

# NEWSLETTER



JAN  
2026



## A MESSAGE FROM MISS CARR

By now I am sure that most of you will have heard the news that I will be leaving at Easter, my last day will be Thursday 2nd April when we break up for the Easter holidays. When I first arrived at Bracken Edge in June 2020 to help out for what was supposed to be just a few days, I never imagined I'd still be here nearly six years later – or that this school would capture my heart so completely! What began as a temporary arrangement became one of the most rewarding chapters of my career, and I feel incredibly privileged to have served as your headteacher.

The thing I'll miss most is undoubtedly our wonderful children and families. The diversity of our school community has been such a source of richness and joy – watching our children learn from each other, celebrate their differences, and grow together has been truly inspiring. You've welcomed me into your lives, trusted me with your children's education, and created a community where everyone belongs. That's something truly special.

I'm excited to share that I'll be taking up a new role as a School Improvement Adviser with Leeds City Council. This means I'll still be supporting schools across Leeds, just in a different capacity. I'll be able to share all the wonderful practices and approaches we've developed together at Bracken Edge with other schools, and continue working to improve education for children across our city.

While I'll be sad to leave, I have complete confidence in our brilliant staff team and senior leadership. The foundations we've built together are strong, and I know Bracken Edge will continue to flourish and provide the excellent education your children deserve. Thank you for six incredible years. I will carry the memories of our time together – the achievements, the laughter, the community spirit – with me always.

With warmest wishes and gratitude,  
**Miss Carr**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 6 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – The Jolly Postman in school for Year 1

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February** – Panathlon Event (select children)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** – Phonics meeting for KS1 parents at 9am

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February** – Year 5 Trip to Tropical World

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March** – Taskmaster Event (select children)

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 3 trip to Magna

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** – KS2 Panathlon (select children)



We are now on Facebook!

Search 'Bracken Edge Primary School' and follow our page to stay up to date with school news.

## LITE BITE COFFEE MORNINGS



Will be running on the following dates, more details to follow:

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March 9am – Communication and Play  
Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May 9am – Behaviours that challenge



### Reading Resource

Purple Mash has just launched an online library packed with hundreds of amazing books – and the best part? It's totally FREE for our students! 🎉

- Open Purple Mash
- Click on the LIBRARY button (it's right there on the homepage!)
- Start your reading!

All children from Y1-6 have login details. If your child is having any difficulty logging into Purple Mash or needs a reminder of their password, please speak to your child's class teacher.

**! IMPORTANT**

## Early Closure Changes

From now on, we will no longer be holding termly half-day finishes.

All school days will run to their normal finish time of 3.15

At Bracken Edge Primary School, we are committed to giving every child the best possible start in life, and attendance plays a crucial role in this. Every lesson matters.

We have been carefully reviewing our attendance data and have noticed that our termly half-day finishes have been impacting attendance levels.

Research consistently shows that good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. Even small amounts of missed learning time can add up and affect progress over time.

- All school days will now finish at 3.15pm
- This change takes effect immediately
- We will continue to provide the same high-quality education and care throughout the full school day

## GOVERNOR NEWS

Governors met on 27<sup>th</sup> January and heard from Miss Wicks about how reading is taught across school. From Floppy's Phonics when children learn to read moving to Destination Reader in Key Stage 2, it was reassuring to hear how school leaders prioritise and put a great focus into ensuring all children become fluent and confident readers. As Governors we have made sure that there has been some budget allocated to ensure a good stock of different books that reflect our children at Bracken Edge and their interests.

# TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES



Year 2 visited Leeds City Museum and even rode the big wheel in the city centre - they had a great time!

Both year 4 classes also visited the museum and the trip linked with their science topic, Living Things and Their Habitats. They explored the Life on Earth gallery which was filled with various taxidermy animals and lots of fun ways to learn about the natural world around us. The trip also linked with their Romans history Topic and they took part in a workshop on the 'Romanisation' of Britain where children had the opportunity to handle real Roman artefacts. They travelled there and back via public bus and had a fantastic time.



