

## Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 1 Federation Value - Aspiration



### On our website - Links

[West Leigh - Letters to Parents](#)

[BJS - Letters to Parents](#)

### Parents Evening for Both Schools

Parents Evening will be held on the following dates:

#### WL

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>  
November 3.30pm – 6.30pm

#### BJS

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>  
November 4.00pm – 7.00pm

All dates will hold “in person” meetings with the teacher however please contact either school office nearer the time if you need to hold a virtual meeting. Booking appointments will take place through our online booking system through School Cloud and more details on how to book will be sent closer to the time.



### Important Dates - Term 1

- Monday 2 October – 6S visit to Tithe Barn
- Wednesday 11 October – BJS Harvest collection at morning drop off and Harvest Service at St Andrews Church at 2.30pm
- Thursday 12 October – 9.15am Harvest Festival assembly at WL
- Thursday 12 October – Tulip Photography at BJS for individual and sibling photos (children with siblings at both schools can attend at 8.30am for their photos)
- Thursday 12 October – BJS Parents Drop in – Reading Fluency
- Friday 13 October – WL PTA Cake Sale – Hedgehogs
- Thursday 19 October – Enrichment Day 1
- Thursday 19 October – WL PTA Halloween Disco after school
- Thursday 19 October – Last day of term 1 for both schools
- Friday 20 October – INSET DAY for both schools (schools closed to pupils)
- Monday 30 October – Start of Term 2
- Monday 30 October – Year 6 National Child Measurement Programme visit from School Nursing Team
- Tuesday 31 October – Nasal Flu Immunisations at both schools

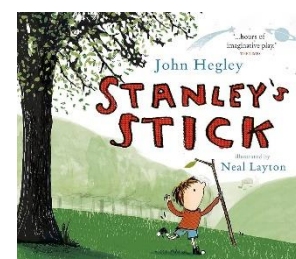
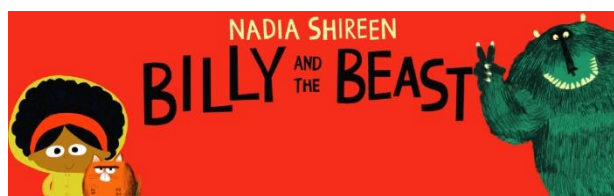


Owl Class have been working hard over the last few weeks and Mrs Bowden-Green is very impressed with how well all of the children have settled into life in Year 1!

In Maths we have been busy counting, sorting and looking at Place Value with numbers up to 10.

We have also been reading the stories of Stanley's Stick and Billy and the Beast in our English lessons.

This week the children have looked at the work of Andy Goldsworthy and created these lovely spiral artworks using natural items that they collected from the playground. Fantastic effort Owl Class!







**Congratulations to our West Leigh Superstars**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

Year 1 – Immy, Arthur

Year 2 – Freddie, Lucille

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Reception – Nathan, Mia B

Year 1 – Ethan, Oscar

Year 2 – Seb T, Rosa

New school year, new PTA Committee...

We bid a fond farewell to the outgoing PTA Committee and give special thanks to Phillipa and Lisa for their amazing efforts over the last year, and to Claire who was on the Committee for a heroic three years! From wrapping a million presents, to volunteer day gardening and spending hours in Tesco and Costco searching for events goodies, they have all been amazing.

We had a super successful fundraising year last year raising nearly £15k (with more to come from gift aid claims), so huge thanks to all the parents and carers for all your continued support.

And so its welcome to the new West Leigh PTA Committee...

We were lucky enough that six members of last year's committee were able to stay on this year and they have been gratefully joined by five new members:

Co-Chairs: Helen Read (Yr 1) and Marisa Maitland (Yr1)

Vice-Chairs: Nat Bruce and Holly Yeylaghi (Yr1)

Treasurers: Anna Child (Yr1) and Amy Finney (Reception)

Secretaries: Helen Manyiwa (Yr1) and Jo Stevens (Reception)

General Committee: Greg Pearson (Reception), Bianca Soucek (Reception) and Mariam Kemple Hardy (Reception)

Thank you for your help and enthusiasm.

