



Branston Bulletin

11.09.2026

Branston Junior Academy 5Rs – Resilience, Reflection, Responsibility, Respect, Relationships

Welcome to the first Branston Bulletin of the new school year! I hope you had a lovely summer.

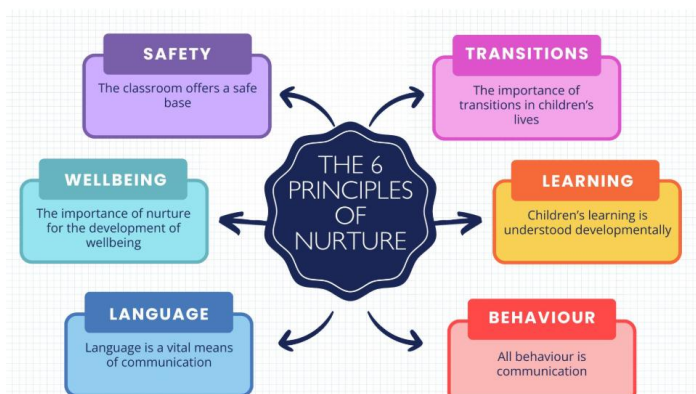
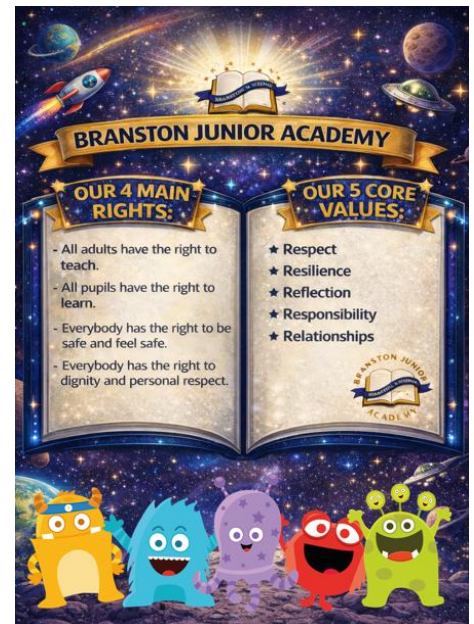
It's lovely to see your children back at school filled with smiling faces and excitement. Each week this bulletin will give you updates from what has been happening in school, our children's opinions about this and it will also be a place where important dates and key information is shared.

BJA 5Rs and 4Rights

We began our week with an assembly that explored our 5Rs and 4Rights. The 5Rs ([Responsibility](#), [Resilience](#), [Reflection](#), [Respect](#), [Relationships](#)) are our values which underpin all that we do here at BJA. From policies, to processes to how children are with their friends on the playground, the 5Rs are the foundation for all that we are as a school. Our 4Rights are the four simple rules that all of our children learn about in class and at break times which support the smooth running of the school and the development of the children as well rounded young people.

Summer Updates

It has been a busy summer in school. You may recall that last summer we had a lot of work completed on the fabric of the school. This summer we have continued the development of our Nurture provision within school. Children require all sorts of help and support when they come to school both in their learning and in their social and emotional development. Our Nurture Room and our Nurture Garden are spaces where children can work on strategies to best understand social and emotional development and to support the mental health and wellbeing of all children. We are in the beginning phase of this but over the course of the year we will be developing these areas still further which will be underpinned by the six key nurture principles. ([Resilience](#), [Relationships](#))



Year 3

We have warmly welcomed our new Year 3 children to BJA. They have made the transition fantastically well and they have settled into their new routines very smoothly. Moving to new year group and a new school is not always easy but the speed that the children have settled is a demonstration of how well the transition between Branston Infants and Branston Juniors is managed between the two schools.

