

SEVERNE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2026



Headteacher's message

As we reach the end of our first half term together, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a very busy, productive and exciting start to the school year.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your support. Whether attending workshops, parents' evenings, school events or simply supporting your child's learning at home, your partnership plays a vital role in helping our children thrive.

Throughout this half term, I have had the privilege of celebrating the many successes of our pupils. From excellent attendance and improved times table fluency to fantastic writing across the school, our children continue to demonstrate the resilience, determination and positive attitudes that make Severne such a special place. I have been particularly impressed by the quality of writing across all year groups, where children have shown increasing confidence, creativity and pride in their work.

We have also celebrated children who embody our school values through our weekly Values Seeker Awards. Whether through hard work, contributions to the School Council, kindness, responsibility or perseverance, these children have been wonderful role models for others.

There has also been significant progress behind the scenes. We are delighted to have appointed Mrs Delves as our permanent Deputy Headteacher, who will join us in January. We have continued to strengthen our leadership team and have exciting plans in place to further improve teaching, learning and opportunities for all pupils. Our Early Years provision is entering an exciting period of development. Working alongside Early Excellence, we are continuing to enhance both our environment and curriculum offer for our youngest children. Alongside this, we have expanded our Nursery provision to offer increased flexibility for families and have welcomed many visitors to our recent open events.

Attendance has remained a key focus throughout the half term, and I would like to thank families for supporting us in ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time. Every day in school matters and makes a significant difference to children's learning and wellbeing.

As a new Headteacher, I recognise that there is still more work to do, particularly around communication and parental engagement. While we have made some positive steps, I know that families want regular updates, clearer communication and more opportunities to engage with school life. This remains a priority for me moving forward.

To support this, I am pleased to share that we will soon be launching Class Dojo across the school. This will provide a more effective way to share learning, celebrate achievements, communicate key information and strengthen the partnership between home and school. Further details will follow after half term.

Looking ahead, we are also continuing plans for our new Breakfast Club and further opportunities for children and families to engage with school life.

Thank you once again for your support, encouragement and patience during what has been a busy and exciting first half term. Whilst there is still much to do, I am incredibly optimistic about the future and the journey we are on together.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another successful half term.

S. Mitchell

Mrs S. Mitchell
Headteacher

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www.severne.bham.sch.uk

 facebook.com/SevernePrimary



x.com/SevernePrimary

Meet Haleemah – Your Malachi Family Support Worker

Hi everyone!

I'm Haleemah, your Malachi Family Support Worker here at Severne Primary School. I've been lucky enough to be part of the Severne family for the past four years, getting to know and support so many lovely families along the way!

My role is to be a friendly face and a listening ear whenever you need a little extra support. Whether it's parenting, managing behaviour, school attendance, family relationships, or things happening at home, I'm here to help. I can also offer advice and help you access other services if needed.

We all face challenges from time to time, and sometimes just having someone to talk to can make a big difference. My aim is to make sure every family feels listened to, supported, and never judged.

You can find me at Severne every Tuesday and Friday! If you'd like to find out more or feel you could benefit from some extra support, please speak to Miss Long, who will be more than happy to put you in touch with me.

I look forward to continuing to support our wonderful Severne families



Parenting support

At Severne we know that parenting can be both rewarding and challenging, and you don't have to navigate it alone. Our pastoral team is always here to offer guidance, a listening ear and practical support whenever you need it.

Whether you're looking for advice, help with routines, or someone to talk things through, please reach out. We're here to work together to ensure every child and family feels supported.

For local Parenting and Family support near you, please visit:

- [Birmingham Family Hubs | Welcome to Family Hubs | Birmingham City Council](#)
- [Home - Home-Start Birmingham](#)
- [Birmingham Children's Trust Homepage](#)

Have you downloaded and activated the **MyChildAtSchool?**

Respect ● Succeed ● Celebrate

Attendance Matters

Good attendance is vital to every child's learning, progress and wellbeing, and we are grateful to all families who support this daily.

