January '26

Brundall Primary School Newsletter



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Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed plenty of rest, fun, and time with family and friends. It has been lovely welcoming the children back into school this week. There is a real sense of excitement in the air as they settle back into their routines and catch up with their friends and teachers.

As we begin this new term, we are looking forward to a fresh start full of learning, creativity, and new opportunities for every child. Our staff have been busy preparing engaging lessons and activities, and we cannot wait to see what the children will accomplish in the weeks ahead.

We are excited for the term to come and look forward to working together to make it a happy and successful one for everyone.

Julie Cornish



Drawing their own maps encouraged imagination and early mark-making skills. Practical washing activities helped the children develop independence and confidence, while fine motor activities using marbles supported hand strength and coordination.

It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence, sharing ideas, and working together. Reception have made a brilliant start to the term, and we are excited to continue exploring, learning, and having fun together in the weeks ahead.

A Small Change to Our Newsletters
To make our communication more efficient and easier for families to follow, we'll now be sending out one newsletter each month. It will include all key information, celebrations, and upcoming events

A Fantastic Start to the Term in Reception

It's been three weeks since the children returned from the Christmas holidays, and what a busy and exciting start it has been!
The children have settled back into Reception brilliantly and have shown lots of curiosity, energy, and enthusiasm as they explore their learning environment.
Over the past three weeks, the children have enjoyed a range of hands-on activities that support learning through play. They had lots of fun making slime, which sparked curiosity and creativity.







Meanwhile, Murphy Class had a very special treat when one of our friends shared how his family celebrates Epiphany. He kindly brought in a 'Three Kings Cake' for everyone to enjoy, giving the class a wonderful opportunity to learn about and celebrate this special tradition together.
It has been three weeks full of curiosity, discovery, and sharing in Year 1/2, and we are excited to see what the rest of the term brings!

Curious Minds at Work in Year 1/2

Over the past three weeks, Year 1/2 have been busy exploring, experimenting, and celebrating special traditions. Halls Class have been little scientists, investigating which materials are the most absorbent. They tested cotton, paper towels, tissues, and plastic, enjoying seeing the different results and making predictions about what would happen.







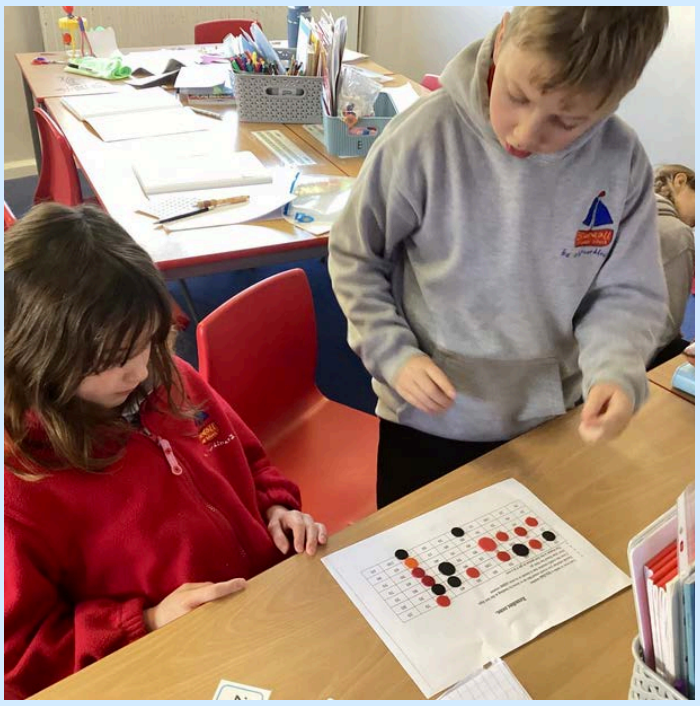
Meanwhile, in Rosen Class, the focus has been on developing maths skills through fun and engaging games. The children have been problem-solving, practising key concepts, and learning to work together while enjoying friendly competition and teamwork.

It has been a brilliant few weeks full of curiosity, learning, and practical challenges, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the term brings for Year 3/4!

Hands-On Learning and Rocket-Fuelled Fun in Year 3/4

Over the past three weeks, Year 3/4 have been busy exploring, creating, and developing new skills across a range of exciting activities. Coelho Class had a rocket-fuelled DT lesson, where they learned all about pneumatics and put their ideas to the test by designing and launching their own rockets.

The children were full of energy and creativity, enjoying the hands-on challenge of making their rockets work successfully.



Year 5/6 Active Learning and Creative Adventures



Over the past few weeks, Year 5/6 have been busy enjoying a range of exciting activities that bring learning to life. In PE, the children have been having lots of fun staying active, developing skills, and working together in a variety of games and challenges.



In art, the children explored Chinese brush painting, practising careful brush strokes and creating some beautiful, imaginative artwork. They really enjoyed experimenting with different techniques and seeing what they could create.

Drama has also been a highlight, with the children using performance to explore the characters in The Highwayman. This hands-on approach has helped them understand the story more deeply while developing confidence and teamwork skills.



Helping at Home: Supporting Learning Beyond the Classroom

At Brundall, we believe that learning does not stop at the school gates. Families play a vital role in reinforcing key skills at home, and just a little time each day can make a big difference

Reading anything, from newspapers and magazines to recipes, helps children become lifelong readers. Sharing stories and books is a wonderful way to build a routine that is enjoyable as well as supportive of learning.

