



**Broadmeadow
School
Connection**

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Academic Year: 2025-26
Term: Spring 1
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Friday 13th February 2026
Headteacher: Mr K Medway

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this (extremely wet) half term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible learning and growth we have seen across the school. It has been a whirlwind of adventure for our pupils, from our youngest learners in Nursery building mini-streets and exploring Lunar New Year, to our Year 6 students delving into the history of the Victorians.

We are particularly delighted with the impact of our new 'Kinetic Letters' handwriting programme. It is wonderful to see the children building their physical strength and confidence through "animal moves," which is already translating into more fluent and automatic writing skills.

This newsletter is packed with updates and important information to keep our community connected:

Curriculum Highlights: Read more about the exciting projects happening in every year group, including Year 1's Gingerbread Man adventures, Year 3's study of Ancient Greece, and Year 4's investigations into sound and Roman Britain.

School Improvements: We have updated our school phone system with clear menu options to help direct your calls to the right department more efficiently.

Arbor Updates: With 96% of our parents now active on the Arbor Parent Portal, we are moving towards using it for all school functions. Please note that Parent Consultations for 3rd and 4th March must be booked exclusively through the app.

Community Engagement: We are supporting a West Midlands Police initiative regarding anti-social behaviour and invite you to share your feedback via the survey link provided.

Digital Resources: Look out for the new SEND contact form on our website for direct communication with our SENDCo, Mrs Elsmore.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued partnership. As we mention in our "Concerns vs. Complaints" section, we truly believe we are all on the "same team". Your support and open communication help us maintain the positive atmosphere that makes Broadmeadow such a special place for your children.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday, 23rd February 2026.

Warmest wishes,
Mr K Medway
Headteacher

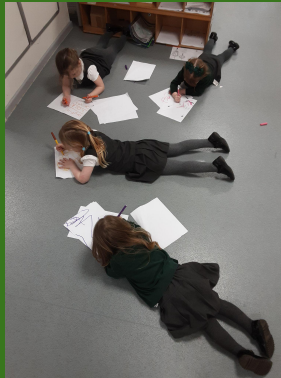
Phase 1 - Nursery

Our Nursery learners have been busy exploring the world right on their doorstep! We've been talking about **where we live**, describing our own homes and what we might find inside them. The children have had a wonderful time building their very own **mini streets**, complete with tiny versions of themselves and their own homes — such fantastic imagination on show!

We also enjoyed learning about **Lunar (Chinese) New Year** and how it's celebrated. The children loved making **Chinese-style noodles**, watching and describing how the ingredients changed as they cooked. We even practised using **chopsticks**, which was not only great fun but also brilliant for strengthening the small muscles we need for writing.

Speaking of muscles, we've just introduced our new handwriting programme, **Kinetic Letters**. Nursery are focusing on building strong bodies and core strength through playful "animal moves" — look out for our **bears, penguins, meerkats, stone lions and lizards** in action! These movements help develop the posture and control needed for confident writing later on.

We're so proud of how enthusiastically Nursery are learning and exploring every day!



Phase 1 - Reception

This term, Reception have been exploring the world around us in some exciting ways! We've learned about the importance of families and the different roles people play in our communities. The children have enjoyed discussing their own families and how everyone contributes to making our community a better place. A highlight of our learning was a special visit from a local vet, who shared some fascinating information about caring for animals. The children were eager to ask questions and even got the chance to look at some of the tools a vet uses. It was a great experience that sparked lots of curiosity about how we care for our pets and animals.

In PE, we have been developing our physical skills by practicing balancing and jumping safely from the apparatus. The children have shown growing confidence, strength, and control, and it has been lovely to see them encouraging one another. We have also been learning how to draw by following step-by-step tutorials. The children concentrated carefully and were incredibly proud of their work — we were truly blown away by the fantastic drawings they produced!

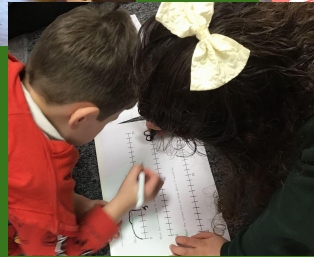
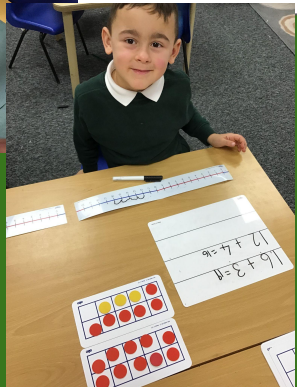
Well done to all of Reception for their enthusiasm and hard work. We are very proud of everything they have achieved this half term and look forward to more exciting learning ahead.



