

NEWSLETTER

MAR
2026



A MESSAGE FROM MISS CARR

Coming into school this morning I saw the mini daffodils shooting up through the soil and I smiled. Spring is one of my favourite seasons and I love seeing the new shoots and different bright colours popping up and reminding us that there is always new growth and life. Just like these daffodils, our children at Bracken Edge are constantly growing, learning and flourishing – each day bringing new achievements and moments of pride.

Potternewton Park looks beautiful as well, with the vast array of crocuses and tulips creating a blanket of colours to cheer us up after all the cold days and wet weather we have had. I know many of our families enjoy walks through the park, and it's wonderful to have such a vibrant green space right on our doorstep that connects our school community to the natural world around us.

Here in school, we have been busy and it has been a joy celebrating the different religious and cultural celebrations that our Bracken Edge families follow. Learning about how others celebrate and understanding different traditions is a great opportunity for all of us – children and adults alike – to develop respect, empathy and a deeper appreciation of our wonderfully diverse community. Chinese New Year and Ramadan have been the most recent celebrations, and there are details within this newsletter about how we've marked these important occasions in school.

These celebrations remind me that, just like the spring flowers, our school community is enriched by its variety and diversity. Each child, each family, each tradition adds another colour to our Bracken Edge tapestry, making us stronger and more vibrant together.

I hope you enjoy reading about everything else we've been up to this term.

Kind regards,

Miss Carr



D A T E S

FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4th March -

Taskmaster Event (select children)

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day (dress up or wear pyjamas)

W/C 9th March - Book Fair in school all week

Monday 9th March - FOBE Book and Bake Sale after school

Wednesday 11th March - Year 3 trip to Magna

Wednesday 18th March - Parents Evening

Monday 23rd March - Eid Parties

Monday 23rd March - KS2 Panathlon (select children)

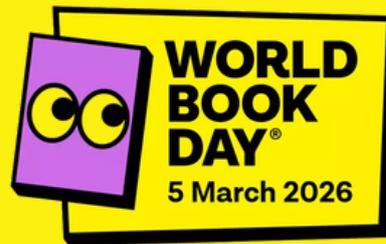
Wednesday 25th March - Parents Evening

Thursday 2nd April - Celebration for Miss Carr - 10:45am

Thursday 2nd April - School closes for Easter at 3:15pm

Monday 20th April - school reopens

Going forward we will send out newsletters at the start of each month so that we can inform people of the Language of the Month etc in that month. Hopefully this will be more helpful.



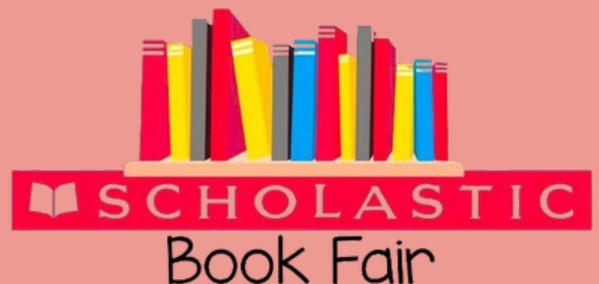
It is World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March** and children can dress up in pyjamas or a character of their choice. Design your own character potato competition will be held on this day. Potatoes to be brought into school by the morning of 5th March.



facebook

We are now on Facebook!

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



The Book Fair will be in school from Monday 9th March until Thursday 12th March. In the School hall from 3.20pm

SAYING GOODBYE TO MISS CARR

As you are all aware, Miss Carr leaves Bracken Edge at the end of this term after almost 6 years of dedicated service to our school community. Her last day in school will be on **Thursday 2nd April**, which is when school closes for the Easter break.

Miss Carr has been an integral part of Bracken Edge, and her passion, creativity and commitment to our children have made a lasting impact on so many lives. From her engaging displays that have brought learning to life, to the countless ways she has supported our pupils' growth and development, she will be greatly missed by staff, children and families alike.

We are hoping to give her a send-off Bracken Edge style and we know she loves a good sing song! We are planning a special celebration on the **Key Stage 2 playground at 10.45am on Thursday 2nd April**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our whole school community to come together, share some songs, and show Miss Carr just how much she means to us all.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for this celebration, so please save the date if you would like to be part of this special moment. It would be lovely to see as many familiar faces as possible as we celebrate Miss Carr's time at Bracken Edge and wish her well for her next adventure.

