



A note from the Headteacher....

We have reached the end of the longest half term of the school year, with a full eight weeks packed with learning, activities and achievements. As always, the children have worked incredibly hard and made us proud every day. We hope you have been able to access and enjoy our new Woodfield Weekly updates. They may be a little rough and ready at the moment, but we are keen to keep families informed about life in school. We will continue to refine and improve them as we move into the winter term. If you have not yet seen them then jump onto our social media pages and catch up with events at Woodfield.

A special thank you to our Year 5 families for supporting the recent parent events. The drop-in coffee afternoon and the pumpkin carving activity were both fantastic successes, and it was wonderful to see so many families joining us and spending time together. Thank you also for supporting our Hello Yellow awareness day and non-uniform day. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped make the events a real success and provided an opportunity for us all to focus on the importance of positive mental health, wellbeing and raising money for charity.

It has also been fantastic to see such great attendance at our after-school clubs this term. The children have embraced the wide range of opportunities on offer and have shown great commitment and enthusiasm. As we head into the half-term I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable week, spending time with family and friends and, most importantly, staying safe.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 3rd November, as Monday 2nd November is a staff training day.

As always, #OneWoodfieldMr N Straw
Headteacher

School Driveway

Parents/Carers are reminded that the school driveway is not to be used for drop-off or collection unless there is a medical reason, or it is an emergency.

Reporting Pupil Absence

Parents/carers please ensure you report pupil absence before 8:10am by either:

Send an email to attendance@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

'Report an Absence' on MCAS

Phone the school office on 01527 527081 and press option 1

Important Dates:

Nov 2026

- 2nd – Inset Day
- 3rd – Return to school
- 16th & 17th – Y6 Heights and Weights
- 23rd – Parents Evening (tutors)
- 26th – Parents Evening (tutors)

Dec 2026

- 3rd – Christmas Show
- 10th – Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day
- 14th-16th – KS3 Residential Trip to Malvern
- 17th – Last day of term

Jan 2027

- 4th – Inset Day
- 5th – Return to school

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs from 8:00am – 8:30am every morning and is an opportunity for your child to have a hot drink and breakfast in a warm, safe environment with a member of staff always present. There are games and activities available; your child can receive help or advice with homework or simply spend the time with friends before lessons begin.

Our Breakfast Club is FREE of charge to all pupils.

If you are interested in your child joining our Breakfast Club, please contact the office.

Communication Policy

Due to commitments on their time, staff are not always available to see you in person, take your call or respond to your email immediately.

With the exception of safeguarding concerns*, we aim to respond to calls and emails within 2 school days.

Any safeguarding concerns will be dealt with as a priority

Please note that our office hours are 8.00am-4.30pm so please do not expect to get a response outside of these times. Calls/emails marked 'urgent' will be prioritised. A reminder of our communication routes is on the last page. Messages can also be sent to the office/teachers via MCAS.

Please support us by following our Social Media accounts:



Facebook: [/OneWoodfield](https://www.facebook.com/OneWoodfield)

Twitter: [@OneWoodfield](https://twitter.com/OneWoodfield)

Instagram: [OneWoodfield](https://www.instagram.com/OneWoodfield)



School Contact Details

Batchley First School
01527 62926

Woodfield Academy
01527 527081

Birchensale middle
01527 68430

Mobile:
07809330825

Email:
jfitzer@batchley.worcs.sch.uk

Home/School Family Support



JUSTINE FITZER



Who is your Home/School Family Support Worker?

My name is Justine Fitzer



I have worked in the area for over eighteen years.

I know the journey of being a parent can take its twists and turns, and sometimes, we all need a little help along the way, that's what I am here for. If I can't help you, I know somebody who can.

I can be contacted through my Schools or alternatively you can contact me directly on:

Mobile:
07809330825

Email:
jfitzer@batchley.worcs.sch.uk

If I am unavailable, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

What does a Home/School Family Support Worker do?

My role is to work closely with children and families who may be experiencing difficulties.

I listen and appreciate parents/carers issues and offer suggestions and advice for individuals and families

I can work with and support families during key school transitions including newcomers and moving to middle school.

I work with families who are going through difficult times including relationship breakdown, bereavement and mental health issues.

In consultation with parents/carers I can support children on a 1:1 basis (in school or in their home) or in a group, listening and working with them in different ways on managing their emotions, developing social skills and building their confidence

What does a Home/School Family Support Worker do?