### Forthcoming events

- **Reception Parents Skittles night social - Thursday 12th October**

A reminder that Reception Parents are invited to an informal Skittles Social at Backwell Village Club on Thursday 12th October. It's 8.00pm for an 8.30pm start and it's guaranteed to be a fun night! There's no need to book, just turn up on the night.

- **Cake and pre-loved uniform sale - Friday 13th October**

We're kicking off this year's fundraising with our very first cake and pre-loved uniform sale, straight after school at 3.05pm on Friday 13th October! The fabulous bakers in Hedgehog Class will be selling their goodies next to the School Hall (or outdoor classroom if roofing works are still taking place) so please do come along and support them! Alongside the cake sale, we will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale and we have plenty of school jumpers, fleeces, trousers and heaps more to get your child winter ready!

- **Halloween Disco and dress down day - Thursday 19th October**

Back by popular demand and hot on the heels of the cake sale is our Halloween Disco on Thursday 19th October! Children are invited to come to the disco in their favourite Halloween fancy dress, ready for lots of fun, games and dancing in the School Hall. Disco timings for each year group will be: Reception: 3.15pm-4pm (straight from school), Year 1: 4.15pm - 5pm & Year 2: 5.15pm - 6pm. Tickets are £3.50 and will be available to book via the PTA Events website - <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/backwellfederationpa/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=68469>

- Thursday 19th October will also be a dress-down day, so children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in return for a £1 donation to PTA funds (please no Halloween fancy dress during the day though!).

- **Christmas Fair - Saturday 25th November, 1.00 - 4.00pm**

And finally, save the date for the Christmas Fair! Santa, sparkles, mulled wine, tombola and more - all taking place at school on Saturday 25th November from 1.00 - 4.00pm. It's an absolute favourite amongst the children so get it in your diary now!

As well as these events, we have lots of other fun and exciting fundraising plans to share with you in the run up to Christmas, but if you have any ideas for events and activities please email us at [westleighpta@gmail.com](mailto:westleighpta@gmail.com) or speak to a Class Rep.

Thanks for your support!

West Leigh PTA

West Leigh School Parents Association

Registered Charity number: 1038576



## Polite Notices



### **Aspens Select**

Please remember to book your lunches for the rest of the term so that the kitchen can plan ahead. Many thanks.

Please can you ensure that your child comes into school with a full drink bottle and healthy snack for the morning break.



### **Car Parking**

We appreciate parking is difficult around school drop off and pick up times however we have recently received complaints from our neighbours about inconsiderate parking around Westfield Drive and Westfield Road. Please can we request that you do not park over driveways or on the grass area at the end of the road and perhaps park a bit further away on a wider stretch of road and walk up to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school please can you ensure that you leave a message or email the office to let us know by 9.30am on the day of absence.



### **Norovirus – 48hr rule**

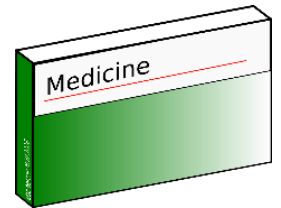
As we head into the Autumn/Winter season we would like to remind parents that if your child is unfortunate to catch this bug, regulations state that they are not able to return to school for a least 48 hours from the last episode. Please also remember to contact the school to record your child's absence each day.

## Polite Notices



Please note that dogs are not allowed on the school site. If you bring your dog to the school gates at drop-off and pick-up times, please can you ensure that you tie your dog up so that they do not impede access to the paths and gates. Please clear up after your dog and put the waste in an appropriate bin off-site. Thank you

Medication - please ensure that all prescribed medications are signed into the school office on an official request to administer medication form, please do not send your child in with tablets/cough sweets to keep in their school bag, this is not permitted.



If your child rides a bike or scooter to school please can they be left in the designated areas upon arrival at school. Please note they are not permitted to be taken onto the playgrounds.

