

Upcoming events & celebrations

Term 4 starts: February 19, 2024

Monday February 19 is the first day of term for all students.

International Women's Day: 8 March

Classes will look at inspirational women and their achievements as we continue to work towards equality and inclusivity.

Red Nose Day (Comic Relief): 15 March

March

Students are encouraged to dress up and enjoy activities in class to raise awareness of the efforts of this incredible charity. Our Sixth Form bakers will be having a cake sale on our Juniors Site (Briar Way), so please come and support their hard work.

World Book Day: 17 March

An opportunity for students to come in dressed as their favourite book character!

British Science Week: 11– 15 March

A national celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths. Classes will enjoy plenty of fun activities.

World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March

March

A global awareness day promoting equality and understanding. Students will explore the importance of this within society.

Family Link Events

Briarwood are excited to welcome a local charity in to offer a free, 6-week 'Mindfulness for Parents' course, supported by our Family Link team. Please see attached flyer for additional information.

- Mindfulness for Parents (all parents welcome): every Wednesday from 21 February – 27 March, 9:15 – 11:15am, Juniors site.

Please look out for additional dates that will be shared during the term.

Term 4 ends: 27 March

This is the final day of term for all students. Thursday March 28 is a staff INSET day, meaning school will be closed.

Term Dates

Term 1

Friday September 1 – Friday October 20, 2023

Term 2

Monday October 30 – Friday December 15, 2023

Term 3

Tuesday January 2 – Friday February 9, 2024

Term 4

Monday February 19 – Thursday March 28, 2024

Term 5

Monday April 15 – Friday May 24, 2024

Term 6

Monday June 3 – Tuesday July 23, 2023

Inset Days

Term 1

Friday September 1, 2023
Monday September 4, 2023

Term 2

Tuesday January 2, 2024

Term 4

Thursday March 28, 2024

Term 5

Friday May 3, 2024

Term 6

Tuesday July 23, 2024

Headteacher's Reflections

We are now at the end of Term 3 and halfway through the academic year – it has flown by! As we reflect on this term I want to extend my gratitude for your continued support and understanding, particularly during a season marked by colds and illnesses. Despite our best efforts to maintain a healthy environment, the winter months often bring about increased absences due to sickness. However, as we transition into the vibrant days of spring, I am hopeful for brighter days ahead! With warmer weather on the horizon, we anticipate a decrease in illness-related absences for both pupils and staff. Let us look forward to a rejuvenating Spring term filled with opportunities for learning, growth and wellbeing. Thank you for your resilience and cooperation as we navigate these challenges together.

Nicolle

Things to note

We now have a new uniform provider – Gooddies. Parents will need to set up an account to place an order.

<https://www.gooddies.co.uk/product-category/schools/briarwood-school/>

Please can all parents familiarise themselves with the attached letter from Bristol City Council regarding the rise in measles cases in Bristol. It will help families understand what symptoms to look out for and what to do if you have any concerns about your child/young person.

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium funding

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals they will get a free, healthy lunch provided in school each day. You may also be eligible for support via the Bristol City Council voucher scheme during school holidays. If your child has a packed lunch or is fed via a tube or other means, it is still important that you apply as the school receives additional funding for these pupils. Pupil Premium funding is around £1,455 per primary school child and around £1,035 per secondary school child.

This money makes a big difference to our school and the eligible pupils. We report on how we spend this money, which can be found on our website. To get an instant decision about eligibility, please visit: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>

Attendance snippets

Thank you to all parents and students who have worked hard to improve their attendance in school. We know that good attendance supports pupils with their academic achievement, helps to foster positive emotional wellbeing and ensures access to additional therapies such as physiotherapy or speech and language support.

However, we have noticed an increase in pupils arriving late to school. Please can you ensure that your child or young person arrives at school by 9:00am each day. If you would like support or advice with this, or help with completing a home to school transport application, please reach out to our Family Link team: familylink.briarwood@bristol-schools.uk

100%	0 days Missed
95%	9 days of Absence. 1 week and 4 days of learning missed
90%	19 days of Absence. 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed
85%	28 days of Absence. 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed
80%	38 days of Absence. 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed
75%	46 days of Absence. 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed

Duke of Edinburgh

Over the past year, students in our Sixth Form have worked hard to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They did so by successfully completing each of the required sections including volunteering at Elm Tree Farm, developing their physical wellbeing at Bristol Brunel Gym and improving their social and communication skills by setting up their own Boardgames Club. The challenge concluded with their expedition, which took place at Ashton Court. Students worked in teams to navigate themselves around the park, taking photographs of various landmarks along the way. When they returned to school, they were tasked with cooking their own dinner and setting up their camp beds in preparation for the overnight stay. Many had not spent a night away from home before!

