



Friday 6th February 2026

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

Dear Families,

It has been a truly lovely week in school. The children are responding so positively to our new school values, and there is a real buzz of excitement as we look ahead to our **Be Brave Day** next week. Their enthusiasm for our school songs has been wonderful to hear and really lifts the atmosphere around school.

This week, we have also welcomed a range of visitors who came in to look at teaching and learning across the school and to celebrate all that our children and staff do so well. It was a privilege to share our school with them, and the children were a real credit to us all.

I hope that the recent parent workshops for specific year groups have been useful. We are keen to offer more opportunities like these in the future, and this will be discussed further at our upcoming Parent Forum next week.

Wishing you 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			
Olivia-May Kindness and bravery			
Little Acorns	Big Acorns	Saplings	Oaks
Olivia S	Dolly	Double next time	Zoe

Upcoming events ...

- Monday 9th February 2:30pm - Parent Forum
- Monday 9th to Friday 13th February - Children's Mental Health Week
- Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day
- Wednesday 11th February - Little Acorns - Gurdwara trip
- Wednesday 11th February - Oaks - Trip to Romsey School (We Will Rock You)
- Friday 13th February – Braishfield Be Brave Day
- **Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026 - Half term**
- Monday 23rd February – INSET DAY 4
- Tuesday 24th February - Oaks - RE day with Southampton City Mission
- Thursday 26th February – Parents' Evening 1 (booking available)

- Week beginning 2nd March - Braishfield Book Week
- Tuesday 3rd March – Year 6 Parliament Trip
- Tuesday 3rd March – Parents’ Evening 2 (booking available)
- Thursday 5th March - Big Acorns - RE day with Southampton City Mission
- Friday 6th March - Braishfield Book Day - Dress for a bedtime story
- <https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/special/calendar/>

Other School News



This week, the children in Creative Play Club have been enjoying making music with the boom whackers.

Zoiologic Dance Performance

This half term we have been fortunate enough to engage in weekly dance lesson with Emily and Ollie from Zoiologic 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. Mrs Niles

What we have been learning this week...

Little Acorns

The children have been learning about world landscapes and worked in groups to sort different environments based on their features. They then became desert explorers and Arctic explorers, discussing how these landscapes differ from our own, how living in hot or cold places might feel, what we might eat or drink, and what we might wear. Next week, we'll begin thinking about our own special places and making links to special places in Sikhi traditions.

As it is National Storytelling Week, we have been creating our own story poem during snack time about an excited cricket with super pants! All of the ideas are the children's own, and we can't wait to share the finished poem with you.

Finally, we have started learning about e-safety. The children learned that smart speakers are not magic — they don't have a brain or heart, can't feel emotions, think independently, or look after people. We also talked about smart speaker rules, such as not sharing personal information and always telling a trusted adult if a smart speaker says something that doesn't seem right. More on this next week!

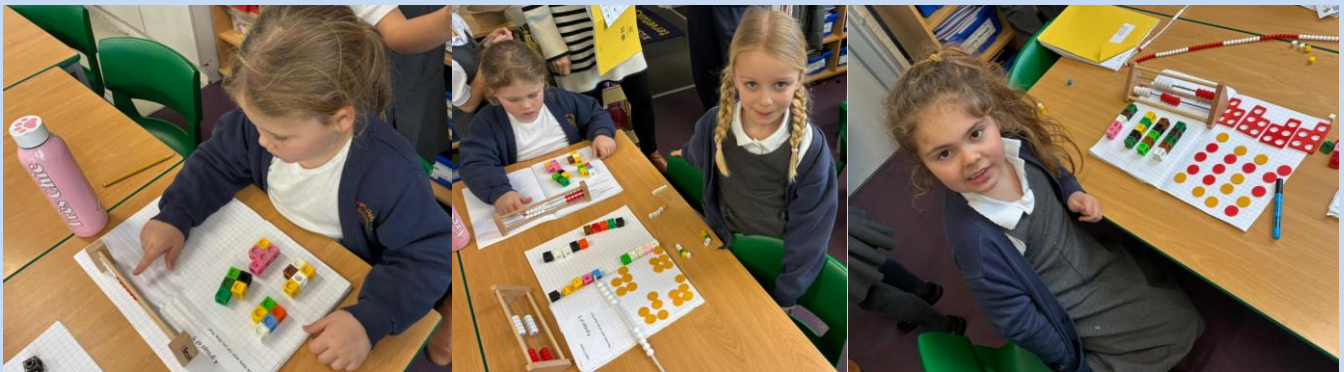
Mrs Wortham and Miss Jones



Big Acorns

This week, the children continued to learn and improve their dance for the upcoming performance next week which they are very excited about. They have worked hard at creating different elements of the dance and it has been lovely to see it coming together. In maths, the year 1s have been learning how to count in 2s and in 10s while the year 2s have been making equal groups and exploring repeated addition. In English, we wrote sentences linked to 'Katie in London' using different conjunctions and the year 2s started to learn how to use an exclamation mark. In science we looked at the four seasons and talked about the changes that occur within each season. Finally, in DT, the children started to learn about different free-standing structures and designed their own free standing house structure.

