



Branston Bulletin

25.09.2026

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

It has been a fantastically busy week in school. Children have been learning and I have seen first hand how the children are settling into the new school year. This week we are looking ahead to clubs restarting and of course our open evening.

Clubs

We are delighted to be restarting our clubs after school from next week. The uptake for our after-school clubs offer has been fantastic and thank you to all families who have engaged with the administration process to set this up. We are so pleased this term to offer Art Club, Multi-Sports, Netball, Homework, Football and Street Dance as our opening offer this year. This is in addition to Music Club, Handbells Gardening Club and School Choir which are all operating during the school day. Most of these clubs are run voluntarily by adults who are passionate about broadening our children's educational experience and we are thankful for the time they give. We hope your children enjoy these clubs and find them useful and inspiring. (Responsibility, Resilience, Reflection, Relationships)



Governors

We are looking to appoint a new governor to join Branston Junior Academy's governing body. If you care about our pupils and share our vision that "learning is a habit of life", this is a great chance to use your skills to support school improvement and support leaders. Whilst we currently have all parent governor position filled, we would be delighted to hear from anyone who may wish to fill one of our co-opted governor positions. Governors work as part of a small team to challenge and support the leadership, attend a small number of meetings each term, and help shape strategic priorities. We welcome people from all backgrounds — particularly those with experience in finance, education, HR, SEND, or community engagement — and we provide induction and ongoing training. If you're interested or would like an informal conversation, please contact Mr Thornton (Headteacher) or the school office at enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk. Thank you for considering supporting our pupils and staff. (Responsibility, Reflection, Relationships)



Lincolnshire Reading Pledge

At Branston Junior Academy we value the importance of reading and how it can improve a child's life chances. The ultimate aim of the Lincolnshire Reading pledge is to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, needs or abilities, becomes a confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader. We wholly support this aim at BJA. We are currently working towards our bronze award, look out for our progress and events being held shared through our social media. ([Responsibility](#), [Reflection](#), [Relationships](#))



Mastering Number

You may recall that last year we introduced Active Spelling as our method for supporting children with their spelling. I am pleased to report that due to the introduction of this program, spelling results, the use of correct spelling in writing and motivation when learning spellings have all improved significantly.



To further improve our Maths offer to children this year, we are introducing Mastering Number. This program aims to strengthen pupils' confidence and fluency with numbers. Mastering Number is a nationally recognised approach of short, daily maths sessions that focus on building secure number facts and mental calculation strategies so children can tackle more complex mathematics with confidence. Staff have been trained to use activities and manipulatives that link directly to our maths curriculum. You can help at home by practising simple number games, talking about number in everyday situations (shopping, cooking, journeys) and celebrating effort — even 5 minutes a few times a week makes a big difference. ([Responsibility](#), [Reflection](#))

School Reminders

- Please remember to label all of your children's clothing. With weather changeable at this time of year clothes do sometimes become misplaced. If it has a name in it the item of clothing will be returned.
- Do support your child to read three times per week at home at least. Reading opens the whole curriculum to our children.
- Parking and Turning in the driveway at the beginning and end of the school day to be discouraged. At these times our children and the children of Branston Community Academy are moving around and therefore manoeuvring in this area and at this time is dangerous. Thank you for helping to keep all of community safe.

Illness and School Attendance

As we move into the time of year when coughs, colds and minor illnesses become more common, please remember that regular attendance is still important for children. Children with mild coughs, sniffles or the common cold can normally come to school and we will care for them while they learn. Please keep children at home and contact us if they have a high temperature, vomiting, diarrhoea, severe breathing difficulties, or a contagious infection diagnosed by a GP. When in doubt, call us — we will work with you to balance your child's health with the importance of being in class and progressing with their learning. ([Responsibility](#), [Resilience](#))

Should I keep my
child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek




SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfex>.

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**

Barry Thornton
Headteacher
Branston Junior Academy

Diary dates 2025-2026:

- **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 (We have moved this date - 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' -

BJA Family Computing Acceptable Use Policy - a reminder & forthcoming social media ban for under 16s

Dear families,

By now, you'll have received an email from school with an attachment named, '**BJA Family Computing Acceptable Use Policy**'. It's been written to help ensure that all children understand what is expected of them in keeping themselves and other BJA children safe and happy when online for school work, or related tasks.

To repeat what I wrote last week, if you could read through with your child, particularly paragraph 2 ('Chat Functions'), I'd be most appreciative; **it really is important that we all uphold our school values whether in real life, or online; in, or out of school.**

I'll also leave you with some welcome news: as you may be aware, the UK government will be introducing a social media ban for under-16s in the Spring as a means of protecting children online. More information can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdehb97m>

