

**Branston Bulletin:**

**Friday 1st March 2024**

Another busy week, with some of our Year 3/4 children taking part in a Year 3/4 Dynamo Cricket event at The Priory City of Lincoln Academy and some of our Year 5/6 children taking part in a football tournament at the Branston Community Academy despite the bad weather. Well done to all those children who took part for the first part of the tournament, before rain stopped play and thank you to the parent helpers who also braved the weather.

The Non-Uniform day for Chocolate Raffle also took place today, thank you for all your lovely donations. Raffle tickets will be on sale from next Monday, (4th March), with the raffle being drawn on Wednesday 27th March. Tickets will cost 20p each, or £1.00 for ‘a strip’.

As you may be aware, we are developing our school grounds and intend to hold a ‘Ground Force Day’ on Saturday 27th April (10am to 2pm) to put in plants, build bug hotels and much more! If you can help us on that day, or know someone who can, please let me (Rachael Shaw) know at school.

Developing our school grounds fits nicely with our current topic which is ‘Eco Warriors’. When the University of Lincoln heard about our topic, they very kindly asked us if we would like to receive some resources from them, linked to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). They sent us comics created by people at York, Lincoln, Birmingham and Teeside Universities entitled ‘Green Kid’. The comics are an excellent way for children to learn about STEM, sustainability, and the circular economy. The Green Kid comics all feature Summer and her creation Green Kid who was created in the year 2064 and goes back in time to the 2020’s to discover how scientific research to create green solutions and a circular economy could save the world from the ravages of climate change.

Dr McElroy, a senior lecturer in sustainable chemistry from the University of Lincoln came to Branston Junior Academy on Monday to speak to all the children about green and sustainable chemistry. He left us with two piles of Greenkid comics which the children have been looking at this week.

Rachael Shaw

**What exciting events are coming up?!**

**Swimming**

Parents of Y5/6 children have already been sent information regarding the swimming sessions taking place during this term. Our remaining sessions will be 14.03.24; 21.03.24. Once your child can swim 25m, I will inform you that they will no longer come swimming, and I will allocate the space to another child on the waiting list. Please note, that we walk to and from the swimming pool, so a coat / warm clothing is definitely recommended.

**Wrates School Class Photos – Tuesday 5th March**

Wrates will be visiting Branston Junior Academy to take class photographs. Your child(ren) can come dressed in P.E. kit if it is their day for P.E.

**Parents Evening – Thursday 7th March**

Your child has brought home their allotted time slot. The BJA Uniform Swap Shop will also be available during Parents Evening next week on Thursday 7th March, as well as Lost Property, which will be available for parents to have a look through in the Reception area should you wish to.  As the Lost Property area is getting pretty full, any items left in Lost Property will be donated to Charity when school closes for Easter break on Thursday 28th March.

**World Book Day – Thursday 7th March**

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we will be hosting a “Book Swap Shop.” In which children may bring in a book(s) (maximum 3 books per child) they have already read at home- children will then draw numbered tickets and they will be given an order in which to select a new book from those brought in by other children. We will also be participating in a range of other exciting activities celebrating world book day in class.

**\*Please Note: We are not asking for pupils to dress up as we have other non-uniform events around this time.**

**Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March**

On Friday 15th March 2024, we will be hosting a ‘Wear Something Silly’ non-uniform day to help raise money for Comic Relief.

Children can come to school on this day wearing non-uniform- the crazier the better! It could be a onesie with wellies, socks and sandals a crazy hairdo or fancy dress- whatever they choose. Children are asked to make a voluntary donation to Comic Relief (suggested amount: £1).

***N.B.*** *Year 3/4 are doing PE so please ensure that your child wears something they can move around in and which they don’t mind getting muddy. Year 3/4 pupils will also need their trainers with them- if they are wearing them as part of non-uniform this is fine, or alternatively they can bring them in a carrier bag to change into for the start of their PE lesson.*

**School Visit to Conkers in Derbyshire – Friday 22nd March**

As part of our topic on eco-warriors, we are planning a visit to Conkers in Derbyshire on Friday 22nd March. Children who do not wish to attend the trip will be in school as usual that day, participating in a range of activities until 3.30p.m.

**Saturday 27th April – 10am to 2pm. Ground Force Day!**

I want to develop several areas of our school grounds. The Environmental Area has recently been cleared of all the undergrowth so we can redesign it with various features in mind. I want the children to be able to use this area as part of break and lunchtimes as well as part of relevant lessons. We also have the area where, until recently, a small wooden shelter stood, but we had to have taken down due to some of the wood rotting.