We have identified some key areas for home learning, including key instant recall facts (Superpowers), high-frequency words for reading and spelling, times tables (up to 12x12), handwriting (encompassing both gross and fine motor skills), spellings, and reading. These skills provide strong foundations for success across the curriculum and as children move on to high school.

What can you do at home?

Spelling and reading practice help children build confidence and fluency. Times tables can be strengthened using Times Table Rockstars.

We use both the booklets and the online platform. Flash cards are another great tool; they support rapid recall and can be used for fun memory games to make learning interactive. Activities that develop fine motor skills and handwriting also help children form a joined, fluent handwriting style.

We have added many great ideas to our website, so please take a look. If you would like more information about how to help your child, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

Research shows that short, focused sessions are most effective. Just 10 to 15 minutes a day can make a huge difference. Revisiting facts and spellings repeatedly helps them stick, leading to automaticity, the ability to recall information quickly and accurately.

As a school, we are focusing on spelling. From Year 2 onwards, your child will bring home at least one set of spellings. This may be an activity sheet from our scheme, The Spelling Shed, or a notebook with their spellings included.

This term, we are dedicating a lot of our intervention time to improving spelling, whether that is learning the first 100 common frequency words or mastering spelling patterns. Some extra practice at home will have an enormous impact on your child's progress.

In maths, we talk about Superpowers, mental maths strategies that, once mastered, will support your child's journey into high school and beyond. An overview, along with a map showing each year group's areas of learning, is available on our school website. Knowing addition bonds to 10 and then 20 supports children's maths learning as they move through school. Knowing their doubles and near doubles without hesitation is also a great skill and is used automatically in many areas of maths.

Times tables are incredibly valuable too, and being able to recall them instantly is a huge advantage. Overlearning and becoming automatic, just knowing the answer, comes from frequent practice. It does take time, but regular practice makes a big difference.

We have added links and suggestions on our school website, which we hope will make it easy for you to find helpful resources. When children know their spellings and number facts automatically, they can focus on higher-level skills such as problem solving and creative writing. These strong foundations help every child thrive.

January '26

Brundall Primary School

Diary Dates

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Key Information



- **Tues 20 Jan 2026** – Spelling Workshop, 9:00 am (School Hall) KS2 parents
- **Mon 26 Jan 2026 -** Said Open classroom 9.00 am (School Hall)
- **Tues 27 Jan 2026** - Coelho Open Classroom 9.00am (School Hall)
- **Thurs 29 Jan 2026** - Rosen Open Classroom 9.00am (School Hall)
- **Mon 2 Feb 2026** - Halls Open Classroom 9.00am (School Hall)
- **Tues 3 Feb 2026** - Murphy Open Classroom 9.00am (School Hall)
- **Weds 4 Feb 2026** - Bright Open Classroom 9.00am in Bright Classroom
- **Thurs 5 Feb 2026** - Oliver Jeffers Open Classroom 9.00am in Oliver Jeffers Classroom
- **Mon 9 Feb 2026** – Year 4 Horstead Residential
- **Mon 9 Feb 2026** - Boyce Open Classroom 9.00am (School Hall)
- **Tues 10 Feb 2026** - Jackson open Classroom 9.00 am (School Hall)
- **Thurs 12 Feb 2026** - Almond Open Classroom 9.00am (School Hall)
- **Mon 16 Feb 2026** – Half Term
- **Tues 24 Mar 2026** - Parents Evening
- **Weds 25 Mar 2026** - Parents Evening
- **Thurs 26 March** - Y3/4 Production - Y3 9am Y4 2.30pm
- **Fri 27 Mar 2026** – End of Term
- **Tue 14 Apr 2026** – Children Return to School
- **Mon 4 May 2026** – May Day Bank Holiday (School Closed)
- **Mon 25 May 2026** – Half Term
- **Mon 13 Jul – Fri 17 Jul 2026** – Isle of Wight Residential
- **Fri 17 Jul 2026** – End of Term
- **Thurs 3 Sept 2026** - Children return to school

PAYMENTS REMINDER
Please ensure payments for after-school clubs, school trips and other activities are up to date.
Payments can be made via ParentPay.

FOBS presents

Brundall School Valentines Disco

Thursday 12 February 2026

Reception, Yr1 & Yr2 - 3.45pm - 5.15pm
Yr3, Yr4, Yr5 & Yr6 - 5.30pm - 7pm

Wear what you love

Refreshments / snacks provided





Tickets available via Parent Pay
Sibling discounts available





We are looking for new members to join FOBS.

Our current committee are standing down and we need to find a new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary within the next few weeks to aid a smooth handover, if not FOBS will no longer be able to continue.

FOBS have helped fund fun experiences including the summer colour run, a visit from Steel the Gladiator, various workshops, the KS1 playground equipment and so many more amazing resources and activities!

We are all parents trying to juggle work, kids and life, so we understand time is precious but by volunteering a few hours of your time can make a difference to your child's experience at school.

Speak to a member of FOBS or email us on fobsbrundall@gmail.com if you are interested in joining or would like to come along to our next meeting to find out more.



📚 *Last Friday = Shared Reading Day!* 📚

A reminder to all parents that next Friday, 30.1.26, is our Shared Reading session

We would love to welcome you into school to enjoy reading together with your child and explore the joy of stories.
Shared Reading will take place on the last Friday of each month from 8.40 to 9.10am, in your child's classroom.
This is a relaxed and enjoyable opportunity to spend time reading with your child and to see the wonderful books they are sharing in class.