

NEWS-BRANCEPETH

AUTUMN TERM 1 2024

Our Curriculum

Long-Term Plans

We updated our long-term plan overviews ahead of the summer, which we hope you'll enjoy accessing each term. We handed out Autumn Term plans at our *Meet the Teacher* event in September. These were sent home with children for those of you who couldn't attend. If you'd like another copy or if you didn't receive one, please let us know.

Reminders

Homework is sent out on Fridays to be brought back by a Tuesday.

Home Readers for those on decodable phonics books will continue to be sent home across a weekend to be returned on a Monday. Please read as often as possible with your children as this will open up their access to the rest of the curriculum!"

Visits/Visitors

We have enjoyed lots of experiences this academic year already!

- Y5/6 Handball Festival
- Y3/4 visit to Gibside for a River and Pond Life Investigation
- Y1/2 Kurling & Boccia Festival
- Y5/6 Residential to Ullswater
- Y1-6 'Restart a Heart' Workshops
- Local area visits for all classes

'Grab a Grown-Up!'

These sessions have begun in our EYFS and are currently operating twice per half term on a Friday. Please see our school calendar for the upcoming dates!

Learning Together Sessions

We enjoyed Phonics Learning Together sessions for Reception and Year 1. Further information for parents can be found at:
<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

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EYFS

At the start of this half-term, we welcomed our new Reception class into school. All of our children have settled in well to new routines and are having fun with their friends. We have made a fantastic start to our phonics learning and have already introduced 20 new sounds! Miss Robertson is incredibly proud of our progress. In Maths, we have looked at comparing sizes, making patterns and counting with increasing confidence. As part of our topic, 'Me and My Family', we have enjoyed looking at what makes us unique as well as learning about different types of families and homes. We have painted some wonderful self-portraits. We even had a walk around New Brancepeth to see our houses too!

We have also explored a range of stories including some of our favourites: 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig', 'Funnybones' and 'Room on the Broom'. We also celebrated harvest by making harvest vegetable soup and have planted flowers which will be ready in spring.

We can't wait to see what next half-term has in store for us!
Miss Robertson



In Nursery, we have welcomed some new children to both our Caterpillar and Bumblebee groups this term. All of our children have settled in well to our routines and are making lots of new friends. As part of our topic, 'Me and My Family', Nursery 2 have particularly enjoyed looking at their baby photographs and finding out how they have changed and grown since they were babies. They have also explored a range of stories including 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Aunt Amelia's House'. Nursery 1 have enjoyed singing a range of nursery rhymes with actions and exploring new sensory based activities.



Well done to all of our nursery children for a super start to the new school year!
Miss Robertson, Miss Fenwick and Mrs Palmer



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YEARS 1&2

We have had a very successful start to the year and have settled well into Year 1.

In the mornings, we have been working hard on our phonics, recapping our Phase 2 and 3 sounds. We love writing our words and are getting so good at sounding out the words independently. We have been sounding out some longer words and some words with two syllables recently. In preparation for us starting Story Mapping, we have been having a go at writing our own sentences and continuing with handwriting practice, including how to form capital letters!

In Mathematics, we have started our work with the rekenreks and we are practicing composing numbers using smaller numbers. We are developing our ability to recall number bonds to 6, using the language 5 needs 1 to make 6 etc. We are also developing our ability to subitise- looking and saying how many we are able to see without counting. In our White Rose Maths lessons, we have been looking at place value and we have been ordering numbers, comparing numbers and developing our awareness of the following signs $<$, $>$ and $=$.



In Science, children have had fun exploring our senses! Children have taken part in some fun investigations, where we have investigated our sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste. In Geography, we have been learning about 'What is on our doorstep?'. Children have explored our local area, identifying human and physical geographical features. In Religious Education, our topic has been 'What can we learn about Christianity from visiting a church? What do Christians believe about God?'. Children have been learning the importance of a church as a place of worship to Christians and that Christians believe God to be All Powerful, All Loving and All Knowing.

It has been lovely to see everybody back this half term! It has been very busy!

In English Year 2 have enjoyed reading the books 'The Secret of Black Rock' and 'The Emperor's Egg'. Children have also enjoyed reading and writing some Shape Poetry.

Year 2 have written character and setting descriptions using capital letters and full stops. They also have also begun using conjunctions in their sentences.

In Maths, we have been learning about Place Value. Children have been learning about partitioning numbers and comparing numbers by using more than, less than and equal to symbols.



Thank you for your continued support!
Miss Hodgson & Miss Horrocks

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YEARS 3&4

Year 3 and 4 have had a lovely half-term!

In our Mathematics lessons, we have been looking place value as well as addition and subtraction. We have been solving lots of problems linked to these topics and working hard on our reasoning skills. In English, we have been working on a range of different genres within our writing such as diary entries, descriptive writing, stories and poetry. We have just started reading 'The Fastest Boy in the World' and we are all very excited to see what happens.

In Science, we looked at how living things move. We found out about our skeletons and muscles and even looked at how different animals move. In Geography, we explored how the UK is different in different places. We compared New Brancepeth to Edinburgh and London. In our Art lessons, we printed using string, blocks and shapes. We explored different colours and patterns within this. We have enjoyed our PE lessons. We have started swimming lessons as well as playing games to improve our throwing and catching skills.

Well done Year 3 and 4!
Miss Plummer



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YEARS 5&6

Year 5 and 6 have had a fantastic half term.

In English, we read 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan and have completed some brilliant pieces of writing linked to this. We have also read 'Tyger, Tyger' by William Blake and have worked hard to summarise the poem and have written pieces linked to this. We have enjoyed some virtual author visits this term with Katherine Rundell and Benjamin Dean.

In our afternoon lessons, we have been focusing on the topic, 'Fantastic Forests – Why are they so important?' in Geography and went around the local area to develop our fieldwork skills. In Science, we have been learning about life cycles of plants and animals and have identified the similarities and differences between them. In Art, we created some fantastic continuous line art in the style of Pablo Picasso and in PE, we have developed our rugby skills in Tag Rugby. We ended the half term with a residential visit to Ullswater.

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs J Heron and Miss S Hodgson