As part of their first few days in school the children took part in an assembly where they were sorted into their houses by the 'BJA Sorting Egg'. Each child had to come to the egg and the egg would decide which of the four house teams the children would be part of. The anticipation was just too much and all the children were very excited! ([Resilience](#), [Relationships](#))



Benedict's Law

As I am sure you are aware Benedict's Law came into force on the 1st September 2026. From this tragic event new guidelines for schools have been issued and I wanted to reassure families that all staff at BJA have been trained in allergy awareness, administering AAls and creating clear plans for children with allergies. If your child does have an allergy please make sure the school is aware of this. ([Responsibility](#), [Respect](#))

Clubs in School

We are delighted to be restarting our clubs and enrichment activities this new school term. Please look out for information arriving separately about this. As well as clubs that have been popular in previous years such as football, singing group, netball, gardening and many more, we will be running some new clubs across this year including philosophy and cricket. A reminder that clubs that run during school time are organised by teachers and clubs that run after school time are organised via the school office. Clubs taking place after school are due to start on Monday 28th September. ([Responsibility](#), [Resilience](#), [Reflection](#), [Relationships](#))



Volunteer?

Do you have a little spare time on a Thursday afternoon? We are looking for a willing volunteer who would help support our children to go swimming At Branston Community Academy. No experience of teaching swimming is needed it is purely to help children as we walk to and from BCA and watching the children grow and develop in the pool! If you interested please email enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk

Our Pupil Voice

Each week I capture the children's voice. What have they enjoyed? What do they think about what is important to them? This week we hear from our children in Y3/4.

Archie Y3 – 'Since I started I have really enjoyed English and my writing'.

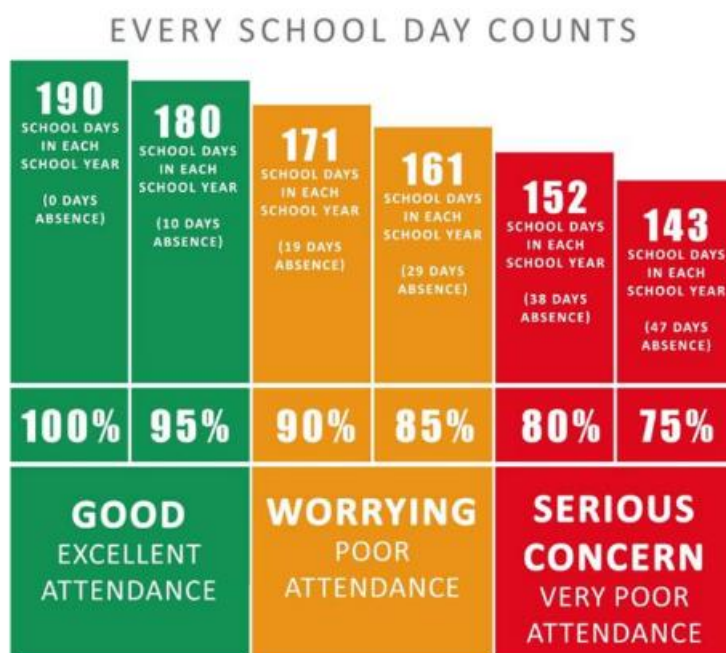
Aida Y3 – 'I have really enjoyed seeing my friends again Year 4 and getting to play with them outside.'

Mia Y4 – 'I have really enjoyed learning about numbers and division in Maths'

Lovely to see our Year 3 children reconnecting with their friends in other year groups.

Attendance

A new school year brings a fresh start for your child's attendance in school. It is now well researched that the attendance of your child at school directly impacts upon their achievement. In short the more your child is in school the greater your child's chances of success. This is not just in the short term but in the long term too ultimately impacting upon performance at GCSE's. If you feel there is a barrier to your child's good attendance then please do let us know and we can work with you to support best attendance.
(Responsibility, Resilience, Respect, Relationships)



School Dates

This is a reminder to families that after our consultation with the community Branston Junior Academy will be having a two week half term break in October. Please see the dates below.

Last day of school Autumn Term 1 – **Friday 16th October**

First day back Autumn Term 2 – **Monday 2nd November**

Community

Lincoln Cathedral - Be a Lincoln Cathedral Chorister for a Day | Choir

We are writing to let parents know that we are holding our popular (and free!) Be a Chorister for a Day event this Saturday. A few spaces are still available on a first come, first served basis.

