

Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026



Tel: 01274 639049

Www.swainhouse.co.uk

Email: office@swainhouse.bradford.sch.uk

ASPIRE

BELIEVE

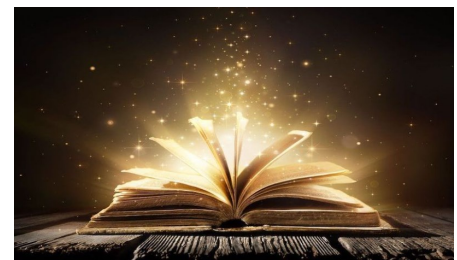
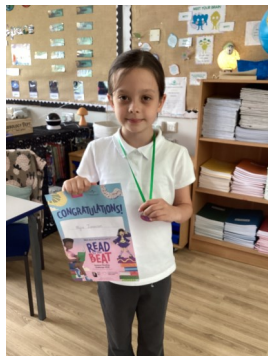
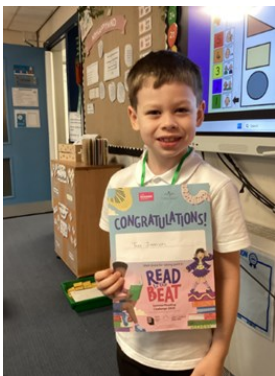
PERSEVERE

ACHIEVE

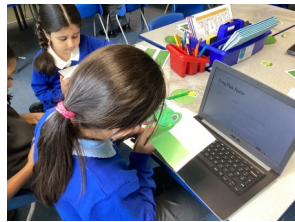
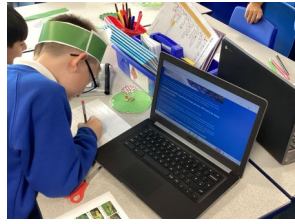
Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to all the children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge and achieved their certificate and medal! It looks like it was a fun challenge to complete! This year's theme was 'Read to the Beat' The theme inspired children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music ignite both imagination and creativity. This year's challenge was brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate.

Well done to everyone who took part!



Frogs take over in year 4!



On Friday, Michael Morpurgo class came into the classroom to find it had been taken over by frogs! They spent the afternoon completing all kinds of frog-related activities to get them thinking about frogs. This links to the English text we will be starting next week.



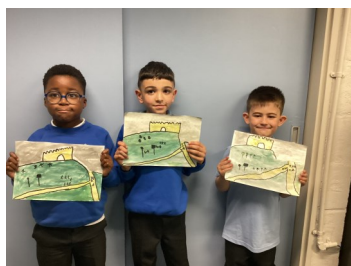
Year 4 local walk



To launch their geography topic, Marvelous Maps, Year 4 have been on local area walks this week, they were looking out for physical and human features in our local area.

Year 2

Lowry Class have really enjoyed learning about their class namesake since arriving back at school. We have written fact files about Lowry's life and created our own artwork in his style.



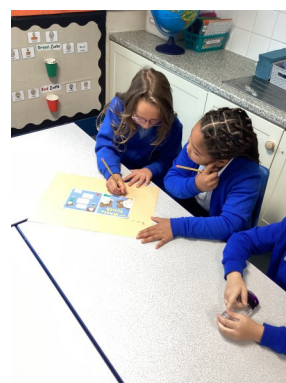
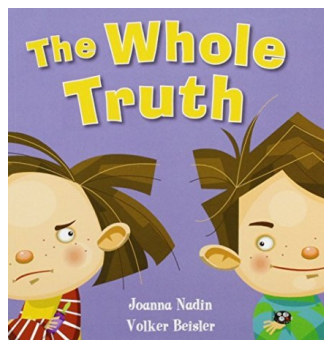
Resourced Provision



RP pupils in Years 3 & 4 are finding out about rocks, soil and fossils. They observed rocks closely to identify their differences. The children used the library to research how different rocks are formed.



Year 3



Year 3 have enjoyed activities based on our new text this week 'The Whole Truth'. For our learning hook we completed conscious alley. A member of the class walked down the alleyway whilst we used persuasive arguments to help them make a decision, we then worked in groups and made predictions about our new text.

