

Birchensale Middle School



Newsletter

9th October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to update you on life at Birchensale over the last two weeks. The school is flourishing and our new Year 5 pupils are beginning to find their rhythm with their new school.

We had a very successful Open Evening last week and I would like to personally thank the following:

- Our Dancer's for their wonderful performances.
- Our Lead Year 8 Ambassadors, Isis and Stanley, did the school proud by speaking at the end of my Headteachers presentation, we were all very proud!
- All the pupils that helped out throughout the evening.
- Every staff member that put in the time and effort on both the run up and the evening itself, it was a long day but worth it!

We also had our first whole school, house event with all pupils taking part in our House Cross Country Competition on Wednesday. It was a joy to see the competitive side of our pupils and they took it in their stride, even with some wet weather adding to the fun!

As we settle into this term I want to provide you with a clear communication guide for anything you may want to know about, especially if it is needed in a timely manner. The table below outlines this for you:

Type	Who	How
Club, trip or after school enquiry	School Office	Enquiries@ email or phone call to the school office
Pastoral Issue	Priority Order 1. Form Tutor 2. Head of Year 3. Miss Edwards (KS2) Mr Watson (KS3) 4. Miss Copestake (Deputy Headteacher)	Enquiries@ email or phone call to the school office
SEND Support	SEND Team	Enquiries@ email or phone call to the school office
MCAS or Lunch Money Issues	School Office	Enquiries@ email or phone call to the school office

You may notice that I am not recommending coming to the office in person. We do welcome visits and will always offer support to any visit in this way, but it is often the case that the person you need to see may not be available at that time. If you get in touch by email or phone, we will then be able to arrange the right person for you and invite you in if an in-person meeting is needed.

Finally, I want to encourage the best relationships between our staff and parents and between sets of parents too. Please be considerate of the way you communicate, particularly during times when emotions are running high.

Thank you to you all for all your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Mr P Clifton
Headteacher

★ Last week's attendance ★

28/09/26 – 2/10/26

👤 **Whole School:** 92.85%

👤 **Year group attendance:**

👤 Year 5:	95.11%
👤 Year 6:	96.70%
👤 Year 7:	95.23%
👤 Year 8:	87.79%



💙 **Everyday Counts at Birchensale!** 🧡

💙 **Attendance Matters** 🧡

Regular school attendance is essential for children to achieve their full academic potential, develop positive friendships and feel part of our Birchensale community.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please inform the school office on 01527 68430 or send a message via MCAS. We ask you do this as early as possible on the first day of absence and keep us updated daily if the absence continues.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, punctuality or barriers to attending school, please speak to our attendance team. We are here to work with families and provide support where needed.

Together, we can ensure every child has the best opportunity to learn, succeed and thrive.

💙 **Thank you for supporting your child's attendance.** 💙



Building character ■ Building opportunity ■ Shaping futures

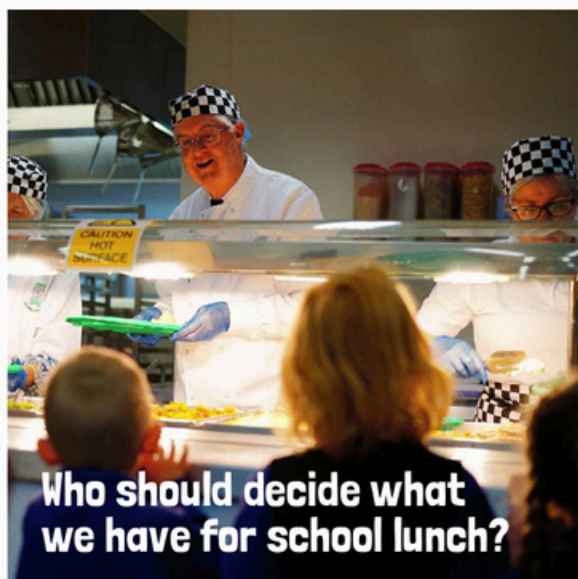
Picture News and Careers Education

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.

TAKEHOME



Who should decide what we have for school lunch?

In the news this week

The government has announced plans to make food served in schools across England healthier from September 2027. Under the proposed rules, schools would serve more fruit, vegetables and fibre-rich foods, while deep-fried foods and foods containing lots of fat, sugar or salt would be restricted. Schools would still offer familiar meals, but they would use healthier ingredients and cooking methods.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Who usually decides what your family eats at home? Do you take turns? Does everyone help choose meals?
- What are some of the things you think are important to consider when choosing what we eat?
- If you could suggest one new school meal, what would it be?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



© Picture News 2026



CAREER FOCUS

Exploring the job linked to our Picture News story



Chef

▶ WATCH: Learn about this job



1

What do you think are the main responsibilities of a chef?

2

What do you think would be the most challenging thing about being a chef?

3

What type of person do you think would enjoy working as a chef?

