

**Branton Community First School
and
Breamish Valley Community Nursery**



**Information for Parents
2015 - 16**

At Branton First School we are full of
cheer!

Confident

Happy

Enlightened

Effective

Respectful

Our vision

*'To nurture and value everyone,
while guiding, enlightening and
developing a lifelong love of
learning.'*

How to contact us



School Address:

Branton Community First School
Breamish Valley Community Nursery
'The Goslings' Parent and Toddler Group

Branton
Powburn
Alnwick
Northumberland NE66 4JF



Tel: 01665 578225



E-mail: Admin@branton.northumberland.sch.uk



Website: www.branton.northumberland.sch.uk



Find us on Facebook!

Introduction

Branton First School and Breamish Valley Nursery are located in Branton, a small hamlet situated in the Breamish Valley in the foothills of the Cheviot Hills. Our school building, was built in 1925 although there has been a school in Branton for much longer. The Presbyterian Church being built in 1781 and housing the original school. Our school has two classrooms, a hall and kitchen. The school was extended in 2009 to also include new toilets, cloakroom facilities and offices. Then in 2012 a conservatory was added and that has become part of our Early Years area.



We are very lucky to have wonderful outdoor spaces. There is garden and grassed area to the front of the school which is often used for sporting activities. At the rear of the school there is a playground and we have a large playing field with access to an extensive wildlife garden and Branton Ponds.

The catchment area includes the Ingram Valley, Branton, Powburn, Hedgeley, Beanley, Eglingham and their farming communities. Northumberland County Council provides transport for children who live more than one mile from the school. We encourage parents to share transport to and from school and at any other times it may be necessary e.g;

- Out of school activities,
- Pre-Reception sessions
- Assemblies



This booklet provides information concerning the school, as required by the 1980 Education Act, for parents of pupils who are expected to enter the school from within the catchment area, and also for other parents who wish to know about the opportunities available. Information concerning the general arrangements in Northumberland is given separately in a County Education Booklet, copies of which are available for parents of pupils who are starting or transferring schools next September.

Who's who at Branton

School Governors:

Head teacher	Mrs Zoë Ryan
LEA Appointed	Mrs Laura Capper (Chairperson)
Parent Representatives	Mrs Abi Wilson
	Mrs Helen Cowens
Co-opted Members	Mr Stuart Nelson (Vice Chair to Sept 2015)
	Mrs Sybil Telford
	Mrs Jan Johnson
	Mr David Wilson
	Mr Tom Oates (from Sept 2015)
Staff Representative	Miss Rachel Plunkett

The School Team:

Teaching staff:

Class One/Early Years teacher	Mrs Zoë Ryan (Headteacher)
Class One teaching assistant	Mrs Elspeth Bone
2 Year Olds teaching assistant	Miss Hannah Rogerson
Class Two teacher	Miss Rachel Plunkett
Class Two teaching assistant	Mrs Jacqui Lillie

Non-teaching staff:

Office Manager	Mrs Theresa McCann
Caretaker	Mr Ian Davison
Catering Assistant	Mrs Helen Wyld

Specialists (Part time)

Violin	Mrs Annelise Nicklen
Dance/Drama	Miss Jill Thomson
Yoga	Mrs Kate Thompson
Football (autumn term)	Trident Soccer—Mr Ryan Jobson
Gymnastics (spring term)	Mr Sam Dronsfield
Rugby (spring term)	Thunder Rugby
Tennis (summer term)	Mr Grant Watson
Swimming (autumn and summer terms)	Willowburn Leisure Centre

Admissions to Branton First School

If you wish your child to attend Branton First School you can apply for a place either by contacting the school or The School Admissions Team at Northumberland County Council.

Applications can be made online or by downloading a Common Application Form (September admissions) or by downloading an In Term Admission Form (mid year admissions).

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=2313>

You will also find a link to the Northumberland County Council Admissions Handbook for First and Primary on that page along with other relevant information.

Admissions to Breamish

Valley Nursery

For all admissions to Breamish Valley Community Nursery please contact the school office using the contact details at the front of this brochure. Children can join our 2 year old sessions once they are 2 years old, and our nursery in the term they turn 3 as 'rising 3s. Ask if you are unsure!



Moving on from Branton First School

The majority of our children move on to Glendale Middle School in Wooler when they go into Year 5.