You will recently have had a letter asking for any ideas you might have regarding the development of these two areas. You are most welcome to arrange a time to come into school and visit these areas with me (Mrs Shaw) so you can get a better idea of what I want to do with them.

We will be using fundraising from this academic year (which includes the very successful 2023 Christmas Fair and the forthcoming Easter Chocolate Raffle) to purchase anything we wish to buy to develop these areas.

**I intend to hold a ‘Grounds Force Day’ on Saturday 27th April (10am to 2pm) whereby we get as many parents, children, staff and members of the local community as possible, to help us do the manual work of creating the areas.**

***Please note, children are most welcome to come, but MUST be accompanied by an adult to ensure their safety.***

Please can you put this date in your diary and see whether you, a member of your family, or a member of the local community might be able to come and help us on this day. Or perhaps you (or someone you know) has something you’d like to donate to school to put in the areas we are developing?

**Please do look at our website (**[**www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk**](http://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk)**) and scroll down to the ‘Forthcoming Events’ section – where I have typed in all the dates of events for the 2023-2024 academic year.**

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## Club Term Dates for Spring Term 2

Clubs started this week and will run for a further 3 weeks: 4/3, 11/03 and 18/03. **However, please note that there will be no clubs on Thursday 7th March due to parents evening taking place.**

With regards to the finish times for our after-school clubs, please can you ensure that you collect your child/children promptly when clubs finish at 4.30p.m., (or 4.15p.m. for football clubs). This is so that staff can also leave promptly to carry out all the other tasks they need to do in order to best cater for your child’s learning the next day.

## Holiday / Medical Appointments

Please can I remind parents/carers that if you need to take your child/children out of school for any reason you need to complete a Leave of Absence Application, these can be found on the BJA website, [www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](http://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) under the ‘Parents’ tab>Letters and Forms>BJA LOA (Leave of Absence) Application.

Simply download the form, complete and return to school, either via email [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) or direct to school.  If your request is relating to a medical appointment, please provide a copy of the appointment attached to the Leave of Absence Application.

## Mobile Phones

We discourage pupils from bringing phones to school, as there is a risk of them being lost, damaged or used inappropriately in school. However, we do understand that there may be a reason why a child needs to bring a phone to school; although we class this as a ‘privilege’ and not a ‘right’. As such, should a child be found to be using a mobile phone to cause upset, it is feasible that this privilege be denied and they are not allowed to bring a mobile phone to school with them.

If you would like your child to bring in a mobile phone, please contact school by emailing [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) to request a Mobile Phone Parental Consent Form, or alternatively, a copy of this document, can also be found on our website [Letters And forms - BranstonJunior (branstonjunioracademy.co.uk)](https://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk/lettersAndForms.asp) for you to download, sign and return to school.

## Second-hand Uniform

With thanks to kind donations of good quality second-hand uniform from some parents, we have created a ‘Uniform Swap Shop’. It is in the Meeting Room at the front of the school (just off Reception) and will be open from 8.45-9.15am every day (unless otherwise informed). You are most welcome to bring in good quality uniform to add to the ‘shop’, or take what you need. All items are free, but you are most welcome to leave a monetary donation to the school if you wish.

We have recently put out our Summer Uniform in the BJA Uniform Swap Shop.  If you would like to come and have a look, we have the following items available:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grey Shorts | Summer Dresses |
| Aged 7-8 Yrs  Aged 8-9 Yrs  Aged 9-10 Yrs  Aged 10 Yrs  Aged 10-11 Yrs  Aged 11-12 Yrs  Aged 12-13 Yrs  Aged 13-14 Yrs | Aged 7–8 Yrs  Age 8 Yrs  Age 8–9 Yrs  Age 9 Yrs  Age 9–10 Yrs  Age 11-12 Yrs  Age 12-13 Yrs |

## School transport

If your child is starting primary school or transferring to secondary school in September 2023, they may be eligible for school transport.  If you think your child is eligible, please apply for transport as soon as you have your offer of a school place (1 March for secondary school or 17 April for primary).  Applications can be made online at the website below or a telephone application can be made by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782020.

For more information about the home to school transport policy and online applications please go to [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-college-transport).   Queries can be emailed to [schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

## Is your child entitled to Free School Meals?

Given the current situation of rising costs, your financial situation at home may have changed. You might not be aware that families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of one of the following benefits:

* Universal Credit with an annual net income of no more than £7,400 (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
* Income Support
* Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
* Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
* Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
* The guarantee element of state Pension Credit
* Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
* Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve pupils’ readiness to learn.

Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £1,320 for our school, to fund valuable support for your child, such as extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

If you believe your child may be entitled to free school meals, please go to [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals) or phone (01522) 782030.

If you do apply and your child(ren) is eligible for free school meals, please can you contact the school on [enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) or telephone us on 01522 880555 to let us know.

## School Meals

Please order school meals with our provider, Ideal School Meals. If you should have any problems registering your account details/ordering your child(ren)’s meals, you can contact Ideal School Meals by telephone on 01522 246424:

Monday & Tuesday between the hours of 9.00am-4.00pm

Wednesday and Friday 9.00am-2.45pm

Alternatively, you can email them on [enquiries@idealschoolmeals.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@idealschoolmeals.co.uk)

**Please remember that it is your responsibility to order your child a meal for lunch.**

If you forget to do so, you will need to speak with Ideal School Meals to see if you can organise a meal for your child and/or provide a packed meal for your child.

Full Terms and conditions are available at [https://www.lincsmusicservice.org/learning-an-instrument/individual-small-group-tuition](https://www.lincsmusicservice.org/instrumentallessons)

# IF YOU NEED HELP…

## Branston Junior Academy website

If you look on our school website ([www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk](http://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk)) you can find lots of guidance and advice. If you look on the ‘Curriculum’ tab, you can click on pages which give you advice on subjects, such as Maths and English. If you click on the ‘Parent’ tab ‘I need help!’ brings up links to website pages which can help your child with their mental health and wellbeing.

## Branston Food Bank

The helpline mobile number is **07395906220**. ***However, please note this service is for Branston residents only.***

## Lincoln Community Grocery

Lincoln Community Grocery is located at Beaumont Manor, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1UL and is open Monday to Friday between 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

For more information, please visit their website [https://communitygrocery.org.uk/lincoln or telephone 01522 265511](https://communitygrocery.org.uk/lincoln%20%20or%20telephone%2001522%20265511).

**E-Safety News**

AI Chatbots is a computer program designed to simulate/mimic conversation with humans. It offers exciting opportunities, providing information and assisting with problem solving it also comes with potential dangers. Please see our website for more information.

## Win a £1,000 Sainsbury's eGift Card! **‘Your School Lottery’**

Thank you to all parents who are supporting us by being part of the School Lottery. Congratulations to all those winners and thank you to those who have donated their winnings to the school. It is very kind of you and most appreciated!

**Win a £1,000 Sainsbury’s Voucher or £1,000 cash prize!**

**Get your tickets before Saturday 30th March to be in with a chance to win!**

The draws take place each Saturday night and offer the opportunity to win cash prizes each week, including a jackpot prize of £25,000. Tickets cost £1, and Branston Junior Academy receives at least 40p from every £1 ticket purchased, it’s so simple to register, just click on the link  <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/branston-junior-academy>

which will take you to our School Lottery Website.  Click on Buy Tickets and it will ask you for some personal details, such as name, email and postal address before registering you and letting you choose how many tickets you would like to buy each week. You can pay by Direct Debit or Debit Card.  So, if you would like to raise funds for Branston Junior Academy please spread the word to family and friends within the UK.

Details for each draw results are published on Your School Lottery website, as well as on their Facebook and Twitter, plus winners will be contacted directly by email.  Winnings are paid directly into your nominated bank account, or if you wish, can be donated to Branston Junior Academy.

Good luck for the coming weeks draws!

# LOCAL EVENTS

We are often contacted by external providers etc, who send us information about local events and ask us to advertise them to our parents. If it is only 1 or 2 things, previously we have sent them out as attachments to our weekly Branston Bulletin, however we are acutely aware that this can mean that sometimes this document becomes very long! We have come up with the solution of putting such information on our website instead. If there are any new events, we will list them below. ***To find out more information about any new, or previously advertised events, simply click on the Local Events tab in the Parents Menu of the*** [***https://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk***](https://www.branstonjunioracademy.co.uk) ***website.***

# Starting today, Friday 1st March - Big Pickles Theatre Group

Does your child like singing or dancing? Are they keen to try new things? Why not come and join Big Pickles after school on a Friday to become part of the new ‘Big Pickles Theatre Group’ lead by Miss Chelsea.

Starting on 1st March: collected by Big Pickles straight after school at 3.30p.m. to 4.30p.m. It will cost £5.50, includes snack and drinks.

Please contact Mrs Kate at [big-pickles@little-pickles.com](mailto:big-pickles@little-pickles.com) to reserve space.