Year 6



During our English lessons on Monday, Beethoven Class went outside to search for clues about our first text. We then came back to the classroom to make predictions about it. We are very excited to read it.



Year 6 really enjoyed their dance session on Tuesday with YACAD- we can't wait to learn our new dance!

Year 5



This week in maths, Elgar class have been practising their place value knowledge by making numbers up to 6-digits and expressing what the value of each digit is.

Place Value

The **VALUE** that each digit has in a number, depending on its **PLACE** in that number.



The children in Mozart class have enjoyed taking part in dough disco to warm up their handwriting muscles!



Swimming pool



Year 4 have had a great start to their daily swimming lessons this week. The children have settled in very quickly to the new routine and are enjoying their sessions in the pool. The instructor and lifeguard are pleased with their behavior and how keen they are to learn and make progress. Miss Ferguson and Mrs Tetley are very impressed with how sensible the children are when changing and going back to class. We look forward to seeing their swimming skills develop throughout the half term.

Sharing your news

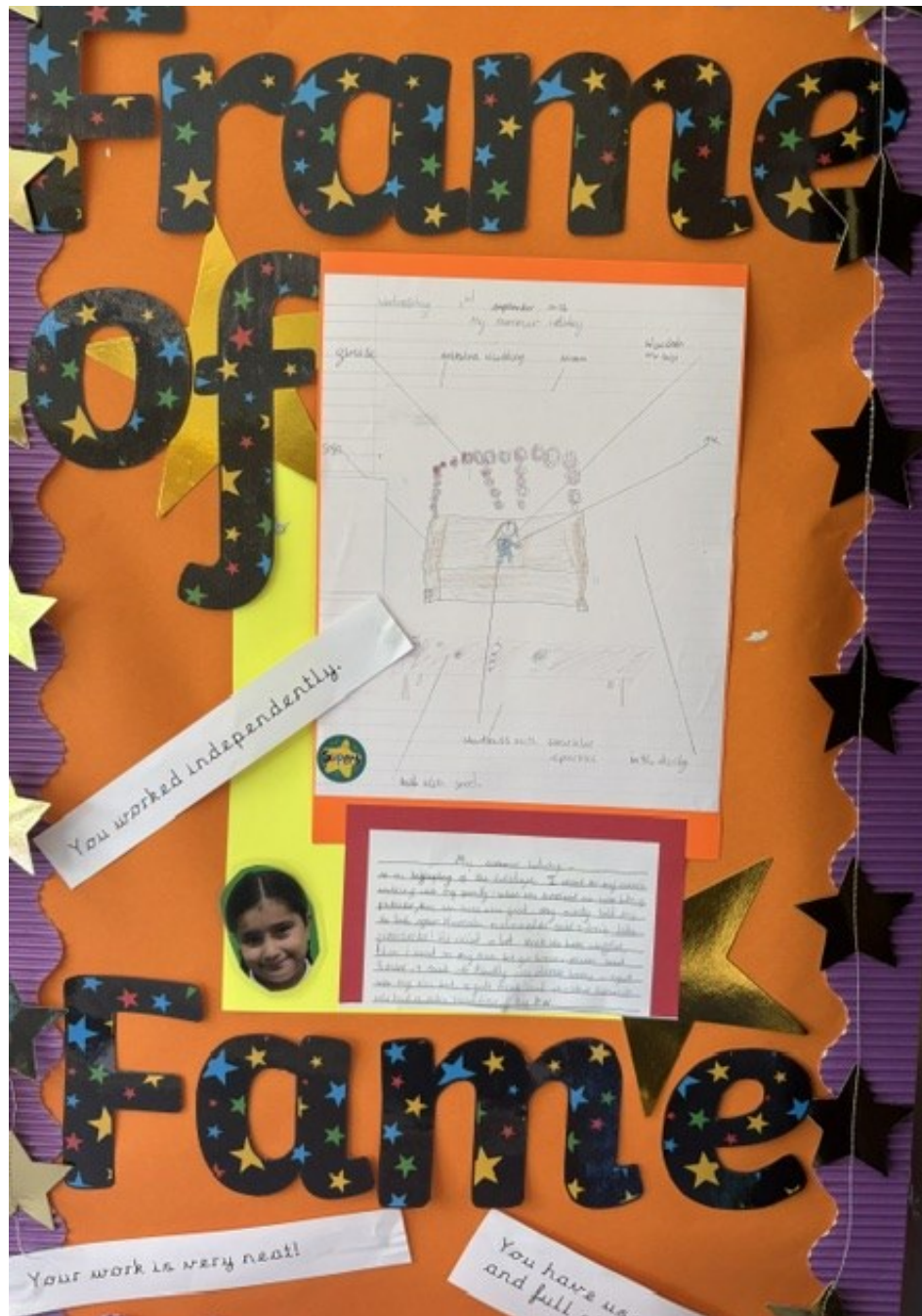


Charlie in Mozart was awarded his trophy for 'all time junior player of the year' for Pudsey Congs Cricket Club. He also won an under11's fielding award.

Well done Charlie, we are so proud of you!

Resourced provision

Frame of fame goes to KN for working independently and writing up a lovely account of her holiday news!



Weekly updates

Attendance and Punctuality

Here are this week's attendance and punctuality figures. There is a proven link between attendance and achievement and it is therefore very important that your child attends school and is on time unless they are too unwell to do so. Our doors open at **8.30am** and close at **8.40am**.

Please see the information below for our whole school and class attendance for the week ending **11.09.26**