Please note: If the weather is wet on the day, we will unfortunately not be able to go ahead with this outdoor celebration, as we don't have enough indoor space to accommodate everyone safely. So keep your fingers crossed for good weather! We'll send a reminder closer to the time and confirm on the morning whether the event is going ahead. We know you'll join us in thanking Miss Carr for everything she has given to our school and in wishing her every success in the future.

Goodbye

We are also saying goodbye to Mr Smith who works in the office. Mr Smith will be leaving on the 6th March to train as a Parole Officer. We will all miss him and we wish him all the best in his future career. He has been a great asset to the Bracken Edge Team. We know many families will have had contact with Mr Smith and we know you will all wish him the best too.

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

LITE BITE COFFEE MORNINGS

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

Fri 20th March 9am – Communication and Play

Fri 15th May 9am – Behaviours that challenge





RAMADAN MUBARAK

Ramadan Mubarak to all of our families who are joining in with this special month. In school, Miss Carr has created a beautiful display with carefully selected picture books that help us all understand more about Ramadan and Eid. These books have sparked wonderful conversations in classrooms and corridors, with children asking thoughtful questions and sharing their own experiences and traditions with their peers. Learning about Ramadan provides a valuable opportunity for our whole school community to develop understanding and respect for different faiths and cultures The Key Leaders. For those families observing Ramadan, we want you to know that we're here to support your children during this special time, and we're committed to making any provisions needed to help them feel comfortable and supported throughout the school day.

We will be having Eid parties in school on Monday 23rd March to celebrate the end of Ramadan, and all children can wear their party clothes on this day. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to join in the celebrations, learn about this important festival, and share in the joy that marks the end of the holy month. We're looking forward to a day filled with festivities, special activities, and the chance to celebrate together as one Bracken Edge community. If your child is fasting and you'd like to discuss any specific support they might need during the school day, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher We want to ensure every child feels valued and supported during this meaningful time.



TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

We were able to explore how the Lunar New Year is celebrated and one of our families came to share their own experiences. We learnt about traditions, stories and symbols, and heard from Imogen and Nimue who shared their own experiences of celebrating this special time.

This was a lovely opportunity for our pupils to discover how different cultures welcome a new year with joy, family, and hope! Thank you ever so much to the Mo-Wilumson family for all of your planning and preparation with this, we learnt a lot and enjoyed hearing from you.

Did you know, this year it is the Year of the Horse?



马

Horse

2026

Horses are energetic, free spirits who need space to express themselves.

1954	1966	1978	1990
2002	2014	2026	2038

 Rat 2020	 Ox 2021	 Tiger 2022
 Rabbit 2023	 Dragon 2024	 Snake 2025
 Horse 2026	 Goat 2027	 Monkey 2028
 Rooster 2029	 Dog 2030	 Pig 2031

TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

Life of a Chickpea

We were delighted to welcome the Dialogue Society into Bracken Edge Primary School to deliver their Life of a Chickpea workshops to pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Using the journey of a chickpea as a creative metaphor, the sessions helped children explore important themes such as British values, diversity, respect, individual liberty and mutual understanding, encouraging thoughtful discussion about community and inclusion. We were also honoured to welcome special guests throughout the day, including:

- Deputy Lord Lieutenant Dr Kuldip Bharj, Bhagat Singh (Sikh Temple), Reverend Sonia Kasibante (Vicar of St Martin's) and Lidia-Persidia Holea (Gypsy/Roma Community)

The day was full of inspiration, fostering a strong sense of community while encouraging curiosity, thoughtful reflection and lively conversations throughout the school.



TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

Year 6 had an inspiring trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, pupils explored the park's habitats and met a wide variety of animals, from majestic lions to playful meerkats. The visit offered hands-on learning about the evolution of different species. Pupils observed how animals have adapted to their environments over time, examining features such as camouflage, diet, and survival strategies. The visit brought their classroom science lessons to life, with opportunities to see evolution in action through the diversity of mammals, birds and reptiles at the park. It was a fantastic day full of curiosity, discovery and unforgettable memories for all!



TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

Year 6 didn't let the rain and cold weather stop them during their day out at Yorkshire Wildlife Park

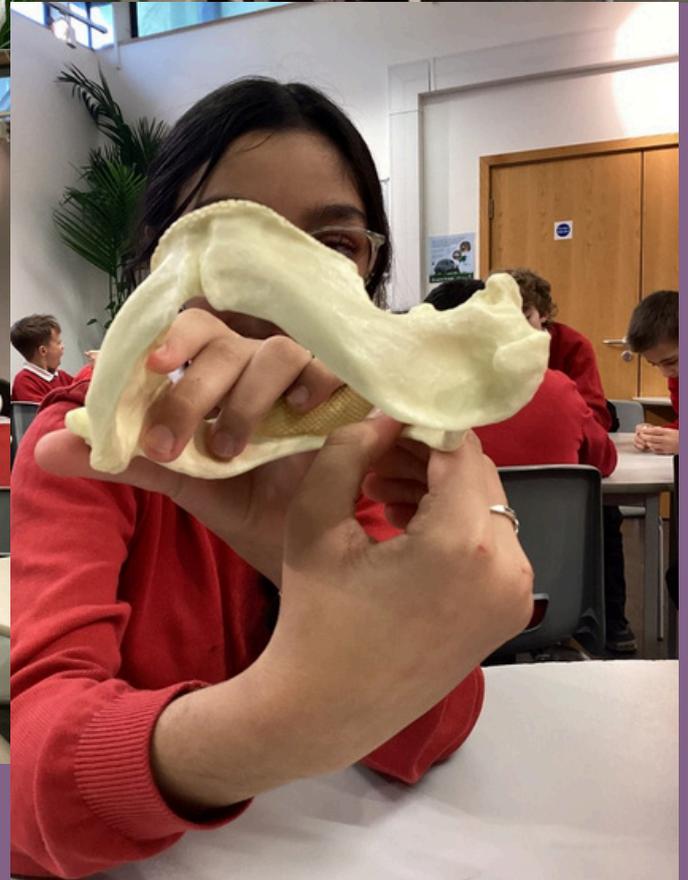


Year 2 and Year 6 had an amazing time at the Little Bookshop today exchanging their World Book Day vouchers for a book!



TRIPS AND EXPERIENCES

Year 5 took a trip to Tropical World and explored the different habitats that animals live in and took part in an exciting workshop



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	Martial Arts	Key Stage 2
Wednesday	Football	Key Stage 2
Thursday	Skateboarding	Year 1 - 4
Friday	Gymnastics	Key Stage 1



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

Clubs currently cost £2 per session (price increase after Easter). 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.

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 15th 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**



amazon



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

Stikins
Actual Size



**SIMPLY STICK IN
NO SEWING & NO IRONING**

Save time and money with
one multipurpose name label
for clothes, shoes, lunch boxes,
and all school items



PLEASE QUOTE OUR
FUNDRAISING NUMBER

2470

when you buy Stikins name labels
and we will receive 30% commission

OVER
11,000
INDEPENDENT
REVIEWS

TO ORDER VISIT:
WWW.STIKINS.CO.UK

StikinsNameLabels StikinsLabels stikinsnamelabels

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 92.3%**



ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY 2026- 94%



CLASS	ATTENDANCE %
Fox	97.2
Daffodil	95.5
Poppy	91.5
Foxglove	91
Bluebell	94.5
Wren	97.5
Sparrow	97.5
Robin	91
Dove	94
Kestrel	97
Kingfisher	92
Nightingale	92
Nightjar	93.5



ATTENDANCE

Above is February's overall attendance. Well done Wren and Sparrow classes!

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.



PUNCTUALITY

Every school day counts, yet every minute is just as important!



5 minutes late per day means your child could lose 3 days of learning!



10 minutes late per day = 6.5 school days per year



15 minutes late per day = 10 school days per year



20 minutes late per day = 13 school days per year



30 minutes late per day = 19 school days per year

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 😊

Miss Ahmad - School Attendance Officer

PASTORAL AND SAFEGUARDING NEWS

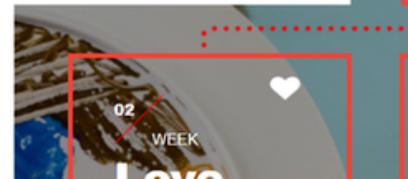
parentgym
FOR PARENTS WHO CARE

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 10th March for 6 weeks. If you are interested please speak to Mrs Lunn or find out more information at [Home - Parent Gym](#)"

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 nd January 26	9:30 – 11:00	Microsoft Teams	15	
24 th February 26	1:00 – 2:30	Microsoft Teams	15	DWP
18 th March 26	9:30 – 11:00	Microsoft Teams	15	FGC
23 rd April 26	1:00 – 2:30	Microsoft Teams	15	Life Coaching
19 th May 26	9:30 – 11:00	Microsoft Teams	15	Trauma
17 th June 26	1:00 - 2:30	Microsoft Teams	15	RPC
16 th 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 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

