



Newsletter September 2016

Welcome Back to the beginning of the new school year to Branton Community Primary School! We are now making plans for our future both for staffing and for accommodation so we will keep you updated as and when we have news to share. It is so lovely to see all the children back at school and looking so healthy after their summer break.

Naming Uniform



Our children look lovely in their new uniform and we were straight into our football and swimming sessions this week. There were several items of clothing that were unnamed and it can lead to some confusion as the children will get ready for these activities in groups and clothing can easily become mixed up. Can we ask that you please name all items of clothing, either with labels or laundry markers. We also have a Branton Primary School Hoodie, size 5-6 years in school since before the holidays that is unclaimed. If you think you are missing a hoodie, please let us know.

Staffing

We were hoping that Mrs Rebecca Hedley would be joining us for some sessions this term to work with our older children and throughout the school. She has been offered a full time post at Lindisfarne Middle for the final year of the school and so is unable to be with us, however she has been training with us and is involved in helping us make plans for the future, and we look forward to her joining our school team next September. Miss Vicky Birdsall is stepping in for Mrs Hedley this year on a part time basis and so will be in school for some of the school week. Some of you will remember that Miss Birdsall was with us during the summer term on her final teaching placement from Northumbria University.



PE this year



This year we are returning to Willowburn for swimming lessons for the year, with a break between November and February, when we will still travel to Willowburn, and take part activities on the Boulder Wall and Trampoline, all on a Thursday afternoon. This term we have Trident Soccer leading our football sessions on a Wednesday afternoon, in the spring term Thunder Rugby will return, and then Grant Watson will take our children for tennis in the summer term. Mrs Kate Thompson is returning to take Yoga Stories this term and then we are going to take part in some different dance activities, including street dancing, in the spring term. So we hope you agree that there's a wide variety of activities this year for our children to take part in!



Parents Drop in sessions

In our parent survey there was an indication that it was felt we could share more information with you about your children. Therefore, along with our usual November Parent's evenings we will be running a tea and biscuit informal drop in session from 3.30-5.30pm on Monday 26th September. If you would like to speak to us about your child or children, ask questions about their learning, please do come along for a cup of tea and a chat. No appointments are necessary.



After school clubs

Trident Soccer have sent home a leaflet about the after school **football club** running this half term on a Wednesday after school. Everyone is welcome, so please do come along! **Film Club** will restart on Thursday 15th September with a showing of Puss in Boots (U cert), with a finish time of approximately 4.50 pm. This is open to all our children from Reception to Year 4 and all our children are welcome to bring a healthy drink and snack. The next Film Club will be on Thursday 29th September with a showing of Rio (U Cert) with a finishing time of approx. 4.50pm. Please return the attached slip to sign up for the Film Club evenings.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are again holding a Macmillan Coffee morning at 10am on Friday 30th September. We hope you can come along, to what is always a popular event! Our PTA, the Friends of Branton, will be holding a cake stall, so please, any donations of cakes (large or small!) biscuits and tray bakes would be gratefully accepted! Proceeds from the cake stall will go our PTA, raising funds for Branton and Breamish and our plans for the future, and donations for teas and coffees, games and activities, will go to Macmillan.

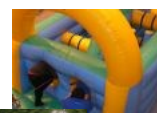


Key Stage 2 Residential



We have arranged a residential visit for all our children in Key Stage 2, so for all our Year 3 and Year 4 children. This year we have arranged for our children to go to the **Calvert Trust** in Kielder Forest. It is an excellent centre with experienced staff that will provide a wide range of activities for our children to take part in, activities that they otherwise might not

have an opportunity to do. There is also an element of 'Adventurous Activity' in the Key Stage 2 PE curriculum, so that also helps us fulfil this area for our children. Activities have not yet been finalised, and the centre are happy to plan around our children to find activities that they will enjoy taking part in. The visit is planned for 26th to 28th April 2017, which is the Wednesday to Friday of the first week after the Easter break. More information will follow. For more information about the centre please visit <http://www.calvert-trust.org.uk/holidays-and-facilities/school-visits>



Harvest Festival



Our Harvest Festival will take place on Thursday 6th October at 10 am in Eglingham Church. Ingram Church is hoping to be undergoing some rewiring work over the next few months so we have arranged with Rev Marion for our Harvest and Christmas services to be at Eglingham and we hope we will be able to return to Ingram for Easter.