- Bereavement, grief and loss
- Transition to new school
- Change in family circumstance
- Attendance
- Friendships
- Behavior
- Parenting
- Self-esteem
- Confidence
- Mental health
- Relationship breakdown
- Anxiety
- Trauma

This list is not exhaustive and there may be other reasons that a family might need support.

Sometimes you just might want someone to talk to outside of the family.



Free School Meals

Types of Free School Meals from 1 September 2026

There will be three types of Free School Meals:

1. Expanded Free School Meals

Applications open from mid-June for September.

This provides:

- term time meals only

You may qualify if:

- your child attends a state school
- you receive Universal Credit with a household income over £7,400 per year or over £616 per month for the last 3 months, after tax (excluding benefits)

2. Targeted Free School Meals

This provides:

- term time meals
- Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme support
- possible travel assistance (if additional criteria are met)
- Pupil Premium funding for the school to support your child

Benefit-based eligibility

You may qualify if your child attends a state school and you receive:

- Universal Credit with household income under £7,400 per year or under £616 per month for the last 3 months after tax (excluding benefits)
- support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance

Immigration-based eligibility

You may also qualify under certain immigration conditions, including:

- Zambrano carers
- Families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) with leave under Article 8
- Families supported under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 with NRPF
- Certain supported failed asylum seekers (Section 4)
- Chen carers
- BN(O) passport holders
- Spousal, work, or student visa holders
- Individuals with no immigration status

Financial criteria for immigration cases

- £22,700 annual income for families with 1 child
- £26,300 annual income for families with 2 or more children
- Savings must be under £16,000

To apply:

- Complete a form available from the school office
- Use the online portal: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Year 5 Pumpkin Carving

It was wonderful to welcome so many Year 5 families to our Pumpkin Carving Afternoon. The hall was buzzing with excitement as children and parents worked together to create some truly fantastic pumpkin designs. We were delighted by the excellent turnout and the high level of engagement from parents, whose enthusiasm helped make the event such a success. The creativity on display was incredible, with every pumpkin showcasing unique ideas and impressive carving skills. Most importantly, the children thoroughly enjoyed spending quality time with their families, and it was lovely to see so many smiles throughout the afternoon. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a memorable event.



Year 5 KS3 Oaks

In KS3 Oaks we have been learning about gothic novels, and we read 'The Boy at the Window' by Lucy Strange. It was a story set just after World War II, about a boy, a dense fog and a piano playing ghost who manages to talk his way into the spooky mansion and take the boy's place.

In maths we have worked on our addition and subtraction skills with exchanging, measuring perimeter of regular shapes and now we have begun to work on our division (sharing) skills.

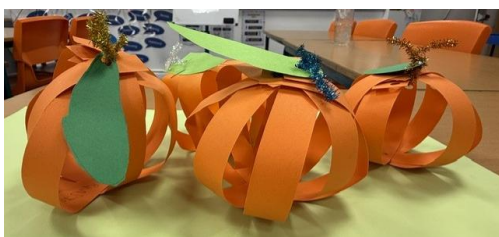
We have used our creative skills to draw ghosts using charcoal, created bright images using circles, made 3D pumpkins and designed our own haunted mansions.

Special shout out to Ronnie who completed the 'Landmarks of the World' jigsaw!

Mrs Williams, & this terms journalist, Ronnie

"Your Child's Future" questionnaire

Please complete this questionnaire all about careers and your child.





Art Competition Results



- **Welcome to your new home card design competition winners Launched by Taylor Wimpey**
- The winning design will be used to create a welcome to your new home card for new residents at Church Rise.
- The winner is Maisie Brannan 7DA who will also receive a **£50 Amazon voucher**
- The two runners who will receive a **£25 Amazon voucher** are Aizah Mehmood (8NF) and Edel Subin who has now left for High School.

Forest School

We have been very busy in Forest School this term....conker caterpillars have been made using a gimlet and whittling tent pegs all of these skills help build pupils fine motor skills.

Scrumptious apple and blackberry crumble was prepared, cooked and eaten with pupils practicing their fire lighting skills.

This week pumpkins have been carved, questions asked and friendships forged over what designs to carve in pumpkins.

Puddles have been jumped in, meals prepared in the mud kitchens and plans made for future lessons.