## Aspens

Aspens – both kitchens had their Environmental Health spot check and both received a well-earned 5 stars!

We have passed on the feedback received from parents about the changes to the Aspen menu. If you haven't already, please can anyone who would like to feedback about the changes please also contact Aspens directly through: [info@aspens-services.com](mailto:info@aspens-services.com).



## BACKWELL C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

### Celebration Assembly - 'Backwell B' Awards

Our Backwell B awards include: **Be your Best**, **Be Kind** and **Be Responsible**

#### Celebration Assembly - 15th September 2023

Year 3 - Bella & Scout

Year 4 - Mimi and Gabriel

Year 5 - Ruby & William

Year 6 - Holly and Leah

#### Celebration Assembly - 22nd September 2023

Year 3 - Monty and Ingrid M

Year 4 - Eliza and Barney

Year 5 - Oaklie and Georgie

Year 6 - Logan and Sonny

#### Celebration Assembly - 29th September 2023

Year 3 - Charlotte and Nell

Year 4 - Aisling and Gwil

Year 5 - Finley and Tommy

Year 6 - Ariadne and Milly

**CONGRATULATIONS!**





## BJS Times Tables Rock Stars

We have been made aware that a number of families are using an out of date version of Times Tables Rock Stars...if you think this may be you then please follow the instructions below:

### Solution – if playing at home

If using the website at home, please ask parents to visit [play.ttrockstars.com/reset](http://play.ttrockstars.com/reset) to load the latest version in their device's browser. Otherwise ask parents to update the time Tables Rock Stars app from the app store.



## Flu Immunisations Reminder

Reminder: Flu Immunisations taking place soon.....please ensure you follow the directions on the letter below, a copy has been sent via School Comms:



School Immunisation Team  
3 Station Road  
Pill  
Bristol  
BS20 0AB

4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

### Nasal Flu Vaccination Programme

This autumn all children from Reception to Year 11 are being offered a flu vaccine as part of the School Vaccination Programme. This letter explains why children are being offered this vaccine and explains how to let us know whether or not you would like your child to be vaccinated.

Children are being offered the vaccinations to protect them from flu, minimise the circulation of the virus this winter and to reduce disruption to their education, and the potential impact on the NHS. The vaccinations will be given by Sirona care & health, who run all the School Immunisation Programmes in our area.

The flu vaccine is administered using a nasal spray.

Please complete the consent form below, indicating whether you wish your child to have the vaccine. If you don't have access to the internet, you can request a paper copy from your child's school.

Link to the nasal flu consent form:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/consent?v=1.23>

Please complete the form as soon as possible, the consent system will be closed at 9am 2 working days before the session. Your school will tell you the date of the session once it is confirmed.

**Please ensure you complete the consent form even if you do not want your child to receive the vaccination**

If your child is not able to attend school on the day of the immunisation session they can attend a catch-up clinic at a later date. Your school will send out information about these clinics after the school session.

For more information about the Nasal Flu vaccination programme please see [Flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

If your child is unable to accept the nasal flu vaccine due to the porcine gelatine content or due to immunosuppression we are able to offer an IM Flu injection at a community clinic, to book an appointment for this please contact the School Immunisation Team on the details below.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact the School Immunisation Team on 0300 124 5515 or email [sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net](mailto:sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Karen Evans'.

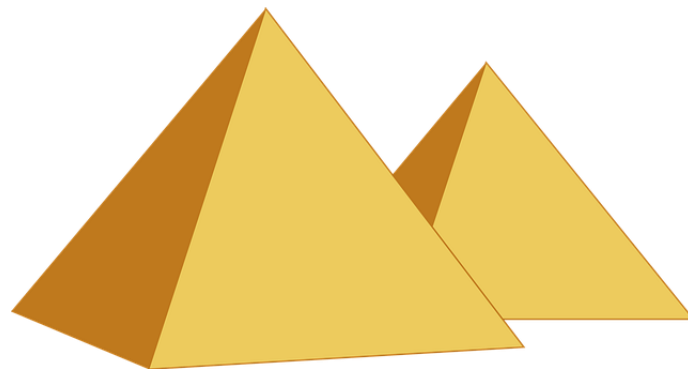
Karen Evans  
Head of Specialist Services for Children and Sirona Integrated Immunisation Services

