

Bradworthy Primary Academy

Newsletter – January 2026

Hello everyone,

Christmas definitely seems like an age ago now but we hope everyone had a good break. It doesn't take long to get back into the swing of things in school and we have had lots of great stuff going on already this term as well as some things coming up in the next few weeks.

Sport and School News

Towards the end of last term, we took two teams to an indoor athletics competition at Great Torrington School. This consists of two running events, a standing jump, a standing long jump, a chest push and a speed bounce. We are pleased to say that our 2nd team finished third and our 1st team (who had a competitor that set an all-time event record in the chest push) won the event and will qualify for the North Devon finals.

Our netball teams finished their Torrington mini league just before the Christmas break with our Year Six team finishing 2nd overall and the Year Five team finishing 4th overall.

This week, our netball teams have been competing again at Great Torrington School in the local qualifiers. Our Year Five team finished third and our Year Six team finished second, qualifying for the area finals in Barnstaple in March.

This year we have started working with The Pocket Climbing Wall in Bideford to provide our climbers in school with a chance to compete. We took a group of 16 children to The Pocket a couple weeks ago to take part in their first of four one-day events with some excellent results all round on some very challenging routes.

Our cross-country teams were back in action on the 11th January with a fixture on Northam Burrows. This is always one for character building- trying to run (or spectate) on a very exposed course in driving rain and gale force winds. Nevertheless, we were there and the weather wasn't actually too bad this year. Once again, we had some brilliant results.

Current standings:

Under 9 Girls Team are currently in 4th position

Under 9 Boys A Team are currently in 2nd, the B team are in 4th

Under 11 Girls are currently 3rd in the schools competition

Under 11 Boys are currently 2nd in the schools competition

Three of our gymnastics teams went to Kingsley College on Saturday 24th January to compete in the regional qualifiers. The standard of gymnastics on display throughout the morning was incredible with our teams having to be on their best to compete.

We are delighted to say that all three teams have qualified for the national finals in Stoke on March 6th with our U11 girls team finishing 3rd, our U11 boys team finishing second and our U11 mixed team winning. We also had an individual gold medal for William. Well done to all involved.

Our football teams got their seasons off to a start last week with a 6 a-side football tournament at Great Torrington School.

The Year Six team beat Monkleigh 6-1, Langtree 6-0 and our Year Five team 6-1. The Year Five team drew 2-2 with Monkleigh, lost 3-2 to Langtree after being 2-0 up, lost 6-1 to the Year Six team with a score of 1-1 at half time. Our Year Six team will progress to the North Devon finals.

Our younger footballers in Year Two also had a taste of the action this week when they spent the day at Exeter City FCs training ground taking part in a youth development day.

The children in Class Four have been orienteering at Haldon Forest in half-class sized groups over the last couple weeks. So far, they have completed their beginner Gruffalo orienteering course which gives them a taste of how to follow a map and use the key. They will be going back again later in the Spring Term to



complete a more advanced British Orienteering course.

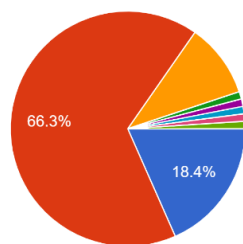
Class Five have started undertaking some training walks for their walking challenge at the end of the Spring Term where they will be walking over 9 miles from Duckpool to Widemouth. This week, we took half the class to Castle Drogo in some tricky conditions at times to walk over 2 hours covering 4.5 miles and over 600ft of elevation gain. A great walk by all and we are looking forward to taking the second half next week.



INSET Survey

Thank you to everyone that completed our INSET survey. We have had a few parents query the possibility of moving our INSET week to another point in the year and this is something we have been looking into. We have concluded that, if we were to move the week away from January, the week after May half term would be the best option and we wanted to survey this with parents and staff before making any unnecessary changes. We had exactly 98 parent responses to the survey with the results shown in the pie chart below.

I would prefer the INSET week to be in:
98 responses



- The first week after the Christmas holidays
- The week after May half term
- I have no preference
- Last week of the summer term putting the school in alignment with bith hcc a...
- Spaced out periodically would be bett...
- Would it be possible to not be a whole...
- It is best for us when our children are...
- Would it be a possibility to change in li...

- 65 votes for the week after May Half Term
- 18 votes to keep it in January
- 10 votes for no preference
- 5 other suggestions

Therefore, from next year, we will be moving our INSET days to the week after May half term with the following term dates.

