	12:40 – 1:10
	IT Club	5 & 6	IT1	LHA	12:50 – 1:20
	Lego	5	C9	KAU	1:00 – 1:20



★ Get Involved, Have Fun, Try Something New! ★





Parents and Carers

- Can you help? -

We are looking for parents and carers who may be willing to support careers education at our school.



Share your skills and experience



Bring the world of work to life



Help inspire our students



Scan the QR code

to let us know if you would be willing to support careers education at school.



Support young people with their future choices

Thank you for your support!

Support resources from our Safeguarding Team



What is it?

A service offering free, confidential support and resources for young people facing a wide range of issues.



Anna Freud

Anna Freud

We're a pioneering mental health charity transforming care for children and young people through science, collaboration and clinical innovation. We focus on discovery, delivering compassionate support, and sharing our knowledge widely.

For more information click on the icon and follow the link.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is when someone uses control, fear or harm against another person in a relationship:

- Emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Online / tech abuse
- Financial abuse
- Controlling behaviour

In School Support:

- Sarah Pugh – pughs@birchensale.bmat.co.uk
- Teresa Dawson – dawsont@birchensale.bmat.co.uk

Get Help:

- Women's Aid: 0808 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327



Music Lessons with Severn Arts

Instrumental and Vocal tuition in school - 2026-27



Severn Arts provides music tuition in your school. If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument or having singing lessons during the school day, this should be booked directly with Severn Arts. We recommend booking early to secure your lesson slot. Invoices will be issued before the start of each term, and payment is due before lessons commence.

Instruments* in the brass, stringed and woodwind families are all taught as well as percussion, piano and guitar, and many of the instruments taught are available to hire. Vocal tuition is also offered.

Tuition is available as 20-minute individual lessons (£17.20 per lesson), 30-minute individual lessons (£25.80 per lesson) or small group lessons for 2/3 pupils (£8.60 per lesson).

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

If your child is already receiving lessons, these will automatically roll over to continue in September. If you would like to **cancel** tuition or your child is **changing schools**, please log into your account, select 'De-register' and complete the information required.

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 required during the booking process but must be made 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 supports wider learning, can have a huge benefit to your wellbeing and is lots of fun!

For further information or any queries please contact Severn Arts:
registration@severnarts.org.uk
www.severnarts.org.uk

*Not all instruments are taught in all schools.





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**

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)
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 1st October

Open Evening

Thursday 8th October

Year 8 Careers event at 6 Ways

Tuesday 13th October

Open morning 9.15-10am

Thursday 15th October

School Photographs

Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st October

Bell Heath group 1

Tuesday 20th October

Flu vaccinations all children

Open morning 9.15-10am

Wednesday 21st - Friday 23rd October

Bell Heath group 2

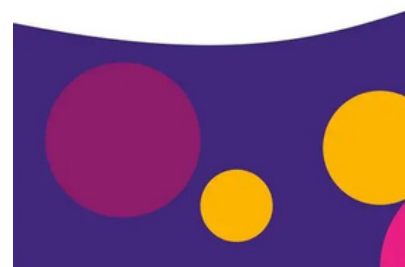
Follow us on social media.

We are active on Facebook, Instagram, Threads and LinkedIn. Click on the logo and follow the link!



**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**