Aimed at boys and girls in Years 2-6, it's a fantastic opportunity for children who love to sing to experience life as a Lincoln Cathedral chorister. They'll enjoy a fun afternoon touring the Cathedral, rehearsing with our brilliant music team, and exploring our Discovery Centre. The day will culminate with Evensong when they can show off their new singing skills.



No previous choir experience is needed—just enthusiasm, a love of singing, and a willingness to have a go. Whether a child already sings regularly or simply enjoys singing at home or at school, we'd love to welcome them.

Full details and the registration form can be found here: <https://lincolncathedral.com/events/be-a-chorister-for-a-day-2/>

Friends of Branston Woods

Friends of Branston Woods is a local community group working to establish a legal right of way through the woodland near the Old Branston Hall (now the Vedanta site), helping to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy this special area. If the woods are somewhere you currently walk, or have walked in the past, please consider supporting our application by completing an evidence form. Forms can be requested by emailing friendsofbranstonwoods@gmail.com

Lincoln Book Festival

Celebrating the National Year of Reading, this year's book festival is taking place from Thursday 1st to Sunday 4th October. It brings well known authors and rising stars of the publishing world to the city of Lincoln for four days of engaging talks, readings, discussions and workshops. For further information follow this link [Lincoln Book Festival](https://lincolnbookfestival.org)



lincolnbookfestival.org | [LincolnBookFestivalUK](https://www.facebook.com/LincolnBookFestivalUK) | [@LincolnBookFest](https://www.instagram.com/LincolnBookFest)

It has been an excellent start to the term and I am excited to work with you all to continue to develop your wonderful children.

Kind regards

Barry Thornton
Headteacher
Branston Junior Academy

Diary dates 2025-2026:

- **Thursday 17th Sept** – Writes Photographers
- **Thursday 17th Sept** – Yr 6 PGL Meeting
- **Monday 28th Sept** – After School Clubs Start
- **Wednesday 30th Sept** – Yr 2 Open Event
- **Tuesday 6th Oct** – Helping your children with their learning parent sessions (start 15:30, more information to follow)
- **Monday 12th Oct** – Flu Immunisation
- **Tuesday 13th Oct** – Year 3 Parent drop in session
- **Wednesday 14th Oct** - Halloween Film (Information to follow)
- **Thursday 15th Oct** – Harvest Festival (Information to follow)
- **Friday 16th Oct** – Autumn Term 1 Ends
- **Monday 2nd Nov** – Autumn Term 2 Starts

Please do look on our website and scroll down to the 'Calendar' section <https://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk/parents/calendar/> to find dates of all events.

Useful information on our website

Please go to our website:

www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk where you will find lots of useful information.

Under the 'Parents' tab, you will find information about:

- Information and events to support families.
- Mobile phones
- Second hand uniform
- Holiday / Medical Appointments
- Useful 'Letters and Forms'
- Your School Lottery

Under the 'Curriculum' tab, you will find lots of useful information about how to help your child with their learning.

Mr Pyburn's E-Safety 'top tip' -

Computing at BJA - Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope yours was a happy, relaxing and safe summer. For new families, let me introduce myself: My name's Mr. Pyburn and I teach computing across the school. I'm a father of two older teenagers and have been teaching computing for almost 30 years. Every week, I contribute to the Branston Bulletin by providing a 'tech tip', most usually with a focus on online safety: this includes advice to help keep your child(ren) safe online at home. I'm particularly a 'big fan' of families observing, and adhering to, age ratings for games and apps, especially social media apps.

For parents and carers of Year 3 children: we login to the school laptops using a username. This is your child's first name and family name (surname). Most children entering KS2 are able to spell their own full name - an essential if they're to successfully login to a school computer. If you're unsure whether or not your child can spell their full name, a little practice over the next week or so at home would be very much appreciated before our first Year 3&4 computing lesson.

Finally, please feel free to come into school to make an after-school appointment with me if you wish to discuss your child's computing curriculum here at BJA, or if you wish to discuss any aspect of online safety.

Kindest Regards,

Mr. Pyburn