# A CLOSER LOOK AT NURSERY



This half term, squirrel class have been considering 'Where can I find snow?'. Its been the perfect weather for thinking about winter and snowy places and as we draw to the end of the term, here are just a few things we have gotten up to on our Arctic Adventure journey so far.



Making hot chocolate after learning about winter



Meeting Jack Frost and Suzie Springtime



Helping our feathery garden friends with homemade bird feeders



Working together to make our own paper mache Arctic small world



Building enclosures for polar bears



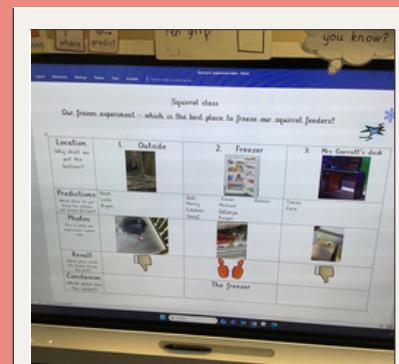
Playing shops



Finding out which animals live in polar regions



Looking at cold colours and mixing our own shades



Conducting a science experiment to find the best place to make ice

Do you have a soon to be 3 year old?

We currently have some spaces for 15 and 30 hour places available for the coming summer term and interest forms for the waiting list for September 2026 onwards are being accepted. Please visit the office for a form or more information.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



LEEDS BLACK ELDERS  
ASSOCIATION

It was lovely to see our visit to the Leeds Black Elders Association being shared on their Facebook page! We are hoping to strengthen this connection this year and visit them more often.



**Leeds Black Elders Association**

18 Dec 2025 ·

...

**Superheroes disguised as Bracken Edge primary school children! Without these superheroes, the Elders Christmas party may never have happened! They came and designed the layout of the tables and dressed them beautifully - just like a professional would. We are truly grateful for their help and proud of them. They were all respectful, helpful and happy. Thank you Mrs Cheyne and Mrs Woodley for organising this and getting the children to and from school safely. We look forward to seeing more of you next year.**



# AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

The clubs for this term are:

Day	Club	Years
Monday	Yoga	Key Stage 2
Tuesday	Choir	Years 4, 5 & 6
Tuesday	Karate	Reception - Y2
Wednesday	Football	Key Stage 2
Thursday	Skateboarding	Year 1 - 4
Friday	Gymnastics	Key Stage 2
Friday	Circus Skills	Invite Only

Clubs do not take place on the first week of term.

Clubs cost £14 for the half term. Clubs must be paid for via ParentPay and places are offered on a first come first served basis. If your child does not secure a place they can be put on the waiting list and will be offered first refusal next half term.

We try to make the clubs procedure as fair as possible - by using ParentPay we are minimising the need to call the office or come in to school as we are aware that many parents cannot do that during the day.

There are limited spaces for each club due to staffing ratios. If your child did not get a place this time please let the office know and they will add your child to the waiting list.



# PRICE CHANGE

At the start of the Summer term (after Easter) the price for activity clubs will be changing to £3 per session.

As before, all sessions will need to be prebooked and paid for upfront. This is due to high demand for places on these clubs.

Thank you for understanding.



## LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH - CZECH

Each month we have a language of the month in school. Children can take part in class challenges and even win a prize.

This month, we're celebrating Czech; primarily spoken in the Czech Republic, where it's the official language, by over 10 million people, and also in neighboring Slovakia, Poland, Austria, and Germany; Join in our class challenges to be entered into the Language of the Month prize draw!

Here are a few key phrases to get you started:

👋 Hello – Ahoj

👋 Goodbye – Sbohem

🗣 My name is – jmenuji se

Give them a try around school!

# SUITABLE CLOTHING

Please can we remind all parents/carers that children need to come to school with a coat and suitable shoes every day. Especially now the weather is getting colder. Thank you.



## COATS

Every day a large number of coats are found out on the playground and brought into lost property. Most of which are unlabelled and not collected. Please remind children to collect their coats at the end of break time. Also if uniform/coats could be labelled this helps greatly.



