



News Bulletin

September 2026



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year. It has been lovely to see how quickly the children have settled into their new classes. They are all working hard and enjoying being back at school.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families to the school. We have several new families who have joined Brandling in our Reception class and throughout the school. I appreciate how difficult a move to a new school can be for some children, so please be rest assured we will do everything we can to ensure your child feels happy and safe in school.

Class teachers continue to post regular updates on Class Dojo. Please make sure we have an up-to-date email address for you so you receive notifications. Newsletters will be sent out monthly and whole school updates will be posted on Class Dojo.

Staffing updates –

Mrs Anderson has returned to work after her maternity leave. She will be teaching mainly in Year 5 and also covering other classes across school.

Congratulations to Miss Wotherspoon who got married in the summer, her married name is Mrs Higgins.

Please check the diary dates below for upcoming events happening this half term.

Have a lovely weekend,

A Clennell

Mrs Aimi Clennell

Headteacher





<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Reception – Acorn	100%
Year 1 - Pine	100%
Year 2 – Chestnut	100%
Year 3 - Maple	96.97%
Year 4 - Willow	97.86%
Year 5 – Elm	95.93%
Year 6 – Oak	92.83%
Whole school (This week)	97.27%
Whole school (Term)	95.64%

95%	=	40 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	80 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 days
85%	=	120 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	160 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!
Percentages based on 190 academic days





Date	Event	Details	Year Group
Friday, 7 th September	Y5 visit to Nissan	Year 5 will be visiting the Nissan factory in Washington to take part in a workshop	Year 5
Thursday, 10 th September	Northumbria Police workshops	Northumbria Police will be delivering workshops in our Year 5 and Year 6 on internet safety	Year 5 and Year 6
Friday, 18 th September	Jeans for genes day	Non-uniform (jeans) for a £1 donation to charity.	Whole school
Thursday, 24 th September	Multi-skills Festival at Gateshead Leisure Centre	Reception class will be taking part in some sporting activities at Gateshead Leisure Centre. Letters have been sent out.	Reception Class
Wednesday, 30 th September	Music workshop	Gateshead music service will be delivering a music workshop to the children	Reception – Year 6
Wednesday, 30 th September 9:00	Friends of Brandling meeting	Parents are invited to join us for our first Friends of Brandling meeting of the year. We will be planning events for the year.	Whole school
Monday, 5 th October – Friday, 9 th October	Bikeability	Information will be sent out.	Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5
Monday, 12 th October – Friday, 16 th October			Year 6
Friday, 16 th October	SEND coffee morning	Parents are invited to join us for an informal chat around advice for children with SEND	Whole school
Wednesday, 21 st October	School photographs	Phototronics will be in school taking individual school photographs	Whole school
Friday, 23 rd October 1:30	Harvest Festival at Christ Church	Parents are invited to join us for our annual Harvest Festival	Whole school
Friday, 23 rd October	LAST DAY OF HALF TERM		Whole school
Monday, 2 nd November	CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL		Whole school



EYFS NEWS

Nursery

We have had a wonderful start to the new term in Nursery, and we have been so impressed with how confidently and happily the children have settled back in after the summer holidays! It has been wonderful to welcome so many new friends to our Nursery class, and all of the children have settled in beautifully. We have been busy learning our new routines, exploring the exciting new resources in Nursery, and developing our independence by learning to tidy up and help our friends.

We have particularly enjoyed our carpet time, where we have been learning our new welcome and hello songs. Snack time has also been a lovely opportunity to come together, enjoy some tasty treats and sing songs with our friends. It has been fantastic to see the children becoming more confident and comfortable in their new surroundings each day.

We have also opened our 2-year-old Nursery this week, and the children have been absolutely fantastic! They are already beginning to settle really well and have enjoyed exploring their new environment and getting to know their teachers and friends. It has been so lovely to welcome so many new faces to our Nursery, and we are very excited for all the fun, learning and adventures ahead!



Reception

What a fantastic start to the new school year Reception have had! The children have settled in so well and have really enjoyed getting to know each other, making new friends and becoming familiar with their new classroom and routines. It has been wonderful to see how happy, confident and eager they are to learn.

We have started our first topic, '**All About Me**', which has given the children lots of opportunities to talk about themselves and what makes them special. They have enjoyed creating self-portraits, sharing their likes and dislikes, and talking about their families and the people who are important to them. The children have also enjoyed drawing pictures of their families and sharing these with their friends and teachers.



Over the first couple of weeks, we have been particularly focusing on helping the children to build their confidence, develop friendships and feel comfortable sharing their ideas, thoughts and feelings. It has been lovely to see their personalities beginning to shine through!

The children have also been busy enjoying lots of mark-making activities and exploring the different areas of our classroom. There has already been lots of wonderful learning, playing and discovering, and we are so excited to see what the rest of the year brings.