There are excellent communication and links between Branton First School and Glendale Middle School. In preparation for transition there are days when Branton First School pupils, particularly those in Key Stage Two (Years 3 and 4), are invited to take part in events such as the Glendale Sports Day when First Schools in the area join together for a day of sport and fun! Our Year 4 pupils visited Edinburgh Zoo in June 2015 with other Year 4 pupils in our area as part of our transition work.

From Glendale Middle School the majority of our past pupils transfer to The Duchess Community High School in Alnwick for Year 9.



Our School Day

Morning Session	9.00am - 12.00pm
Morning playtime	10.45am- 11.00 am
Lunchtime	12.00pm - 1.00pm (Wed 11.45am -12.45pm)
Afternoon session	1.00pm 3.15pm
Afternoon playtime	2.00pm - 2.15pm



The start of the school day

Our children are welcome to arrive at school between 8.45 and 9.00 am and wait in the rear yard for the start of the school day at 9.00 am. Mrs Bone will be in the playground from 8.45 onwards. Children can then leave their belongings in the cloakroom and play in the playground until the start of the school day. Afternoon nursery and our 2 year old sessions begin at 12.45, so please bring children to the main school entrance.

Lunchtime collection

Our nursery children can be collected between 12.30 and 12.45 pm, from the main door at the front of school, after they have had their lunch. If you would prefer that your child not stay for lunch, then please collect them in the same way at 12.00pm. Parents are welcome to wait outside or come into school. We have an early lunch on Wednesdays due to swimming and so collection times will be 15 minutes earlier on that day, 11.45 or 12.15.

At the end of the school day

We ask that parents come into the school grounds and collect their children at the side gate at 3.15pm. This is to ensure our pupils are safe and with their parents or carers before entering the car park area at the front of school. Parents are welcome to come into the front garden area and wait for their children, it is also an opportunity to meet up with other parents! Children using school transport are collected from the side gate by the drivers and escorted to the vehicles. Nursery children (including 2 year olds) are collected from the main door.

Safeguarding password

If you ask a different adult to collect your child, an adult that is unknown to us in school, either at lunchtime or at the end of the school day, we ask that they use our password system. This system was initially set up for our Early Years children and is now in operation for all of the children in school.

You will be asked to supply a 'password' which the adult collecting your child will use to identify themselves as a safe person for us to allow your child to go home with. This will be stored securely in school and can be changed at any time by contacting us.

Our school in the wider community.

Branton First School is part of **The Alnwick Partnership of schools**. Visit our school website and click on the Partnership tab to see information shared by all schools in the partnership.

Branton First School also works closely with the schools in and around Wooler, as traditionally, this is where the majority of our children move on to for the next stage of their education.

Our School, Nursery and Parent and Toddler Group are all part of **The Cheviot Early Learning and Childcare Hub**. Again visit our school website to see the other settings involved and find out about the shared policies and procedures.

The school is part of the **Three Valley Schools Cluster**, three rural schools who work together to provide events and opportunities for our pupils to work together. The staff of the schools, (Branton, Harbottle and Netherton), also try to meet on a regular basis to share knowledge, expertise and continue staff development.

*The Alnwick
Partnership of
Schools*

*The Cheviot Early Learning
and Childcare Hub*

*Branton
Harbottle
Netherton Northside*

Class Organisation

In September 2015 Mrs Ryan will continue be based in Class One and Miss Plunkett will be based in Class Two. We do work together to provide the best education for our children and so there is flexibility within this organisation. Each member of the team will use their strengths to engage our children in our creative curriculum.

Mrs Lillie and Mrs Bone work with Mrs Ryan and Miss Plunkett, in delivering our curriculum and supporting our children. Mrs Bone and Miss Rogerson run our 2 year old session on Wednesday afternoons.

We operate a Key Worker system within our Early Years, so every child has a named adult who will lead their pastoral care.

Specialist Teachers and Coaches come in weekly to teach Drama and Dance throughout the year, and Football, Rugby and Tennis on a termly basis. Our children also swim at Willowburn pool in the autumn and summer terms. In the autumn term 2015 Mrs Kate Thompson will begin Yoga stories with our youngest children.