## RECEPTION PLACES 2026

If your child requires a Reception place for September please ensure you have applied online. You need to complete an application even if they attend Nursery at Bracken Edge.

Closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Ask at the office if you need assistance completing the application.



## PARKING ON HAREHILLS LANE



We know that some parents/carers park on Harehills Lane and walk through the park to access school. Please can everyone be mindful of where they park. Cars should not stop or be parked on the zig zag lines as this blocks visibility to the crossings. Unfortunately there have been some reports of people parking on these lines and because of this there has been a near miss on the crossing. We want to ensure children and anyone using the crossings are safe.



# BOOK WISH LIST

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
DONATE A BOOK OR TWO TO  
BE READ AND LOVED BY  
BRACKEN EDGE PUPILS,  
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE  
BELOW TO BE REDIRECTED  
TO OUR AMAZON PAGE. WE  
REALLY APPRECIATE EVERY  
BOOK BOUGHT.



OUR ENGLISH TEAM HAVE  
CREATED A LIST TO SUIT  
CHILDREN THROUGHOUT  
SCHOOL AND THESE ARE BOOKS  
WE KNOW THE CHILDREN WILL  
LOVE READING  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



## DOJO REWARDS



ClassDojo

At Bracken Edge children receive Dojo points to recognise positive behaviour. Each week, in Celebration Assembly, the class with the most Dojos wins a point. At the end of each half term the classes with the most points win the star prize!

Previous years prizes have included a mobile video game party, a silent disco and a bowling trip. What will this years be?

The children love the Dojo prizes and it helps encourage working together as a whole class to achieve the most Dojo points. We are asking for donations of £3 to help us cover the cost of these prizes. Please scan the QR code below to donate.

The next Dojo prize will be a tabletop gaming experience!



thanks  
for your  
support

# FUNDRAISING WITH NAME LABELS

## STIKINS® Name Labels



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## Nursery Places

Nursery places  
available - 15 and 30  
hour places. Please ask  
the main office for a  
form.



You can follow us on X for  
updates of what we get up to in  
school.

Add us here -  
<https://x.com/brackenedge>



A polite reminder  
that dogs are not  
permitted on the  
school premises,  
except for service  
dogs and Betty, our  
school dog.



# ATTENDANCE

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL  
ATTENDANCE IS 92%



## ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLE - JANUARY - 94%



PLACE	CLASS	ATTENDANCE %
1	Sparrow	96
2	Fox	95.5
2	Wren	95.2
3	Foxglove	94
3	Robin	94
4	Kingfisher	94
4	Daffodil	93.5
5	Nightjar	93
5	Nightingale	93
6	Dove	92.6
6	Bluebell	92
6	Poppy	92
13	Kestrel	91

