



Braishfield Bugle



Friday 23rd January 2026

Be kind, be brave, be ready to learn, and be your best.

Dear Families,

It has been a really positive week of learning in school.

We were delighted to welcome the *Open the Book* team, who led a lively and interactive assembly that the children thoroughly enjoyed. We also visited the village hall to listen to musicians perform on the viola, giving the children a wonderful opportunity to experience live music. Alongside this, there has been lots of fantastic learning happening in class, which you can read more about below.

Although we will discuss these changes in more detail at our upcoming Parent Forum, I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the ways we are continuing to support all children at Braishfield.

Staff have spent time reflecting on how best to support children during breaktimes and lunchtimes, and as a result there are now a wider range of activities available. For children who find the main playground challenging or overwhelming, there is the option to use the front playground (with the same equipment) as part of a smaller group, supported by an adult who can encourage and guide as needed.

At lunchtime, additional staff are available, and we are pleased to offer:

- Coach Tom's activity sessions on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes
- Oaks' Homework Support Club on Tuesdays
- Mrs Sanders' *Breathe and Believe* club, which offers quiet and calming activities such as games, stories and colouring for children who prefer a more relaxed environment

After school:

Creative Play - Year 1 children have been enjoying getting creative in Monday Play Club. They've loved returning to the Early Years environment, where they've been busy making models with playdough, junk modelling, and playing tunes with boomwhackers. Arthur created this fantastic tank model and said, "I really like Mrs Wortham's Club. We get to play and craft, and it's a nice small club."

We continue to adapt and work hard to support every child, though of course we will not always get everything right. The needs of children at Braishfield, and in wider society, continue to change, and this means we must all adapt together as parents and educators. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend.

Natalie Alldred – Headteacher

headteacher@braishfield.hants.sch.uk

Celebration Assembly – 9am on Friday morning

Our wonderful children who have been awarded certificates this week.

Headteacher's Certificate			
Little Acorns	Big Acorns	Saplings	Oaks
Zuri	Double next week	William Hazel	Sammy Skye

Upcoming events ...

- Tuesday 27th January 3:10pm - Year 2 Reading Workshop - From Phonics to Fluency
- Thursday 29th January - Y1-6 invited children - Orchestra trip
- Tuesday 3rd February 7pm - BSA meeting
- Monday 9th February 2:30pm - Parent Forum
- Monday 9th to Friday 13th February - Children's Mental Health Week
- Wednesday 11th February - Little Acorns - Gurdwara trip
- Friday 13th February – Braishfield Be Brave Day
- **Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026 - Half term**
- Monday 23rd February - INSET
- Tuesday 24th February - Oaks - RE day with Southampton City Mission
- Thursday 26th February – Parents' Evening 1
- Week beginning 2nd March - Braishfield Book Week
- Tuesday 3rd March – Parents' Evening 2
- Thursday 5th March - Big Acorns - RE day with Southampton City Mission
- <https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/special/calendar/>

What we have been learning this week...

Little Acorns

There are so many joys in teaching the youngest children in the school — from their natural curiosity and the strong relationships we build with families, to the flexibility of our curriculum that allows us to follow children's interests. This week, the children have been deeply engaged in exploring maps, showing impressive focus and enthusiasm. We have also loved seeing the home learning shared by families; the children's faces light up when they see their photos on the big screen and have the chance to talk about their home experiences with their friends. Reading remains at the heart of our curriculum in Little Acorns, and it was wonderful to see some children so inspired by their reading book, *Will It Sink?*, that they carried out their own investigations in the water tray, testing objects to see whether they would float or sink. What a fantastic week of learning and discovery!
Mrs Wortham and Miss Jones



Big Acorns

This week, the children were all ready to begin their English lesson on Monday when we heard Mrs Allred chasing her scarf across the playground. The children were very excited to go out and investigate where the wind took Mrs Allred's scarf! This inspired the children to write their story writing about the headteacher's scarf. We worked hard to write in a similar form to our class text *'The Queen's Hat'*. In maths, the year 2s continued to explore money through different problems and investigations. The year 1s have been focusing on understanding numbers between 17-20. During Monday afternoon, the school was invited to a music concert at the village hall to hear a couple of talented musicians play the violin and viola. In computing, we finished our unit around programming using Bee-Bots. The children did a great job planning and programming the Bee-bots to follow specific instructions. Finally, in geography, we learnt about the different countries of the UK and where they are located on a map. Mrs Morant





Saplings

This week in Saplings, we have continued our work on the story *The Dream Giver*. We have written about the text using subordinating conjunctions, fronted adverbials, and direct speech. We are looking forward to writing our own stories next week.

