

Upcoming events & celebrations

Term 6 starts: Monday June 3

Monday June 3 is the first day of term for all students.

Pride Month: June, 2024

Classes will celebrate Pride month with a variety of activities and events across the school promoting inclusivity and equality.

Sports Day (Secondary): June 20

An exciting opportunity for our students to engage in a variety of sporting events alongside their peers.

Calvert Trust Residential trip: June 24 - 28

Residential trip for our Duke of Edinburgh students.

National Sports Week: July 1 - 5

Students will enjoy this week-long celebration of sports, encouraging young people to try new activities and improve their wellbeing through exercise!

Sports Day (Juniors & Sixth Form): July 5

Bristol Bears will be supporting our staff to run a variety of sporting events for all students.

Sixth Form Transitions Fayre: July 6

Come join us for tea and biscuits while exploring the opportunities available to our young people when they transition into life after Briarwood.

Sixth Form Prom: 18 July

All our Sixth Form students, those who will be transitioning up from Secondary next year and their families are welcome to attend the Sixth Form Prom. This is a really special event for all our students and the staff team. Please look out for further details.

Family Link Events

- Communication Coffee morning (all parents welcome): Wednesday June 12, 9:00am, Juniors site.

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

Term 6 ends: Monday July 22

This is the final day of term for all students. Tuesday July 23 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, 2024

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

As we approach the end of another busy term, I'd like to thank all our families for their continued support. The whole community has come together following the break in at our Secondary site and the investigation is ongoing. The brighter weather has certainly put a spring in everyone's step; all our pupils are enjoying spending more time outdoors. We were pleased the rain held and our Music Festival went ahead so successfully! It is a fantastic event, bringing students from all our sites together. Thank you to those families who came to support the students. We hope you all have a well-deserved break over the half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final term of the year!

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

Our incredible staff and students have continued with their preparations for next term's residential trip to the Calvert Trust. Students have undertaken a few practice expeditions at local parks and started looking ahead to the exciting activities they will be enjoying across the course of the week. They have raised £707 of their £1,000 goal, which is an incredible achievement! Students have cycled over 400KM of their 575KM target; they will be tackling the final kilometres across Term 6.

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 grateful to be a step closer to their goal. We look forward to sharing the success of the expedition with you!

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

News & achievements

Infants

Our topics this term at Infants have been all about growing! The students have been busy exploring our topic book 'Goodnight Veggies'. It inspired staff and students alike to immerse themselves in various planting and growing activities. Children's Kitchen has supported this by building two new planters in our outside area, where the children have helped to plant a range of berries and vegetables!



Earth Week saw the children learning all about taking care of our planet. They made a range of different collages and artwork using recycled materials. At the end of the term, our whole department had lots of fun participating in the annual Briarwood Music Festival. It was wonderful to have the support of so many families who came to enjoy the performances – what a magical day!

Some of our children have had the opportunity to visit Briarwood Juniors, to have a look around and explore what's on offer when they move up in September. Further transition information will be shared with families next term, though if you've any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

We can't wait to see you in Term 6!

Juniors

This term on Juniors we have been working hard preparing to celebrate all things Disney at this year's Music Festival! It was a fantastic day – we are so pleased that everyone's hard work could be shared with our families! We have all been enjoying the better weather, taking the opportunity to spend more time outdoors. Bristol Bears have been coming in each week to help improve everyone's tennis skills.

Next term we will be focusing on transitions; we have a number of students moving up to Secondary and a few moving between classes on Juniors. All the information will be shared with families in the first weeks of term. Our staff have worked incredibly hard to create full transition plans for students and will be supporting throughout the process. Have a wonderful break! We look forward to seeing all our students back for a busy last term of the year.



Secondary & Nexus

What a fun filled term it has been for all those in Secondary and Nexus! We are extremely proud of everyone's achievements at the Music Festival. It is always one of the highlights of the year and all our students



thoroughly enjoyed the day, whether they were performing or simply listening to and appreciating the other acts.



In addition to the Music Festival, we have had students writing their own stories and reading them to others. They have also enjoyed a variety of activities and excursions focusing on life skills. We hope that you have a restful half term and look forward to welcoming the students back in Term

6!

Sixth Form

This term our Sixth Formers had a visit from Local Councillors Kevin Blake and Ellie King. Last year, as part of a Community Action topic, some of our students wrote letters petitioning for a zebra crossing to be installed outside the school. In response to these, Ellie and Kevin came to meet with the students and took part in a workshop around road safety, highlighting how beneficial a crossing would be. We are extremely proud of our students and their enthusiasm for this project. We look forward to seeing what comes next!

Our Woodland students have started their work experience with the charity United Response at the Potters Den community allotments. They have been learning plenty of new skills and establishing friendships. Our Acorn students have been using their voices to say how they would like to spend their leisure time. They have been making their own choices and taking part in activities that interest them.

A number of our Sixth Form students took part in 'Project Rugby' this term which involved an exciting trip to Ashton Gate Stadium! They all thoroughly enjoyed playing matches against the other schools and spending time in the stadium! We are hoping to widen participation in these events next year to include more of our Secondary students.

We also took a group of our students BMX-ing at Hillfields Park. Everyone had a fantastic time.



Enjoy the half term break; we look forward to welcoming all our students back for the final term of the year!