



## Branston Bulletin

13.02.26

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

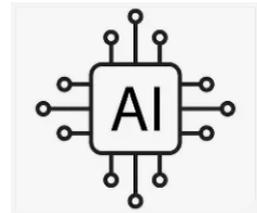
### Our School Term

It doesn't seem two minutes that I was welcoming you back from our Christmas break, yet here we are at February half term! And what a busy half term it has been. Your children have been focused and learning a great range of subjects from algebra in Maths to the construction of dragon eyes in Art. It really has been a term packed full of learning and we are proud of your children's effort and resilience in learning.

([Responsibility](#), [Resilience](#), [Reflection](#))

### Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February the children at BJA, joined schools across the country taking part in Safer Internet Day 2026. The children had a really interesting and important learning experience. Read more about this in Mr Pyburn's update also included in this bulletin. ([Responsibility](#), [Reflection](#))



### Squish Mallow Bingo



Two ducks a swimming - 22! What a fabulous time we all had at our Squishmallow Bingo event. The children enjoyed socialising with their friends, buying and eating snacks and of course playing Bingo. Well done to the lucky winners. It appeared that the children in Neptune were on a lucky streak!! As well as bringing our school community together we even raised the fantastic sum of £451.85

This money will be ploughed straight back into your child's experiences at school. A thank you must also go to all the staff who voluntarily gave up their time to organise and run this event for our children. ([Relationships](#))

### Playtimes and Wow Days

The great success of the Squishmallow Bingo and the recently held child centred Christmas Fair have raised enough money to expand and improve your child's experiences in school. I'm thrilled therefore to let you know that we have been able to secure a Dinosaur Day for our WOW Day at the end of our current topic, Extinction! It is going to be amazing, and we are so excited to see the children's faces!

Not only have we been able to secure this experience, but the money raised has also allowed us to make a significant investment in playground resources to support positive play for children.



### **A message from our School Council - Mental Health Message**

*Dear Parents, Carers and Students of BJA,*

*Children's mental health week is 9th-15th February. This year's theme is 'This is My Place' and our School Council would like to invite you to think of all the places where you feel like you belong. Where is this? What does this feel like?*

*We would like you to join us in getting creative and taking part by creating a personal map, which can include places, groups, or activities, where you feel safe and you belong.*

*This idea has been led and presented to the school by the School Council in assembly, and they would like to encourage you to join in with this activity, taking time for yourself and thinking about the places, people and groups that make you feel safe and that you are grateful for.*

*If you would like more information on this, please visit [Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site](#).*

*Thank you,*

*BJA School Council*

### **Staffing**

Mr Bore, our school caretaker, is leaving us on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. While we are sad to see him go, we are excited that he has secured a position as a Teaching Assistant and we are thrilled that he is staying in education. We thank Mr Bore for all the hard work he has put into BJA, supporting the site development and its maintenance. Much of this work goes unseen but if it wasn't completed, we would soon feel the impact. I am also pleased to let you know that Mr Houlden will be stepping into the role to support the school until the summer.

We have also recently welcomed a new Teaching Assistant to our Team. Miss Jackson is working with children across the school, and we are thrilled to welcome her into the BJA family.

### **October Half Term Consultation**

Thank you to the families who have returned responses to the consult. The consult for a potential two-week October half term from October 2026 was sent to families recently. Please do let us know if you have any opinions on this via the email address [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) All opinions will be considered. The details of the consult are in the previous e-mail sent from enquiries. The consult ends on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February so do get your opinions to us by the end of that day (it does not matter what time).

I very much hope that you all have a very restful February half-term and are able to spend some time with families. **School closes on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February and reopens for children on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.** We will look forward to seeing you all in the new term.

Barry Thornton  
Headteacher

## Diary dates 2025-2026:



- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** – Spring Term 1 ends
- **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** – Spring Term 2 begins
- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – Wrates Class Photos
- **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Learning Showcase (Information to follow)
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** – Non-Uniform Day for Chocolate Raffle (Information to follow)
- **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** – Parents Evening
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** – WOW Day (Dinosaur Day)
- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – Yr 6 National Child Measurement Programme
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Spring Term 2 ends
- **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April** – Summer Term 1 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

## Useful information on our website

Please go to our website:

[www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](http://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'

NSPCC Artificial Intelligence Safety Tips for Parents and Carers

This week on 'Safer Internet Day', we had a brilliant and fascinating time learning about the benefits of AI along with how to use it safely and responsibly. Dan Hawbrook from the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership live streamed into our classrooms and engaged the children in talking about the positive ways in which AI can bring change and improvement to our lives whilst ensuring that we use it safely and are mindful of its limitations. We then had follow-on activities in our classes that reinforced Dan's message.

Hot off the press, the NSPCC has also published its own set of resources aimed for parents and carers in helping them keep children safe whilst using Artificial Intelligence. These resources can be found at:

<https://tinyurl.com/5cudesu6>