In mathematics, we have begun learning formal methods for division and how to apply these skills to a range of problems.

In DT, we finished constructing our shell structures, explored strategies to strengthen them, and completed a written evaluation of our work.

In dance, we continued learning a routine using parkour-inspired ideas.

Mrs Doherty



Oaks

Oaks have been working extremely hard this week. In maths, we have been exploring equivalent fractions and learning how to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers. During guided reading, we have been using evidence from the text to summarise and describe characters. In PE, we have practised our defending skills, focusing on teamwork during netball games. In PSHE, the children explored how to stay safe online, including what makes a strong password, how to spot fake news, the potential dangers they may encounter online, and—most importantly—what to do if they see something that doesn't feel right. We also took time to discuss the proposed plans for the housing estate opposite the school, with the children thoughtfully debating the pros and cons and showing real passion and maturity in their viewpoints. In Dance, the class thoroughly enjoyed beginning a new routine inspired by the theme of detectives and mystery. They were incredibly creative, worked brilliantly together, and their routines are already looking fantastic.

Miss Jones and Mrs Niles



Zoielogic Dance Performance

This half term we have been fortunate enough to engage in weekly dance lesson with Emily and Ollie from Zoielogic Dance company. The children are really enjoying these sessions and have begun to put together a short performance pieces that they would love to share with you on Thursday 12th February. If you are able to, please arrive at the village hall at 2:55pm as the children will begin their performances at 3pm. We will try and video these for those parents/ carers unable to make it to view at another time.

Year 2 Reading Workshop: From Phonics to Fluency

We would like to invite all Year 2 parents and carers to attend a reading workshop on Tuesday 27th January at 3:10pm.

The session will explore how children develop as readers in Year 2, why reading fluency is so important, and how you can support your child's reading at home in practical and manageable ways. This is an important meeting that will help you understand how reading skills now link to later success in school.

The workshop will finish in time for parents to collect their children at the end of the school day.

Please could all Year 2 parents complete the Google Form to confirm your attendance: <https://forms.gle/UiraoQSPf7Fujzkr6>

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to support your child's reading journey.

BSA Update

After 3 very successful years of fundraising, personal circumstances have changed for a couple of our committee members, making it difficult to hold events without significant help in organising from other parents.

On **Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm, in The Wheatsheaf**, we will be holding a meeting to discuss the remainder of this academic year and which events, if any we can feasibly run.

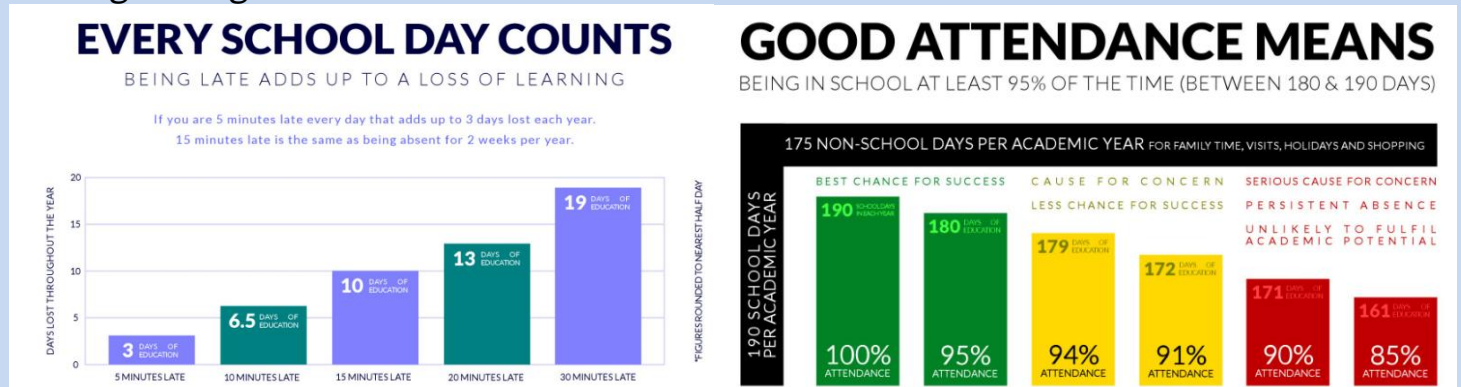
Going forward, as discussed at our most recent AGM, the current committee will be stepping down in September and so at this meeting we will also be discussing a succession plan and how the BSA might look moving forward.