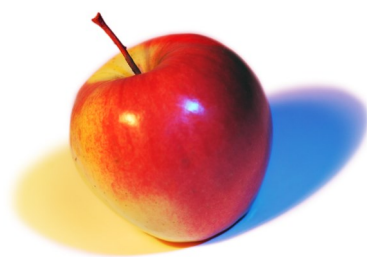
School Lunches

Our children are provided with a two course lunch each day. These lunches are provided by Glendale Middle School Kitchen, following dietary guidelines, and prepared by Mrs Wyld in our school kitchen. Please inform Mrs McCann of any special dietary requirements.

All children are encouraged to have a school lunch for at least their first term at school. Provision is also made for those pupils wishing to bring a packed lunch. We do operate on a Healthy Schools basis and therefore would encourage any packed lunches to be healthy and nutritious. To help in the preparation and administration of our school lunches we would ask that you give a full week's notice should your child wish to change from school to packed lunches or vice versa.

From September 2014 all children from Reception to Year Two will be eligible for a school meal at no cost; however we would encourage parents to still apply for Free School Meals if they believe they are eligible as we receive addition funding, Pupil Premium, for pupils entitled to Free School Meals.

For children in Years Three and Four the cost of school meals is £2.20 per day, £11.00 per week. Please send lunch money to school in a named envelope on Monday morning, alternatively we are happy to accept payments on a monthly or half termly basis, in advance. Mrs McCann has limited time in our school office, so please do ensure payments are kept up to date. Cheques should be made payable to 'Northumberland County Council'.



Fruit and Milk

Our children have a piece of fruit mid-morning through the fruit for schools scheme and milk is also provided. This is free for children up to the term in which they turn five and to children in receipt of Free School Meals. For all other pupils the cost of milk will be notified in the previous term. Milk and fruit is provided mid morning for all our nursery children.



Our School Curriculum- Early Years

From September 2014 our children in Reception and Nursery follow the New Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, linked to our whole school topics which run on a 2 year cycle.

The Overarching principles of the curriculum for our Early Years children are

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers;
- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Our whole school curriculum information includes information about the seven areas of learning for the Early Years curriculum. We use these areas to plan our whole school curriculum to enable all our pupils to share experiences and to work together.

The three main characteristics of effective teaching and learning from the Early Years Curriculum underpin our practice throughout our school. They are

playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';

active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements; and

creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things



Nursery Sessions

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings 9.00 am—12.00 pm (Lunch 12.00—12.30) Yoga is on Tuesday mornings and Drama on Friday mornings.

Monday and Tuesday afternoons, 12.45 pm—3.15 pm, and our 2 year old session Wednesday afternoons 12.45 pm —3.15 pm which all our nursery pupils are welcome to join.

Our School Curriculum- Whole School

In September 2014 a New National Curriculum came into being. More information and the statutory information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum>

At Branton First School and Breamish Valley Nursery we carried out a consultation process with our children, their parents and our local community with the aim of devising a curriculum that not only follows the New National Curriculum but also meets the needs of our children and our local community. From this process we have devised a two year cycle of topics that will enable us to deliver our curriculum in a creative and stimulating way.



Lambing at Brandon

90th Anniversary Tea Dance

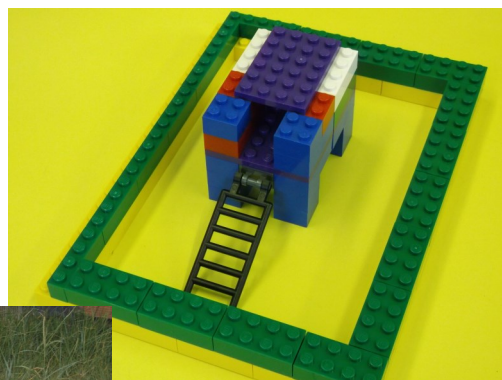


Comic Relief sponsored walk

Our Two Year Cycle is as follows -

	Autumn A	Autumn B	Spring A	Spring B	Summer A	Summer B
Year 1 of cycle 2014-15 2016-17	Who are we?		Where are we?		Amazing Animals	
	Community Local area study Britain in the stone age and iron age Animals including humans	Singing heritage (local and world) Comparison of local area to another non-European country Animals including humans	Transport The first aeroplane flights and the invention of the steam train Robert Louis Stephenson Materials, rocks, matter	Forest School Maps, compass UK geography Materials, rocks, matter	Mini beasts Romans Living things and habitats	Animals/hens Vikings Living things and habitats
Year 2 of cycle 2015-16 2017-18	Out of this world!		Where in the world?		Beautiful Branton	
	Fantasy Myths and legends Ancient Greece Seasonal Changes	Planets, stars, space. Neil Armstrong and the advent of space travel Seasonal Changes	World Countries Cultures Location (Geog) World Countries and capitals etc Forces and magnets	World Countries Cultures Oceans and continents Physical Geography climate zones, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes Electricity	Ancestry, local area history Anglo Saxons/scots Use basic geographical vocabulary (Physical) Types of settlement, fieldwork	Farming Money, enterprise Use basic geographical vocabulary (Human) Types of settlement, fieldwork Plants

This is very much a working document and so could be subject to change during the cycle, so look out for our termly topic plans for up to date information.



