

**Branston Bulletin:**

**Friday 29th September 2023**

*We have had another busy and exciting week at Branston Junior Academy – whilst nothing specific to report, I can assure you that everyone is busy and lots of celebrations are being had in each Friday assembly when we hear about all the hard work and great achievements that have been had in that week.*

**What’s coming up?!**

* **Monday 2nd October – Cairn Ceremony**

All new children (and staff) are invited to decorate a rock to put on our special Cairn on our school grounds. All relevant children will have already been given a letter about this. All decorated rocks are to be brought into school in time for our Cairn ceremony which will be first thing on Monday 2nd October.

* **Thursday 12th October – Harvest Festival at All Saints Church 2p.m. start**

An email has already been sent out asking for adult help to walk with us to and from the church. A huge thank you to the eleven parents (including one grandparent – thankyou) who have already contacted me/school to offer their time – most appreciated.

If there are any more adults who can come with us, please do let us know – the more we have the safer we can make our jaunt to and from the church. If you, or another adult member of your family; please can you let me / school know. We would be leaving school at around 1.30pm and be back before school ends.

For the Harvest Festival, we ask that children bring in a food donation which they carry to the church on that afternoon. Anything from the following list of items, would be appreciated:

Baked beans soup jam marmalade honey tinned fruit

Tinned rice pudding tinned meat hot dogs Tin tuna Tin sardines UHT milk

Tinned custard Tinned veg Weetabix pasta sauce pasta jar coffee

Tea bags sweet biscuits angel delight jelly meat paste fish paste

Squash tin spaghetti noodles pot noodles pasta n sauce

* **Friday 13th October – Flu Immunisations**

**I**f you have not already done so and wish your child to receive a flu vaccination. Please refer to the letter previously sent to you, or alternatively, you can find it on our website under the ‘Parents’ tab> ‘Letters and Forms’.

* **Friday 13th October – Last day for return of Rudolph Drawing Sheets and payment**

If you would like to order any personalised merchandise, please can you ensure that the Order Form and payment (either cash or cheque, payable to Branston Junior Academy) is returned to school by Friday 13th October. Orders that arrive after this time will not be accepted.

**When completing your drawing sheet, please remember to use felt-tip pens or water-based paints**, do not to use glitter or stuck on collage. If you would like a replacement drawing sheet please contact us on [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) , or you can download a copy from our website. Simply, click on the ‘Parents Tab’, select ‘Letters and Forms’ and download an additional copy of the drawing sheet and a copy of the letter should you wish to.

* **Thursday 19th October – Hallowe’en Film Night (please note, this was previously advertised as a Hallowe’en Disco but for various reasons we are changing the content of the session)**

This event will be straight after school, and more details will follow nearer to the time.

* **Week commencing 21st November – Travelling Book Fair**

Travelling Book Fair will be arriving at school for the week commencing 21st November, more details will follow nearer to the time.

* **Saturday 25th November Christmas Fair 10am-2pm**

You will have received a letter about our forthcoming Christmas Fair. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the academic year and all money received gets spent on making BJA the best place possible for your children and their learning. For example it might be used to pay for a special event at school, or to purchase extra resources, or goes towards the cost of coaches so we can all go on fantastic visits without parents having to spend lots of money.

If you are having a good sort out at home, the letter sent home, contains dates of when donations can be brought into school.

Where possible please can you stick to the dates on the letter, as we do not have much storage space in school. If you have ever been into our school during lesson times, you will know that we utilise every spot of space for the benefit of your child’s learning. This means that there are often children working with adults at tables in spare rooms, in corridors and in the cloakroom areas!

When we start bringing in lots of donations of lovely things to sell at the Christmas Fair, we have to start using up some of these spaces for storage. Therefore, if things come too early, we end up having to limit where children can go for small group support, for health and safety reasons.

**If you are able to help us run a stall, please can you contact me / school to let me know – all help is most appreciated.**

**If you would like to run your own stall at the Christmas Fair, please contact me / school. Stalls cost £10 per table.**

**Please do look at our website (**[**www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk**](http://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk)**) and scroll down to the ‘Forthcoming Events’ section – here, I have typed in all the dates of events for the 2023-2024 academic year.**

