Bradworthy Primary Academy

Newsletter – October 2026

It doesn't seem like it was seven weeks ago that we were coming back from the summer holidays. As always, this half term has flown by.

Hopefully you were able to attend our parents' evenings last week to discuss how your child has settled into their new classes this half term. If you were unable to attend, please don't worry as we will be hosting another set of parent's evenings in the Spring Term which will have a more academic/curriculum focus.

Class updates from this half term:

Reception



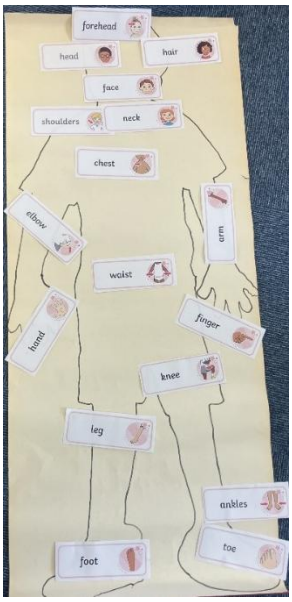
What a fantastic start to the year our Reception and Year One children have made! It has been an absolute pleasure to watch our new Reception children settle so happily into life at Bradworthy, growing in confidence and becoming familiar with their new surroundings. They have been busy making new friends, developing their independence and building lovely relationships with the adults and children who make up our school community. It has been lovely to see our Year One children supporting the younger children as they find their feet, showing them what to do and helping them to feel safe, included and part of our school family.

There has been plenty of excitement outdoors, thanks to the arrival of our fantastic new climbing wall! The children have been eager to explore this exciting addition to our outdoor area, developing their physical skills, confidence, coordination and determination as they climb, balance and challenge themselves. They have also been busy designing and building their own obstacle courses to complement the climbing wall. It has been lovely to see them encouraging one another to have a go, persevere when something is tricky and celebrate each other's achievements.

Our learning this term has centred around the theme 'Amazing Me'. The children have enjoyed exploring what makes each of us special and unique. We have talked about our individual qualities, our homes and families, and the different people who help us. We have also talked about our amazing bodies and senses, discovering how we use our eyes, ears, noses, tongues and hands to experience and make sense of the world around us. Alongside all this exciting learning, our phonics sessions have been off to a

flying start! The children have taken to their phonics learning like ducks to water, enthusiastically joining in, learning new sounds and beginning to use their growing knowledge to read and write words. We are delighted with their enthusiasm and the progress they are making. They are now looking forward to bringing reading books home to share with you, giving them the opportunity to practise their new skills and show off just how much they have learnt with you at home!

Year One



In Year 1, we have been learning lots of exciting things across our subjects. In science we have been learning about animals, including humans. We have explored different animal groups, such as mammals and amphibians, and learnt about different parts of the human body and explored our five senses through fun activities, including tasting different foods and smelling a variety of things.

In Geography, we have been learning about our school and the local area. We have explored maps and carried out fieldwork by recording the different vehicle that passed our school.



In RE, we have been discovering how the world was created and learning about different beliefs and stories, including the Christian, Jewish and Hindu creation stories, as well as the scientific theory of the Big Bang. We have enjoyed exploring these topics and developing our knowledge and understanding of the world around us.

Year Two







What a great first half-term! Class 2 have settled brilliantly into all the new routines and expectations.

We have all been working hard in our phonics lessons each morning. In maths, we have been building on our counting and place value skills.

In History, Year 2 have been researching some of the interesting kings and queens from the past. The children have loved watching the Monarchs' Song from Horrible Histories, and several have even managed to learn the words!

In Science, we have been learning about minibeasts and their habitats. We have enjoyed exploring the school grounds and playing fields, finding minibeasts and discovering the many microhabitats.

We also enjoyed our session with author Tracey Corderoy as part of the Appledore Book Festival.

In Computing, we have been learning how to log on to and off the laptops using our individual logins and passwords. In recent sessions, we have been mastering the touchpad to move shapes around the screen and create pictures. We are very grateful to the Year 6 children who have volunteered to join our sessions and help us develop these important skills.



Class 2 have just completed their first week of swimming at Ruby Oak. We have enjoyed travelling on the minibuses each day, and everyone has worked extremely hard to improve their swimming skills.

Year Three



We have had a fantastic and busy first half term back at school, with the children showing great enthusiasm for their learning both in and out of the classroom. Here are just a few highlights:

As part of our Geography topic on *Coasts*, we visited Northam Burrows and learned about coastal erosion, coastal defences, and their impact on Westward Ho! We also enjoyed a visit to The Castle in Bude, where we learned about the town's history, coastal erosion, the Storm Tower, and the importance of the canal to local farmers.

The children have enjoyed plenty of hands-on learning. In Science, they investigated soil samples and explored different types of rocks and their properties. In Maths, practical resources such as Base 10 equipment, place value counters, number lines and dice have helped develop their understanding of number and place value.



In English, the children worked hard to write their first extended first-person narrative and have since been learning how to edit and improve their writing.

We are incredibly proud of all the children's hard work and achievements this half term and look forward to another exciting term after the break.



Year Four



What a brilliant start to the term! The children have settled into Year 4 fantastically and have hit the ground running with their topic on Rivers, highlighted by an exciting trip to the source of the River Tamar to study our local rivers. This tied well into our Science work on Living Things and Their Habitats, where our young scientists have been classifying and grouping organisms based on their key features. We are so proud of their enthusiasm this half term and can't wait to dive into all the exciting learning we have planned for next half term.

