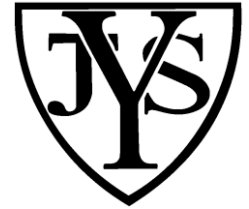




Yatton Schools Mini - Newsletter

Grow – Celebrate – Make a Difference



11 September 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have all had a lovely summer and managed to rest and relax, while also enjoying the sunshine.

The staff all returned to work on Thursday last week and spent two days carrying out a range of training which they have already begun to apply in the classroom. They have worked hard already to make sure that their classrooms are ready for the children's return.

We have relaunched some of our behaviour expectations this week and the children have certainly risen to the challenge demonstrating our three rules: Ready, Safe and Respect and using their Yatton Learner Skills. I have been in and out of classrooms this week and it has been lovely to see so many smiles from the children. I've been checking in with them about their holidays and it has been lovely to hear about their summer adventures and to see so much excitement about their return to school. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new children and families to Yatton too.

Please do say hello if you see myself, Mrs Clarke or Mrs Howard on the school gate in the morning. It is always lovely to hear how your holidays have been.

In the next couple of weeks you will receive a quick survey to complete linked to our school vision and values. Please do take 5 minutes to complete it. We very much want our whole school community to play a part in reviewing our current vision and our aims for the future.

I wish you all a lovely, restful weekend.

Many Thanks
Mrs Amy Turner

Please be punctual!

Infants start at 8.50am

Juniors start at 8.55am

Please be prompt dropping off in the morning as lessons get started straight away and even 5 -10 minutes can have a big impact on your child settling in and on their learning.

The gates will be closed on the Stowey / Junior side quickly after starting times so please be aware if you are late you may need to go through the main entrance to register your child.

Children are not supervised by school staff before school and remain under the supervision and responsibility of parents/carers until they have been handed to their class teacher.

Children must not use the Fort or play equipment before or after school.

Bikes and Scooters

Reminder that children should not be riding these on school site and need to walk their bikes and scooters to the bike store when they get to the school gate and walk them back again at the end of the day. This is to stop any early morning or after school collisions!

Time to apply for Junior school 2027

Applications to apply for a junior school place for September 2027 will open in September 2026. Applications close on 15 January 2027.

A letter for parents/carers of our current year 2 children will be sent out within the week or so. Please note that this will also be relevant to anyone who is in year 1 with an agreed delay as they will need to get

permission to continue the delay with their preferred Junior school.

Transfer to Secondary school September 2027

The application process for admissions for September 2027 transfer to Secondary school will open in September 2026. Applications must be made by 31 October 2026.

A letter has been sent out to all parents/carers of our current year 6 children. This will also be relevant to anyone who is in year 5 with an agreed delay, they will also need to get permission to continue the delay with their preferred Secondary school.

Open Events

Open Events are happening in September for families with students who will be moving from Primary to Secondary school in September 2027.



Backwell School

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2026
5.00pm to 7.30pm

SCHOOL TOURS
Tours during the school day will run from **Monday 21 September**.

Online booking for a tour of the school will be available during the open evening and via the school website (from 10.00am on **Friday 18 September**).

Visit www.backwellschool.net to find out more!

The education provided has been outstanding, and we are deeply impressed by the breadth of the curriculum, the level of academic challenge, and the wide range of enriching extracurricular activities available. It is truly remarkable. (Year 7 Parent 2025)

Proud to be part of **LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**

We are **KIND | CURIOUS | AMBITIOUS**
Backwell School, Station Road, Backwell, BS48 3BX

Details of the open days at Churchill Academy can be found here;
<https://www.churchill-academy.org/open-days>



CLIFTON COLLEGE
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An education that *inspires*

UPCOMING OPEN EVENTS

- FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER**
PRESCHOOL - YEAR 6
- FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER**
SIXTH FORM
- SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER**
YEAR 7 - YEAR 11

BOOK YOUR VISIT!

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Junior Morning Snacks/ Tuck Shop

Reminder:

Please supply a healthy snack eg. Fruit, for your children for at least one break in case they get hungry or they can bring in two healthy snacks for the two break times as lunchtime is later (1-2). Please remind your child(ren) not to bring in chocolate, crisps or sweets for breaktimes and not to eat their lunch during break times. Please keep break time snacks separate to lunch.

Our Free School Meals children can get a snack from us at first break if they wish.

Uniform

It has been fantastic to see so many children wearing the correct uniform this week. They look very smart and are walking around the school with a real sense of pride and confidence.