Early Years and Key Stage 1:

CLASS	PERCENTAGE %	LATES
Elm	93.8%	0
Willow	96.5%	1
Kandinsky	100%	2
Matisse	95.7%	0
Lowry	98.8%	1
Van Gogh	97.2%	2

Key Stage 2:

CLASS	PERCENTAGE %	LATES
Anne Fine	97.3%	3
Roald Dahl	100%	1
JK Rowling	98.7%	4
Michael Morpurgo	96.3%	1
Elgar	93.0%	2
Mozart	98.1%	2
Beethoven	95.8%	1
Vivaldi	95.6%	1

Congratulations to **Kandinsky Class** and **Roald Dahl Class** for having the **best attendance** this week.#

Congratulations to **Elm Class** and **Matisse Class** for having **no lates**!

Our whole school attendance this week:

96.8%

Communication since the last newsletter

These are the letters, messages and website updates that have been sent out this week. If you have not received any of these letters, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the office on **01274 639049**.

Website Updates:	National Online Safety - What parents and educators need to know about Character.AI
Letters:	08.09.26 - New Class Visits
Messages via parentapps:	

Reminders

Breakfast club

Our Breakfast Club opens at 7.30am at a cost of £2.40 each per day or at 7.45am at the cost of £1.90 each per day. Children from Nursery to Year 6 can attend.

If you would like to book your child into Breakfast Club, please use ParentPay.

We have a free Breakfast Club 8.00am—8.30am

If you would like to book this please use ParentApps

After school club

Our After School Club is available until 4pm at a cost of £2.50 each per day.

If you would like to book your child into After School Club, please use ParentPay.

Extra club

We also offer an Extra Club service that runs until 6.00pm at a cost of £4.50 per day.

If you would like to book your child into Extra Club, please use ParentPay.

Please can you ensure that Extra Club places are booked and paid for in advance - by Monday morning. This ensures registers are accurate and places are booked and guaranteed.

If you have any problems booking any of our before or after school clubs, please contact Miss Armitage, one of our learning mentors.