Friday, 9th October

Video link: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=69NUAr0a4?si=YSw22yuejgtO4wXrv>

Year 7 Future Skills Questionnaire

This week, Year 7 pupils completed the **Future Skills Questionnaire**, a valuable tool that helps us gain a better understanding of their strengths, interests, aspirations and personal skills.

The questionnaire encourages pupils to reflect on areas such as teamwork, communication, resilience and problem-solving, helping them to recognise the skills they already have and those they can continue to develop.

The information gathered allows us to tailor our careers education, personal development programme and enrichment opportunities to best meet the needs of our students.

Parents and carers should also look out for the **Your Child's Future Questionnaire**, which will be shared shortly. Your feedback provides an important insight into your child's strengths and interests, helping us build a fuller picture and ensuring we can provide the most effective support and opportunities for their future success.

TTRS Day



What a fantastic Times Table Rock Stars Day!

KS2 pupils truly rocked their learning during our TTRS Day, with some fantastic costumes and a whole host of activities designed to make times table practice fun! Pupils learnt new methods, took part in scavenger hunts, played games with their peers and challenged themselves to improve their times table knowledge. We use Times Table Rock Stars regularly for homework, giving pupils the opportunity to keep practising at home and develop the quick recall and confidence that supports so many areas of maths.

	Best Dressed Winners	Most amount of coins collected on TTRS today
5AGA	Jax M	Jacob C
5CAM	Logan M	Abulrazaq O
5KAU	Ozzie L	Caeson W
5CLE	Rico T	Marwan A
5SJO	Mia O	Hannah S
6VED	Jasmine B	Charlie W
6JPE	Elsie H	Kayla G
6VBA	Mia O	Muhammad H
6REV	Brooke D	Callen R
6HPO	Jazmine H	Charlie M



***You are welcome
to visit us.***

Birchensale Middle School Open Mornings

9:15 to 10:00 am

Tuesday 13th October 2026

Tuesday 20th October 2026

Contact us: 01527 68430



FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Halloween Lunch Special

Creepy cheese pizza
Mummy veggie sausage

Served with: -
Witches' wedges
And
Spooky sweetcorn
Jumping jackets with various fillings

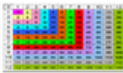
Creepy chocolate cake
Jelly bug cups



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!



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
Monday	Badminton	7 & 8	Sportshall	Mr Spafford	LUNCH
	Trampolining	7 & 8	Sportshall	Mr Spafford	3:15-4:30
Tuesday	KS3 Dance	7&8 (Selected)	Dining Hall	Miss Taylor	3:15-4:30
Wednesday	Basketball	7 & 8	Sportshall	Mr Spafford	LUNCH
	Tag Rugby	6, 7 & 8	Playground	Mr Spafford	3:15-4:30
	Football Comp	8 Girls	Woodfield	ATA, HLA	3:30-5:45
Thursday	Football	5, 6 & 7	Field	Miss Lavery	3:15-4:30
Friday	Netball Festival	7&8 (selected)	Playground	ATA, AWI	12:40-3:15
	Netball	All Years	Playground	Mrs Williams	3:15 – 4:30

Week Commencing: 12th October 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! ★





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** ⇒



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!

HALLOWEEN LIGHT TRAIL

Morton Stanley Park

Saturday 24th October

5pm - 10pm

(Light trail opens 6pm)

ALL
NEW FOR
2026!

Step into a magical world of **light, imagination and Halloween fun!**

Explore an illuminated trail through the park, featuring **spectacular light installations, ghostly projections and live spooky characters!**

Enjoy **artisan market stalls, delicious street food and funfair rides**, with plenty of interactive photo opportunities along the way.

Family-friendly and full of autumn magic, the Halloween Light Trail is the perfect seasonal adventure for all ages!



For details please visit www.redditchbc.gov.uk/events
Morton Stanley Park, Windmill Dr, Redditch, B97 5GE

*Additional
charges
may apply

**Redditch
EVENTS**
Working together for our communities

All details were correct at the time of going to print, event programme may be subject to change. Outdoor performances are subject to change/cancellation due to adverse weather conditions.

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



Support resources from our **Safeguarding Team**

Male Domestic Abuse network

Aimed at domestic abuse professionals who require access to information about support services for male victims of domestic abuse. See:



LGBT Foundation

Offers support to individuals who are currently at risk of or who have previously experienced domestic abuse whether this is from a partner(s), ex-partner(s), or family member(s). This service provides practical help and advice, and emotional support for those who have been, or currently are experiencing domestic abuse, see:



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 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

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Half Term

Monday 2nd November

School Closed - TED

Tuesday 3rd November

School Open

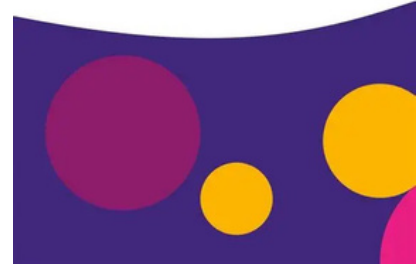
Follow us on social media.

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**