As part of the New National Curriculum we will continue to teach English, Maths, Science, ICT (including computing), History, Geography, Religious Education, Design and Technology, Art, Music, Physical Education, and Modern Foreign Language. We organise the subjects into the following areas from the Early Years Curriculum. This allows us to make whole school curriculum plans and provision.

- **Literacy** including Reading and writing
- **Mathematics**
- ***Communication and language** including *Speaking and listening and Modern Foreign Languages*
- **Understanding the world** including *Science, History, Geography and RE*
- ***Physical development** including *PE, handwriting*
- ***Personal, social and emotional development** including *a sense of self, relationships, social skills and behaviour*
- **Expressive arts and design** including *art, music, dance, drama (role play) and design technology*

The starred (*) areas are the 'prime' areas for our Early Years children.



Literacy

From September 2015 we will continue to use Read Write Inc with our pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year One and Year Two. When our Year Two children are ready they will join our Years Three and Four children using the follow on scheme, Literacy and Language

"The Read Write Inc. programmes combine into a complete literacy programme rooted in the new national curriculum. They are designed to stimulate and challenge children's thinking and create enthusiastic, life-long readers and writers."

As part of the Read Write Inc programme the children will read Read Write Inc books in school appropriate to their phonological understanding.

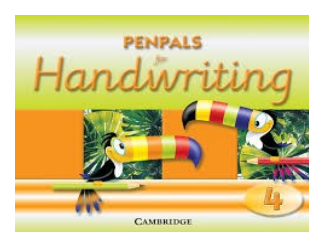
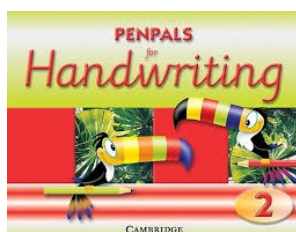
Alongside the reading books for Read Write Inc used in school, the children will have a home reading book to practice and consolidate their skills. They are free to change these books as regularly as they wish from a pre-determined colour coded box.

The children who are working on the Literacy and Language scheme will have reading books that they will read at home and school from the appropriate colour coded box.



Handwriting and Spelling

Our children will follow the 'Penpals' handwriting scheme which is similar to the Nelson handwriting scheme. Both of these schemes develop fluent and legible handwriting. These are the handwriting schemes agreed by the Alnwick Partnership of schools to ensure consistency in handwriting throughout the partnership. We also follow the Read Write Inc spelling programme using the same strategies children develop in Read Write Inc. pro-



Mathematics

The New Curriculum increases mathematical expectations and focuses more strongly on number and calculating from an early age.

In Key Stage One the expectation will be for children to be counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and understanding that division is the inverse of multiplication. They will be expected to count to and beyond 100 recognising numbers in words and as numerals. Fractions will be introduced earlier with children being expected to halve and quarter shapes and also numbers.

In Key Stage Two there will be a strong focus on knowing and using the times tables up to 12×12 . Children will be expected to count in multiples of 4 and 8 in year three and 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000 in Year 4. Use of fractions and decimals will increase so that children can work out equivalence of a fraction and also understand the use of 100ths.

As the curriculum is in its infancy we will initially be using the resources we have in school to plan and teach the Mathematical aspects of the curriculum. We will also use the Abacus and Hamilton Trust materials when planning as they are the first company to engage with mixed age planning for the new curriculum. These will be reviewed and updated as we feel is appropriate according to our children's needs.



Science

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
Working scientifically	Working scientifically	Working scientifically	Working scientifically
	Living things and their hab-		Living things and their
Plants	Plants	Plants	
Animals including humans	Animals including humans	Animals including humans	Animals including humans
Everyday materials	Uses of everyday materials	Rocks	States of matter
Seasonal changes		Light	Sound
		Forces and magnets	Electricity

The chart shows the topics that taught in science as directed by the new national curriculum. If you refer back to our topic overview you will see how we propose to teach these topics within our two year cycle. The 'working scientifically' refers to an approach to science where the children question, explore and experiment.

