

Birchensale Middle School



Newsletter

2nd October 2026



Parent Reminders

Parking

Thank you for your continued support with parking in the local community during drop off and pick up times. A reminder that it is very busy around the school entrance, so we ask that parents drive with care and don't double park to pick up their child.

Smoking and Vaping

We kindly ask that adults collecting pupils do not smoke or vape near the school gates. We send a clear message to our pupils on this and the damage it can do and would appreciate your support with this.

Adult and Pupil Interactions

We have had a small number of issues with adults being verbally abusive to each other and towards pupils. We ask that if there is an issue with pupils from the school, you work with the school to manage the issue and not directly address it yourself. If there is an issue with another adult, or you are subject to abuse from another adult, we recommend informing the police, so you are appropriately supported. We are happy to listen if you wish to inform us but unless an issue directly involves one of our pupils, we are not able to manage any conflict between adults.

Communication with staff

We encourage good, productive communication with our staff team. We expect our staff to be professional and listen when issues are raised. We ask that if you are frustrated or unhappy, do not take this out on any staff member through any form of communication. If there is an issue, please raise this in calm manner and if it needs escalating seek to speak to the next level of appropriate person.

Award Winning

Mrs Williams and Miss Taylor attended the Worcestershire Cricket Foundation Cricket Collective Awards, where our school had been nominated for the **School of the Year** award. We are delighted to announce that we were successful and proudly received the award. Below is an excerpt from the speech given about Birchensale during the presentation.



"Birchensale is a growing school and a proud Worcestershire School Partnership member, serving a community where 37% of pupils are eligible for free school meals and Redditch sits among the more deprived districts in England, with several neighbourhoods among the most deprived tenth nationally. In the last year, cricket has become something the whole school owns, regardless of what a family can afford. Nearly 500 pupils played some form of cricket, with almost 100 in extra-curricular clubs — boys and girls, in every year group, girls' cricket given equal billing rather than being an afterthought. Three teams reached County Finals Day. But the number that matters most might be this: when a host cricket club cancelled use of their venue for a Year 5 Tournament at the last minute, Birchensale stepped up and used their local connections to secure a ground at the eleventh hour, so pupils across the whole district still got their cricket festival.

That instinct — to widen the circle rather than protect it — runs through everything the school does. Seven of the nine pupils on the Redditch Street cricket programme come from Birchensale alone. Older pupils don't just play; they lead — umpiring, scoring, and running Key Stage 1 skills festivals and countdown competitions for younger children right across the area. A sport that could have stayed inside Birchensale's gates instead became a major reason behind the area's successful summer of cricket.

The children feel it. Luke, Year 6, says his favourite part was "learning together as a team" and making new friends. Nikola, Year 7, loved the batting so much he joined a local cricket club to play even more. Two parents describe watching their sons' confidence bloom — one through two years of lessons, clubs and tournaments; another through lunchtime bowling practice that led to a county final on a professional pitch, and an England autograph that left him "grinning from ear to ear for days."



Building character ■ Widening 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.



In the news this week

The Bayeux Tapestry is a nearly 1,000-year-old very long piece of cloth covered with pictures sewn in colourful thread that tells the story of a very famous event called the Norman Conquest of England. The almost 70-metre-long piece of art has travelled from its usual home in France, to go on display at the British Museum in London. It shows the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings in 1066, and depicts soldiers, horses and ships.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Which stories are important to your family and how have these stories been passed from one person to another?
- > Do we have any photographs or objects that tell part of our family's story?
- > What do you think we can learn from different types of stories? E.g., written, photos or ones we retell.

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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CAREER FOCUS

Exploring the job linked to our Picture News story



Writer

▶ WATCH: Learn about this job



1

What does a writer do as part of their job?

2

What skills do you think a writer needs?

3

What different types of writing jobs can you think of?

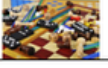
Friday 2nd October

Video link: https://youtube/_RhE78pJZKw?si=NhDkzSDQhTendeg

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!

Year 5 & 6



On Tuesday 6th October, we will be holding a special TTRS (Times Tables Rock Stars) Day to celebrate and promote times tables learning across the school. Children are invited to come dressed as rock stars for the day as we take part in fun times tables activities, challenges, and competitions. We hope this exciting event will help children build confidence, improve their multiplication facts, and enjoy practising their times tables in a fun and memorable way.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY EVENT

Wednesday 7th
October 2026

LESSON 1 & 2

YEAR 7

(Year 8 ambassadors
and sports councilors help)



LESSON 3 & 4

YEAR 8

(selected year 7s
to help)



LESSON 5 & 6

YEAR KS2

(Year 8 ambassadors
and sports councilors help)



PUPIL INFORMATION:

- Come to school in P.E kit
- Bring outdoor PE kit including boots/trainers
- KS3 Get changed at the end of cross country to uniform (bring in a separate bag).
 - Boys change in the sports hall / Girls use both changing rooms.
- **EVERYONE MUST HAVE A CHANGE OF TRAINER / SHOE**
- Bring a drink
- Asthmatics must remember to bring inhaler to run with
- If you cannot take part, you must have a note and a coat and change of shoe you will help marshall!