Phase 1 - Year 1

Our Year 1 explorers have had a whirlwind of adventure recently! After reading *The Gingerbread Man*, the children baked their own delicious treats—only for one to stage a daring escape! This sparked some fantastic creative writing as the pupils designed "Wanted" posters to track him down. Let us know if you see the posters around school! In the hall, we took part in a Bikeability session, showing incredible resilience while learning to ride. In Science, we've turned into mini-investigators, testing various materials to see which are waterproof and which leave us a bit soggy!

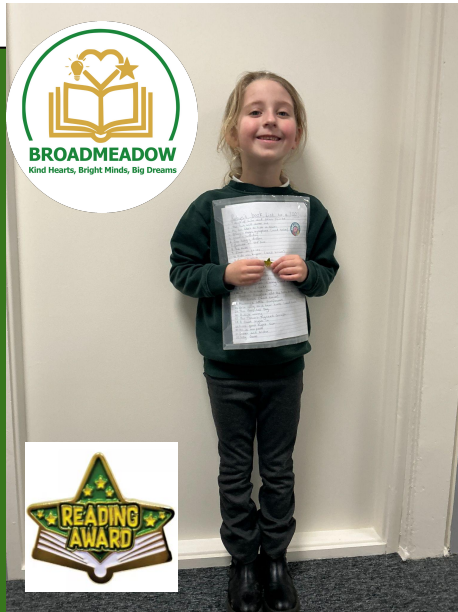
Beyond our projects, we are immensely proud of the progress everyone is making in Phonics, Writing, and Maths. We have been particularly busy using lots of practical, hands-on ways to master our number facts, from using counters to collaborative building games. It is wonderful to see so much teamwork and determination across the whole curriculum!



Phase 2 - Year 2

One of our children in year 2 set herself a challenge to read 100 books. She then brought in a list of what she had read in to share. Well done on challenging that bright mind.

This term in Topic, Year 2 have been learning about the seaside, comparing what it was like in the past with how it is today. They explored how seaside holidays have changed over time and what life was like for people long ago. In Science, the children investigated what seeds need to germinate, learning about the importance of water, warmth and light and observing how plants begin to grow. In Maths, we are learning about money money and we have been learning to make an amount using pounds and pence.



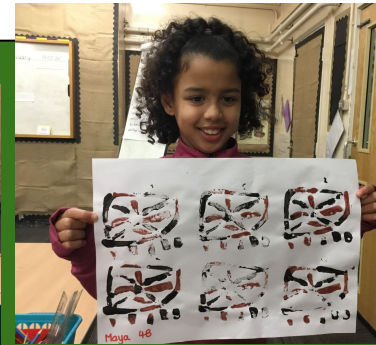
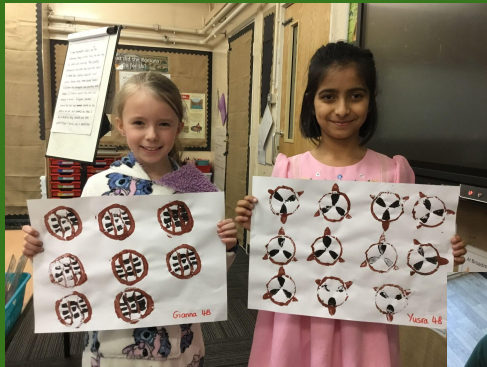
Phase 2 - Year 3

Year 3 is learning about the legacy of Ancient Greece in History lessons. We've located the era on our giant hall timeline and recreated geometric patterns on clay pots. In English, we are reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and our writing is linked to the story. We have been creative with our setting and character descriptions, and we are now writing instructions for how to catch an iron monster! In Maths, we have been continuing our work with multiplication and division, using Base 10, place value counters and cubes to support our understanding.



Phase 2 - Year 4

In Science this term, Year 4 are exploring sound, learning how it is made and how it travels. In our Topic lessons, we are learning about why the Romans invaded Britain, while in Art we are designing and printing our own Celtic patterns. Class 4B are also enjoying weekly swimming sessions and making great progress in the water. These lessons will continue after half term until Easter, after which Class 4A will begin their swimming sessions.



Improving Handwriting with 'Kinetic Letters'



We are delighted to share the wonderful impact our new handwriting programme, **Kinetic Letters**, is having across the school. You may have noticed your children coming home talking about "Brave Monkey" "bump" or "push," or perhaps even practicing their animal positions.

What is Kinetic Letters?

Kinetic Letters is a unique, physical approach to handwriting. It recognizes that to write well, children first need to be physically strong and comfortable. The programme follows four main "threads":

1. **Making Bodies Stronger:** Building core and shoulder strength so children can sit comfortably and control their fingers precisely.
2. **Holding the Pencil:** Teaching the "Three Friends" hold (thumb and first two fingers) for a comfortable, pain-free grip.
3. **Learning the Letters:** Letters are taught through stories about two monkeys: **Bounce (the Brave Monkey)** who lives on the high branch, and **Skip (the Scared Monkey)** who lives on the lower branch.
4. **Flow and Fluency:** Once formation is automatic, children learn to write quickly and join their letters effortlessly.