During **Key Stage One**, alongside acquiring knowledge about the different topics, children should be

- asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways -
- observing closely, using simple equipment
- performing simple tests
- identifying and classifying
- using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions
- gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.

During **Lower Key Stage Two**, alongside acquiring knowledge about the different topics, children should be

- asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them
- setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests
- making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers
- gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions
- recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables
- reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions
- using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions
- identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes
- using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.

ICT including computing

We follow the guidance developed by the Northumberland e-learning and ICT Advisory Team. They have developed a scheme that enables us to implement the New National Curriculum for Computing. Their guidance has enabled staff to be trained and resources to be purchased to address the aspects of Computer Science, Information Technology and Digital Literacy. We have desktop computers and i-pads in school for our children to use and a range of supporting resources and software to continually develop skills and understanding in this area.



History

The topics set out below are as described in the New National Curriculum documents. At Branton First School we learn about all the topics in Key Stage One. The Key Stage Two topics have been agreed by the Alnwick Partnership of schools to avoid duplication on transfer to middle school. The topic cycle overview shows when we will learn about these topics.

Key Stage One

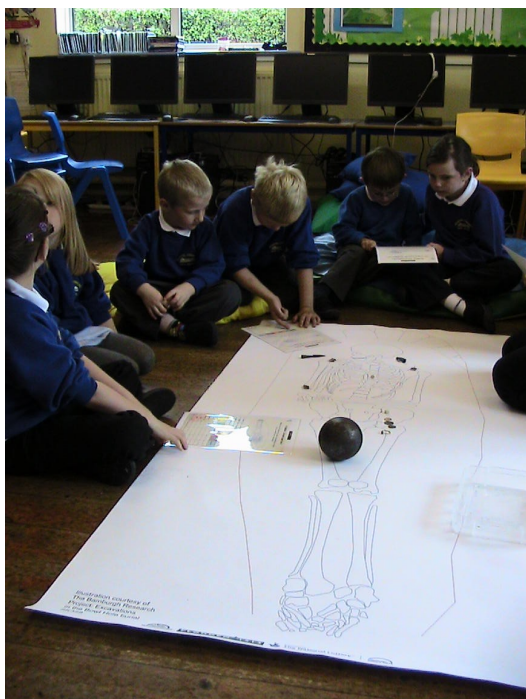
Our children will learn about

- Changes within living memory. *Space travel*
- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally *e.g. the first aeroplane flight*
- the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. *e.g. Neil Armstrong,*
- significant historical events, people and places in their own locality. *e.g. Robert Louis Stephenson*

Key Stage Two

Our children will learn about

- Ancient Greece
- The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain
- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
- The Viking and Anglo Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor (to 1066)



Our children learning about
Flodden

Geography

As with History, we will learn about all the topics at Key Stage One, and at Key Stage Two the topics have been agreed by the Alnwick Partnership of schools to avoid duplication on transfer to Middle School.

Key stage 1

Locational knowledge

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas

Place knowledge

- study the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country

Human and physical geography

- identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles
- use basic geographical vocabulary to refer features of physical and human geography.

Key stage 2

Locational knowledge

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers).

Place Knowledge - middle schools

Human and physical geography

describe and understand key aspects of:

- physical geography, including: climate zones, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes
- human geography, including: types of settlement and land use,

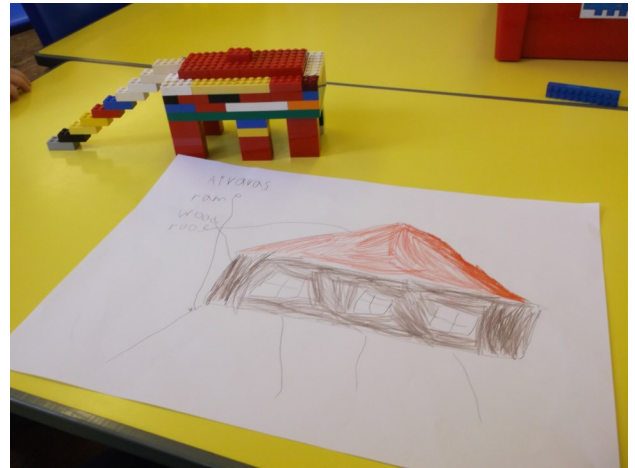
Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- use the eight points of a compass, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Design and technology

Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. They acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and draw on disciplines such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art. Our DT topics will stem from our topic cycle. In both Key Stages there will be the process of design, make and evaluate, while developing their technical knowledge.