Company Reg. No: 07585003 | Sirona care & health, 2nd Floor, Kingswood Civic Centre  
High Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9TR





Year 3 have been settling into BJS, beautifully. Over the last few weeks, the children have been working hard on writing setting descriptions based on the Forest of Sin in Roald Dahl's, 'The Minpins', as well beginning our Geography and History topic of 'Tomb Raiders'. The children enjoyed their first History lesson searching for historians missing documents and discussing what they already know about Ancient Egypt. In Science, the children began our Animals including Humans unit by being given an animal and putting themselves into the Venn diagram by deciding whether they were a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore. A great start to the year. Well Done Year 3.



## 6M visit to Tithe Barn

On Monday 25th September, 6M visited the Tithe Barn in Nailsea as part of their topic on Victorians.

During the day we learnt about the history of the barn and Hannah More, who started a school in the 18th century as she felt it was important for children to read and write and know about God.

She felt it was important to encourage children and not beat them. She was a famous writer and was against slavery. We dressed up as Victorian children and had some lessons Victorian style.

We wrote on slate boards and drew a Victorian artefact, such as a carpet beater. The slates made a weird scratching noise and you had to press just the right amount for it to show. Instead of calculators they used an abacus to do their maths – the concept was simple so it made the maths easier.

We also studied an original school register and log book from Victorian times.

There seem to be a lot of diseases such as measles and scarlet fever.

We thought it was very funny that they called the toilets “the offices” at this time. The toilets had no roofs so that the children were quick and didn’t miss lesson time!

The Tithe Barn was great fun; we learnt a lot of things and hope to visit again. 6M



NAILSEA  
**TITHE BARN**  
TRUST





## Pupil Chaplains Help St Andrew's Church Achieve Bronze Echo-Award

Each year the Pupil Chaplain team at Backwell Junior School takes part in two community missions. Last school year the children enjoyed serving a meal at The Meeting Point at the Parish Hall. Following their discussion about caring for the environment with Bishop Michael Beasley at their commissioning service, the chaplains decided to get involved in St Andrew's Eco Church application.

The team feels strongly about caring for our planet, Zoe (Backwell Junior School - Year 6) writes "I chose to be part of this topic because looking after our planet is crucial to our survival. It is our duty to take care of the gifts we've been given. Everything we need to save it is right in front of us and we are deciding not to use it, it's very frustrating to see. A few weeks ago, global warming turned into 'global boiling', so this issue is even more urgent. We can't just do nothing!" Rory is concerned about littering in Backwell: "I see people littering more and more. Just the other day I saw lots of kids from the secondary school leave all their cans and wrappers lying around in the Playing Fields, it made me sad. The planet is important, because it's the only place we have to live, and I don't want that to be gone for the next generation".

The Pupil Chaplains visited the St Andrew's Harvest service at Moorside Farm to tell our congregation about their involvement in the application process, and to show the amazing plaque we received after A Rocha awarded us a Bronze Certificate. Although proud of this achievement, the children are already working on an Action Plan to get St Andrew's up to a Silver!





## BOOK CORNER



Welcome to our first Book Corner of the year!

The Book Corner is an opportunity to celebrate everything we love about reading here at Backwell Juniors. From monthly book recommendations to reading support/ updates/ events - it can all be found here!

### WE NEED YOU!

As the new academic year is now in full swing, we would like to recruit parent volunteers to come in and listen to readers across Years 3- 6.

We know that time is precious but if you are able to spare an hour in the afternoon on a regular basis, we would love to hear from you.

As a school, we will arrange for a DBS check to be made.