If you think you have a flair for fundraising or even just a desire to be more involved in school life, want to meet new people and take pride in seeing the smiles on our children's faces, please come and have a chat with us about getting involved!

Why Attendance Matters!

It is the legal duty of parents to ensure that their child receives full time education. Good attendance is vital to a child's progress and achievement. Common sense tells us that absence and lateness disrupt the continuity of learning and therefore affect progress and, ultimately, success. As a result of the direct correlation between attendance and achievement, it is vital that children achieve full attendance.

It is also important to note that short periods of regular absence can be just as damaging to learning as long term absence.



🌟 Congratulations to **Year 2** who this week have achieved the best attendance in the school with **97.9%**. Well done for showing such great commitment to learning!

Year 2 – 97.9%
Year 5 – 97.7%
Year 6 – 97.1%
Year R – 96.9%
Year 3 – 96.4%
Year 4 – 96.2%
Year 1 – 92.9%
Overall this week – 96.5%
Overall this year – 96%
Our target is 96.5%

Homework

Big Acorns

Year 1

Please practise reading and writing the graphemes and words on the spellings sheet 'Year 1 Spring 1 Week 3'. Please also ensure your child is reading their reading book at least 3 times a week and this is being recorded in their reading records each time they read.

Year 2

Spelling - Please complete the spelling sheet in their reading packs. Maths page 37

Saplings

Year 3

Maths pg 24 (recap) Spellings pg 20 (recap)

Year 4

Maths pg 29 Spellings pg 4 (recap)

Oaks

Year 5

Maths- p23 & 25 and Spelling- p17

Year 6

Arithmetic- p14 & 15, Reasoning- p15, Spellings- p14 and Grammar- p14 & 15

In the lead up to the Y6s SATS in May, we have slightly increased the amount of homework to ensure we have covered topics prior to the assessments. We have explained this to the children and also informed them that after this time we will reduce their amount to make it fair. We'd like to remind you that we do run a Homework Club on a Tuesday lunchtime if anyone does need additional help. Thank you for your continued support.

PARENT FORUM



Monday 9th February 2:30pm

This will be an informal opportunity to talk about what is going well in school and to share ideas about how we can continue to improve. It is an open forum where everyone is welcome to contribute thoughts, opinions, or concerns, with the aim of strengthening parent-teacher relationships and working together to solve problems.

Your voice really matters to us, and we would love to hear from you. Even if you don't have anything specific to share, please feel free to come along and listen. Little ones are very welcome.

We hope to see you there.



01794 368359

adminoffice@braishfield.hants.sch.uk

a production

A Peter Denyer pantomime



A fun filled show for the whole family

Runs from 9th to 24th of January 2026
Relaxed performance on the 11th January

THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH NODA. WWW.NODA.ORG.UK • SUITABLE FOR AGES 7 AND OVER

PLAZA THEATRE : ROMSEY

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BOX OFFICE: 0333 666 3366

Monday to Friday 8am-7pm
and Saturday 9am-5pm



Starring one of our own pupils!