**BE
PREPARED
& STAY
SAFE!**

Parents and carers are invited to come and watch the event, but we kindly ask you to park at Redditch Hockey Club. There will be no access to our school car park or to the field through our school. There will be a designated spectators area for you to watch, cheer and support your child.

♥ 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

Year 7 have been using Bunsen Burners this week to gain their health and safety license.

The Bunsen Burner

Practical test: lighting a Bunsen burner safely

In this practical your teacher will watch you lighting a Bunsen burner to assess whether you are safe to use one in the classroom.

Teacher to tick here	Practical test: Bunsen burner safety check points
	The location of the lab fire extinguisher and safety blanket is known.
	Safety glasses were worn.
	Long hair was tied back and loose items of clothing tucked away.
	The Bunsen burner was placed on a heat resistance surface.
	The Bunsen burner is not too close to the edge of the desk.
	The burner was connected to the gas tap correctly.
	The rubber tubing was checked for cracks or leaks.
	The air hole on the Bunsen burner was closed before lighting.
	The splint was lit before the gas was turned on.
	The splint was positioned correctly while the gas was turned on.
	The student can adjust the flame safely.

Bunsen burner licence

If you've completed the exercises so far your teacher may be willing to award you a 'licence to heat things safely and responsibly'. OK, so it's not exactly a licence to kill, but even Mr. Bond had to start somewhere!

Paracetamol Consent and Medication in School

If you would like your child to receive paracetamol whilst at school for pain relief, please ensure you provide either a bottle of Calpol or a packet of paracetamol, clearly labelled with your child's name and date of birth.

We also ask that you log into MCAS and update your consent preferences to allow school staff to administer pain relief without needing to contact you first. Without this consent, we may need to telephone you before providing medication, which can delay your child receiving the pain relief they need.

Please note that the school only holds a very limited supply of pain relief medication for emergency situations. Your support in providing your child's medication and ensuring consent is up to date is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



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!



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 Tag Rugby	All Years 6, 7 & 8	Dining Hall Playground	Miss Taylor Mr Spafford	3:15-4:30 3:15-4:30
<i>Wednesday</i>	Football Comp	7 (selected)	Woodfield	ATA, HLA	3:30-5:45
<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	7 (selected) All Years	Arrow Vale Playground	ATA, JSP Mrs Williams	12:40-3:15 3:15 - 4:30

Week Commencing: 5th October 2026

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





PE UNIFORM

Policy



YOUR PE UNIFORM

- ✓ Royal blue & yellow polo shirt with school crest
- ✓ Royal blue long sleeve zip top with school crest
- ✓ Plain black shorts
- ✓ Plain black leggings or Birchensale crest leggings
- ✓ Plain black tracksuit bottoms
- ✓ Gold/yellow football socks or plain black socks
- ✓ Trainers (no black soled astro trainers)



OPTIONAL



Football boots



Shin pads



Gum shield



All long hair **MUST** be tied up for the entire day.



NO jewellery should be worn on PE days.

(watches are fine, but may be asked to remove for lessons).



NO earrings to be worn on PE days.

(If you have just had them pierced you need a note in your planner to say when they can come out).



If you forget your kit, you **MUST** come and see Miss Taylor at the start of the day in morning registration.

⇒ **Belong • Motivate • Succeed • Resilient** ⇒

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





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



Qwell is Kooth's adult service, offering professional support to local populations aged 18 and over, working in tandem with Kooth to deliver mental health support across whole populations.



DAWN is a free, confidential, non-judgemental support service for any individual who lives in Wychavon, Malvern Hills and Worcester City and is experiencing, or has experienced, domestic abuse.

- Male Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 014 9082
- Support for men | West Mercia Women's Aid
- Covering Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. The helpline deals with any queries from men who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse. Also support for those who may be worried about someone experiencing it.

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

Tuesday 6th October

KS2 TTRS Rock Star Day

Wednesday 7th October

Interhouse Cross Country

Thursday 8th October

Year 8 Careers event at 6 Ways

Friday 9th October

Wear Yellow for World Mental Health Day

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

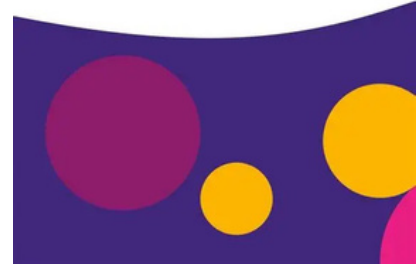
Follow us on social media.

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**