NEW ART COMPETITION FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS



**WORCESTERSHIRE
ACUTE HOSPITALS
CHARITY**

The **lifeline** connecting our communities
to exceptional hospital care

Unleash Your Creativity and Help Design Our Charity Mascot!

Join the fun and help bring our new mascot to life!

We're inviting children aged 7-13 from across Worcestershire to share their creative ideas and help create our brand-new mascot!

We help make hospital life better for patients, their families and our amazing NHS staff across Worcestershire's acute hospitals; the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch, Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre, and Worcestershire Royal Hospital in Worcester. We raise money for projects and extras that go beyond what the NHS can fund, from creating brighter and more welcoming hospital spaces to buying specialist equipment and providing those little touches that can make a difficult day a bit easier.

Now we're looking for a brand-new mascot to represent us, help spread smiles, and join us at fundraising events across Worcestershire!

**Could your design become the face of
your local hospitals charity?**

Do you know a budding young artist aged 7-13? We'd love them to get involved!

The winning design will become the official mascot of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity, helping to represent the charity across posters, flyers, social media and our website.



Unleash Your Creativity and Help Design Our Charity Mascot!



Please use this worksheet to draw your design for Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity mascot.

Your mascot could be an animal, person or object inspired by our charity, hospitals or the county of Worcestershire in some way.

Top tip: Practise drawing your idea on scrap paper first and then draw your final design on this sheet.



What's the name of your mascot?

Describe your mascot:

Your Name: _____

Age: _____

School: _____

School email address: _____

**SEE MISS
LAWLOR IN ART
FOR THE A4
TEMPLATE.
OVER THE HALF
TERM HOLIDAY
HAVE A
PRACTICE AND
PLAN YOUR
DESIGN**

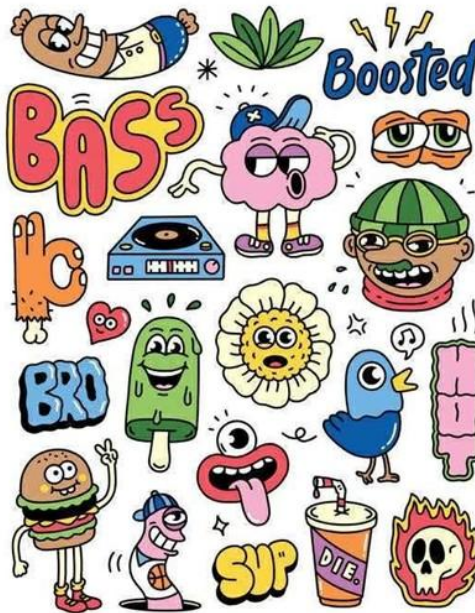
How to submit your entry:

There are a couple of different ways in which you can submit your mascot entry:

- Email - Ask your school/ teacher to email your entry to: info@wahcharity.org
- Post - Pop your entry in an envelope and send it to us at: Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity, Worcestershire Royal Hospital, First Floor, 3 Kings Court, Charles Hasting Way, Worcester WR5 1DD

Entries close on Friday 22nd January 2027!

Ideas for mascots animal, person or objects





Woodfield v St Bedes 19.10.26

The Woodfield Academy Year 8 girls' team put in a fantastic performance in the tournament, finishing in 2nd place overall. The team secured two wins throughout the competition, showing great teamwork, determination and commitment in every game. The girls worked hard for each other, demonstrated a positive attitude and represented the school brilliantly. Their performances showed excellent team spirit and a strong desire to succeed. Overall, finishing as runners-up was a fantastic achievement for the Year 8 girls, and they should be proud of their efforts and performances throughout the tournament.



Woodfield Academy produced a fantastic performance to secure a dominant 13–0 victory against St Bede's. The team showed excellent attacking quality throughout the match, creating numerous chances and demonstrating great teamwork, movement and finishing in front of goal. Felix, Luqman, Kyrese, Riley and Nikodem all got on the scoresheet, contributing to an outstanding team performance. Woodfield Academy controlled the game, moved the ball well and took their opportunities clinically.

It was a brilliant result for Woodfield Academy, with the players showing great determination, confidence and teamwork from start to finish. A well-deserved win and a performance to be proud of! ⚽

Well done, George!

