



Backwell Federation Newsletter Term 1

On our website - Links

WL - Letters to Parents

BJS - Letters to Parents

Important Dates



**Our next INSET
days will be on:
Friday 20th
November
2026**

2026-2027 Academic Year

Terms 1 and 2

- Monday 5th October – BJS Year 6 Bikeability All Day
- Tuesday 6th October – BJS Year 6 Bikeability All Day
- Monday 12th October – BJS Year 6 Bikeability All Day
- Tuesday 13th October – West Leigh Harvest service
- Tuesday 13th October – BJS Year 6 Bikeability All Day
- Wednesday 14th October - BJS Harvest service in church 2:15
- Monday 19th October – BJS Year 6 Bikeability All Day
- Tuesday 20th October – BJS Tulip Photography Individual Photo Sessions
- Wednesday 21st October – BJS Year 6 Bikeability All Day
- Thursday 22nd October – West Leigh Halloween Disco
- Friday 23rd October – End of Term 1
- Monday 2nd November – Start of Term 2
- Tuesday 3rd November - Y6 Camp and SATs information evening 6pm
- Friday 6th November – West Leigh Nasal Flu Vaccinations (All Years)
- Tuesday 10th November – West Leigh Parents eve 3:30-6:30
- Wednesday 11th November - BJS Parents eve 4-7
- Thursday 12th November - WL and BJS Parents eve
- Friday 20th November - INSET Day
- Saturday 28th November – West Leigh Christmas Fair (TBC)
- Mon 30th November – Year 4 Church Day
- Friday 4th December - BJS Christmas Fair after school (TBC)
- Wednesday 9th December - EYFS Nativity 9:30
- Thursday 10th December - KS1 Nativity to Y2 Parents - 9:30
- Friday 11th December KS1 Nativity to Y1 Parents - 9:30
- Wednesday 16th December - BJS Carol Service in church 2:15

Cake Sales at BJS

- Johnson - Friday 16th October
- Cleopatra - Friday 13th November

URGENT MESSAGE REGARDING FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Message from Mr Webster

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware there are a number of changes to Free School Meals eligibility from the start of next academic year:

- Eligibility is being expanded for all children and young people who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit.
- Transitional protection is ending at the end of July 2026 (Transactional protection has been in place since April 2018 and meant that pupils becoming eligible for free meals under the benefits-based criteria have retained their entitlement for 6 years, even if their household circumstances have changed).

If your child(ren) already receive(s) free school meals:

As a result of these changes all pupils currently in receipt of free school meals will need to re-check their eligibility over the summer break. Please use this link [Free School Meals Checker - Check Eligibility Online | LGfL FSM](#) to have your child(rens) status for free school meals re-checked (view previous check).

If you have recently applied to North Somerset Council for free school meals from September 2026, then you will now need to reapply (check eligibility) using the link above.

If you want to check if your child may be eligible for free school meals:

Please use this link [Free School Meals Checker - Check Eligibility Online | LGfL FSM](#) to see if you would be eligible for free school meals from September 2026.

Free School Meals provide eligible pupils with a free school lunch during the school day.

Registering for Free School Meals may also bring additional funding into school through pupil premium.

For more information about the changes to free school meals please [visit this webpage](#) on the Lighthouse Schools Partnership website.

Kind regards

Nick Webster

Executive Headteacher

The Federation of West Leigh Infants and Backwell Juniors

01275 463 274 01275 462 632

Celebrating Excellent Outcomes

We are delighted to share our 2025-26 statutory assessment results, which reflect the hard work of our pupils, the dedication of our staff and the fantastic support of our families. Backwell Church of England Junior School achieved outstanding outcomes, with **78% of pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths combined**, compared with **63% nationally**, placing the school in the **top 15% of schools nationally**.

Particularly impressive were results in **Reading and Mathematics**, where **90% of pupils achieved the expected standard**, and in **Science**, where **92% met the expected standard**. A high proportion of pupils also attained the higher standard across subjects, significantly above national averages.

These results are a testament to the commitment, perseverance and ambition of our children. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and thank our whole school community for helping make this success possible.

Mr Nick Webster

Headteacher

Dark Lane will close to through traffic for approximately seven weeks starting 12th October.

Please allow extra time for your journeys and take extra care—especially on the school run. Pedestrian access through Dark Lane will remain fully open as usual, as will Church Lane, so we strongly encourage walking where possible. For vehicles, access connecting the southern part of the village to the A370 will be via Church Lane only, which we know will bring its own challenges. These essential mitigation works—including two new pedestrian tables and traffic calming for the 99-home Charles Church development at Farleigh Fields West—will require temporary parking restrictions on both roads to keep traffic flowing safely. We appreciate this will be a challenging period for everyone, and extra care will still be needed during the two-year build-out of the new site, even after Dark Lane reopens. Thank you in advance for your patience and consideration while these works take place.