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| ● Autumn Term 2026 (First day back) | Thursday 3 rd September 2026 |
| ● October Half Term 2026 | Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October 2026 |
| ● Last Day of Autumn Term 2026 | 18 th December 2026 |
| ● First day of Spring Term 2027 | Monday 4 th January |
| ● February Half Term 2027 | Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February 2026 |
| ● Last Day of Spring Term 2027 – | Thursday 25 th March 2027 |
| ● First Day of Summer Term 2027 | Monday 12 th April 2027 |
| ● May Half Term | Monday 31 st May- Friday 11 th June 2027 |
| ● Last Day of Summer Term 2027 | Friday 23 rd July 2027 |

My Child At School App

Thank you to everyone that has downloaded and signed up to our new parent app – My Child at School. If you haven't signed up yet, please don't worry. If you ring, email or pop in to see us in the office, we will be able to re-send you a 24-hour link to get yourself signed up.

We are using this app for a few things now including:

- Ordering and paying for uniform
- Booking and paying for wraparound care
- Booking and paying for chargeable after school clubs
- Paying for residentials
- Consent for some trips/day visits
- Booking spaces on the PTA Ewetopia Event
- Ordering and paying for snack tokens

We will be using the app for more things as we get used to it including booking and paying for school dinners, sending school reports and giving permission for any trips.

Residentials

If you are a parent of a child in Year Three, Four, Five or Six and you are using the MCAS app, you will probably have already seen an outstanding balance for your child's residential. We have set this up so that parents are able to start chipping away at these totals if they should wish to.

More information regarding each residential will follow soon along with itineraries etc however we can confirm dates and locations now. Please note that the totals shown on MCAS will include all activities throughout the trip.

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|---|--|
| • Year Three Residential (Plymouth Aquarium) | 21 st - 22 nd May 2026 (1 night) |
| • Year Four Residential (YHA Lee Valley) | 6 th - 8 th May 2026 (2 nights) |
| • Year Five Residential (YHA Pen-Y-Pas) | 8 th -12 th June 2026 (4 nights) |
| • Year Six Residential (YHA Earls Court - London) | 29 th June – 2 nd July 2026 (3 nights) |

School Kitchen

We are planning to use MCAS for ordering and paying for school dinners from February Half Term and will be in touch soon as to how you can do this.

In the meantime, if your child is having a school dinner, please remember to fill out the menu with your child to ensure that the children are all eating a lunch that they are happy with. We now have four or five options available every day including a new picnic option and the option to have salad instead of veg.

If your child has free school meals, you are also able to order a packed lunch for trip days.

Our breaktime service is very popular in school. Children can buy their snack tokens from the school office for 40p per token and choose from a range of healthy snacks. These are also available to purchase on MCAS

Tax-Free Childcare

The process of registering to become an approved tax-free childcare provider took a lot longer than we would have liked but we have got there now. If you are using our before and after-school service and are able to use the tax-free childcare service, please use our school reference number 136492 when completing the application. For more information about who can use tax-free childcare and how it works, please follow the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

World Book Day

This year, possibly for the first time ever at Bradworthy School, we will be celebrating World Book Day on the day itself which is Thursday 5th March. This will be a non-uniform day where children are able to dress up as a character from their favourite books. We will also be running a whole-school book quiz and this day will mark the start of our reading challenge (more information to follow soon about this).

Attendance

As a school, our attendance data has always been above national averages and we are grateful to all our parents for helping us with this. Unfortunately, we have just dropped under the national average for this school year and whilst this is mainly down to the nasty virus that swept through the children and several of the staff just before Christmas, it is probably worth reminding everyone of just how important it is that the children are attending school and, as much as we are really fighting not to fine our parents for holidays taken in term time, we will not be able to continue to do this for any children whose attendance is below the national average.

If your child is unwell and will not be coming into school, please ensure that you let us know that they will be absent and their reason for absence. This can be done via MCAS, email or phone after 8am

Key Dates

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|--------------------------|--|
| • February Half Term | Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February 2026 |
| • World Book Day | Thursday 5 th March 2026 |
| • Last Day Spring Term | Thursday 2 nd April 2026 |
| • First Day Summer Term | Monday 20 th April 2026 |
| • Year Four Residential | 6 th - 8 th May 2026 (2 nights) |
| • Year Three Residential | 21 st - 22 nd May 2026 (1 night) |
| • Year Six SATS Week | Monday 11 th May – Thursday 14 th May 2026 |
| • May Half Term | Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May 2026 |
| • Year Five Residential | 8 th -12 th June 2026 (4 nights) |
| • Year Six Residential | 29 th June – 2 nd July 2026 (3 nights) |
| • Last Day Summer Term | Thursday 23 rd July 2026 |