Diary dates

Any newly added items will be in blue

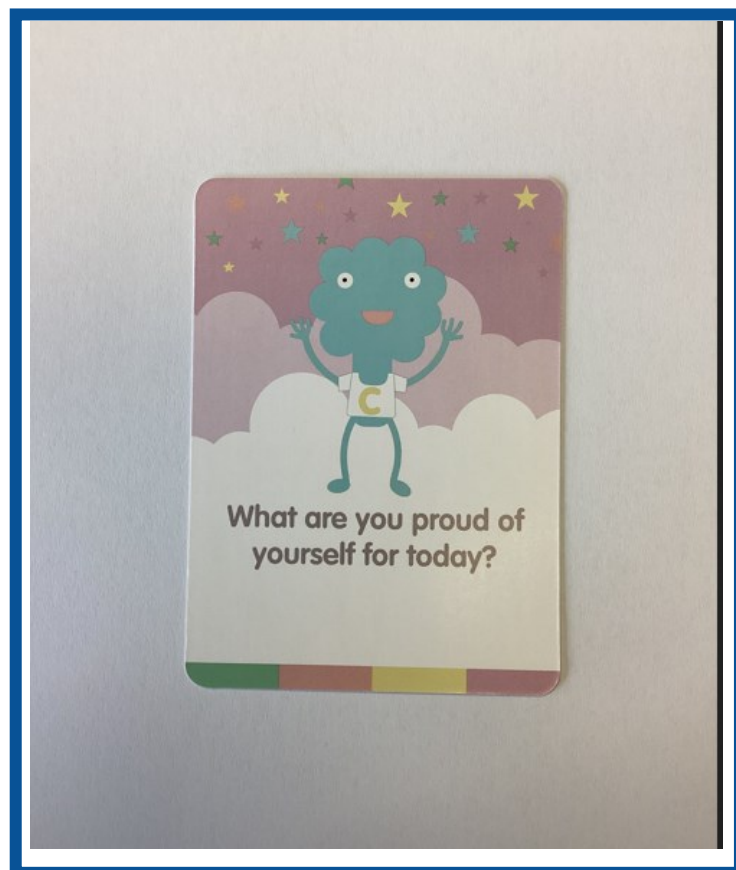
DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	21.09.26		Year 3 Theme Day

Our conversation card of the week



Enjoy a conversation!

Each week we will share a conversation card. These are designed to help you have meaningful and fun conversations with your child and aid discussions about mental health and happiness.



Menu 14/09/26

Week 2: 20th Apr, 11th May,
1st Jun, 22nd Jun, 13th Jul,
3rd Aug, 24th Aug, 14th Sep,
5th Oct, 26th Oct

Homemade Bread,
selection of seasonal
Vegetables / fresh Salad &
fresh Fruit served daily.

Selection of cold
Sandwiches served daily.

Swain House Primary School Menu

Mon

ProVeg Mild Chicken Curry

Indian inspired
aromatic Red Tractor
Chicken, Sweet
Potato & Vegetable
Curry, served with
Rainbow Rice.

ProVeg Creamy Mac & Cheese

A Macaroni
Pasta dish, coated
in a creamy Mature
Cheddar Sauce,
served with crusty
Bread.

Mascarpone Pasta

A creamy Sauce
with Tomatoes,
Mascarpone Cheese
and Herbs, served
with Crusty Bread.

Assorted
Jacket
Potatoes /
Selection of
Sandwiches

Paris Sandwich
A light, sweet
Pastry with Jam,
sandwiched in
between, served with
Custard.

Tue

Homemade Cheese & Onion Pasty

Creamed Potatoes
with Cheese &
Onions encased in
Pastry.

Super Savoury Roll

Flakey Puff Pastry
with a seasoned
filling, served with
Seasoned Potatoes.

Selection of
Sandwiches /
Hot Sub Roll

**Peaches & Ice
Cream with Syrup**
Vanilla Ice Cream
with Tinned Peach
Slices, with a
Chocolate flavoured
Syrup.

Wed

Roast Meat Dinner

Red Tractor Accredited
Meat (either Gammon,
Turkey or Pork Loin)
served with Yorkshire
Pudding, Roast
Potatoes, Seasonal Veg
& Gravy.

Halal Roast Chicken Breast

Red Tractor accredited
HMC Chicken Breast,
served with Yorkshire
Pudding, Roast
Potatoes & Vegan Gravy.

Toad in the Hole

Quorn Sausage,
baked in a light
Batter, served with
Roast Potatoes.