There will also be a focus on cooking and nutrition where we will experiment with cooking techniques and focus on the principles of nutrition and healthy eating.



Art and Design

The majority of our art and design work will again stem from our topic cycle, however there is specific aspects that will be covered.

Our Key stage 1 children will

- use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination
- develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space
- learn about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

Our Key stage 2 children will

- create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials
- learn about great artists, architects and designers in history.

Music

There will be musical links to some of our topics, however music is a subject that will be taught discretely at Branton. It will be taught through a scheme called Charanga on the recommendation of Music Partnership North. Our school is part of the Alnwick Music Partnership and our children are taught the violin each Friday afternoon by Mrs Annelise Nicklen. We hope there will be partnership concerts to take part in very soon!

We also subscribe to Sing up which enables us to learn and sing a wide variety of songs.



Modern Foreign Languages

At Branton First School our children learn Spanish. Miss Plunkett is our MFL teacher and she teaches Spanish throughout our school, exceeding the expectation of the new curriculum where Key Stage Two children are required to learn a MFL. This whole school approach enables our children to become confident in Spanish as they begin to speak and write the language from an early age.



Physical Education

At Branton First School we believe in developing a positive attitude to and an enjoyment of physical exercise. From reception to year four all of our pupils have swimming lessons. This year we will swim at Rothbury Pool in the autumn term on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.00 - 2.30 pm. In the summer term 2015 we will return to Willowburn in Alnwick for our swimming lessons on a Monday afternoon at 1.15 - 1.45 pm, our nursery children will have the option of joining us at the pool accompanied by their parents. Swimming lessons are £3.50 per week which covers the cost of the lesson and contributes towards the transport costs.

We use our sports funding to have professional coach lead sessions in football (autumn term), rugby (spring term) and tennis (summer term). We also have a teacher visiting who takes weekly sessions in Dance and Drama which our children thoroughly enjoy. This year in the autumn term on a Tuesday morning we are piloting Yoga Stories in class 1 too!

We also ask the children which activities they would like to try, a 'Wish List', and hope to arrange a series of taster sessions throughout the year.

In February 2015 we began to use an online learning journal for our foundation stage children (nursery and reception) and hope to extend this into Key Stage One in September 2015.

Parents of our children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One will be notified by email how to set up with access to their own child's online learning journal. We will add information regularly, in the form of photos, assessments, videos etc., We hope parents will also contribute by adding their own photos, observations and comments to give a 'whole' picture of their child's learning journey.

Religious Education

The school follows the Northumberland Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. A copy of this is available in the school if parents wish to see it. The development of moral awareness and a care and concern for others underlines all we do in school and permeates all areas of the curriculum and supports the framework of our P.H.S.E. and Citizenship teaching.

Collective Worship takes place each day as a whole school activity. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from collective worship or from the religious education lessons are

Sex Education

Our school Governors, in accordance with the 1986 Education Act, have agreed that, although no formal sex education is given, the children in their study of the natural world encounter ideas of human growth. Any issues raised during the children's work will be answered in a factual and sensitive way.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

As we have small year groups we know our children well. This enables us to identify any needs specific to your child at an early stage. We personalise the learning of all our children and if a need is identified, we will put additional support or interventions in place swiftly. Should we feel we need further support and advice we can contact our LIST (Locality Inclusion Support Team) team based at Lion House in Alnwick.

There have recently been significant changes to the Code of Practice for children with SEND. Each school, partnership of schools and local authority now publish their 'information on how they meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Further details of these can be obtained from the school or on our school website.

Homework

Our children take their reading books home each evening and parents are asked to hear them read for a little each day if at all possible. A written comment by parents in their reading record book is valued greatly as it provides an informal means of communication between home and school.

