

Friday 4th September 2026



Bransty Buzz!



www.bransty.cumbria.sch.uk

Welcome back!

A huge welcome back to all our families and children as we start the new academic year.

It has been wonderful catching up with everyone and hearing about the activities in which the children have been involved over the summer break.

We have had a great start back and are already showcasing some spectacular work produced in every one of our classes.

We have added the whole year of dates to this newsletter and hope to continue to add more dates for each half term, once more are booked in, to enhance further learning opportunities in school.

Do remember, due to the nature of some events, there may have to be slight changes made but we will always endeavour to give you as much notice as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing you all over the next few weeks and dates for our Parents as Parent meetings will follow soon.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with your class teacher if anything arises and let's look forward to a happy and productive academic year 2026—2027.



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Queen Bee Lunch

Today the children who were awarded the star hoodies and postcards for July enjoyed a Queen Bee lunch with Buzzby and Mrs Bell. The children were very polite and very appreciative of their treat from Buzzby!



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Reading at Bransty

We have changed the way children choose books once they finish RWI. Children who are on RWI are expected to read 4 times per week using their book that they are sent home with.

Once they are off RWI, children have previously been choosing books from Accelerated Reader. Over the years we have found that children have lost interest in reading and no longer enjoy choosing books due to quizzes and book level bands.

Therefore, we have decided to remove Accelerated Reader and focus on Reading for Pleasure! Children meet all requirements and expectations in order to read within the curriculum, as we follow a rigorous CUSP curriculum throughout school.

Going forward from today, children can choose a book to read at home based on genre! We have a range of genres- adventure, mystery, sport, humour. They will still be expected to read these 4 times a week and begin to recognise books which are easy for them and which are a little trickier. It is their responsibility to choose a book based on interest and ability. Staff will monitor this as much as possible and assess based on fluency half termly.

If anyone has any old books at home and wish to donate them to school, please feel free to bring these in and they can be added to our genre library.



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READING AT BRANSTY

♥ We read. We learn. We grow. ♥



In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), children develop the foundations of reading by learning that print carries meaning and by developing phonological awareness through rhyme, syllables and sounds. They are taught to recognise letters, blend sounds, read words and sentences, and identify common exception words.



Phonics is taught systematically throughout EYFS and Key Stage 1 using the Read Write Inc. programme. In Key Stage 2, pupils build on these skills through the CUSP Reading curriculum, studying ambitious, high-quality texts to develop fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.



Reading lessons include explicit teaching, teacher modelling, guided practice and independent application, enabling pupils to become fluent, confident and enthusiastic readers.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Research shows that children who read for pleasure regularly make significantly greater progress in reading than those who do not.



At Bransty Primary School, we encourage all children to read at home at least four times a week and recommend 10–20 minutes of reading each day.



Reading at home supports the development of vocabulary, language, imagination, empathy and comprehension, while fostering a lifelong love of reading.



Home reading is a valued partnership between school and families, helping children become confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers.

READING FOR 20 MINUTES
PER DAY = 1.8 MILLION WORDS A YEAR!

OUR SCHEMES

DURING READ, WRITE, INC. PROGRAMME (EYFS – END OF KEY STAGE 1)

Read Write Inc.



- Children take home two reading books each week:
- A previously taught reading book to build fluency and confidence.
 - A Book Bag Book matched to their phonics knowledge.



Children are expected to read both books at least four times each week and complete the comprehension questions at the back of the Book Bag Book.



Parents and carers are asked to record each reading session in their child's reading record so that their progress can be monitored and celebrated.



Children are responsible for bringing their reading record to the adults in their class so that their reading can be logged accurately. If reading sessions are not recorded, children may miss out on reading rewards.

OUR READING APPROACH



Once children complete the Read Write Inc. programme, they have developed the skills to read accurately, fluently and with confidence. They can understand and discuss a range of texts and are ready to move beyond learning to read towards reading to learn.



Children select books that are appropriately matched to their reading ability and interests. Children are expected to read at home at least four times each week.



Each reading session should be recorded in their reading record, either by the child themselves or by the adult they have read with.



Children are responsible for ensuring their reading record is completed accurately and brought to school so that an adult can check and record their reading. Keeping their reading record up to date helps us monitor and celebrate their progress. If reading is not recorded, children may miss out on reading rewards.



Regular reading continues to develop fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and a lifelong love of reading.

CELEBRATING READING

RED TED

Reading Reward Scheme
(EYFS, Y1, Y2, Y3)

(Read Every Day, Talk Every Day)



Read at home with an adult at least four times each week.



Each reading session should be recorded in the reading record.



Reading records are checked throughout the week. Children who have read four or more times receive a sticker on their reward chart.



