

Brandling Primary School



October Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children have had a brilliant first half term in school and continue to impress us every day with their enthusiasm for learning, excellent behaviour, hard-working attitudes and wonderful manners. It has been a pleasure to see them settling into routines, developing confidence and embracing all of the opportunities on offer. We are incredibly proud of how positively they represent our school values both in the classroom and around the school.

This half term has been filled with exciting enrichment opportunities for children across the school. One of the highlights was our whole-school music workshop, where pupils had the opportunity to explore music in a fun, interactive way. It was wonderful to see so many children participating enthusiastically and developing their confidence, creativity and musical skills.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils have also participated in our annual Bikeability programme, which remains one of the highlights of the autumn term. We are extremely proud that we dedicate significant time to this valuable initiative because we recognise that cycling is an important life skill. Some children began the programme unable to ride a bicycle independently and, through determination, resilience and excellent instruction, have developed the confidence and skills needed to ride safely on roads. Watching their progress has been amazing, and we are incredibly proud of every child who has taken part.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday, 2nd November.

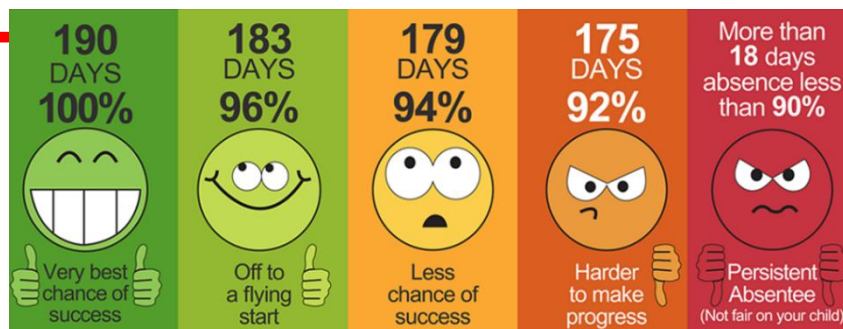
A Clennell

Headteacher



Attendance UPDATE

Year Group	Attendance
Reception – Acorn	95.63%
Year 1 - Pine	92.17%
Year 2 – Chestnut	100%
Year 3 - Maple	95.76%
Year 4 - Willow	95.77%
Year 5 – Elm	96.67%
Year 6 – Oak	96.13%
Whole school (This week)	96.11%
Whole school (Term)	96.15%



This week, our theme is;

'Grand Theft Auto'



We have had reports in school that several children are accessing this game at home. This game has a rating of 18+ due to its inappropriate content, therefore **CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THIS GAME.** Please read the attached guide for further information on the dangers of this game.

grand theft auto



KEY DATES THIS TERM



Date	Event	Details	Year Group
Monday, 5th October – Friday, 9th October	Bikeability	Information will be sent out.	Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5
Monday, 12th October – Friday, 16th October			Year 6
Friday, 16th October	SEND coffee morning	Parents are invited to join us for an informal chat around advice for children with SEND	Whole school
Wednesday, 21st October	School photographs	Phototronics will be in school taking individual school photographs	Whole school
Friday, 23rd October 2:00	Harvest Festival at Christ Church	Parents are invited to join us for our annual Harvest Festival	Whole school
Friday, 23rd October	LAST DAY OF HALF TERM		Whole school
Monday, 2nd November	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL		Whole school



EYFS NEWS

Nursery

We have had a wonderful couple of weeks in Nursery, full of fun, learning and exciting adventures! We have been exploring the season of Autumn and discovering the beautiful colours and changes that come with this time of year. The children have enjoyed listening to lovely stories such as Leaf Man and Little Acorn, which have inspired us to get creative and make our very own Leaf Men using autumn leaves. It has been wonderful to see the children using their imaginations and exploring the different colours, shapes and textures of the leaves. We have also been practising our colours, learning to write our names and developing our counting skills up to five. The children have been working so hard, and we are incredibly proud of their progress and enthusiasm for learning. We had a fantastic trip to the library, where we listened to the story of The Gruffalo and had lots of fun creating our own Gruffalo crafts. The children thoroughly enjoyed this special adventure and the opportunity to share a story together outside of Nursery. We also had a brilliant time at Toddler Sense, where the children loved bouncing on the bouncy castle, exploring the soft play and developing their physical skills through lots of active play. We have also been busy getting Nursery ready for Halloween, decorating our environment and creating a fun, spooky atmosphere for the children to explore.



Reception

Reception have settled into their new classroom brilliantly and are now in a fantastic routine. We are so proud of how well the children have adapted to their new environment. They are growing in confidence, making new friends and showing wonderful attitudes towards their learning.

This half term, we have been exploring the topic of Autumn and discovering how the environment changes during this season. We have enjoyed reading Leaf Man and using natural materials collected from our playground to create our own leaf people. The children showed fantastic creativity, and their finished creations are amazing!

Phonics continues to be a big part of our learning journey in Reception. The children have been learning their sounds and beginning to blend them together to read words. It is lovely to see the progress they are making and how their confidence is growing. Alongside phonics, we are continuing to develop our fine motor skills to help strengthen our fingers and prepare us for writing. The children have particularly enjoyed Dough Disco, creating patterns in the dough and using tweezers to pick up and move different objects. These activities are a fun way to build the strength and control needed for writing.

This month, we enjoyed our first trip of the school year to the Leisure Centre. The children joined in brilliantly and had lots of fun developing important physical and social skills. We practised turn-taking, throwing, catching and working together as a team.



KEY STAGE 1 NEWS

Year 1

The children have enjoyed a great month in Year 1. They are all working really hard and have enjoyed our Grammarsaurus unit in English. We have looked at a range of different verb to have, to be and action verbs and the children have written some amazing sentences. In maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction and the children have made some much progress recording number sentences and recalling number bonds within 10.