Recently, we have noticed a pattern of increased absences on Mondays and Fridays, which can quickly add up and significantly affect pupils learning.

Birmingham City Council's attendance guidance highlights that regular absence has a direct negative impact on attainment, with pupils who miss more school achieving lower outcomes compared to their peers who attend consistently. We kindly ask parents and carers to help ensure children attend every day so they can benefit fully from all learning opportunities and remain on track in every aspect of their development.



Attendance (Academic Year)	Equals this many days absent	Equals this many weeks absent (approx.)	Equals this many lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	60 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	120 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	180 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	240 lessons
70%	57 days	12 weeks	360 lessons

Power Up Your Packed Lunch

Let's help our children feel their best throughout the school day!

A balanced packed lunch with fruit or vegetables, a filling main item, a healthy snack and a drink can provide the energy children need for learning and play.

Small healthy choices can make a big difference, and we really appreciate families working with us to encourage positive eating habits.

A little reminder: Please ensure that any grapes sent into school are cut lengthways into quarters to help reduce the risk of choking and keep our children safe.



Safeguarding

For school holiday support in Birmingham, parents can contact:

Children's Advice Support Service:

Provides support and advice regarding children's welfare. They are available during the week and also have an emergency out-of-hours service.

- Monday to Thursday: 8:45 am to 5:15 pm
- Friday: 8:45 am to 4:15 pm
- Emergency out-of-hours: 0121 675 4806

NSPCC:

Offers a helpline for child protection and welfare concerns.

- 0808 800 5000

Domestic Violence Support:

Birmingham City Council provides support for domestic violence situations.

- 0121 303 0368 or 0121 303 0369

Gateway Family Services:

Offers early help services.

- 0121 456 7821
- email: earlyhelpedgbaston@gatewayfs.org

Parking reminder

As a school community, we all share a responsibility to keep our children safe and to show consideration for our neighbours.

Please remember **not** to park, stop, or wait outside the school gates or on the yellow "School Keep Clear" zigzag markings at the start and end of the school day. These markings are designed to improve visibility and safety for children crossing the road and should be kept clear at all times.



We also kindly ask that parents and carers respect our local residents by avoiding parking across driveways, dropped kerbs or access points. Blocking access can cause considerable inconvenience and safety concerns for those who live nearby.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our school community safe, respectful and welcoming for everyone.

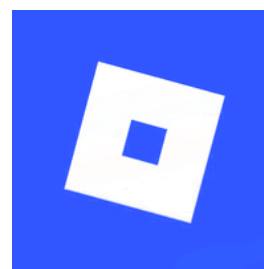
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Minecraft & Roblox

It has come to our attention that more of our younger pupils are playing or accessing **Minecraft** and **Roblox**. Though these can be a fun and creative experience. If you do allow your child/ren to play these games, we encourage that you to take a few moments to explore the **parental controls** available to help keep their gaming experience safe and positive.

Click on the logos below to view some guidance on setting up parental controls:



AI (Artificial Intelligence)

AI technology is becoming more common and unfortunately, some criminals are also using this technology to create or alter images and videos that look very real. Whilst there are many positive uses for AI, it also means photos and videos that are shared online could be copied or misused.

We encourage parents and carers to think carefully before posting images of children online. Especially those showing the child face on, their school uniforms, locations or personal information. It is also strongly worth considering disabling geotagging on photos and videos. As this can reveal where the photo or video was taken.

Checking your privacy settings and sharing with only trusted family and friends can help keep children safe.

Together, we can help our children enjoy the digital world confidently and securely.



Useful websites

- **Childnet** - practical advice, toolkit and resources to help keep children safe online.
- **Common Sense Media** - provides age-based ratings, reviews and guidance for movies, TV shows, video games, apps, books and podcasts.
- **Internet Matters** - step-by-step guides for setting up parental controls.
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** - guidance on apps, phone, games consoles, smart TVs, social media platforms, parental controls and conversation starters.