Extra Support and Guidance

- [Managing school refusal](#) - a resource for families with children experiencing school attendance barriers
- [Hampshire's Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services \(CAMHS\)](#) - Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), a NHS specialist service that aims to help young people aged 5 -18 years
- [Hampshire County Council's Pathway for special educational needs support](#) - The Local Authority's Pathway for special educational needs support
- [Hampshire's SEND Support Guidance for Schools](#) - Ordinarily Available Provision and special educational needs and disabilities support guidance
- [Hampshire SENDIAS](#) - Impartial SEND Advice & Support
- [Hampshire Specialist Parenting Support Service](#) - practical parenting support and advice
- [Hampshire's Local Offer for services and information for children with SEND and/or disabilities](#) - The Local Authority's information about the help and services available for children and young people (aged 0 to 25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Hampshire

We are an independent charity covering the Southern Test Valley.

We support Young Carers aged 8-18 through:

- youth groups
- trips and activities
- residentials
- school exploration
- befriending
- family support

If you think you are a young carer there is lots of support and opportunities available! Please get in touch.



ROMSEY YOUNG CARERS



Do you support a parent, sibling or family member? This could be with a long term condition, illness, mental health or substance misuse. You may be a young carer.

TO REFER

Call: 01794 515908

Website: romseyyoungcarers.org.uk

Email: referrals@romseyyoungcarers.org.uk

FB: Romsey Young Carers



Charity Number: 1182278

INSET days

The remaining INSET Days for the 2025/26 academic year are as follows:

- Monday 23rd February 2026
- Friday 26th June 2026

Safeguarding and Wellbeing:

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

PROMOTING PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Physical activity isn't only beneficial for our bodies; it also plays a role in promoting mental wellbeing. With both the Euros and the Olympics this summer, it's an opportunity to engage young people in regular exercise which can reduce stress, improve mood and boost self-esteem. Despite these benefits, many children face barriers to participating in physical activity.

1 MAKE IT FUN

Incorporate activities that children enjoy, such as playing games or dancing. Encourage participation in team sports or group activities to foster social connections and a sense of belonging.

2 MIX MOVEMENT WITH LEARNING

Educational settings can incorporate movement breaks and physical activities to enhance focus, concentration and cognitive function. Embedding exercise into the curriculum can also reinforce learning and stimulate creativity. 'Revision walks' with podcasts and flashcards can benefit older learners.

3 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

Provide clear chances for physical activity throughout the day, both indoors and outdoors. Schools can encourage active play during breaks and at lunchtimes, while limiting screen time at home can help keep children up and about.

4 PROVIDE POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Praise and encourage children for their efforts and achievements in physical activity. Recognise their progress and celebrate their successes to reinforce positive behaviours. Educators could do this in several ways, such as applauding their efforts at assemblies or celebrating their accomplishments in newsletters.

5 VARIETY IS KEY

Introduce a selection of physical activities to keep children engaged and prevent boredom. From swimming and cycling to yoga and martial arts, trying different types of exercise can help children to discover what they enjoy most.

6 ENJOYMENT OVER COMPETITION

Encourage children to focus on the enjoyment of physical activity rather than winning or achieving perfection. Emphasise effort, improvement and having fun rather than outcomes, to minimise the amount of stress that children can sometimes associate with sports and other competitions.

7 SET REALISTIC GOALS

Help children set achievable physical activity targets based on their interests, abilities and preferences. Celebrate their progress and successes to maintain motivation and enthusiasm.

8 MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE

Ensure that children have access to safe, suitable spaces for exercise at home, at school and in the community. Advocate for inclusive environments which accommodate diverse needs and abilities. Be a change maker in your community if facilities aren't already available.

9 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Parents and carers can be positive role models by prioritising their own exercise and involving children in their fitness routines. Gentle walks, bike rides or sports activities can be wonderful opportunities for bonding and staying active together.

10 ENCOURAGE PERSISTENCE

Help children develop resilience and perseverance by encouraging them to overcome challenges and setbacks in physical activity. Teach them the importance of perseverance and the value of effort in achieving their goals.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is a learning and development specialist who, as well as working for Minds Ahead, is associate vice principal for personal development at a large secondary school in Barnsley. He was asked to be part of an expert research group for the Department for Education, one of only three school leaders to be asked to do so.



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