Selection of
Sandwiches /
Hot Sub Roll

Lemon Drizzle
A fluffy Lemon
Sponge with Icing
Drizzle, served with
optional Custard.

Thu

Classic Cheese & Tomato Pizza

Wholemeal 50/50 base,
topped with a
lightly spiced Sauce
and topped with
Mozzarella / Cheddar
Cheese, served with
Chips / Jacket Wedges.

Arrabiata Pasta

Chilli Tomato Sauce
with Lentils & Peppers,
served with Pasta &
Crusty Bread.

Assorted
Jacket
Potatoes /
Selection of
Sandwiches

**Marble Sponge &
Chocolate Sauce**
Homemade Sponge
with hints of both
Vanilla & Chocolate
Cake, served with
Chocolate Sauce.

Fri

Beef Burger In a Bun

Red Tractor
Accredited Beef &
Spinach Burger,
served in a Bun
with Chips / Baked
Potato Wedges.

Halal Chicken Burger in a Bun

Red Tractor
accredited HMC
Chicken Burger,
served in a Bread Roll
with Salad and Chips
/ Jacket Wedges.

Quorn Pattie Burger in a Bun

Quorn
Sausage-style
Pattie, served in
a Breadcake with
baked Jacket
Wedges / Chips.

Pomodoro Pasta

A simple, delicious,
rich Tomato Sauce
with Beans, served
with Crusty Bread.

Assorted
Jacket
Potatoes /
Selection of
Sandwiches

Gallydale Biscuits
Homemade, crumbly,
Oaty Biscuit.

Little Acorns & Great oak Nursery



Nursery Open Sessions:

Wednesday 16th September –
1:45pm

Friday 18th September –
9:30am

Places available for an
immediate start in both
nurseries.

01274 639049

Full & part-time
places available

Wrap around care
7:30 am – 6:00 pm



National online safety

What parents and educators need to know about Character.AI

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026

Community news



A promotional graphic for the Scholastic Book Fair. It features a light beige background with various red line-art icons: an open book, a pencil, a star, a magnifying glass, and a pencil sharpener. At the top center is the Scholastic logo, which consists of a red rectangle containing a white book icon and the word "SCHOLASTIC" in white capital letters. Below the logo, the words "Scholastic" and "Book Fair" are written in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. Underneath this, the text "Coming to school week commencing 28th September 2026" is written in a smaller, black sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic, the text "All purchases benefit the school." is written in a black sans-serif font.

SCHOLASTIC

Scholastic Book Fair

Coming to school week commencing 28th September 2026

All purchases benefit the school.



Community news



Scouts
Be Prepared ...

JOIN SCOUTS!
Adventure • Friendship • Fun

New friends.
New skills.
Big adventures.

EXPLORE
LEARN
ACHIEVE

**30th St James's
The Hut
Bolton Rd**

- SQUIRRELS**
5/6pm Wednesday's
- BEAVERS**
6:15/7:30pm Wednesday's
- CUBS**
6:15/7:30pm Thursday
- SCOUTS**
7:30/9pm

All welcome!

Make friends
Be part of a team and build lasting friendships.

Learn new skills
From outdoor adventures to life skills and teamwork.

Have fun
Games, challenges, activities and more.

Build confidence
Try new things, achieve and grow.

Real Adventures for Life

For more information contact:
johncares77@gmail.com | 07935155927

Community news



8 September 2026

Dear Year 6 Parent/Carers

St Mary's Menston Open Day – Saturday 26 September 2026, 11:00am – 2:00pm

You are warmly invited to join our school community for St Mary's Annual Open Day on Saturday 26 September 2026.

This event is especially significant for our prospective Year 6 pupils and their families, as you begin to consider the next stage of your child's educational journey. At St Mary's, we deeply understand how important this decision is and we are committed to supporting you every step of the way.

As our Mission Statement affirms, every child is at the heart of all we do. We recognise that each member of our community is on a unique journey of growth and self-discovery, and it is a privilege to walk alongside you during this formative time in your child's life.