A reminder that all children should be dressed in the correct uniform for school. This is listed on our school website and further detail is available in our reviewed Uniform policy. If you would like to purchase pre-loved uniform or need some support with uniform please contact the school office for details.

Free School Meals

You will be aware that the process for applying for Free School Meals has changed, details are as below. If you have any questions please contact the school office.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS HOW TO APPLY

Applying is quick, easy and could save you up to £495 per child, per year on school lunches



1 CHECK IF YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE

From September 2026, more families may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM):

- **TARGETED FSM** - based on low household income (see benefits listed below)
- **EXPANDED FSM** - if you receive Universal Credit, you may be eligible



MY CHILD IS IN RECEPTION OR KS1 - DO I STILL NEED TO APPLY?

Yes, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive Universal Infant Free School Meals automatically. However, registering for Free School Meals may provide access to additional funding and support for the school and your child.



YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FSM IF:

1. Your household receives Universal Credit
OR
2. You receive any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act*
- Child Tax Credit*
- Working Tax Credit*

*Further details apply - [see full list here](#).

2 HOW TO APPLY - You can apply using the following methods:

**APPLY ONLINE** (recommended)
Apply before the end of the summer break, via your local council website:

- 1 North Somerset Council - [apply here](#)
- 1 BANES Council - [apply here](#)
- 1 Bristol City Council - [apply here](#)

**APPLY USING A PAPER FORM**
Complete the paper application form and return it to your school office before the end of July 2026.

- ✓ You can find the [form here](#)
- ✓ Hard copies are available from the school office
- ✓ If your child is moving to a new school in September, please pass the form to the new school before the end of term

3 WHEN TO APPLY

Apply online over the summer break, or return the paper form to your school office by the end of the summer term, to ensure your paper work is processed in time for the start of September.

4 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

You will be notified of the outcome of your application.
Important to note: parents will need to reapply every year

**FIND OUT MORE**
Follow the QR code to find further details

FIND OUT MORE: WWW.LSP.ORG.UK/FSM-CHANGES

Breakfast & After School Club fees

The Breakfast & After School Club fees for this academic year will remain at £6 and £11.50 per session.

CHANGES TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



**From September 2026, more families will be eligible for Free School Meals**

**Applying could save you up to £495 per child, per year, on school lunches**

FREE SCHOOL MEAL EXPANSION

More families may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026, when families receiving Universal Credit will be able to access free school meals. There will be two types of Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026:

**TARGETED FSM**
Continues to be based on the existing £7,400 income threshold.

**EXPANDED FSM (NEW)**
Applies to meals only. Covers pupils whose households are in receipt of Universal Credit

**IMPORTANT:** While eligibility to Expanded FSM will be automatically granted to all recipients of Universal Credit, families will still need to apply to receive this benefit.

RECHECKS FOR ALL PUPILS CURRENTLY IN RECEIPT OF FSM

Since 2018, there has been a Free School Meal transitional protection policy to ensure that children didn't lose their free school meals if their family's income increased. This meant that free school meals entitlement has been typically locked in until the end of the child's current phase of education (e.g. end of primary or secondary school). This protection is ending at the end of the 2025-26 academic year. This means that all existing pupils in receipt of free school meals will need to have their entitlement rechecked before the start of September 2026. If your family's earnings exceed the FSM threshold, your child(ren) will lose their eligibility and pay for school meals from September 2026.

**In most cases, these rechecks will be automatic and no action will be required by parents**

**NORTH SOMERSET SCHOOLS ONLY**
Anyone who was awarded FSMs over 2 years ago would have applied via an old system. These parents/carers will need to reapply via their North Somerset Citizen's account.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS THAT BENEFITS PUPILS

Pupil Premium is extra funding given to schools for every child whose family is entitled for Targeted Free School Meals. This money makes a big difference to schools and the eligible pupils. It is often used for extra resources, school trips and additional staff. Pupil Premium will continue to be paid to schools for those pupils who have been covered by the transitional protection arrangements outlined above.

FIND OUT MORE: WWW.LSP.ORG.UK/FSM-CHANGES

Yatton Schools

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Email: office@yattonschoools.co.uk
Website: www.yattonschoools.co.uk
Twitter: [@YattonSchools](https://twitter.com/YattonSchools)



**LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP**

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St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR
A charitable company limited by guarantee
registered in England & Wales (Company Number:
07662102)