



Welcome Back

Starting the New Year Ready to Learn

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful festive break. It has been fantastic to see the children return to school refreshed, enthusiastic, and eager to learn.

A special welcome to our new learners in Nursery, they have settled in incredibly well, and it was lovely to meet them all.

This week, the children began their new phonics groups, showing great excitement and curiosity, especially as we celebrate the National Year of Reading. We can't wait to see their love of books grow even more throughout the school year.



In the whole school assembly, Mr Reeves led an important session on bullying, exploring what bullying is (and isn't) and how to deal with it. The children engaged thoughtfully and shared some excellent ideas about kindness and respect.

Meanwhile, Year 4 have been working hard on their times tables, and we have launched an exciting Times Table Battle



between all KS2 classes. The competition is already sparking lots of enthusiasm and determination. A really positive start to the Spring term.

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KEEP READING!

2026: The National Year of Reading –

Batchley will be taking part in a range of activities to celebrate and promote the joy of reading. Reading is one of the most powerful tools for learning and personal growth. It helps children develop imagination, expand vocabulary, improve concentration, and build empathy. Just **10 minutes of reading every day** can make a huge difference to a child's confidence and success in school and beyond.

Proud to support
The National Year
of Reading 2026.



Wonderful News and Warm Wishes

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs Bennett back to school after the birth of her baby boy. It is lovely to have her with us again, and we know the children will make her feel incredibly welcome as she returns to her role.

At the same time, we send our very best wishes to Miss Stokes, who welcomed a baby boy in December and is now beginning her maternity leave. We hope she enjoys this special time with her family.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

A reminder that the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Meeting will take place in school on **Monday 12th January at 2:30pm.**

This is an important milestone in your child's reading journey, and we appreciate your support in helping them feel confident and prepared.

Thank you for working with us to make reading a daily habit, it really makes a difference.



Key Dates

- Monday 12th January 2026- Year 1 Meeting @ 2:30pm
- Tuesday 13th January 2026 – Florence Nightingale Day
- 21st – 23rd January 2026- Year 4 Residential
- Tuesday 10th February 2026- Safer Internet Day
- Tuesday 12th February 2026 – School closes for half-term

The holiday dates for 2025-2026 are on the school website.

[Term Dates – Batchley First School](#)



Fit4Sport

Morning and Sports Clubs

Fit4Sport offer morning provision and after school clubs for our children.

Contact Mr Morris if you require a place on 07557946721 or email info@fit4sport.org.in
Sports Clubs <https://fit4sport.class4kids.co.uk/>

Attendance

Arriving on Time Makes a Big Difference

Being on time means children can start the day calmly, join in morning routines, and feel ready to learn. When children arrive late, they miss important learning and it can make settling harder. Thank you to everyone who helps their child arrive promptly each day as every minute counts. Let us work together to make sure all children start the day on time and ready to shine.

Every Day Counts – Supporting Strong Attendance Together

Please help us by:

Prioritising school attendance and avoiding unnecessary absences.

Talking to us early if your child is struggling to attend – we are here to help.

Celebrating your child's efforts to be in school every day. **Together, we can make sure every child gets the most out of their education and builds strong foundations for the future.**

If your child has an illness and is unwell, please contact the school office to report this to us before 9am.

0152762926 office@batchley.worcs.sch.uk

Reception and Middle School Applications 2026

Please don't forget to apply for your child's place at middle school. You must do this online by **15th January 2026**. Use this link to register www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Understanding Bullying: The BOO Approach

At Batchley, we use the **BOO acronym** to help children understand what bullying really means:

B – Being Mean

O – On Purpose

O – Over and Over

This simple framework helps children tell the difference between a one-off disagreement and true bullying, which is **intentional and repeated**. We encourage families to support this approach by:

Talking about BOO at home – Help your child understand that not all meanness is bullying.

Promoting empathy and kindness – Discuss how words and actions affect others.

Encouraging reporting – If your child sees BOO behaviour, remind them to tell a trusted adult. We have systems in school, like worry boxes and designated staff, to make this easier.

Parent Tips: How You Can Help

Listen First – If your child shares a concern, give them time to explain without judgment.

Use BOO Language – Ask: "Was it on purpose? Has it happened more than once?" This helps clarify the situation.

Model Kindness – Children learn from what they see. Show empathy and respectful communication at home.

Stay Connected with School – If you are unsure whether something is bullying, contact us. We are here to help.

Together, we can create a supportive environment where every child feels valued and safe.

Golden Table



FSD- Denis
FSC- Fatima
Year 1B- Declan
Year 1M- Ronnie
Year 2J - Lucas
Year 2L- Alfie H
Year 3B- Willow
Year 4CF- Fatima
Year 4H- Ayesha



Well done to the children who have been recognised for their good manners, politeness and ability to demonstrate the school rules. I am so looking forward to eating with the children at the golden table on

Monday 12th January 2026

PINS Meeting at Batchley

Anxiety, Mental Health & SEND

Thursday 22nd January 2026

1:45pm

Everyone is welcome.

Mrs Hall will send a booking link on Monday.



Parking

Please **do not park across the driveways of homes near the school**. Blocking access causes significant anxiety for residents who may need to leave quickly in an emergency or access their property at any time.

Thank you for your co-operation.

At Batchley we are all VIPS – valued, inspired, Prepared, Safe