In September, George Fu ran an amazing 100 laps around the track at Abbey Stadium to raise money for 'Kids Run Redditch', a free Saturday morning running group that encourages children to get active, have fun and enjoy running.

George's mum said it was a fantastic challenge for him, and they are so proud of his determination, commitment and effort in completing all 100 laps.

George worked really hard, and he was absolutely brilliant. 🏃 🏆 🌟



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
PRECIOUS AGBAM**

Who has equalled the District
80M Sprint time which has
been held for

21 Years!!!!!!

11.1 seconds



Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)

Are you struggling with essential costs, heating or housing?
Support is available through the
Worcestershire Crisis and Resilience Fund

Help when families need it most

The Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) can provide support for families experiencing a financial crisis and helps Worcestershire households build long-term financial resilience.

The fund can help with:

- Food and essential household costs
- Energy bills and heating emergencies
- Essential household items
- Housing-related financial difficulties
- Support to improve long-term financial resilience and money management

What support could families receive?

Depending on the circumstances, support may include:

- Cash payments
- Energy vouchers
- Supermarket vouchers
- Essential household goods
- Advice and support services



Scan the QR to find out more or visit:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/CRF



What support is available for families?

Oil and LPG Energy Support Scheme

Support is available for low-income households that rely on heating oil or LPG and are struggling with rising fuel costs.

Crisis Payments

If a family has experienced a sudden financial shock, such as illness, an accident, loss of income, or a household emergency, they may be able to receive urgent support to help meet essential needs. All applications are assessed based on individual circumstances.

Need advice?

Any family can contact their local Worcestershire Advice Network (WAN) partner:

- Food and essential household costs
- Energy bills and heating emergencies
- Essential household items

Free and confidential advice is available on benefits, housing, debt, energy costs and other cost of living support.

Find support

Worcestershire Advice Network: www.worcestershireadvicenetwork.org.uk

Cost of Living Support: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support

Energy Advice and Support: www.actonenergy.org.uk/area/worcestershire



Scan the QR to find out more or visit:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/CRF



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Deadline dates for applying for a school place

High / Secondary Schools
31 October

First / Primary / Middle Schools
15 January

No internet access? Visit your local library where access is free.

SCAN ME



For further information, how to apply and guidance on the admissions process, Scan the QR Code or visit our website below

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions





WOODROW LIGHT PARTY

Friday 30th October
from 3pm till 6pm

In the Woodrow Library
and the Woodrow Hub

Fancy dress but no masks

Crafting activities

Apple bobbin

Spooky music

Sweet treats

Neon art

Lego printmaking

All are welcome bring your family
and friends and lets be the light of

Woodrow

Practice Tips for Beginner Musicians

Small steps • Regular practice • Big progress

- 1** Remind your child of the day and time of their lesson.
 - 2** Aim for 15 minutes, 2-3 times a week as a beginner to have a positive impact on progress in lessons.
 - 3** Find a practice time that fits with your family routine.
It might be after school, before dinner, or another quiet time that works for your family.
 - 4** Listen to your child practice if they will let you or praise what you overhear.
Your encouragement builds confidence and keeps them motivated!
 - 5** Practice the parts of the music that they find difficult, not the bits that they find easy.
Tackling the tricky sections helps them make real progress and build new skills!
 - 6** Break longer pieces down into manageable chunks or sections.
Smaller steps feel less overwhelming and make progress more achievable.
 - 7** Try recording yourself and listening back to listen for improvements.
You'll hear what's going well and spot things to work on.
 - 8** Practice slowly and accurately, rushing means you learn the mistakes.
Slow + Accurate = Progress
 - 9** Have a space set aside for practice where students can focus.
A quiet, comfortable spot helps them concentrate and get the most out of their time.
- Practice today = Progress tomorrow





Family Support

We understand that life can be hard and sometimes we all need a little extra help and support. We are working with local agencies to improve our 'Family Support' offer. As a school we recognise that a problem shared can be a problem solved - or at least we can point you in the right direction to get help! By working together to help you, your child(ren) we can hopefully make a difference - especially for our pupils.



Whether it is an issue with finance or housing, health or SEND, Mental Health or relationships we are here for you.