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# NEWS and INFORMATION

# Crossing Patrol

**Would you like to be, or do you know someone who would like to be our new Lollipop person. If you would like to learn more please click on the link** [**Search Results – Lincolnshire County Council**](https://jobs.lincolnshire.gov.uk/internal/vacancies.html?#filter=p_web_site_id%3D4771%26p_published_to%3DINTRANET%26p_language%3DDEFAULT%26p_direct%3DY%26p_format%3DMOBILE%26p_include_exclude_from_list%3DN%26p_search%3DBranston) **, or alternatively contact Alison Garfoot, who is the Road Safety Officer directly on** [**Alison.Garfoot@lincolnshire.gov.uk**](mailto:Alison.Garfoot@lincolnshire.gov.uk) **, or by telephone 01522 212313.**

Thankyou to those parents who have emailed the Council to ask if anything further can be done on Station Road. From what I can gather they have all received the same reply – namely that potentially ‘someone’ would come out to have a look at how busy the road can get at start/ends of the day; and then potentially make the right noises to the right people in the hope that we get considered for a crossing to be put in the road. We shall have to see if anything further happens as a result of you raising the issue to the Council.

## Club Term Dates for Autumn Term 1

Lunchtime and After School Clubs will run for x 4 weeks, beginning week commencing 25th September 2nd, 9th and 16th October.

We are very fortunate at Branston Juniors, that so many staff volunteer to run clubs in their own time. They are not contractually obliged to do so. Each term staff can choose whether they wish to run a club or not; therefore, you will see that the number of clubs might change as the year progresses.

With regards to the finish times for our after-school clubs, please can you ensure that you collect your child/children promptly when clubs finish at 4.30p.m., (or 4.15p.m. for football clubs). This is so that staff can also leave promptly to carry out all the other tasks they need to do in order to best cater for your child’s learning the next day.

**Please note Years 3/4 Football and Mixed All Years Street Dance clubs will not be taking place on Thursday 19th October – this is due the Hallowe’en Film Night taking place straight after school on that day.**

## Holiday / Medical Appointments

Please can I remind parents/carers that if you need to take your child/children out of school for any reason you need to complete a Leave of Absence Application, these can be found on the BJA website, [www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](http://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) under the ‘Parents’ tab>Letters and Forms>BJA LOA (Leave of Absence) Application.

Simply download the form, complete and return to school, either via email [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) or direct to school.  If your request is relating to a medical appointment, please provide a copy of the appointment attached to the Leave of Absence Application.

## Mobile Phones

We discourage pupils from bringing phones to school, as there is a risk of them being lost, damaged or used inappropriately in school. However, we do understand that there may be a reason why a child needs to bring a phone to school; although we class this as a ‘privilege’ and not a ‘right’. As such, should a child be found to be using a mobile phone to cause upset, it is feasible that this privilege be denied and they are not allowed to bring a mobile phone to school with them.

If you would like your child to bring in a mobile phone, please contact school by emailing [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) to request a Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form, or alternatively, a copy of this document, can also be found on our website [Letters And forms - BranstonJunior (branstonjunioracademy.co.uk)](https://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk/lettersAndForms.asp) for you to download, sign and return to school.

# Uniform Direct

Uniform Direct have moved all their services to Dixon Way, Lincoln, LN6 7XN which is just off Dixon Street by the Super Car Wash which offers better accessibility and free parking.  Alternatively, you can order online at [www.uniform-direct.com](http://www.uniform-direct.com).

For more information, please contact them on 01522 510016, or email [customerservices@uniform-direct.com](mailto:customerservices@uniform-direct.com)

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## Second-hand Uniform

With thanks to kind donations of good quality second-hand uniform from some parents, we have created a ‘Uniform Swap Shop’. It is in the Meeting Room at the front of the school (just off Reception) and will be open from 8.45-9.15am every day (unless otherwise informed). You are most welcome to bring in good quality uniform to add to the ‘shop’, or take what you need. All items are free, but you are most welcome to leave a monetary donation to the school if you wish.

## School transport

## If your child is starting primary school or transferring to secondary school in September 2023, they may be eligible for school transport.  If you think your child is eligible, please apply for transport as soon as you have your offer of a school place (1 March for secondary school or 17 April for primary).  Applications can be made online at the website below or a telephone application can be made by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782020.

For more information about the home to school transport policy and online applications please go to [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport).   Queries can be emailed to [schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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## Is your child entitled to Free School Meals?

Given the current situation of rising costs, your financial situation at home may have changed. You might not be aware that families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

* Universal Credit with an annual net income of no more than £7,400 (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* The guarantee element of state Pension Credit
* Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
* Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve pupils’ readiness to learn.

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £1,320 for our school, to fund valuable support for your child, such as extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

If you believe your child may be entitled to free school meals, please go to [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals) or phone (01522) 782030.