By making handwriting "automatic," children no longer have to think about *how* to write, which frees up their brain to focus entirely on *what* they are writing.

To see the principles in action, including the "Six Letter Moves," you can watch this helpful introductory video: [👉 Watch: Kinetic Letters Overview](#)

For more information, visit the official website: www.kineticletters.com



1. The Four Threads: Body Setup



LIZARD

Strong body position for writing stamina

2. The Four Threads: Pencil Grip



STRONG BEAR

A strong, comfortable grip for control


3. The Four Threads: Letter Size & Spacing



STRONG BEAR

Knowing where letters start and stop
Knowing where letters sit your stop

4. The Four Threads: Dynamic Movement



JUMPY MONKEY

Flowing movements for joined writing
joined writing

Parents' Consultations: Spring Term

Tuesday 3rd March & Wednesday 4th March 2026

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our upcoming Parents' Consultations. These meetings are a vital opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their achievements, and look ahead to the remainder of the school year.

Booking Information

All appointments must be booked through the Arbor App. Bookings Opened: Monday 9th February at 5:30pm

How to Book: Simply log into your Arbor account and select the 'Consultations' section to choose your preferred time slot.

If you have any difficulty accessing the Arbor App or require assistance with your booking, please contact the school office in the week commencing 23rd February 2026, and the team will be happy to help.

[JOINING THE ARBOR APP](#)

[MAKING A BOOKING](#)

Action on Anti-Social Behaviour: Have Your Say

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to support a new initiative in partnership with the **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**. We are inviting all members of our school community to share their thoughts and concerns regarding antisocial behaviour (ASB) in our local area.

Why Your Voice Matters

The West Midlands Police have developed a strategic plan to reduce ASB from 2026 onwards. However, for this plan to be truly effective, it needs to reflect the actual experiences of those who live and work here.

By taking a few minutes to complete this survey, you can help:

- **Identify Priority Areas:** Tell the police exactly where action is needed most.
- **Improve Safety:** Help shape how the police and local partners protect our neighbourhoods.
- **Provide Direct Feedback:** Share how well you feel current services are being delivered.

How to Participate

The survey is open throughout **February** to everyone who lives, works, or spends time in the West Midlands. Your feedback will directly inform the tactics used by West Midlands Police to prevent antisocial behaviour moving forward.

Complete the survey by 28 February: > [Please click here to complete the survey](#)

Thank you for helping us work together to keep our community a safe and positive place for our children to grow up.

Best regards,

Mr Medway



Communication Update: Enhancing Our Partnership

At Broadmeadow, we are committed to ensuring that communication between school and home is as efficient and clear as possible. Our goal is to ensure your queries reach the right person quickly while protecting our teachers' time for what they do best: teaching your children.

Streamlining Our Phone Lines

To help direct your calls more efficiently, we have updated our school phone system with clear options. When you call, please listen carefully to the menu to ensure you are put through to the correct department (e.g., Attendance, Office Triage, or Finance).

The Power of Arbor (96% Connected!)

We are thrilled to announce that over 96% of our parents are now active on the Arbor Parent Portal. This is now our primary tool for staying connected.

Parent Consultations: After the half-term break, we will be holding parent consultations. Please note that bookings for these meetings are managed exclusively through the Arbor Parent Portal.

Moving to Arbor Payments: Starting after Easter, Arbor will become our sole platform for all school payments (trips, clubs, etc.), replacing our current systems. We recommend ensuring your login is working well before this transition.

Improving Our Digital Resources

Our school website continues to be a vital hub for information. We are constantly updating it to better serve you:

Main Website: www.brdmedoi.bham.sch.uk or www.brdmedoj.bham.sch.uk/

New SEND Contact Form: We have introduced a dedicated contact form for parents wishing to reach our SENDCo, Mrs. Elsmore. If you require specialist advice regarding Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, please use the form located on our SEND page here.

Understanding the "Teacher Triage" System

Please take a moment to review the Parent Communication Guide on the next page.

Thank you for your continued support in making Broadmeadow a focused and communicative learning environment.



Broadmeadow Schools: Parent Communication Guide

Efficient channels for timely responses and focused teaching.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS & PROTOCOLS



The Teacher Triage System

No messages go directly to teachers during the school day to protect teaching time.



Essential Message Details

Always include your child's full name, class, and a clear summary of your query.



Arbor



Medical Tracker



Email

Primary Platforms

Use Arbor for general updates, Medical Tracker for first aid, and Email for enquiries.