If you are keen to help, please email the school office to register your interest with your preference of afternoon and we will be back in touch very soon. Many thanks!

### SAVE THE DATE: READING FLUENCY WORKSHOP

3.45- 4.30pm- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Join me (Mrs Barnard) after school for an information workshop about this important next stage of the reading journey, where we will discuss the following questions:

What does reading look like after decoding is mastered?

Why is reading fluency important?

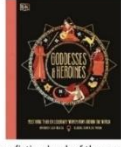

How do we teach reading fluency in school?

How can I help my child with reading fluency at home?

Parents of all year groups welcome



### SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER

 <p>Fiction book of the month</p>	 <p>Non-fiction book of the month</p>	
<p><b>Interest age: 8+</b> <b>Independent reading age: 9+</b> Benji McLaughlin is a visionary. He believes in things that other people think are impossible, like that he and his brother Stanley will be happy in their new home in Scotland, and that the Loch Lochy monster exists, and that his parents will come home safely one day, even though they've been missing for months. Together with his new friend Murdy and Mr Dog, the best dog in the world, Benji sets off to capture evidence of the monster, even if he has to get a little creative. But Benji might end up confronting more monsters than he expects.</p>	<p><b>Interest age: 7+</b> <b>Independent reading age: 8+</b> A beautifully illustrated collection of profiles of more than 80 goddesses and other powerful women retold for children aged 7-9. Delve into a world of key female figures from all over the world in this thrilling compendium of goddesses and heroines. With more than 30 stories about goddesses and powerful women, this is a must-have introduction for young readers interested in female figures from different cultures.</p>	<p><b>Interest age: 9+</b> <b>Independent reading age: 8+</b> Tracie Lee Santos is obsessed with trickster gods, so when the world is plunged into darkness, she knows who can bring back the light. Loki, Maui and the Monkey King join her on the hugest adventure, but can Tricie keep these maverick saviours in line?  Shining a light on epic myths from cultures across the world, Old Gods New Tricks is at once a heart-racing and fascinating read. Full of heart and humour, it has the potential to spark a lifelong interest in folklore and legends. Thiago's distinctive artwork brings these tricky gods to life, creating a truly unique and unforgettable package.</p>
		
<p><b>Interest age: 7+</b> <b>Independent reading age: 7+</b> The flat upstairs from Sav is empty, so who or what is making the strange yowling noises she can hear at night? Could it be a ghost cat?!  Sav and her best friend Liam decide to investigate, but their ghost hunt takes a very strange turn when Liam gets stuck in the stinky bin room of the flat and it's a new feline friend who helps to get him out.</p>	<p><b>Interest age: 8+</b> <b>Independent reading age: 8+</b> A hilarious and action-packed new graphic novel following a feline secret agent who will do whatever it takes to save the world - even if it means destroying a few things along the way. The Super-Secret Spy Service's mission is to keep the world safe from maniacal villains. And Agent 9 is one of its best operatives. Although Nine always manages to complete the mission, there is occasionally some collateral damage (like the priceless Pigasso painting that was destroyed while foiling an art heist). So Agent 9 is now on probation.</p>	<p><b>Interest age: 7+</b> <b>Independent reading age: 8+</b> After rowing out to an island near their seaside home, Tuli and Satchen discover a whale that has been trapped in a fishing net. Determined to try to free the poor creature, they repeatedly dive down into the freezing sea to cut the netting, but eventually, exhausted and with a storm rolling in, they have to admit defeat. As they head for home to seek help, their boat capsizes in the storm and they're left clinging to it, dangerously adrift. Just as they think all is lost, help arrives from an unexpected source ... A thrilling adventure with a powerful message about how we need to protect the oceans at its heart.</p>

We'd love to hear from you if you read any of the above! Write or type a book review and hand in to either Mrs Barnard or the school office

## MONTHLY MUST READS

Each month, we post a selection of 'hot off the press' recommended reads...