They finished the expedition with a newfound confidence in their own abilities and many now feel that they can overcome any challenges that the future may hold.

After the incredible success of the Bronze Award, our students are now working towards their Silver. This summer, they are hoping to complete the expedition portion of the award at Calvert Trust Outdoor Adventure Centre in Exmoor, Devon. They are working hard to raise £1,000 to help fund it. Children have been selling second hand CDs and DVDs and are taking part in an exciting Bristol to Paris bike challenge which will see them cycling 575km on a classroom exercise bike.



If you would like to support this incredibly worthy cause, please do donate using the link below. The students (and the incredible staff team supporting this endeavour) will be incredibly grateful to be a step closer to their goal.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Briarwood>

News & achievements

Infants

At Briarwood Infants this term the children have been enjoying our 'Hot & Cold' topic.

They have been making food and drink with contrasting temperatures, including ice cream and hot chocolates!

Children's Kitchen came back and the classes had an opportunity to make their own soup using local produce.



They made enough to take home to share with their families – the reviews were that it was 'delicious'!

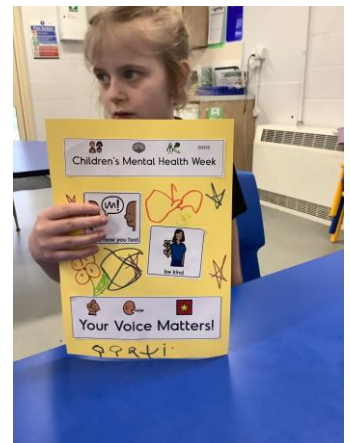


We have also been focusing this term on diversity, equality and inclusion by exploring and celebrating our pupils' cultures. Thank you to everyone for their hard work this

term! We hope you all enjoy a well earned rest and come back ready for a busy Term 4!

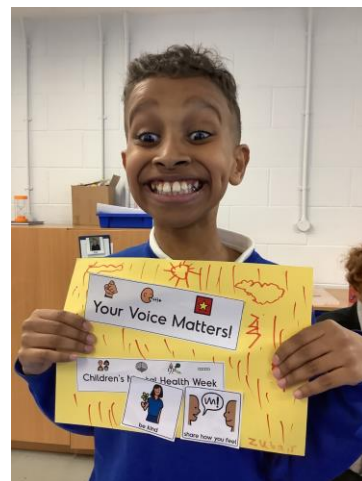
Juniors

We have had a wet and windy start to the year on Juniors! As well as our usual focus on Phonics, English and Maths we have also been learning about 'Under the Sea' in our afternoon topic work. The children have also enjoyed a number of theme weeks and days too. The students enjoyed Story Telling



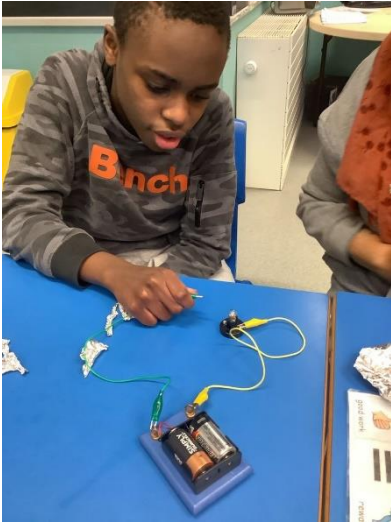
Week where we explored some of our favourite books - some of us even came up with stories of our own! We also took part in Children's Mental Health Week this term. Everyone learned about their emotions and how

it's okay to feel different things. Classes also talked about how, if our emotions become difficult to manage, we can share them with someone who can help. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after half term for a drier and less windy (hopefully) Term 4!



Secondary and Nexus

Wow – we are halfway through the year already! Time really does go quickly when you’re having fun. This term the Secondary students have had the pleasure of



Bristol Bears visiting to do some dance sessions with them. It really has been wonderful watching the enjoyment and engagement students have had with this opportunity. Check out SeeSaw for the videos! The students have also been learning about life skills including

health and unhealthy foods, cleaning up after themselves and keeping themselves safe when out in the community. We finished the term with a lovely Arts & Crafts afternoon, where families came together in the classrooms to make some animations and salt dough decorations. The students loved the opportunity to share some of the activities we do in class. We are

really hoping to do this again soon. Thank you to all those who were able to join us. We hope you have a



restful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming you back for another exciting term.