After collecting ten stickers, they earn a reading award.



Children then work towards further rewards and, finally, the Platinum Award, celebrating their continued commitment to reading.



It is each child's responsibility to bring their reading record to class and give it to an adult so that it can be checked, monitored and celebrated. If a reading record is not brought in and checked, we are unable to monitor the number of reads completed that week and cannot award reading achievements such as Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum certificates.



BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD and PLATINUM



Reading Reward Scheme
(Y4, Y5, Y6)



TOGETHER, WE CAN INSPIRE A LIFELONG LOVE OF READING!



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6 Week Summer Reading Challenge

Mrs Stephenson hosted an assembly today explaining the new reading system to the children and the importance of reading.

We also celebrated the children who completed the 6 week Summer Reading Challenge at the Library; they brought in their certificates and medals and received a sweet treat and applause from the other children; WELL DONE!



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Year 6 Pupils; Secondary School places September 2027

Children currently in Year 6, who are due to transfer to Secondary School in September 2027, can apply for a Year 7 place online at: www.cumberland.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications is 31st October 2026. If your form is late, it may seriously affect your chances of being allocated a place at one of your preferred schools.

The local secondary schools will be having taster days/open evenings during September/October; details of these will be sent out to all Year 6 parents/carers. Please see the dates we are aware of so far:

Westlakes Academy	Thursday 17th September 2026
St Bees School Taster day	Tuesday 29th September 2026 9.00a.m -1.00p.m
St Benedict's School	Thursday 24th September 2026 5.00p.m
The Whitehaven Academy	Wednesday 30th September 2026

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Parents/carers are
responsible for applying
for a school place by
15 January 2027

Starting School
Children born between
1 September 2022
and 31 August 2023
can start school in September 2027

You can apply online at: www.cumberland.gov.uk
or contact: 01228 221582
or email school.admissions@cumberland.gov.uk

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Swimming

Swimming sessions will start the week after next for Year Groups 1-6. Each year group will go swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks.

Please note that swimwear must be worn under uniform to school on the days your child is going swimming to aid in a fast changing process due to the time constraints of the sessions.

Children will not have time to wash their hair after each session.

We advise drying swimwear and towels each evening and washing them fully at the weekends.

Girls are permitted to wear 'tankinis' but NOT bikinis to aid with using the toilet during the day before the swimming session.

No aerosols are permitted.



Year 6	Weeks commencing 14th and 21st September 2026
Year 5	Weeks commencing 28th September and 5th October 2026
Year 4	Weeks commencing 2nd and 9th November 2026
Year 3 / 4	Weeks commencing 16th and 23rd November 2026
Year 2	Weeks commencing 11th and 18th January 2027
Year 1 / 2	Weeks commencing 25th January 2027 and 1st February 2027

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Administration of Calpol and Other Non-Prescription Medicines in School

We would like to clarify our arrangements for administering Calpol (paracetamol) and other non-prescription medicines during the school day.

Schools have a statutory duty to support children with medical conditions and to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place where a child requires medication in order to access school safely.

However, schools are not legally required to routinely provide or administer Calpol or other non-prescription medicines for minor illnesses, headaches, general discomfort or temperatures.

Department for Education guidance states that medicines should only be administered at school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

It also requires schools to have safe procedures in place for the administration of medicines.

What does this mean at Bransty?

We will not routinely hold a communal supply of Calpol in school or administer Calpol simply following a telephone request from a parent.

Where a child has a genuine need for paracetamol or another non-prescription medicine during the school day, parents should contact school to discuss this with us in advance.

Where it is agreed that medication needs to be administered in school:

- the medicine should normally be supplied by the parent/carer for the individual child;
- it must be in its original packaging, with clear dosage instructions;
- written parental consent must be provided;
- school must know when the child's previous dose was given to ensure that the maximum recommended dose is not exceeded;
- administration will be recorded by school; and
- parents/carers will be informed when a dose has been administered.

These arrangements are particularly important with paracetamol because it is contained in a number of children's medicines.

Giving an additional dose without knowing what a child has already received at home could result in a child receiving too much paracetamol.

Children with ongoing medical needs

This does not change the support provided to children who have an ongoing medical condition or an agreed Individual Healthcare Plan.

We will always work with families and relevant health professionals to make reasonable and appropriate arrangements for children who need medication or medical support during the school day.

If your child becomes unwell at school

If a child develops symptoms during the school day, staff will assess how they are feeling and provide appropriate first aid and care.

Where a child is too unwell to remain in school, we will contact their parent/carer.

We recognise that there may also be occasions when a child is otherwise well enough to remain in school but requires pain relief for a specific reason.