These are taken from the 'Reader Teacher'

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/> a fantastic source of reads, reviews and

recommendations at KS1 and KS2. These books are not currently on the 30

Reads list but could be added under the 'your choice' section on the 30

Reads log. These books can also be reserved and borrowed from Nailsea

Library.





# Harvest Festival

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 @ St Andrew's Church

12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 @ WL



## HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK

### DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



### SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

Tins Of Tuna  
Tea  
Hot Chocolate  
Tinned Fruit  
Tinned Custard  
Long Life Juice  
Coffee  
Biscuits  
Shower Gel  
Shampoo

*Don't forget...  
You can help transform  
more lives with a financial  
donation too.*

### DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



[Clevedondistrictfoodbank.org.uk](http://Clevedondistrictfoodbank.org.uk)



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1163153

We will be collecting donations for the Clevedon and Surrounding Areas Foodbank on Wednesday 11th October at BJS and from 2nd October at WL. Items are being collected by the Foodbank during the day of the festivals.

BJS will be attending a Harvest Church Service during the afternoon of 11th October (parents welcome). WL will be holding an assembly in the school hall at 9.15am on the 12<sup>th</sup> October (please note only 1 adult per family due to space restrictions)



## Sensational Strings Music Workshop! 50% off with code: FESTIVAL50

Join the award-winning Preludes education team for a fantastic session of music showcasing the string section of the orchestra – that's violin, viola, cello and double bass!

- Experience 45 minutes of amazing live classical music for string instruments and learn about musicians of the orchestra
- Introduce children to the string family of the orchestra
- A unique chance for children to try out string instruments!
- Fun interactive resources
- Relaxed atmosphere where children can dance, have fun and enjoy the music!

Save the date: Saturday 7th October at St Andrews Church  
Backwell, 10.30am  
For children aged 4 +

Book tickets at [www.somersetfestivalarts.co.uk/2023-festival](http://www.somersetfestivalarts.co.uk/2023-festival)





## Parent Guides to Online Safety



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**



**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

**Skips Educational** Email: info@skips.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



Backwell Tennis Club are delighted to be running four mornings of holiday camps at **Backwell Tennis Club** during the October Half Term. You can book each morning individually or book all four for the price of three.

**Red and Orange Ball Camps aged 4-9 Run Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October- 9-10.30am**

**All Abilities Camps aged 8- 15 run Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 10.30-12noon**

The Camps are always great fun and are led by LTA Level 2 accredited coaches Tommy Simpson and Tom Jackson from the coaching team, come and have fun and learn tennis with our excellent LTA qualified and accredited coaching team.

Use the links below to book on.

Backwell Tennis Club Holiday Camps Aged 4-9: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BackwellTennisClub/Coaching/Camp?courseID=01d3066a-da98-429d-9b99-a70107ba8797>

&

Backwell Tennis Club Holiday Camps Aged 8-15: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BackwellTennisClub/Coaching/Camp?courseID=54fe89c5-82ec-4b7e-9300-ca9c541939dd>

We are also delighted to be able to offer the **\*New LTA Youth Girls course** this Autumn at **Backwell Tennis Club** where children can get **6 weeks coaching and a racket balls and t-shirt** all for **£35**.

**Its a 6 week taster course designed for Girls new to tennis.**

Just hit the link below to take a look at availability and book onto the coming course this Autumn starting **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October**.

### **LTA Youth Girls Sunday 5-6pm Aged 6-13 years**

Backwell Tennis Club: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BackwellTennisClub/BookCourse/1fa5872f-ad00-4795-a120-5972ea84cb86>

*Prime Video LTA Youth Girls INTRO is designed for girls who are new to tennis. The sessions aim to make tennis fun and relaxed so girls can develop their skills in a supportive environment.*

**Come along and join in the fun.....**

**Ben Tilling LTA Level 4 Accredited Plus Coach  
Head Coach & Tennis Manager @ Backwell Tennis Club  
matchpointtennis@live.co.uk  
Follow us on Instagram @ matchpointtennis\_**