We look forward to welcoming you in person between **11:00am and 2:00pm**, when you will have the opportunity to experience the vibrant life of our school. We hope the day will give you a true sense of what makes St Mary's so special, a place where our Mission is not just words, but a lived reality. Together with our families, we nurture each pupil's gifts, talents and character so they leave us ready to contribute positively to society and the world around them.

The day will include:

- A welcome address from me, as Headteacher
- Guided visits to all areas of the school
- Opportunities to meet staff and pupils across subject areas
- Insights into our daily teaching and learning

Due to the high level of interest from families considering Year 7 entry in September 2027, we will be operating a **ticketed system** for the Headteacher's Welcome presentation. This will help ensure that all visitors can enjoy the full experience of what our school has to offer.

To book your place at our Open Day, please visit our Open Events and Tours page on the school website by using the link below. Once there, you will be prompted to complete a booking form which will allow you to book tickets for one of the two **Headteacher Welcome and Admissions Information sessions**. These will be held in our Main Hall at **11:20am and 12:20pm**.

<https://www.stmarysmenston.org/Admissions/Open-Events-and-Tours/>

ST MARY'S MENSTON
A CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Bradford Road Menston
West Yorkshire LS29 6AE

T: 01943 883000
E: admin@stmarysmenston.org

www.stmarysmenston.org
Headteacher: Miss Margaret Hattersley



The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust is a charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales.
Company Number: 8399801. Registered Office: St. Mary's Menston, A Catholic Voluntary Academy, Bradford Road, Menston, LS29 6AE

Community news



SPOOKY DISCOVERY DAY

Join us this October half term for a spooktacular day of hands-on fun, creativity and discovery, brought to you in partnership with Skills Street and The Work-wise Foundation!

GOOD TO KNOW

- Adult entry is £2
- Activities can be booked individually, so you can pick and mix to create your perfect day from £7.50 per child, per activity
- Places are limited for each session, so early booking is recommended
- An adult must accompany children at all times



Tuesday 27
October



Skills Street,
Gulliver's Valley,
Sheffield, S26 5QW



Open 9:30am
to 3:45pm



BOOK NOW

<https://bit.ly/SpookyDiscoveryDay>

Community news



We are a school that prides itself on the achievements of our pupils, underpinned by strong values and standards.

We work hard to achieve high levels of progress for all and believe that every pupil should be encouraged to reach their full potential.

Our ambitions continue for our pupils' success.



"The school's career programme is comprehensive. It includes work experience and impartial career advice and guidance for pupils including those in the sixth form. As a result, they are prepared well to make decisions about the next phase of their education, training or employment. Pupils who attend the school's required provision also make use of 'work experience'."

Ofsted 2005

reviewed 2008

resilient

Our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 Results Days, once again became days of celebration - we were delighted to have so many happy pupils, proud parents and teachers celebrating the success of examination outcomes.

At KS4 levels of attainment once again increased despite a national picture in which pass rates fell. Over the last two years pass rates in English have increased by 12% and in Maths by 7%. 20% of all grades are 7-9.

The KS5 examination results of students in our Denys Salt Sixth Form Centre at both A Level and on Vocational courses of study have remained incredibly high and were the strongest results in the Bradford district.

The average grade for all entries of A-Level was B-. For Vocational subjects and for Technical Awards I was 'Distinction'. We are delighted with the achievements, especially considering the many challenges children and young people have faced in recent years. As well as many stunning individual performances we are once again proud that all our learners have progressed onto their university of choice, sixth form, employment or training – fantastic achievements by all.

together

We believe the partnership between home and school is vital to the success of all our pupils and we are proud of the role they play in making our school a successful learning community.



“I’ve found warm relationships with people at this school, like a resident from the staff at the day when people are welcomed into school by staff. People here are kind and helpful, but also that they can go to if they have any water for children. Students in the staff even are positive role models for younger people.”

received 2002 ©

ambitious

Creative and sporting activities are essential aspects of the life of our school both during lessons and beyond the school day.



"The school provides effective positive support to pupils. The pastoral team works closely with the special educational needs team. The senior pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, are able to receive the support that they need at the right time. The school's personal development programme has a positive impact on pupils' behaviour."