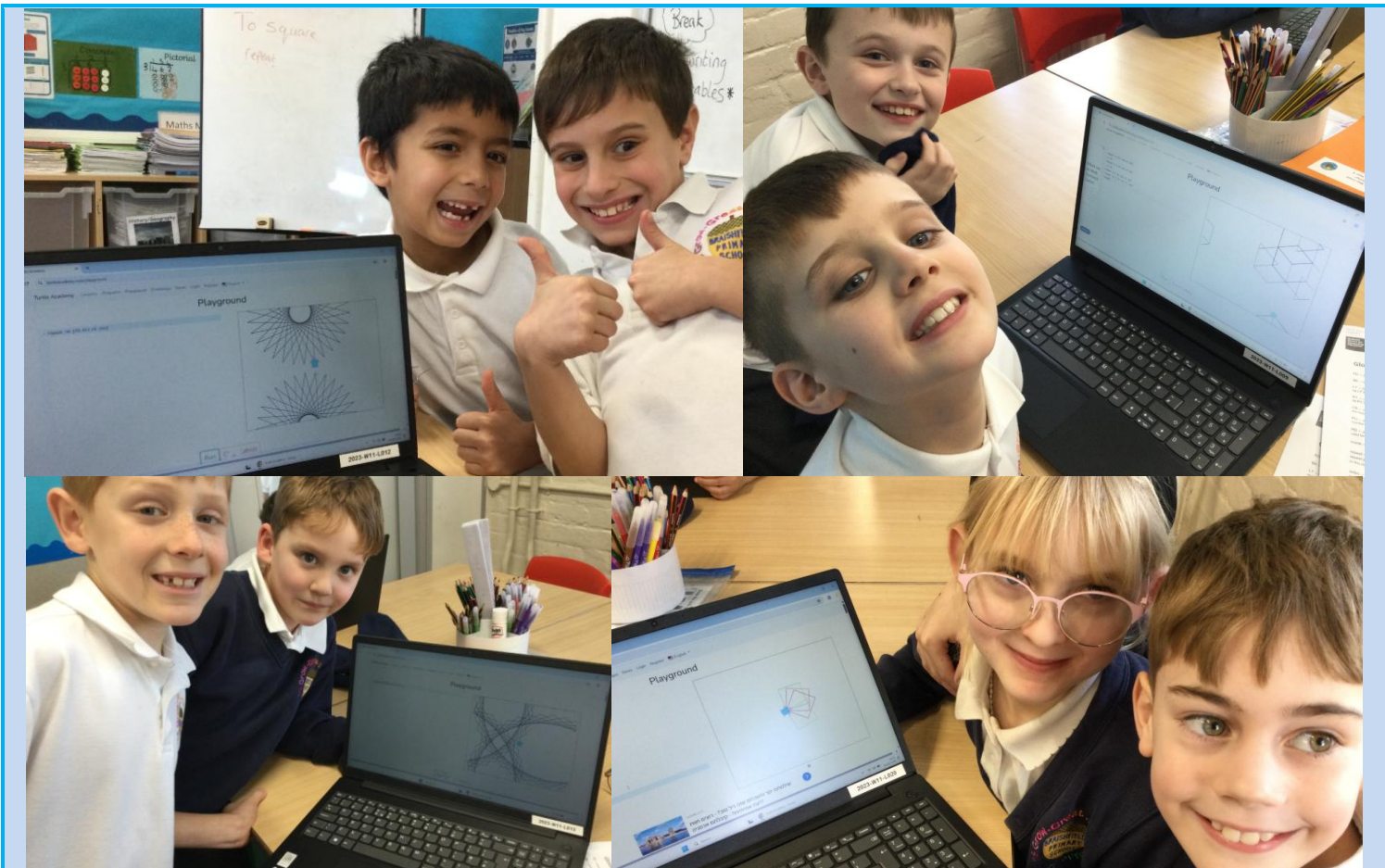
Mrs Morant



Saplings

This week in Saplings, we have been reading 'The streets beneath my feet'. We have looked at all the things that are happening underground that we cannot see, we researched some of the vocabulary so that we understood the journey to the centre of the Earth and today we started to research an area from the book that interested us. In maths, we finished off our unit on multiplication and division with a range of different problems. This week we also completed our RE topic on Holi. Our most favourite lessons were practising our routines in dance ready for our performances next week and creating our own patterns using all the coding skills we have learned. Here are some of our results.