This year we are collecting for the Peoples Kitchen and Children North East for Harvest, and are asking for tins, breakfast cereal, baby food in jars, pasta, toothpaste, woollen gloves and hats. Anything that isn't fresh to avoid problems with storage.

There will also be a Toy Sunday on Sunday 20th November, more information to follow!

Parents Survey



Thank you to all parents who returned the parents survey in July. The results are in the attached table, and show an amazing amount of support from our families; thank you all so much for your positive comments, we always value your feedback and take action on any points raised.

As you will have seen previously 10% of the return, representing 4.73% of our pupils in school and nursery, disagreed that *Parents are given regular opportunities to discuss their child's progress or are informed and feel involved in any additional provision for their child*, so we have added a drop in session on Monday 26th September, so do come along if you would like to speak to us.

We operate an open door policy, so that parents are always welcome to come and discuss their children, their wellbeing and their academic progress with us informally at the beginning or end of the school day, or to make an appointment to come into school to speak to staff.

The first point of contact with any query would usually be the class teacher or teaching assistant working with your child. If you are not able to attend in person, you can contact us via telephone or email to share information, ask questions or make an appointment.



Pupil Survey

We asked all our children some questions about how they feel about school and school life. A resounding 100% of our pupils say that they feel safe in school, which we feel is a real strength at Branton and Breamish and are so please that our children agree. We have attached the outcomes of their survey and their very wonderful suggestions as to how we could make our school a happier and better place to be.

Surestart Fun Bus

The Sure Start Fun Bus will be visiting Branton and Breamish on Friday 7th October 10-12 am, unfortunately all Thursday slots were unavailable this time around, however we will try for future visits to link with our Goslings on a Thursday morning.



Week of Prayer

You will be receiving information that Rev Marion has asked us to share with you about an up and coming event at St James Church, South Charlton. There will be a Festival of Family, Community and Culture on Sunday 25th September between 2 and 5 pm in recognition of National Prayer Weekend. The church is hoping to create a large wall hanging depicting 'Our Parish' and they are asking for any contributions.

NSPCC



Representatives from the NSPCC will be visiting school next Tuesday morning (13th) to talk to all our children from Reception to Year 4 about how to stay safe and avoid abuse. It is called the 'Speak out, Stay Safe' assembly. All parents of children in Reception to year 4 should have received a letter home giving more information about this event.

Dates for your diary, please note, some are to be confirmed.

Wednesday 7th September - Term begins, first football session, 2 year old sessions begin

Thursday 8th September - Goslings session and first Swimming session of the year.

Friday 9th September - Drama and Yoga sessions begin.

Tuesday 13th September - NSPCC 'Speak out, Stay Safe' assembly

Wednesday 14th September - Trident Soccer after school club begins.

Monday 26th September - Parents drop in session 3.30 to 5.30 pm.

Friday 30th September - Macmillan Coffee morning in school 10am.

Thursday 6th October - Harvest Festival at Eglington Church 10 am

Wednesday 19th October - sharing assembly, in school 10am

Friday 21st October - school closes for half term

Monday 31st October - School closed, teacher training day

Tuesday 1st November - School reopens, Parents Evening 3.30—6pm

Thursday 3rd November - Parents Evening 3.30—5pm

Wednesday 23rd November - 'James and the Giant Peach' at Northern Stage (Y1,2,3&4)

Wednesday 7th December - 'Luna' at Northern Stage (Reception and Nursery)

Thursday 8th December - Dress Rehearsal at Breamish Hall TBC

Friday 9th December - Christmas performance at Breamish Hall, TBC

Thursday 15th December - Christmas Service Eglington Church 10 am.

Friday 16th December - End of term school closes at 2pm.

Tuesday 3rd January 2017 — School opens

The Branton and Breamish Team

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