Year Five

Class Five have had a busy half term. We have finished our work on Shackleton's Journey, and everyone enjoyed linking our art and reading work together. In our writing work the children have written amazing letters of application for their dream jobs - there are many budding footballers and teachers preparing for the future! We are now starting our new book, Secrets of A Sun King, which continues to link to our topic about explorers. Everyone has been working really hard in our maths lessons, and we are now experts in place value and negative numbers! Our wider curriculum adventures have included science lessons based on the properties of different materials and PSHE lessons based on Healthy Body and Healthy Minds. We have also been lucky enough to work with the Mental Health Support Team over the past six weeks, completing their Decider Skills Programme. This has helped us to learn all about the physical and emotional feelings we can experience everyday, and a set of 12 skills to help us respond to these.



Year Six

Class 6 have been busy this half-term, both in and out of school! We have enjoyed the Appledore Book Festival, with an author visit and a trip to Appledore for an interactive author event alongside other Year 6 children from local schools. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their mountains work, including creating a range of impressive artwork with Sarah based on this theme. We have also been trying our hand at some different activities such as bowling with Bradworthy Bowling Club and knee-boarding / wake-boarding at the North Devon Wake Park - we have been so proud of the resilience and determination the children have shown, despite some challenging conditions at times!











Sports News

Cross Country

Our cross-country team have started their season well with 2 races under their belts already in the North Devon League.

The first of these was at Kingsley College in early October and the second race was this weekend at Shebbear College.

We have a strong team of 38 runners taking part this year which is fantastic.

Our current standings are:

Under 10 Girls – 3rd Overall

Under 10 Boys – 3rd Overall

Under 12 Girls – 5th overall including clubs / 2nd School

Under 12 Boys – 3rd Overall / 2nd School

Netball

Our netball team got their season underway this week with their first fixtures at Langtree. They will be taking part in the local school league on Tuesday evenings in Langtree for a few weeks before competing in the local area qualifying event at Great Torrington School in the Spring Term. Good luck netballers!

Climbing

Simon has been dedicating some of his time to our squad climbers this term ahead of their first competition in South Molton on Saturday 7th November. This is our first weekend climbing competition in a long time and also our first trip to the climbing wall in South Molton as well. Good luck to all involved!

Gifted and Talented

A handful of our older pupils in Year Six will be going to Great Torrington School this week to compete in a Gifted and Talented event. Again, this is the first time we have entered a gifted and talented event for a long time as well so good luck to all taking part.

Individual Photos

Tempest will be here in school on Friday 13th November to take individual pictures. More information about this will be emailed out soon.

New Teaching Assistant and MTA

Following the vacancies that we were advertising recently for a teaching assistant and a meal time assistant, we are pleased to announce that Jo Shadrick will be joining our team this week.

Jo lives locally and is passionate about working with children and making a positive difference in schools. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we are excited to have her joining our team. Jo is very much looking forward to starting with us, and we are equally excited to welcome her on board.

Reading at home

It goes without saying that reading at home has enormous benefits for children's reading development and we would ideally like our pupils to be reading at least 3 or 4 times a week at home for about 10 to 15 minutes.

This year, to incentivise reading at home, we have started an award system where we will be awarding wristbands to pupils when they reach 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 reads

in their reading record in the year. These will be awarded in our weekly celebration assembly on Friday afternoons.

All you need to do as parents is make sure you are signing your child's reading record every time that they have read at home – please note that only one signature a day will count. We will count up the signatures at the end of the week and add these to your child's tally.

New Playground Equipment



Some exciting news – over the half term break we will be having some new playground equipment installed on top of some new safety flooring in our smaller playground. This will consist of a large multi-person climbing frame (pictured) and some gymnastics bars.

All being well, these should be up and ready for us to start using after the half-term break.

A big thank you to our fantastic PTA for funding this for us – it will certainly bring lots of smiles after half term.

Secondary School Application Reminder for Year 6

Just a reminder that:

- The application deadline is **31 October 2026**.
- Applications should be made online via the **Citizens Portal** – see the link below
- Parents should submit an application even if they are undecided or are planning a house move.
- Late applications may reduce the chances of securing a preferred school.

Citizen Portal: https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Key Dates

Autumn Term Diary Dates

W/B Monday 26th October –	Half Term
W/B Monday 2nd November –	Class 2 Swimming Week
Tuesday 3rd November -	Netball @ Langtree
Friday 6th November -	Year Four River Trip
Saturday 7th November	Climbing Competition @ South Molton
W/B Monday 9th November –	Class 1 Swimming Week

Friday 13th November -	Tempest - Individual Photos
W/B Monday 16th November –	Class 1 Swimming Week
W/B Monday 23rd November –	Class 3 Swimming Week
29th November –	BREMCo Cross-Country Round 3 @ West Buckland
Thursday 3rd December –	Year 3 Rosemoor Trip
Friday 4th December	Climbing Competition
Tuesday 8th December	Key Stage One Nativity (11am)
Wednesday 9th December –	Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 14th December	Key Stage Two Play (5pm)
Wednesday 15th December	Key Stage Two Play (6:30pm)
Friday 18th December –	Last Day of Term
Monday 4th January –	First Day of Spring Term