Mrs Doherty



Oaks

This week, Oaks have been working extremely hard across the curriculum. In maths we have started our new unit on percentages, developing our understanding of how percentages relate to fractions. In English, we have been exploring Greek myths, focusing on identifying key themes and discussing how these are conveyed through characters and events. In science, we investigated the relationship between a planet's distance from the Sun and its temperature. The children made predictions based on their prior knowledge and then used scientific data to compare and evaluate how accurate their predictions were. In computing, we have been using coding skills to create interactive stories. In art today, the children enjoyed using a range of clay techniques to create a Greek pot or vase. They will look fantastic once they are painted.

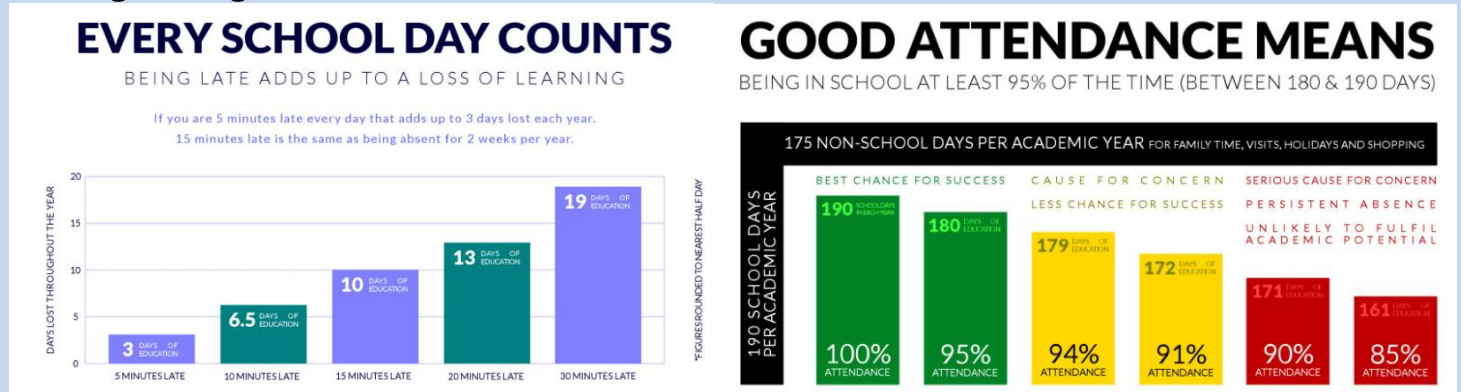
Miss Jones and Mrs Niles



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 1 and 6** who this week have achieved the best attendance in the school with 98.6%. Well done for showing such great commitment to learning!

Year 1 – 98.6%
Year 6 – 98.6%
Year R – 98.1%
Year 5 – 94.6%
Year 2 – 94.4%
Year 3 – 87.9%
Year 4 – 83.1%
Overall this week – 93.5%
Overall this year – 95.9%
Our target is 96.5%

Homework

Big Acorns

Year 1 Please practise reading and writing the words on the spelling sheet 'Year 1 Spring 1 Week 5' in their reading packs. Please also continue to practise tricky words every day.

Year 2 Maths page 19. Spelling page 32

Saplings

Year 3 Spellings pg 21. Maths - Arithmetic sheet

Year 4 Spellings pg 14. Maths - Arithmetic sheet

Oaks

Set: 6th Feb Due: 27th Feb

As next Friday will be our 'Braishfield Be Brave Day' we will be unable to mark homework. Therefore, we have set 2 weeks' worth and will mark these with the children after half term.

Year 5 Maths pg. 28,29,30,31, Spellings pg. 19 & 20

Year 6 Arithmetic pg. 19,21,23 Reasoning pg. 36,37,39 Spelling pg. 16,17,18 Grammar pg. 18,19,20

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.

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

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:

Safer Internet Day Parent/ Carer Webinar - Tuesday 10th February, 7pm – 8pm

https://www.eduthing.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/eduthing-Safer-Internet-Day-Parent-Carer-Webinar.pdf?fbclid=IwdGRjcAPp181leHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcFgpZAo2Njl4NTY4Mzc5AAEecYdNTjmEnehciqQTiaq8hAmksJFGfCHZIZk3yZV2WLPkNQwVRItJCq9t1Cg_aem_83kFijqVDZnr_-2UskMRKQ

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College