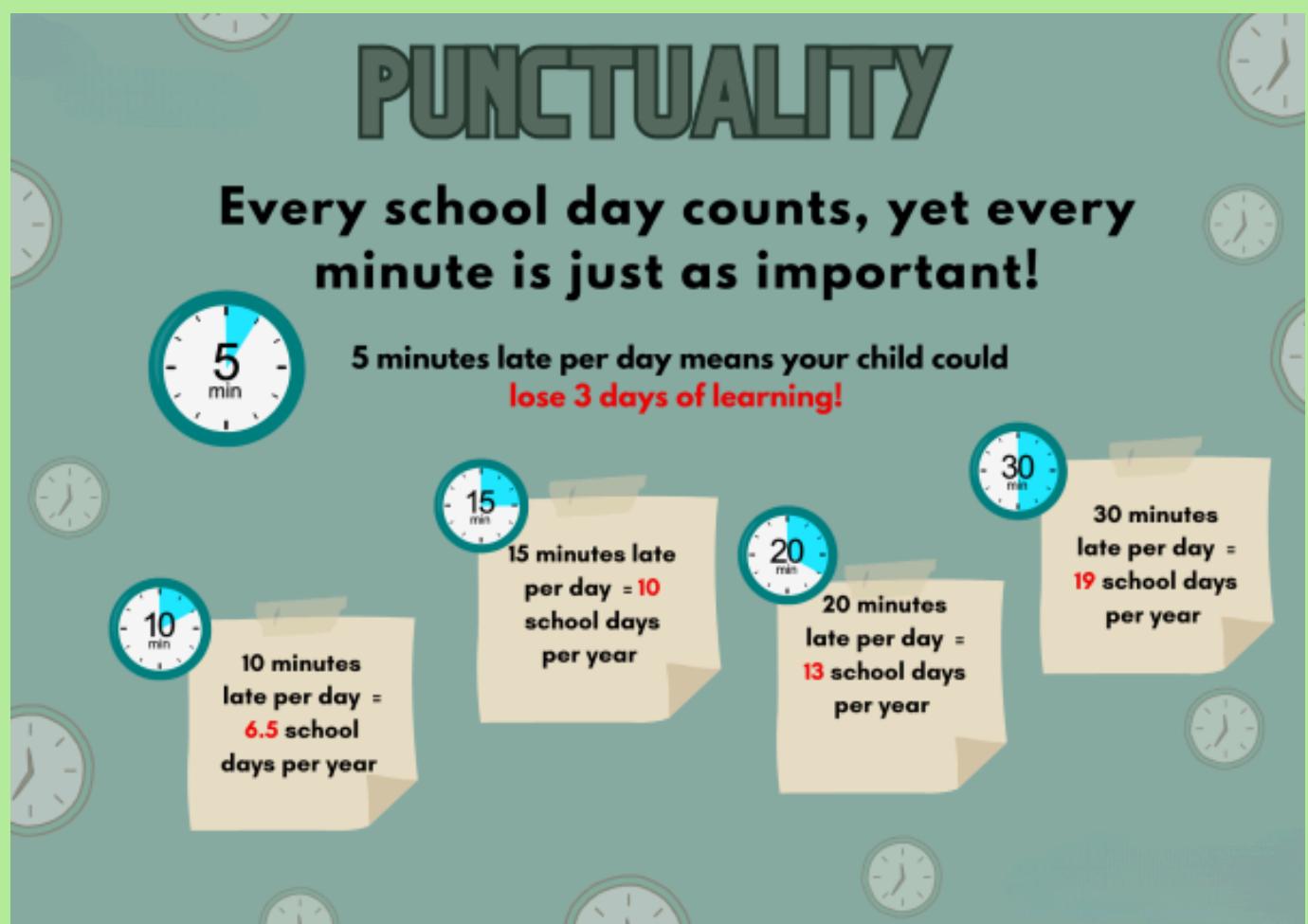
\*Keep on\*  
**TRYING**

# ATTENDANCE

Above is January's overall attendance. Well done Sparrow class!

## Punctuality Matters

Gates close at 8:55am. If you arrive after this you must enter via the office. Children arriving after 9am must sign in at the office and will receive a late mark.



# ATTENDANCE

## Fast Track Initiative

We continuously use supportive methods to improve attendance.

We are looking to improve barriers to attendance and how we can support families.

Every term we will be running a Fast Track Initiative in partnership with Leeds City Council.

Fast Track is a time-focussed approach to tackling irregular school attendance.

All pupils with 10 unauthorised absence sessions (5 school days) recorded over a 10- week period will be placed on this initiative.

Parents will be notified in writing.

A pupil's daily attendance will be robustly monitored for a four week period. During this period, if there are any further unauthorised absences recorded parents will be requested to attend a School Attendance Panel meeting to discuss.

Following this, if no improvement is made within the specified timeframe, the case will be referred to the Local Authority for a fixed penalty notice to be issued.

What is an unauthorised absence? If parents do not tell the school the reason, or if the school believes the reason is not acceptable, then the school may record that day as unauthorised.