Please speak to us so that appropriate arrangements can be agreed rather than sending medication into school without prior discussion

Our aim is not to create barriers to children attending school. These procedures are in place to ensure that medicines are administered safely, appropriately and consistently, while meeting our responsibilities to support children's health and wellbeing.

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School Lunches

A gentle reminder to please order your child's school meals in advance. The ability to do this normally allows 3 weeks of meals in advance to be booked.

Unfortunately, the school office is no longer able to place lunch orders on behalf of children.

Arranging meals during the school day takes children away from valuable learning time and prevents office staff from carrying out other essential duties.

If a meal has not been ordered, a cheese sandwich will be provided so that your child still has something to eat.

We really appreciate your help and understanding.



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AUTUMN TERM

Weeks commencing Monday 14th Sept and 21st Sept 2026	Swimming sessions Year 6
Tuesday 22nd September 2026 10am -2.00p.m	Library Bus Visit
Thursday 24th September	Y6 Open Evening St. Benedict's
Weeks commencing Monday 28th Sept and 5th Oct 2026	Swimming sessions Year 5
Wednesday 30th September 2026	Year 4 Rivers Field Trip
Monday 5th October 2026	Y6 Evacuee trip– Carlisle
Tuesday 6th October 2026	Y5 Science show– Lakes College
Tuesday 13th October 2026	Nasal Flu Spray immunisations
Wednesday 14th October 2026	Year 4 and 5 Levels Trip
<u>Friday 23rd October 2026</u>	<u>Break up for Half Term</u>
<u>Monday 2nd November 2026</u>	<u>Children back at school</u>
Wednesday 4th November 2026	Individual/Sibling Photos
Weeks commencing Monday 2nd Nov and 9th Nov 2026	Swimming sessions Year 4
Thursday 5th November 2026	Whole school wheelchair basketball
Weeks beginning 16th Nov and Monday 23rd November 2026	Swimming sessions Year 3 / 4
Friday 20th November 2026	Children in Need Day
Monday 23rd November 2026	Class Photos
Tuesday 24th November 2026	Year 4 Levels Trip
Week commencing 7th December 2026	KS1 Christmas Plays Christmas Discos
Wednesday 9th December 2026 10a.m	The Peddler– Choir Christmas Carol singing

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Friday 12th December 2026	Christmas Dinner Day (Wear Christmas Jumpers)
Week commencing 14th December 2026	Christmas Trips/parties
Tuesday 15th December 2026	Christmas Carol service (TBC)
<u>Friday 18th December 2026</u>	<u>Break up for Christmas 1.30p.m</u> <u>(Wear Christmas Jumpers)</u>



SPRING TERM

Monday 4th January 2027	INSET Day
<u>Tuesday 5th January 2027</u>	<u>Children back at school</u>
Weeks commencing Monday 11th Jan and 18th Jan 2027	Swimming sessions Year 2
Weeks commencing Monday 25th Jan and 1st Feb 2027	Swimming sessions Year 1 / 2
Wednesday 27th January 2027	Young Voices—Years 5 and 6
<u>Friday 12th February 2027</u>	<u>Break up for Half Term</u>
<u>Monday 22nd February 2027</u>	<u>Children return to school</u>
Wednesday 24th February 2027 (pm)	Year 4 Beacon trip
Thursday 4th March 2027	World Book Day
Friday 19th March 2027	Red Nose Day (Comic Relief)
<u>Thursday 25th March 2027</u>	<u>Break up for Easter</u>



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Dates 26-27

SUMMER TERM

<u>Tuesday 13th April 2027</u>	<u>Children return to school</u>
Tuesday 13th April 2027	Year 4 Levels Trip (pm)
<u>Monday 3rd May 2027</u>	<u>Bank Holiday Monday</u> <u>School Closed</u>
Week commencing 10th May 2027	Year 6 SATS week
<u>Friday 28th May 2027</u>	<u>SPORTS DAY-COPELAND STADIUM</u> <u>Break up for Half Term</u>
<u>Monday 7th June 2027</u>	<u>Children return to school</u>
Tuesday 8th June to Friday 11th June 2027	Year 6 London Residential
Monday 14th June 2027 (pm)	Year 4 Levels Trip
Friday 18th June 2027	Back up sports day
Thursday 24th June 2027	KS2 Summer Showcase
Monday 28th June 2027	Back up whole school walk
Wednesday 30th June 2027	Move up to day—TBC
Tuesday 6th July 2027	Year 6 SATS results day
Monday 12th July 2027	Reports sent home
Tuesday 13th July 2027	Open Afternoon Years 1-5
Wednesday 14th July 2027	Year 6 Leavers Bash
<u>Friday 16th July 2027 1.30p.m</u>	<u>Break up for Summer Holidays</u>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DATES ARE PROVISIONAL AND
MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**