MyChildAtSchool

At Severne Primary School, we use the **MyChildAtSchool (MCAS)** app and encourage parents/carers to activate their account as soon as possible.

What can you do with the app?

- Book your **Parents' Evening** appointment
- **Consent** for **clubs** and **trips**
- **Consent** the use of your child/ren's **photo**
- Make **payments** for **dinners** and **trips**
- **Receive messages** from school
- Update your **contact details**
- View your child/ren's **attendance**



PLEASE NOTE - a valid email address is needed to be registered with the school office. Once this is done, we will send you an invite to the MyChildAtSchool app.

Have you downloaded and activated the **MyChildAtSchool** app?

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Our School Breakfast Club

A great start to the day!



Nutritious
breakfast



A calm and
welcoming space



Helps with
concentration
and readiness
to learn



A great
opportunity to
socialise and
make friends

We are in the final stages
of setting up our Breakfast Club.

Information will be shared with
parents/carers in due course.



We look
forward to
welcoming
your child
soon!



ClassDojo is coming soon!

We're excited to be introducing ClassDojo to our school community very soon!



The benefits



Helps us work together with parents and carers



Keeps you informed about your child's learning and progress



Makes communication simple and quick

We can't wait to get started!



ClassDojo

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What time does school start?

School starts at 8:30am.

Parents/carers should arrive at school at 8:25am so that once the doors are open at **8:30am**, children can make their way into their classroom, enjoy the breakfast snack that is being offered and prepare themselves for the day ahead.

This is a really important part of the school day and allows children to settle, join their class friends and make the most of every moment.

Being late results in children having to enter a classroom when every one else has settled in and started their learning. Which can often cause distress and worry.

PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD BY GETTING THEM TO SCHOOL ON TIME AT 8:30AM EVERY DAY.

Reporting Absence

If a child is unwell and unable to attend school, it is the responsibility of parents /carers to inform the school **before 8:30am**.

Please call the school office on **0121 706 2743** or email **enquiry@severne.bham.sch.uk** with your child's name, class and reason for absence.

Early communication ensures accurate attendance records and helps staff account for all students' safety and wellbeing.

REMINDERS

- Clocks go **back 1 hour** on **Sunday 25th October**
- Do you have a child/ren on our **year 6**? If yes, the Secondary School application closing date is **Saturday 31st October**

Applications must be made through the Birmingham City Council's admissions website:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions



Please follow us on **Facebook** and **X**



www.severne.bham.sch.uk



facebook.com/SevernePrimary



x.com/SevernePrimary



Dates for the diary



Sunday 25th October	Clocks go back 1 hour	
Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October	Half-term	School CLOSED for ALL pupils
Monday 2nd November	Teacher Training Day	School CLOSED for ALL pupils
Tuesday 3rd November	School REOPENS for ALL pupils	
Wednesday 4th November (2pm to 3pm)	Reception Bug Club Inspire Workshop for Parents/Carers	
Monday 9th November	Nature Walk - Nursery & Reception (The class teacher will confirm which day your child will be going on the walk.)	
Tuesday 10th November	Nature Walk - Nursery & Reception (The class teacher will confirm which day your child will be going on the walk.) Year 2 trip to Aston Hall	
Wednesday 11th November	Nature Walk - Nursery & Reception (The class teacher will confirm which day your child will be going on the walk.)	
Friday 13th November	Non-uniform Day/Children in Need	
Monday 16th November	Odd Sock Day	
Tuesday 17th November	Flu vaccinations	
Friday 20th November	Non-uniform Day	
Tuesday 24th November	Year 6 trip to Coventry Cathedral	
Thursday 26th November	Year 1 trip to Sudbury Hall	
Friday 27th November	Non-uniform Day	
Tuesday 8th December	KS1 Nativity	
Wednesday 9th December	EYFS Nativity & Christmas Fayre	
Monday 21st December to Friday 1st January 2027	Christmas Holidays	School CLOSED for ALL pupils
Monday 4th January 2027	School REOPENS for ALL pupils	

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