KEY STAGE 1 NEWS

Year 1

A brilliant first couple of weeks in year 1. The children have adapted so well to the new routines and have even completed all of the set jobs.

In English, we have looked at our class poem and thought about things we might see at the seaside. We have matched rhyming words and even created pictures and actions to help us remember the words. In maths, we have grouped objects by colour and shape ordered numbers to ten and explored how they are spelled.

In history, we have created our own family trees and explored how our grandparents made a phone call. In art, we have drawn our self-portrait and in music we have explored the pulse of a song.

The children have loved exploring the continuous provision and are really getting to grips with completing their challenges in their free time before choosing.

Mr Wearmouth and Mrs Emmet.



Year 2

What a wonderful start to Year 2 we've had! The children have settled in well and have been working hard on all their tasks.

We have read a book to start our year – Our Class is a Family. We used this to help us think about how we would like our classroom to be for the coming year. We then followed this up with some PSHE about staying ready, respectful and safe.

In English, we have been learning our class poem, Someone by Walter De La Mare. We are looking forward to performing this next week in a whole school poetry assembly. We've also been learning about place value in maths and have enjoyed using the resources to help us make numbers to 100.

Well done for a super start to Year 2. You have really impressed us every day!



LOWER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS

Year 3

WOW! What an amazing start to the year we have had in Year 3. The children have settled into their new routines very well.

In Maths, the children have been looking into the place value of numbers to 1000. We have been using equipment and working in teams to help answer challenging questions. We have been revisiting important times tables.

In English, Year 3 have been diving in to some poetry. Part of Autumn Term poetry study was to learn and perform a poem. As an extra challenge, the poem was performed to the whole school. Well done Year 3!

On our afternoons, we have been exploring all of our new topics for the term. We started our year off with a special tradition, Every child draws a self portrait to show off how their art skills have progressed each year. In Geography, we recapped all of the important facts about the UK.



Year 4

It has been a really positive start to the new school year, and the children have settled into Year 4 routines brilliantly. They have worked hard, shown enthusiasm and are already making a great start to their learning.

In English we have been enjoying poetry and have learnt the poem '**The Lion and Albert**' by **Marriott Edgar**. The children have really enjoyed listening to and performing the poem, and there have been lots of laughs along the way! We have also been developing our vocabulary by using dictionaries to find the meanings of words we were unfamiliar with.

In Maths, we have started our **Place Value** unit using the White Rose Maths scheme. The children have made a really good start and have been working hard to understand the value of digits within numbers.

We have made a start on our new History topic, **Ancient Greece**. The children have begun to develop their understanding of when Ancient Greece took place by ordering a timeline containing some important dates and events.

In Science, we are learning about **States of Matter**. We have started exploring solids, liquids and gases and will be finding out more about their properties and how they differ.

During our Tuesday PE sessions, we are developing our **gymnastics skills**. The children have been practising different movements, balances and ways of travelling, while developing their control and coordination.

Please continue to encourage your child to **read regularly at home**. All children should now have their **Accelerated Reader book**, so please support them in making time to read each day and discussing what they have read. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It has been a **great start to Year 4**, and I am very proud of how well the children have settled in.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 NEWS

Year 5

Year 5 have had a wonderful start to the new academic year! Everyone has come back to school well rested and ready to learn. We've only been back a little while but we've already had our first trip – to the Nissan factory. Here, the children had lots of fun completing STEM activities and learning about how the factory works. They built their own cars from lego, tested materials and learnt how cars are put together. They also got to meet some incredible robots! In other news, we have started lots of new topics over the last few weeks, including the study of Baghdad's Golden Age in history, materials in science and Hinduism in RE. We have also started our swimming lessons which many of the children were looking forward to and have really enjoyed. We look forward to what the coming weeks and year will bring after such a successful start. Well done Year 5!



Year 6

Year 6 have made a **confident and enthusiastic start** to the new school year. They have settled quickly into routines, shown maturity in their learning, and demonstrated real excitement for the challenges ahead.

In art, the children completed their **annual self-portraits**, showcasing careful observation and growing technical skill. They also began our **Street Art unit**, starting with personalised **moodboards** to explore colour, style, and visual identity.

We started the term by revisiting **place value in maths**, ensuring children have a secure foundation for the more complex concepts ahead. They practised **comparing**, **ordering**, and **rounding numbers**, strengthening their confidence with larger values and preparing for deeper reasoning tasks.

In English, Year 6 prepared a **performance based on Karl Nova's poem Peer Pressure**. They explored rhythm, voice, and expression, working collaboratively to bring the poem's message to life. They will perform this piece to the **whole school**, giving them a valuable opportunity to develop confidence and stage presence.

We were delighted to welcome **Northumbria Police**, who delivered an engaging and informative session on **e-safety**. The children learned about staying safe online, recognising risks, and making responsible choices when using digital devices. This session supports our ongoing commitment to digital wellbeing.