If you do apply and your child(ren) is eligible for free school meals, please can you contact the school on [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) or telephone us on 01522 880555 to let us know.

## School Meals

Please order school meals with our provider, Ideal School Meals. If you should have any problems registering your account details/ordering your child(ren)’s meals, you can contact Ideal School Meals by telephone on 01522 246424:

Monday & Tuesday between the hours of 9.00am-4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday 9.00am-2.45pm

Alternatively, you can email them on [enquiries@idealschoolmeals.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@idealschoolmeals.co.uk)

**Please remember that it is your responsibility to order your child a meal for lunch.**

If you forget to do so, you will need to speak with Ideal School Meals to see if you can organise a meal for your child and/or provide a packed meal for your child.

# IF YOU NEED HELP…

## Branston Junior Academy website

If you look on our school website ([www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](http://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk)) you can find lots of guidance and advice. If you look on the ‘Parents’ tab, you can click on pages which give you advice on ‘Curriculum’ (Maths and English). If you click on the ‘I need help!’ tab, this brings up links to website pages which can help your child with their mental health and wellbeing.

## Branston Food Bank

The helpline mobile number is **07395906220**. ***However, please note this service is for Branston residents only.***

## Lincoln Community Grocery

Lincoln Community Grocery is located at Beaumont Manor, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1UL and is open Monday to Friday between 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

For more information, please visit their website [https://communitygrocery.org.uk/lincoln or telephone 01522 265511](https://communitygrocery.org.uk/lincoln%20%20or%20telephone%2001522%20265511).

## A screenshot of a computer Description automatically generated**‘Your School Lottery’**

Thank you to all parents who are supporting us by being part of the School Lottery. Congratulations to all those winners and thank you to those who have donated their winnings to the school. It is very kind of you and most appreciated!

**Win tickets for the Warner Brothers Studio Tour AND a theatre voucher for Harry Potter and the Cursed Child!**

This term Your School Lottery are offering you the opportunity to win a dream trip for any fans of the Wizarding World. Once lucky family will win an amazing Harry Potter double prize, a family ticket for the Warner Brothers Studio tour, and a theatre voucher for Harry Potter and the Cursed Child!  
  
**Get your tickets before Saturday 28th October to be in with a chance to win!**

The draws take place each Saturday night and offer the opportunity to win cash prizes each week, including a jackpot prize of £25,000. Tickets cost £1, and Branston Junior Academy receives at least 40p from every £1 ticket purchased, it’s so simple to register, just click on the link  <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/branston-junior-academy>

which will take you to our School Lottery Website.  Click on Buy Tickets and it will ask you for some personal details, such as name, email and postal address before registering you and letting you choose how many tickets you would like to buy each week. You can pay by Direct Debit or Debit Card.  So, if you would like to raise funds for Branston Junior Academy please spread the word to family and friends within the UK.

Details for each draw results are published on Your School Lottery website, as well as on their Facebook and Twitter, plus winners will be contacted directly by email.  Winnings are paid directly into your nominated bank account, or if you wish, can be donated to Branston Junior Academy.

Good luck for the coming weeks draws!

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# LOCAL EVENTS

We are often contacted by external providers etc, who send us information about local events and ask us to advertise them to our parents. If it is only 1 or 2 things, previously we have sent them out as attachments to our weekly Branston Bulletin, however we are acutely aware that this can mean that sometimes this document becomes very long! We have come up with the solution of putting such information on our website instead. If there are any new events, we will list them below. ***To find out more information about any new, or previously advertised events, simply click on the Local Events tab in the Parents Menu of the*** [***https://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk***](https://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) ***website.***

## Premier Education Half-Term Holiday Camp

Premier Education will be holding holiday camps throughout the half-term, please see our website for more information.

## WaitLess App for urgent and emergency care services in Lincolnshire

We have been advised that there is a **smartphone app to help people WaitLess for urgent and emergency care** services across Lincolnshire which is designed to help people choose the least pressured urgent and emergency care services and to understand waiting times better.

The WaitLess app combines current waiting time, queue numbers and travel-time at urgent care facilities in the county.  This displayed information helps people make an informed decision about where to seek the fastest treatment for minor illness and injuries. Along with this, the app displays all available pharmacies in the area as an alternative treatment option.  **The app can be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple App Store.**

## Your Guide to Health Services in Lincolnshire

## Please see our website for more information about Self Care, Pharmacy, Your GP Practice, NHS 111, WaitLess, Urgent Treatment Centre, Dental Treatment and Mental Health Crisis.