Squirrels & Badgers

We are incredibly proud of the fantastic start our new Reception children in Badger and Squirrel classes have made. They have settled into school life beautifully, bringing lots of energy and enthusiasm to their classrooms. It has been a pleasure to welcome them into the school community, and we are so impressed by how quickly they are adapting to their new environment.

Over our first week, we focused on the theme of friendship, sharing stories about kindness and what it means to be a kind friend. It has been great to see the children putting these ideas into practice, showing lots of lovely ways to care for one another and make new friends. We have also begun establishing our daily routines, including phonics and group learning sessions. The children have shown wonderful focus during these activities, and we are absolutely delighted with their progress so far.



Meet Your Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)

Lizzie

Hi, I'm Lizzie (she/her) from the Mental Health Support Team. I'll be working at your school every

Tuesday

Say hello next time you see me!



What is MHST?

The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) is here to help your school to develop ways to look after the mental health of its students, staff, parents and carers.

Our EMHPs do this by supporting your school to understand what you need, providing staff training and offering lessons on well-being. Our EMHPs are also trained to give 1-1 support to students on anxiety, low mood and other struggles with wellbeing.

Our logo is an otter because, like otters, we work as part of a team and we use tools! Some of our favourite tools are self-care, challenging negative thoughts, problem-solving and managing worries. We want to share these tools with you so that you can look after your own wellbeing and build your resilience.

If you would like to know more then chat to me, your Mental Health Lead, or any trusted adult in your school.



Fun Facts about me:

I love cooking and swimming
If I could have any super power
I would fly



Community Children's
Health Partnership



NHS
Avon and Wiltshire
Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust

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.

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 and each day thereafter. In your message please could you give a brief overview of the symptoms rather than just saying "unwell". The reason for this is so that we can identify if there is a certain illness that is circulating and take any steps possible to minimise the spread.



Wrap Around Care – Important Information

Please ensure that Premier Education are contacted directly for any amendments to bookings or collection arrangements, all contact details are detailed here:

Backwell Junior School:

Site Phone: 07707878334 - Active between 7:15 & 8:30am for BSC / Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.

Email - c.clarke@premier-education.com for information regarding updates for the day, or collection passwords if somebody different is collecting.

Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.

West Leigh Infant School:

Site Phone: 07707800019 - Active between 2:30pm & 6pm for ASC. Any queries for day-to-day club changes with collection, or information that may be relevant with regards to children attending or not attending.

Email - info@premier-education.com for any queries around bookings, cancellations, changes to bookings.

OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUBS



YOUR NEAREST HOLIDAY CLUB...

Venue: Backwell Junior School - BS48 3JJ

Dates: Monday 26th - Wednesday 28th October

Times: 9-3:30 (Additional pick-up available online until 5pm)

Price: £25.00

Ages: 5-11 (4 Year olds can attend half days 9:00-13:00)

Additional info:



Looking for something exciting this October half-term? Our multi-activity holiday clubs are packed with fun, energy, and variety for children of all ages!

Each day brings something new – from archery and fencing to dodgeball, cricket, and loads more. With a mix of sports, team games, and seasonal crafts, there's never a dull moment.



Book now for a half-term full of fun!

Download the
Premier app



**Book and change your child's clubs,
manage your account – all in one place!**





Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

Meadowside Breakfast Club spaces available!

Open During Term Time

**From 7.30am
Monday-Thursday
and
8.00am on a Friday**

**Come and join us for a healthy breakfast, followed
by fun activities before you start your day!**

**New Programme
of activities
launching in
October!**

**Contact us now to
find out more:**



07933711909



meadowside@ymca-dg.org

Shine October Half Term Holiday Clubs in Backwell

Join the Holiday Fun in Backwell this Half Term! Book by Sunday 11th October to receive 15% off using the code: Early Booker.

We have loved seeing so many children come along to Shine Holiday Clubs over the summer and look forward to welcoming more of you.

For children at any school from Reception - Year 6, days run from 09:00-15:30 with (early and late hours) available if you need them.

There are different activities such as Creepy Creative, Cursed Cookery, Descendants Dance, Football Fun Days and Mini & Mega Monster Mash - there really is a day your child will love.

Shine are Ofsted Registered so you can pay via Childcare Vouchers and the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme.

Click [here](#) Shine Holiday Clubs | Sports and creative activities to see what's on and use the code Early Booker to get 15% off.

See you at Shine!



**HAUNTED
HOLIDAY
CLUBS**

15% OFF
With the code
Early Booker

- ☑ Cursed Cookery
- ☑ Creepy Creative
- ☑ Football Fundays
- ☑ Descendants Dance
- ☑ Mini & Mega Monster Mash-Ups

Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS
MyShine.co.uk

*Conditions apply. Expiry 11/10/26

BACKWELL SCHOOL

A person in a white ghost costume with two black eye holes is holding a glowing jack-o'-lantern. The jack-o'-lantern has a carved face and is emitting a bright light. The background is dark with some colorful stars.