In science, we have explored humans including animals, looking at the senses, body parts and what different eat. In PSHE, we have explored our different emotions and how we can with these. In history, we have looked at the lives of our grandparents and explored how they sent an invitation, how they listened to music and how they made a phone call. In RE, we have explored the creation story and how God would want us to treat the earth.



Year 2

We have had a fantastic few weeks in Year 2, and the children have been working so hard across all areas of the curriculum! In History, we have been exploring the history of Gateshead, discovering what toys children played with in the past and how transport has changed over time. In Science, we have been learning about animals and investigating whether humans all grow at the same rate. Our English lessons have focused on minibests, and we have been developing our foundational skills to write non-chronological reports about worms and ladybirds. In Maths, we have been practising adding numbers within 10 and adding across 10, and we are now getting ready to begin our learning about subtraction. In Art, as part of our topic on textures, we have created beautiful autumn collages, exploring different materials and textures. We are so proud of the effort, enthusiasm and progress the children have shown over the past few weeks. Well done, Year 2!



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS

Year 3

Year 3 have been working incredibly hard in class this half term, and it has been wonderful to see how much they have grown in confidence and flourished in their learning!

In Maths, the children are becoming increasingly confident with their times tables and are developing their understanding of a range of calculation methods. We have even begun exploring addition with exchanges, and the children have risen to the challenge brilliantly!

In English, Year 3 have been working hard to understand and identify nouns, verbs and subjects. They are now confidently recognising these features independently in their own work, demonstrating how much progress they have made.

In PE, the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Commando Joe's sessions. They have been developing their teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills through a variety of exciting challenges using different equipment. It has been fantastic to see them working together, supporting one another and showing such enthusiasm.

Year 3 have also taken part in Bikeability, where they have been developing their cycling skills and learning how to stay safe on their bikes. The sessions have provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to build their confidence, improve their control and learn important road safety skills.

Well done, Year 3, for all your hard work and fantastic efforts. Keep it up!

Year 4

What a busy and brilliant month we have had in Year 4! The children have continued to work incredibly hard across all areas of the curriculum, showing enthusiasm and a fantastic attitude towards their learning.

English: We have been learning all about verbs, including irregular verbs, and exploring how they are used to make our sentences more interesting and grammatically accurate.

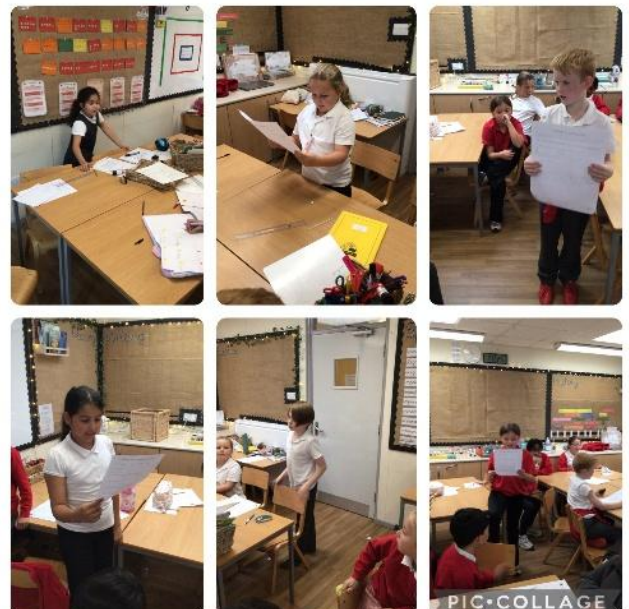
Maths: We have been developing our addition and subtraction skills, practising different methods and working hard to improve our accuracy and confidence when solving calculations.

History: We have continued our learning about Ancient Greece, discovering more about this fascinating civilisation and what life was like for people living during this time.

Art: We have been exploring tone, texture and proportion, developing our artistic skills and thinking carefully about how to create effective pieces of artwork.

PE: The children have been enjoying gymnastics, practising different movements, balances and sequences while developing their coordination, control and confidence.

Well done, Year 4, for all your hard work this month! It has been lovely to see the children challenging themselves, developing their skills and continuing to make progress. Keep up the fantastic effort!



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS

Year 5

We have had a busy first term in Year 5. There has been lots of fantastic learning and experiences. The children have enjoyed their poetry work, focusing on *The Walrus and The Carpenter*, and were able to identify rhymes and rhythm. In maths, the children have been working on addition and subtraction and mastering written methods to calculate and help with problem solving. In Science, we have done lots of experiments to test the properties of different materials. History had the children contemplating life in Anglo-Saxon England vs. Golden Age Baghdad, with many choosing to live in Baghdad since it had many things that Britain didn't at the time, including libraries and clean drinking water. In RE, we have studied how Hindus show devotion to their gods by learning about the different gods and how Hindus worship. In Art, the children created fantastic one-point perspective drawings. We've also had our trip to the Nissan factory, taken part in Bikeability and look forward to more trips and guests coming into school soon. It has been a great half term and we look forward to the next one!



Year 6

Year 6 have continued with their busy and exciting start to the year. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of the four operations, focusing on formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children have also been introduced to BIDMAS and have enjoyed applying this new knowledge to solve calculations involving more than one operation.

In History, our topic has been World War II. We have explored the experiences of evacuees, examined the role of propaganda, and learned about daily life on the home front. The children have shown great interest in understanding how the war affected people across Britain.

In Art, we took inspiration from street art and created our own striking pieces using charcoal. The children developed techniques to create a realistic 3D effect and produced some fantastic final outcomes.

Finally, all children successfully completed their Bikeability course. They learned essential road safety skills and

developed greater confidence when cycling safely and responsibly on the roads. Brilliant work, Year 6!