### Saturday 9th March Swim with Me Training Day

Swim with Me are looking for children aged 3+ to help them with a training day at Swim Blue Pool, Bucknall, Woodhall Spa. For more information, please see our website, or alternatively you can contact them by email [info@swim-with-me.co.uk](mailto:info@swim-with-me.co.uk) or telephone 03455 578803.

They are also taking bookings for swimming lessons, including ‘Baby & Me, Children, Adults, Private and Small Groups’. Their swim school is a Gold accredited STA Swim School and commits to continual professional development for all their instructors along with keeping classes very small with just 5 swimmers.  Their swimmers are continually assessed along the International Learn to Swim Programme which enables swimmers to progress at a faster rate compared to the traditional method of assessing at the end of term.  For further information, please go to our website, or visit [www.swim-with-me.co.uk](http://www.swim-with-me.co.uk)

# Panto - Mr Murderies’ Players present their panto Aladdin on:

**Saturday 2nd March at 2pm and 7pm and Sunday 3rd March at 2pm**

At Branston Village Hall. Adult tickets cost £8; Children tickets cost £6 and Family tickets cost £20.

Please call the Box Office on 07942 314068 to book your tickets between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

# Sunday 24th March – Branston Easter Trail

Branston & Mere Parish Council are organising a free easter trail for children within the parish. If you would like to take part, you will need to register before 20th March. The event will take place between 10 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. with every child taking part receiving a prize at the end. For more information, please go to our website.

# Tuesday 2nd to Friday 12th April 2024 Holiday Club and Football Evolution

Lincoln City foundation is now taking bookings for their Easter Holiday Club and Football Evolution sessions which are being held at the LNER Stadium, Sincil Bank, home of Lincoln City Football Club. Please see our website for more information, or alternatively to learn more go to their website, [www.lincolncityfoundation.com/holiday-club](http://www.lincolncityfoundation.com/holiday-club) .

# BANDWISE & STRINGWISE Workshops and Concert in April

Bandwise and Stringwise are holdingworkshop days for young wind, brass, percussion and string players at South Nottinghamshire Academy, Radcliffe on Trent. Rehearsals are led by experienced conductors with other instrumental specialists joining them for other activities to get everyone involved.

**Bandwise workshop: Saturday 20 April:**

[**https://www.music-for-everyone.org/event/byme-bandwise-apr24/**](https://www.music-for-everyone.org/event/byme-bandwise-apr24/)

Bandwise 1: grade 2 – 5 players

Bandwise 2: grade 5+ players

**Stringwise workshop: Sunday 21 April:**

[**https://www.music-for-everyone.org/event/byme-stringwise-apr24/**](https://www.music-for-everyone.org/event/byme-stringwise-apr24/)

Stringwise 1: grade 0 - 1 players

Stringwise 2: grade 2 - 4 players

Stringwise 3: grade 5+ players

All players are then invited to come together for the **Big Youth Music Experience** **concert on Sunday 28 April at Nottingham’s Albert Hall.**

## Saturday 25th May – Free Open Day Event at Lincolnshire Energy from Waste

Lincolnshire Energy from Waste are holding a Free Open Day Event from 9.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. where you are invited to learn about the journeys of Lincolnshire’s waste and see what happens to the non-recyclable waste at the facility. There will also be free face-painting, catering and eco-focused stands including local produce and handmade products amongst others. For further details see: <https://lincolnshire.fccenvironment.co.uk>

# May 27th to 31st – Swimming Lessons at Billinghay Swimming Pool

Billinghay are holding one week intensive swimming lessons, costing £35, at their local swimming pool for Yr 1 to Yr 6 pupils in May. For more information, please contact them by email on [billinghaypool@gmail.com](mailto:billinghaypool@gmail.com) or alternatively drop them a message on their Facebook page.

# WaitLess App for urgent and emergency care services in Lincolnshire

We have been advised that there is a **smartphone app to help people WaitLess for urgent and emergency care** services across Lincolnshire which is designed to help people choose the least pressured urgent and emergency care services and to understand waiting times better.

The WaitLess app combines current waiting time, queue numbers and travel-time at urgent care facilities in the county.  This displayed information helps people make an informed decision about where to seek the fastest treatment for minor illness and injuries. Along with this, the app displays all available pharmacies in the area as an alternative treatment option.  **The app can be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple App Store.**

# Your Guide to Health Services in Lincolnshire

Please see our website for more information about Self Care, Pharmacy, Your GP Practice, NHS 111, WaitLess, Urgent Treatment Centre, Dental Treatment and Mental Health Crisis.