



July 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s in September.

This letter details some reminders and school information which you may find useful.

First day

Monday 07 September, is the first day of term for our Year 7 and Year 12 students. This will allow our newest students to settle into our school and find their way around without the other year groups present.

On arrival to school on the first day, all Year 7s must go to the Main Theatre for 8.45 am.

The school day will run as normal, ending at 3.10 pm.

Lunch Money

Backwell school is a cashless school site.

ParentPay activation letters will be sent out over the summer break, so please keep an eye out for these. Please ensure you top up your child's account in time for the first day of term.

There is a default daily spend limit of £7.50. If you'd like this adjusted upwards or downwards, please contact our finance team on finance@backwellschool.net

On the first day we will be scanning thumb prints for our catering system, which will enable students to purchase food. If a biometric thumb print was not agreed to on your school admissions form, a PIN will be given to the student.

Free School Meals

Please note, many families already in receipt of free school meals will need to reapply over the summer – see details below.

Who needs to apply for Free School Meals (FSMs) for September 2026 and when to apply:

- New starters to the school
- Children not yet on FSMs who meet the new expanded criteria
- **Anyone who was awarded FSMs over 2 years ago will need to reapply via their North Somerset Citizen's Account.** Those who applied over two years ago would have applied via North Somerset Council's old system and will now need to reapply via their North Somerset Citizen's account, as the Local Authority will no longer hold personal details to be able to contact you or reassess your eligibility. If you don't have an account, you can register for one. **If you don't reapply, your entitlement will end this academic year as the transitional protection will finish for all children this summer.**

- **Anyone who has been awarded FSMs through the North Somerset Citizen's account in the past 2 years will not need to reapply** and you will see your existing application when you log in. When you are reassessed, you will get your result via your North Somerset Citizen's account.

All applications should be made over the summer holidays. The link to apply or reapply for Free School Meals for September 2026 is: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Travel to school

Home to School Transport and our own Out of Catchment Transport will operate as normal on the first day of school.

We kindly remind parents/carers about the restriction on the dropping off and collecting students by car. The leisure centre is not affiliated with the school and should not be used by Backwell School parents / carers for drop off / collection.

Cars are not permitted on site to drop off or collect students at the start or the end of the school day, except for the small number of pupils who have pre-approved arrangements in place (and in are in possession of a pass).

Parents/carers must also be mindful of residents in the local area. Please do not park on neighbouring roads or block driveways. Residents will contact the police if parked vehicles are causing an obstruction or nuisance.

Cyclists

Students are encouraged to cycle to school where possible. Cyclists must ensure they bring a cycle lock to school and wear a helmet whilst on their bike.

All students coming from the A370 should use the pedestrian gate next to the leisure centre to enter the school site.

Please talk to your child(ren) about walking safely along the surrounding roads to the school, as traffic can get busy and the pavements are narrow.

Lockers

School Locker Hire is a service provided by a company called RML who are separate to the school. If there are any issues with locker codes, RML need to be contacted directly, and they will assist.

We strongly advise that students DO NOT share locker codes with friends.

[Locker Hire Information](#)

Lost Property

The lost property area is located next to the Student Services office. Any named items are re-united with their owners wherever possible.

Due to the huge volume of lost property, any unnamed, unclaimed items are removed at the end of every term. **With this in mind, we strongly advise that all belongings are clearly named from Day One.**

Mobile Phones

Backwell School has a strict no mobile phone policy. Students are expected to place their phones in the pouch we will provide. Students can unlock pouches when they leave school at the end of the day.

If a student urgently needs to contact home (e.g forgotten PE kit), Student Services are happy to help and make a call home for them.

Details of our mobile phone policy can be found here on our [Website](#)

First Aid

We have a first aid room located in Student Services with qualified First Aiders, however these staff are not nurses or medically trained. Our first aiders are more than happy to deal with genuine first aid concerns including:

- Diabetic Students
- Asthmatic students
- Serious allergic reactions
- Burns/Scalds
- Bleeding/PE Injuries
- Fitting
- Vomiting

We do not hold any medication other than prescribed medication, accompanied by the relevant and signed documentation. Forms for prescribed medications that you'd like us to administer on your behalf can be obtained from Student Services.

Therefore we are unable to assist with:

- Headaches
- Period Cramps/Tummy Pain
- Coughs/Colds
- Hayfever
- Old & existing injuries
- Toothache

We do permit students to carry their own pain relief, in small quantities (enough for the school day).

Students who are too unwell to continue in school will need to speak to a first aider who will assess and call home if necessary. There are times when students are able to continue their day once they've spoken to someone and a call home isn't required.

Students who call home directly, will receive a sanction in line with our mobile phone policy as it undermines our system.

Our [dedicated page](#) remains on our website, focusing on transition to our school and is there for you to refer to.

Any queries at all, please contact Student Services via our email:
studentservices@backwellschool.net

Kind regards

Backwell School Student Services