

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 - 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

Term Value: **Friendship**



"Roots grow down into God's love and keep us strong"
Eph 3:17

Message from Mrs Butt

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back to all of our children, parents and carers as we begin a new academic year at Brinkworth Earl Danby's. It has been wonderful to see the school come back to life this week, filled with smiling faces, excited chatter and a sense of enthusiasm for the year ahead.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all of our new children and families joining the BEDS community this year. It has been a pleasure meeting so many of you already, and I know you will quickly become valued members of our school family.

I have been incredibly proud of how calmly and confidently all of our children have settled back into school. Whether returning to familiar classrooms, moving up to a new year group or starting school for the very first time, the children have shown resilience, maturity and positivity throughout the week.

As always, the start of a new school year brings change, and I would like to thank all parents and carers for your patience and understanding as we navigate some new arrangements. This includes our revised opening and closing times, transport arrangements, staffing changes and several improvements that have taken place over the summer break. Your support as we establish these new routines has been greatly appreciated.

Office Arrangements

As many of you will know, Mrs Turner has now left the school. We thank her for her contribution to our community and wish her every success in the future.

As a result of this change, the Lower Site office is no longer staffed as an administration office. All school administration for both sites is now managed from the Upper Site office. Parents should therefore direct enquiries, messages and correspondence to:

admin@brinkwortheardanbys.wilts.sch.uk

The Lower Site office is now a closed office for Mrs Smewing, our School Business Manager. Mrs Smewing remains available to receive deliveries and welcome visitors to the site as required.

Introducing Class Dojo

This year we are excited to introduce Class Dojo as our new communication platform for families. Class Dojo will allow us to share information on both a whole-school and class basis, helping parents to stay informed about learning, events and celebrations across the school.

Permission requests relating to photographs on this secure platform will be sent out shortly.

As we transition to Class Dojo, Seesaw will no longer be used.

Class Dojo is a fantastic tool, but as with all online platforms, we encourage families to use it mindfully. Whilst children may enjoy engaging with features such as the Islands area, we also recognise the importance of maintaining healthy screen time habits. For this reason, we are able to lock or limit certain features, including Islands, where appropriate.

I would also like to reassure families that everything we use as a school within Class Dojo is completely free. There is no expectation or requirement for parents to purchase the premium subscription, as this is not needed to receive school communications, view class updates or see house points and rewards.

To ensure communication remains secure and manageable, all messages from Class Dojo should be viewed as one-way communication from school to home. Any communication to staff or the school from home should continue to come through our single point of contact:

admin@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk

This approach helps us ensure that staff only open trusted communications and that important messages are not missed.

Please also take a few moments to review and update your permissions and privacy settings when setting up your account, and support your children in using the platform for its intended purpose: as a secure portal for school information and updates.

Website Improvements

Many parents will have noticed that our website is currently undergoing significant updates, including our badge (this will not be changing on uniforms). We are working hard to streamline information on our website and make it easier for families to find everything they need in one place.

Please bear with us while this work continues and thank you for your patience as information is reorganised and refreshed.

Summer Improvements

Over the summer holiday, significant work has taken place across the school. Alongside a range of building improvements at Upper Site, we have invested considerable time upgrading and improving our technology systems.

While these improvements will benefit the school in the long term, they have inevitably resulted in some delays to our usual operations at the start of term. Thank you for your understanding and patience while we complete this important work.

Meet the Teacher Events

Next week we look forward to welcoming parents into school for our annual Meet the Teacher events.

Lower Site

Tuesday 8th September

3:25pm to 3:55pm

Upper Site

Thursday 10th September

3:40pm to 4:10pm

These sessions provide a valuable opportunity to hear about your child's learning journey for the year ahead, classroom routines and expectations, as well as giving parents the chance to view the site and ask any questions.

Parent Forum with Mrs Butt

I am also pleased to invite parents to our first Parent Forum of the year:

Thursday 10th September

6:00pm to 7:00pm

At Lower Site

The focus of this session will be Early Reading and Phonics. We will explore our Little Wandle approach, how we develop reading across the school, and how we foster a genuine love of reading for pleasure and enjoyment. I hope many of you will be able to join us.

Welcoming New Staff

Finally, I am delighted to welcome two new members of our leadership team:

- Mrs Lambe, Assistant Headteacher
- Miss Murphy, Assistant Headteacher

Both have already made a fantastic start to the year and bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and expertise to our school. Please do make them feel welcome as they become part of the BEDS family. We look forward to building strong relationships with our families as we work together to provide the very best opportunities for every child. We will also be welcoming a new admin support staff member and MDSA from next week, Ms Swinfen.

If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer in school, please contact Mrs Hall to arrange a conversation around how we can work together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is key, and I am excited about all that lies ahead this year.

Here's to a happy, successful and inspiring year together.

Mrs Kelly Butt

ATTENDANCE

Beech Class - 97.3%
Birch Class - 100%

Click for our new
active families
resources



Resource Bank
Offering access to PE lesson plans, schemes of work, assessments, curriculum
mapping and other resources on a wide range of activities for EYFS, KS1 and KS2
Get Set 4 P.E.

STARS OF THE WEEK

**COMING
SOON**

SENDCO UPDATE

Hello and welcome to our new parents,

I hope you all had a relaxing summer break and are excited for the new school year.

To introduce (or reintroduce) myself to you, my name is Maria Pocock and I am Birch class teacher (part time) and the school's SENDCo. This means that I oversee the progress of children with specific learning plans or diagnoses and also children that are being monitored due to other issues such as handwriting, fine motor skills or emotional dysregulation. If required, I facilitate external agency assessments and also internal interventions.

My working day is every Thursday but I am also contactable via email sendco@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk.

If you are concerned about your child's behaviour or progress please, in the first instance, talk to their teacher who can then pass your concerns to me and we can begin a monitoring process.

We are also very lucky to have a parent support advisor that we can recommend if you feel you need any support with parenting outside of school.

We are a supportive school community so please contact us if you feel you'd like any extra support or a point in the right direction.

With best wishes,
Mrs Pocock

A graphic featuring two yellow spotlights at the top corners, shining towards the center. In the center, the text "Spotlight on School Day" is written in a large, bold, red font with a pink outline, slanted upwards from left to right.

Spotlight on School Day

Site	Lower	Upper
Doors open	8:45am	8:30am
Registration period	8:45-8:55	8:30-8:40
Collection	3:15pm	3:00pm

All pupils should bring to school:

- their book bag - with reading book and reading record
- a water bottle (robust)
- their lunchbox (or have ordered a school lunch)
- a healthy snack (Upper Site only)
- named uniform items (we may add names if missing)

Pupils are not required to bring a pencil case or any toys from home. All resources are provided.

Wiltshire transport have confirmed that the current Bus service will be replaced by taxis. All enquiries via Wilts transport [here](#) please.



The Big Future survey - have your say!

Please take the time to complete our survey. Your feedback is important.

 smartsurvey

As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, I am writing to ask for your support in making sure your children have the opportunity to take part in my national survey, The Big Future.

Every child's voice matters, and I want to make sure that children and young people in every school and college, in every community, have the opportunity to shape the picture of childhood that I will share with Government.

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner for England



The Big Future

For the first time, hundreds of thousands of children will be eligible to vote in the next general election at age 16, the biggest change to the franchise

 Children's Commissioner for England