Ofsted 2006

Related work



We know that we can rely upon the commitment and enthusiasm of our staff and pupils to take education to the highest level.

We are regular hosts to poets, authors, musicians, artists, scientists, athletes and captains of industry.

Teachers ensure that there is a wide range of enrichment opportunities and extend learning during free periods, pupils' interests and experiences, leading to pupils' participation in these activities. All pupils, including those who face barriers to participation, benefit from the "free schools" scheme of short-term clubs are particularly popular with pupils. 100 form students' participation in activities for younger pupils."

continued 50005

Contact Us:

Higher Coach Road, Baldon,
Shipley, BD17 5BH

Tel: 01274 258949

www.fitnessschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Phil Temple BSc (Hons)

Community news



Are you interested in training to teach?



Do you have an undergraduate honours degree or in your last year of study? We are currently interviewing for our PGCE (5-11 years) course.

We can offer you hands on classroom experience with expert mentorship and support.

Scan the QR code or email
csutcliffe@fagley.bradford.sch.uk
to register your interest.





Families SEND Support Team



Core 4th Edition

Barnardos 4th Edition

Cygnets Autism Support Programme

The **Cygnets Programme** is available for families of children and young people aged **5-18 with a diagnosis of Autism**.

The **7 week** programme will help build your **understanding of Autism** and includes information around **senses, social interaction, communication and behaviour**.

We will help you to develop a practical toolkit for supporting your child. A supportive group environment will help you to connect other parents with shared experiences and build your support network.

Virtual sessions are available.

Daytime and **evening** sessions are available.

To refer scan the QR code or follow the link to complete a short referral form.



Bradford Local Offer | Families
SEND Support Team - SEND
Programmes and Portage



Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

Myhappymind app

The myHappymind app includes lots of fantastic features such as—kids zone, myHappymind games and mini master classes for parents .



The advertisement features the myHappymind logo at the top, which includes a green cartoon character. Below the logo, the text "Download your FREE myHappymind Parent App" is prominently displayed. Three smartphones are shown, each displaying a different screen of the app: a colorful wheel of activities, a "My Library" section with various resources, and a video introduction. To the right of the phones, a QR code is provided for easy access. Below the phones, there are three colored boxes: a green box for "myHappymind for Parents" (exclusive for parents at myHappymind schools), a red box showing a smartphone screen, and a purple box for "myHappymind Parent App" (to learn about school learning). At the bottom, a dashed line indicates where to enter the authentication code "107220".

myHappymind

Download your FREE myHappymind Parent App

...An online resource to support you and your family to learn more about how you can use myHappymind to support your child.



myHappymind for Parents

Exclusively for parents with children at a myHappymind School or Nursery.



Learn all about what your children are learning in school

myHappymind Parent App

YOU WILL NEED THIS AUTHENTICATION CODE TO SIGN UP

107220

Community news



SEND Marketplace drop-in events

Specialist services available to ask questions, give information, advice and support. The last Monday of every month.



- 26 January (2pm - 4.30pm) at Reevy Hill Family Hub
- 23 February (9.30am - 12.30pm) at Rainbow Family Hub
- 30 March (1pm - 3pm) at Barkerend Family Hub
- 27 April (9.30am - 12.30pm) at Farcliffe Family Hub
- 18 May (2pm - 4.30pm) at TFD Family Hub
- 29 June (9.30am - 11.30am) at Shipley Library
- 27 July (1pm - 3pm) at Barkerend Family Hub
- 24 August (9.30am - 12.30pm) at Farcliffe Family Hub
- 25 September (2pm - 4.30pm) at Reevy Hill Family Hub
- 26 October (9.30am - 12.30pm) at Rainbow Family Hub
- 30 November (1pm - 3pm) at Barkerend Family Hub
- 21 December (9.30am - 12.30pm) at Farcliffe Family Hub

Support available on:

Autism/ADHD

Speech and language

Relationship issues

Sleeping difficulties

Finance/benefits

Education

Bradford District and Craven
Health and Care Partnership