All the children are asked to complete a learning log every two weeks. This is a way of children developing research skills while. For more information on Learning Logs please visit

<http://www.learninglogs.co.uk/>



Standardised Tests

In accordance with Government regulations the children in Year 1 have a phonics assessment test and Year 2 take part in the annual Standard Attainment Tests and Tasks (SATs) for the end of Key Stage 1. Parents are informed of the outcome of their child's SATs. Results of the SATs are not published, as the small numbers of participants could make it easy to identify individual children. At the end of each academic year a written report is sent to the parents of each pupil, with an opportunity to discuss it.

Each child's reading progress is closely monitored from the initial stages. Children are tested at the end of Year 3 and Year 4, using Optional S.A.T. tests. We also use a variety of assessment materials linked to our Assertive Mentoring System which are used half termly to track each child's progress. Parents are informed of the results and these results are passed on to Middle School in accordance with Northumberland County Council regulations.




Due to changes in the National Curriculum there will be changes to the testing system from 2016 and we will notify parents when more is known about it. National Curriculum levels have now been removed and schools are working together to develop new assessment and recording systems.

From September 2015, children will take part in a baseline assessment on entry to reception. We intend to use the Base scheme produced by Durham University for our baseline assessments in September 2015. Once the results are known they will be shared with parents.

Assertive mentoring

At Branton First School we have been trialling the assertive mentoring system. This system monitors children's progress closely and enables the teacher to have an excellent understanding of a child's strengths and the areas a child needs to develop to take the next steps in their learning. It involves the class teacher having a mentoring meeting with each child on a termly basis so they can discuss their progress, attainment and the next steps or targets. The system allows us to personalise the learning taking place in school. A colour coded systems clearly shows if a child is on target, exceeding their target or yet to achieve their target. This is shared with parents each term along with their child's personal targets to enable them to support their child.

The assertive mentoring system is used with reading, writing and mathematics as well as with attendance (including punctuality), effort, behaviour, organisation (having all the necessary items needed each day) and homework.

Exceeded target	On target	Not yet achieved target
		

Behaviour in school

At Branton First School we emphasise positivity. Good behaviour, working hard, being polite are all rewarded. Our children will be rewarded using a system that is linked to our topic work. For example in our *Growing* topic in the summer term of 2014 we had eggs, chick and hens as rewards. It also uses an exchange system so we are working in base 10 too! Ten eggs can be exchanged for a chick and ten chicks for a hen!

We also have a celebration assembly on a Friday, when all the adults in school say who has been their 'Star of the week', giving the reasons why. Our children then put their photos onto the wall so we know who has impressed us that week!

Should it be necessary to speak to a child about inappropriate behaviour we have the option of giving a 'time out', where that child has time to reflect on their behaviour before returning to the main group. Our Golden Time on a Friday afternoon is in recognition of good behaviour and effort during the week and so if we feel it is appropriate, there is also the option of a child missing a short time from this.



Contacting you

If your child becomes ill or has an accident during the school day, we will need to contact you as quickly as possible. We ask that along with your own contact details for home and work, you also provide us with an emergency contact in case we cannot reach you. We also ask that these contact details be kept up to date so that we will always be able to contact you should the need arise.



Sickness and if your child is ill

The school enforces the **48 Hour Rule**. When a child is sick or has diarrhoea they should remain at home for 48 hours from the last bout. This ensures that sickness and viral infections do not spread throughout the school.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school please let us know by telephone as early as possible on the first morning of absence.

If you need advice on whether your child should attend school advice is given at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/353953/Guidance_on_infection_control_in_schools_11_Sept.pdf

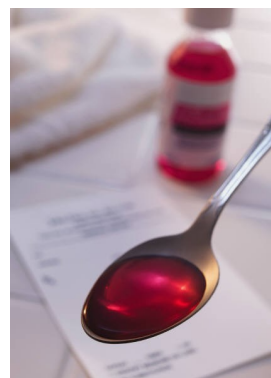
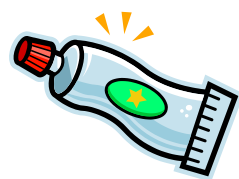


Medication in school

If your child needs to take medication more frequently than three times a day (which can be given around the usual school day), we ask that if at all possible the parents come to school to administer any medication required, alternatively parents need to complete an administration of medication form available from the school office or from our school website. This adheres to our school policy on medication which states that medicine other than inhalers cannot be kept on the premises, and that over the counter medication can not be administered except in exceptional cases.

Any pupils with ongoing medical conditions that require regular medication will be supported by our school team, and if appropriate, training for staff will be arranged.

