



Branston Bulletin

9.1.26

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

Happy New Year to all our BJA families!

Our School Week

Welcome to the Spring Term and what a busy first few days back at school it has been. We started our week in the snow! Teachers spent Monday updating their training on a variety of important areas and getting school ready for the return of the children.



We welcomed children back on Tuesday in the snow. They brought warm clothes, waterproof footwear and much excitement. It was so lovely to see the children playing in the snow and enjoying what is a relatively rare weather event in our community. As winter sometimes provides adverse weather conditions, please do know that if there are any changes to the school being open, we will relay these to you as soon as possible. [\(Reflections, Relationships, Resilience\)](#)

Back to school learning

The children have returned to school fantastically, slipping back into their learning and routines with ease. This term is an important term for children's learning. There is much evidence to show that children really begin to accelerate in their learning this term as they mature into their year group and become more confident in the expectations of their teachers. Therefore, we continue to ask you to support your children to attend school as much as possible. Good attendance makes for positive outcomes for children. [\(Reflection, Resilience\)](#)

Communication



We are confident now that the Arbor email and text system is up and running correctly in school. We are looking forward to launching the parent portal soon. I also just wanted to remind you that if your child has an appointment during school time (such as a doctor, dentist, or hospital visit), we do need to see some form of evidence for our records. This can be an appointment card, letter, text message, or screenshot from the provider. This helps us keep accurate attendance records and ensure everything is logged correctly.

[\(Respect, Relationship\)](#)

Reading at Home

Here at BJA we strongly encourage children to read. They read every day in school. We also value the work families do to support children with reading at home. Children at BJA are expected to read their scheme book at least three times per week and then they can supplement this with either some reading from their reading for pleasure book from school or reading books at home. Below are some fully researched strategies which can support reading at home.

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Barry Thornton
Headteacher



Diary dates 2025-2026:

- **Monday 19th January** – Parent SATs Information Session
- **Thursday 12th February** – Squishmallow Bingo (information to follow)
- **Friday 13th February** – Spring Term 1 ends
- **Monday 23rd February** – Spring Term 2 begins

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'

Accessing your child's Microsoft M365 account from home

Firstly, I hope yours was a healthy & happy Christmastide and that the time to spend time with family and friends was an enjoyable one.

A number of older children have been asking if they can access their Microsoft account online so that they can access their computing learning from home. The answer is that they can! Simply follow the link: <https://account.microsoft.com/account>

It's then a case of then signing in with their full email address of firstname.surname@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk followed with the password they use in lesson time. From there, they can access Teams (from the 'My Apps' tab on the left) and the links to this term's learning.

Can I remind all parents and carers to remind themselves of our BJA Family Computing Acceptable Use policy which can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/mt4jjxp3>