Please remember we are always here to support you. If there are barriers to attendance we should know about, talk to us 😊

# PASTORAL AND SAFEGUARDING NEWS

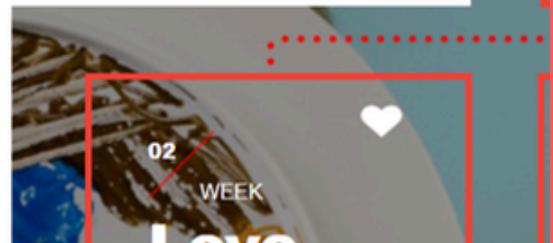


## PARENT GYM

# Six-week programme

Parent Gym is a programme made up of six two-hour sessions, with 'missions' to complete between sessions. Each programme has up to twenty parents and one Parent Gym coach.

The Parent Gym programme has been designed by leading psychologists, drawing on parenting research. All sessions are designed to be highly interactive and participative.



Our school's cluster are running Parentgym in Bracken Edge the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> March. If you are interested please speak to Mrs Lunn or find out more information at [Home - Parent Gym](#)

# PASTORAL AND SAFEGUARDING NEWS

## Supporting your child

Children's Mental Health Week is observed from February 3 to 9, 2025, focusing on self-awareness and emotional well-being

If you're worried about a child, encouraging them to talk can be very helpful, but it can be hard to know how to start talking to them about it. See the [NHS website for helpful tips on starting the conversation.](#)

[NSPCC - Advice for parents worried about a child's mental health](#) - Advice on how to talk to your child about their mental health and recognising the signs that they might be struggling. Noticing the difference between anxiety, stress and long term depression.

[NHS website](#) - Spotting signs of depression in children and teenagers

[Young Minds](#) - Advice and guidance for parents, where to find help and how to set up your own support group. Also offer free confidential online and telephone support to anyone worried about the emotional and mental wellbeing of a child or young person up to the age of 25.

Call the free parents' helpline on 0808 802 5544 from 9.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday or email [parents@youngminds.org.uk](mailto:parents@youngminds.org.uk) and

YoungMinds will respond to your query within 3 working days

[Mental Health Foundation](#) - A guide for parents and carers to help children understand, protect and sustain their mental health and top tips for how you can support your child's mental health.

## Support for Parents

[Help with Cost Of Living](#)

[Leeds BabyBank](#)

# COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

## Early Help Open Mic Forum

Our commitment – 'Early Help is Everybody's Business'



Book your place on one of our upcoming forums, for an opportunity to ask questions and further develop your knowledge alongside colleagues from across Leeds. It will be great to see you there.

### Online Early Help Open Mic Forums

Date	time	Venue	Places	Guest
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 26	9:30 – 11:00	Microsoft Teams	15	
24 <sup>th</sup> February 26	1:00 – 2:30	Microsoft Teams	15	DWP
18 <sup>th</sup> March 26	9:30 – 11:00	Microsoft Teams	15	FGC
23 <sup>rd</sup> April 26	1:00 – 2:30	Microsoft Teams	15	Life Coaching
19 <sup>th</sup> May 26	9:30 – 11:00	Microsoft Teams	15	Trauma
17 <sup>th</sup> June 26	1:00 - 2:30	Microsoft Teams	15	RPC
16 <sup>th</sup> July 26	9:30 – 11:00	Microsoft Teams	15	Behind Closed Doors

To book a place, please select from the list of forums above and email [families.first@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:families.first@leeds.gov.uk) with your request. If a place is available you will be booked on and sent a confirmation email with further details and a calendar invite. Be sure to get your booking requests in quickly, as places will book up quickly.



For more information about Early Help click [here](#).

Forums are open to anyone who is involved with a family in a supportive role, including students and volunteers. Please share this email with any relevant colleagues that do not receive it already.

Now delivered over Microsoft Teams, Early Help Open Mic Forums are multi-agency practice development opportunities available to everyone within, or connected to, Leeds Children's Service. Consisting of 10 people from different services and agencies, participants will have the opportunity to learn more about Early Help. In particular, forums give group members the chance to increase their skills and confidence in Early Help within their practice.

Right conversations.

right people.

right time

