

Upcoming events & celebrations

Term 2 starts: 30 October

Monday 30 October is the first day of term for all students.

Remembrance Day: 10 November

A chance for students to mark Remembrance Day within school and learn about its history.

Anti-bullying Week: 13 – 17 November

Students will come together to learn what bullying is and how to stop it happening in school.

Odd Socks Day: 13 November

Everyone is encouraged to wear odd socks to school to support and celebrate difference within our community.

Children In Need: 17 November

A variety of classroom activities to support a wonderful charity.

Parents' Week: 29 November – 1 December

An opportunity for parents/carers to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. Further details will be shared with families next term.

Infants Christmas Production: 11 December

Infants parents are welcome to attend their Christmas Production at our Barton Hill site.

Primary Christmas Production: 12 December

Juniors will be sharing their Christmas film with families.

Secondary & Nexus Christmas Fayre: 14 December

Families of our Secondary & Nexus students are welcome to attend the annual Christmas Fayre.

Family Coffee Mornings

Come in for a coffee and a chat! Our Family Link Workers will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

- Coffee Morning (all parents welcome): 15 November - 9:30am, Juniors site.

- Mindful Parenting – taster sessions (all parents welcome): 13 December - 9:30am, Juniors site.

Term 2 ends: 15 December

Final day of term; school closes to all students.

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

Headteachers Reflections

Welcome back to all our families! We have had a fantastic start to Term 1 and are so proud of how all pupils have settled back into school life. This term has been busy, with many exciting opportunities for the students. Everyone has enjoyed getting to know new friends and taking part in events such as Harvest Festival celebrations. Next term we have a number of events for parents, including meetings with teachers, Coffee Mornings and Christmas celebrations. Please look for details of these in the new term; it will be a pleasure to welcome you to our school!

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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/>

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

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

We know that good attendance at school really does have an impact on pupil progress. If you are struggling to get your child or young person to school, please do contact your Head of School – we can help!

News & achievements

Infants

It's been a busy term at Infants! We have been enjoying our 'Exploring' topic this term, helping our new children gain confidence in their new environment and our returning children enjoy their new classrooms and teaching teams. We are so proud of how all the children have settled and how they are bonding with the adults in their new classes.



Briarwood Infants also achieved The Bristol Standard Award for 2023-24, which is a great success for staff and students alike. The Bristol Standard is recognised nationally and internationally as an outstanding framework to support a journey of continuous improvement – a reflection of the great work happening on our Infants site!



We are also embarking on a project with Children's Kitchen over the coming terms, where we will be

exploring and cooking healthy foods and starting a growing project. Watch this space!

Juniors

We have had a busy start to the year on Juniors! We have welcomed a number of new children who have moved up from Briarwood Infants, as well as those who have joined us from a number of local schools. All the students have been busy getting to know each other, learning about their classes and settling well into their new routines.

This term, we elected our School Council and will be holding our first meeting next term to decide which Christmas play Juniors will be performing this year.



In assembly we have been learning about Autumn, Black History Month and Astronomy. Our students also enjoyed a Harvest sensory experience. Many of our classes have also been learning about the story of the BFG by Roald Dahl during their

Literacy lessons. Some have even been making their own dream jars.

Secondary and Nexus

It has been a busy start to the year at Secondary & Nexus. In celebration of Roald Dahl Day in September, we have all been enjoying reading stories by the author, including 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory'.

Some classes even made their own Golden Tickets!

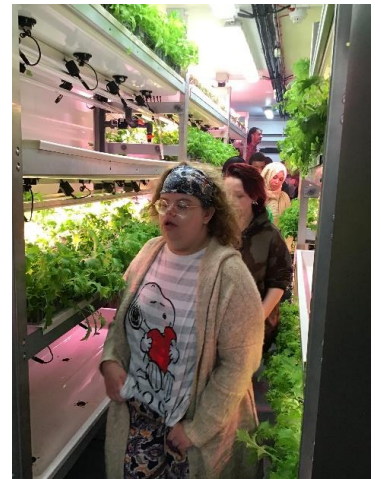


A number of students attended the Bristol Bears

Inclusive Rugby Festival last week; everyone got involved in a variety of activities and had a wonderful time. They even got to see the Premiership Rugby Cup!

Our Key Stage 4 cohort have been learning about the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) in careers this term. They took part in a series of physics labs with The Lightyear Foundation and went to visit Lettugrow.

Students learned how specialized farming equipment is allowing plants to be grown in vertical farms with no soil! It was inspiration to share with students the positive impacts of science on our world and climate!



The students at our Nexus Centre have settled back into school wonderfully! We are so proud of the independent communication everyone is showing. All our students now know how to ask for help and for a break appropriately, using PECS, Makaton, their voice or an AAC device.

We have practiced transitioning both in school and whilst out accessing the community, with particular focus on 'stop' and 'go' in different practical contexts such as crossing the road.

We have read all about Matilda this term, inspired by Roald Dahl day in September. She is a young girl who moves to a new school and learns that being different is okay! Well done to all our wonderful Nexus students, we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved this term.

We hope you all have a restful half term and look forward to welcoming students back for the start of Term 2!

Sixth Form

We have welcomed some new members of Sixth Form this term, all of whom have settled in really well. They have been getting used to new staff, surroundings and moving from class to class for learning. Our new Student Council met this term and have been wearing their badges with pride! They have reflected on lunchtime clubs and gave new ideas for fund raising and enrichment.

The Forest Catering Company have produced food for a number of the training events that have been on offer at the school this term, including for visiting staff from other local schools! They also helped raise £220 for Macmillan Cancer Research during our Coffee Morning last month. A big thank you to all those who came along to support their hard work for a wonderful charity.

The whole department got involved in designing and making three murals this term, themed with our school values of 'Enjoy, Engage, Learn'. These will soon be on display outside Juniors.



A group of students got involved in a rugby tournament this term alongside our friends at Bristol Bears. Schools including Warmley Park and Kingsweston School all took part and a great day was had by all. We have finished off the term with a Halloween party, planned by our students.

We wish you all a lovely and relaxing half term break and look forward to welcoming students back at the start of Term 2!