CONTACT SCENARIOS & URGENCY



Attendance & Absences

Phone the school office by 09:00 on the first and every subsequent day of absence.



Urgent & Safeguarding Matters

Call the office immediately for safeguarding concerns or emergency changes to pick-up.



SEND & Specialist Support

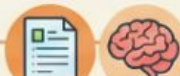
Contact the class teacher first via Arbor; use the Google Form for specialist SENDCo advice.

EXPECTED RESPONSE TIMES



Classroom / SEND Queries
Arbor App / Email

2-3 Working Days



Specialist SEND Advice
Google Form Request

3-5 Working Days



Serious Concerns
Head Teacher Appointment

3-5 Working Days



ST DUNSTAN'S HALF TERM ACTIVITY HOLIDAY CLUB TIMETABLE

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
ICEBREAKER GAME	Pokemon Trainer Tag	Spongebob Bubble Chase	Scooby Doo Monster Chase	Minion Banana Grab	Tom and Jerry Chase
ACTIVITY 1	Archery	Gaelic Football	Dance	Glow in the Dark Dodgeball	Funtastic Toon Quiz
ACTIVITY 2	Dodgeball	Gymnastics	Kurling	Gymnastics	Premier Olympics
ACTIVITY 3	Basketball	Fencing	Handball	NERF	Kids V Coaches
ACTIVITY 4	Team Games	Tchoukball	Structured Sports and Active Play	Tag Rugby	Stay and Play

20% DISCOUNT STILL AVAILABLE PLUS FURTHER
10% DISCOUNT WHEN BOOKING ALL 5 DAYS



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Selly Manor Museum Events

Days	Activity Type
Monday - Friday	"Let's Go on a Bear Hunt" Indoor/Outdoor Trail
Saturdays	Hands-on Craft Workshops for Kids
Sundays	Traditional Tudor Storytelling Sessions



Kings Norton Nature Reserve

Discover the beauty of local meadows and woodlands. A perfect spot for the whole family to explore.

- Take a **Winter Scavenger Hunt** walk.
- Spot kingfishers along the River Rea.
- Find the first signs of early snowdrops.



Lickey Hills

Famous for its "Welly Walks" and stunning panoramic views of Birmingham. Includes a children's adventure playground.

Waseley Hills

Wind-swept hills perfect for kite flying and burning off energy. Features a cafe and marked trails for all ages.

Key Dates for next term

Friday 13th February - Break up

Monday 16th February to Friday 20th

February - Half Term

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Children

return to School

Friday 27th February - Young Voices Concert

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026

Never miss a date: Sync our calendar

With so much happening at school, we want to make it as easy as possible for you to stay in the loop. You can find our live, up-to-date calendar here:

👉 [Broadmeadow School Calendar](#)

The Best Way to Stay Organised: Did you know you can **subscribe** to this calendar? By clicking the "Subscribe" or "Export" button on the page, you can link our school dates directly to your phone (iPhone, Android, or Outlook).

Working Together: Concerns vs. Complaints

At our school, we pride ourselves on the strong partnership between home and school. We all share the same goal: ensuring every child feels safe, happy, and ready to learn. To keep our community thriving, it helps to understand how we can best address any hiccups that arise along the way.

Most day-to-day issues—like a playground misunderstanding or a question about homework—fall into the category of a **concern**.

- **The Approach:** These are best handled through an informal chat or email to the class teacher.
- **The Goal:** Collaborative problem-solving. By raising a concern early, we can act quickly and keep the focus on the solution.
- **The Benefit:** It builds trust and keeps communication lines open and friendly.

When it Becomes a "Complaint"

A **complaint** is a formal expression of dissatisfaction, usually after attempts to resolve a concern has been unsuccessful or if the matter is of a very serious nature.

While our formal complaints procedure is always there for you, it is a structured, resource-intensive process. When schools move into formal "complaint mode," it can inadvertently divert time and energy away from the classroom and the day-to-day magic of teaching.

Training Days 2025-2026
Children not in school.

Monday 1st September 2025
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Monday 3rd November 2025
Monday 5th January 2026
Thursday 7th May 2026
Monday 20th July 2026

**For full dates, please see the school
calendar on our website.**

Term Dates

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF BOOKING A HOLIDAY, PLEASE SEE THE TERM DATES AS HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME CANNOT BE AUTHORISED.

Autumn Term 2025

Half-term: Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 31 October 2025

Children return: **Tuesday 4 November 2025**

Term ends: Friday 19 December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 5 January 2026

Children return: Tuesday 6 January 2026

Half-term: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term ends: Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Training Day and polling: 7 May 2026 (Children Not in)

Year 6 SATs in 2026 are scheduled to take place from Monday, May 11th to Thursday, May 14th

Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends: Friday 17 July 2026

Term starts: Tuesday 1 September 2026 (Training days TBC)