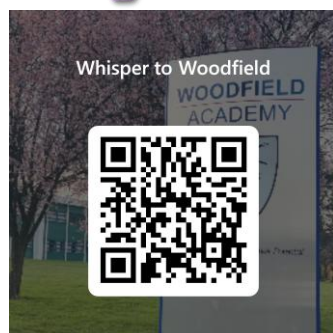
You can reach out to the Family Support Team for advice and guidance - by:

Telephone: 01527527081

Email: familysupport@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

For more information following the links from our webpage: [Family Support | Woodfield Academy](#)

Report @ Whisper to Woodfield



If you are worried about a child or a family member and would like to alert school to your concerns, please use the QR code or [link](#) to our anonymous reporting tool. Your report will be logged with the Safeguarding Team.



SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/27

School day starts: 8:45am School day finishes: 3:15pm		TEACHER EDUCATION DAYS *MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*
	AUTUMN TERM 2026	
TERM STARTS		1. Tuesday 1 st September 2. Wednesday 2 nd September
School re-opens for pupils	Thursday 3 rd September	
HALF TERM	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October	
		3. Monday 2 nd November
School re-opens for pupils	Tuesday 3 rd November	
Term ends for pupils	Thursday 17 th December	
TERM ENDS		4. Friday 18 th December *
	SPRING TERM 2027	
TERM STARTS		5. Monday 4 th January
School re-opens for pupils	Tuesday 5 th January	
HALF TERM	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February	
		6. Monday 22 nd February
School re-opens for pupils	Tuesday 23 rd February	
Term ends for pupils	Wednesday 24 th March	
TERM ENDS		7. Thursday 25 th March
	SUMMER TERM 2027	
TERM STARTS	Monday 12 th April	
HALF TERM	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June	
TERM ENDS	Wednesday 21 st July	

Christmas Day
Boxing Day
Good Friday
Easter
May Day
Whitsun Bank Holiday
August Bank Holiday

Friday 25th December 2026
Monday 28th December 2026
Friday 26th March 2027
Monday 29th March 2027
Monday 3rd May 2027
Monday 31st May 2027
Monday 30th August 2027



Attendance Matters



Whilst we all know that it is inevitable that children will have periods of illness during their time at school, it is essential that we look at ways to minimise this and the impact it has on achievement.

Regular and punctual school attendance is essential – only pupils who attend school regularly can take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them.

If your child is suffering from a minor ailment such as a cold or a cough, please consider sending them to school. We will always send them home if we feel they are too unwell to be here.

[NHS Live-well - Is my child too ill for school?](#)

If your child is worried or anxious and not wanting to attend, please contact school via attendance@woodfield.bmat.co.uk so that Mr Hanks can assist and support.

A **Request for Absence During Term Time** application form must be completed **PRIOR** to any holiday. Forms are available from Reception.

What does your child's attendance % mean?

Yearly Attendance %	Total of days missed in a school year	Number of lessons missed in 1 school year	Number of lessons missed in 4 school years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	120
95%	10	50	200
90%	20	100	400
80%	40	200	800
50%	100	500	2000

Good punctuality at school is just as essential for pupils to achieve their full potential as attendance. Being on time for school every day is an important step in forming good habits for later life. The impact of lateness soon adds up over a school year...





All parents/carers are encouraged to download the MCAS app. With this app parents/carers can access all our communications, report pupil absence, make payments and consent to school trips, update contact details and book onto clubs and parents evenings; as well as view pupil behavior, timetable, school reports etc. If you aren't yet a MCAS user, please send an email to office@woodfield.bmat.co.uk with the name of your child/ren, and an email with registration information will be sent to you.

Communication & Apps

Telephone: 01527 527081

Website: www.woodfield.worcs.sch.uk

Main School Email: office@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Attendance: attendance@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Behaviour Issues: behaviour@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Anti-Bullying: bullying@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Teaching & Learning: teachingandlearning@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

SEND: send@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Book A Tour: tour@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Mental Health: iamworried@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Safeguarding: safeguarding@woodfield.bmat.co.uk

Head of Year 5 2026-27	Mrs P Grimsley
Head of Year 6 2026-27	Mrs N Philpott
Head of Year 7 2026-27	Mr T Brook
Head of Year 8 2026-27	Mr M Hale

Essential Equipment

All pupils should have the basic essential equipment with them every day. This includes:

Academy Planner	Reading book
Blue handwriting pen	Pencil
Coloured pencils	Eraser
Ruler	Sharpener
Refillable water bottle	