Our policy on Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions can be found on our school website.



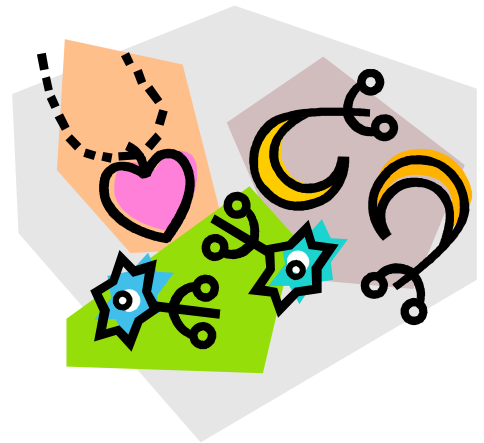
Loss or theft of pupils' personal property (including jewellery)

We ask that children do not bring expensive items of personal property to school. We cannot guarantee the safety of such items and the Local Authority cannot accept any responsibility for the loss or theft of pupils' personal property. It can also cause unnecessary upset to your child.

If your child is asked to bring an amount of money to school, we will ensure that it is handed to a member of our school team as quickly as possible and ensure that this is kept safely.

Jewellery

For the safety of your child we ask that they do not wear jewellery in school. Wearing jewellery in school can put your child and other's safety at risk. The Local Authority advice states that children who wear jewellery may expose themselves and others to risk or serious injury, particularly during practical lessons where machinery or apparatus is used and also during physical education and games activities.



Complaints

If you are unhappy in any way please contact the head teacher in the first instance. After that there is a statutory complaints procedure, the details of which are available at the school.

Data Protection Act

Under the terms of the above Act, we are obliged to inform you that pupil records are held on computer file, which is used for no other purpose than to contact you in the most efficient way possible. Please advise the school should you object to this arrangement or have any other related enquiries. A copy of the School Data protection Policy is available upon request.

Parent and Toddler Group

Our Parent and Toddler Group 'The Goslings' meet each Thursday morning during term time. The session is from 9.30 to 11 am and runs alongside nursery in our Early Years Classroom. Parents and carers are welcome to bring babies and toddlers to these sessions when there will be opportunities to join in with craft and play activities, listen to a story and socialise. There is always a member of staff available to talk to.



The Friends of Branton First School

We are very fortunate to have a supportive and active PTA at Branton. There are PTA meetings each term and new parents are encouraged to come along and become involved. This year our PTA has raised sufficient funds to allow us to purchase reading books for school, a washing machine to wash all our outdoor suits and our visit to Holy Island!

Our PTA

Abi Wilson -Chair

Helen Cowens -Treasurer

Coco Oates -Secretary



Parents in school

As Branton School operates an 'Open Door' policy, parents are welcome to visit the school at any time. However, if there is some matter that will take time to discuss, parents are asked to contact the Head beforehand so that a convenient time can be arranged.

Parental help is always very welcome in school - either on an occasional or regular basis.

Parents and friends are also welcome to attend our sharing assemblies which we try to organize at least every half term. There are also coffee mornings and other fund raising events when we invite you to join us and ask for your support.



Parents in school

- Bags to school
- Community Day
- Supplying in building our hen house

Branton Community First School

Term and holiday dates 2015-16

<u>HOLIDAY OR OCCASION OF CLOSURE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE</u>	<u>DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL REASSEMBLE</u>
<u>TEACHER DAYS</u>	<u>TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2015</u> <u>WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2015</u>	
Summer 2014	Friday 17 July 2015	Thursday 3 September 2015
October Mid-Term 2014	Friday 23 October 2015	Monday 2 November 2015
<u>TEACHER DAY</u>	<u>MONDAY 4 JANUARY 2016</u>	
Christmas/New Year 2014/2015	Friday 18 December 2015	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Spring Mid-Term 2015	Friday 12 February 2016	Monday 22 February 2016
<u>TEACHER DAY</u>	<u>MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016</u>	
Easter 2015	Friday 24 March 2016	Tuesday 12 April 2016
<u>MAY DAY</u>	<u>MONDAY 2 MAY 2016</u>	
Summer Mid-Term 2015	Friday 27 May 2016	Monday 6 June 2016
Summer 2015	Tuesday 20 July 2016	Tuesday 6 September 2016
<u>TEACHER DAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2016</u>	