



Braishfield Bugle



Friday 1st May 2026

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

Together, we grow a love of learning and a community where everyone belongs and achieves.

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to see every class taking the opportunity to move some of their learning outside this week, as you will see from the photographs. Practical experiences, whatever a child's age, help to make learning memorable and give pupils the very best opportunity to make strong progress.

Our *Be Your Best* board is beginning to fill up with the exciting and varied experiences children have been sharing in class, and I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing about them too. This is a fantastic way to bring one of our core values to life, while celebrating achievements beyond the classroom.



As a school, we are fortunate to have a wealth of experience amongst our staff. We are therefore proud to support the next generation of teachers through our work with Winchester University's teacher training programme. You may have noticed four additional adults in school currently completing their teaching placements: Miss Holden in Oaks, Miss Frampton in Little Acorns, and Mr Jaffray and Miss Woodward in Saplings. Please do take a moment to welcome them into our school community.

We have also been delighted to be able to support both local secondary schools with their Year 10 work experience placements, welcoming some familiar faces back to Braishfield. Later this term, we look forward to welcoming pupils from Romsey School.

In other news, our popular picnic lunch option is back. You will have received an email from Mrs Ewens today so please do take a moment to read it carefully. As part of this change, current lunch orders have been cancelled to allow the new arrangements to take effect. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but hope the extra time over the weekend will give you the opportunity to review the information and place new orders. The children are certainly looking forward to enjoying their picnic lunches on the rec next week.

Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday morning.

Best wishes,

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			
Dolly			
Little Acorns	Big Acorns	Saplings	Oaks
Back next week	Arthur Martha	Double next week	Year 6



Bronze reading badges for 100 reads!

We have had an influx of reading diaries to check this week which has been wonderful. These children will receive their badges next week so look out for names!

Upcoming events ...

- Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Monday 11th May 2:30pm - Parent Forum
- Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May - Year 6 SATs
- Wednesday 20th May - Year R Aquarium trip
- Friday 22nd May - Sports Day
- **Monday 25th - Friday 29th May - Half Term**
- Monday 1st - Friday 12th June - Year 4 Multiplication Check
- Wednesday 3rd June - Big Acorns trip to SeaCity
- Sunday 7th June - Handy Helpers Day
- Monday 8th - Friday 12th June - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
- Thursday 18th June – Class Photos
- Friday 26th June – INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
- Saturday 4th July – BSA Summer Fayre
- Friday 10th July – KS2 Production Day
- Saturday 18th July – Braishfield Flower Show
- Wednesday 22nd July – 9:30am Leavers' and Progress Cup Assembly
- **Wednesday 22nd July – End of term and school year**
- <https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/special/calendar/>

What we have been learning this week...

Little Acorns

This week in Little Acorns, we have been busy learning all about minibeasts. Our Play Projects book, *The Bug Collector*, inspired us to head out on our own bug hunt on the rec. The children loved exploring and searching for different creatures in their natural habitats. Following this, we worked hard to write linked 'I can see' sentences to describe the minibeasts we discovered.

Later in the week, we were lucky to welcome Emily, who introduced us to her giant African land snails. The children were fascinated to learn more about them, and some even showed great bravery by holding them!

In Expressive Art and Design, we have been experimenting with clay. The children explored making different marks and sculpting a variety of shapes. By the end of the week, they combined their skills to create a final piece inspired by a minibeast of their choice.

We also enjoyed two fantastic PE lessons this week. With coach Tom, we developed our skills in changing direction, and with coach Ben, we had great fun learning some cricket skills. What a fabulous, fun-filled week it has been!

Mrs Wortham and Miss Jones

To find out more about the learning in Little Acorns, please

visit: <https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Little+Acorns&pid=195>



Big Acorns

This week, we continued our learning about the book 'Journey'. The children did a fantastic job at using different types of words such as prepositions and adverbs within their writing and they were very creative in their planning of their own portal story. In maths, year 1 have been learning the months of the year and telling the time to the nearest hour on an analogue clock. Year 2 have been telling the time to quarter past and quarter to. They showed excellent resilience when having a go at drawing the hands on the clocks to show these times. In history, we started our unit about the Titanic. The children were very enthusiastic and did a fantastic job at sequencing the events of the Titanic story. In PE, we practiced our throwing skills with beanbags. We also had a very fun cricket session on Thursday with a specialist coach.

Mrs Morant

To find out more about the learning in Big Acorns, please visit: <https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/big-acorns-1/>



Saplings

In Saplings, we've been thoroughly enjoying our class book *The Boy Who Lost His Spark*. The children have had great fun exploring the mischievous antics of the Nouka and thinking about where their behaviour might fall on a "scale of mischief"! This has inspired some fantastic writing, with the children practising fronted adverbials and planning their own imaginative stories.

In Science, we have been learning all about plants, including the functions of different parts and exploring a variety of flowering plants. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm during these lessons.

Our PE sessions have been especially exciting this term, as we were lucky to have Ben, our sports coach, introduce us to cricket. The children really enjoyed learning new skills and working together as a team.

In Maths, Year 3 have been focusing on converting units of measure, while Year 4 have been developing their understanding of decimals. It's been wonderful to see their confidence grow.

In Art, we explored the work of Vincent Scarpace and compared his vibrant, detailed style to that of Picasso. The children loved discussing the similarities and differences and experimenting with their own creative ideas.

Mrs Doherty

To find out more about the learning in Saplings, please visit: <https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/saplings-1/>

Oaks

This week in science, Oaks have been investigating how a person's height affects their lung capacity. We planned and set up our own investigations, carefully reading and recording data. In English, we have been making inferences based on the music and sound effects in the short animation 'Alma'. In Spanish, we have been learning numbers and how to communicate how we are feeling.

We have certainly enjoyed our PE lessons this week. We were delighted to welcome Ben back from Hampshire Cricket, who helped us refresh our skills and build on our understanding with his expert guidance. The children particularly enjoyed taking part in a variety of games, including the ever-popular "Formula One Cricket," which brought lots of energy and excitement. We have also started preparing for our Sports Day and this week the children brushed up on their running techniques.

Miss Jones and Mrs Niles

To find out more about the learning in Oaks, please visit: <https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/oaks-1/>



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.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

BEING LATE ADDS UP TO A LOSS OF LEARNING

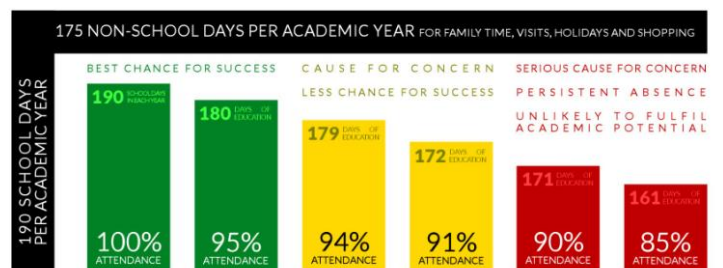
If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to 3 days lost each year.
15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks per year.



*FIGURES ROUNDED TO NEAREST HALF DAY

GOOD ATTENDANCE MEANS

BEING IN SCHOOL AT LEAST 95% OF THE TIME (BETWEEN 180 & 190 DAYS)



🌟 Congratulations to **Year 2** who this week have achieved the best attendance in the school with **100%**. Well done for showing such great commitment to learning!

Year 2 – 100%	0 days missed
Year R – 98.7%	1 day missed
Year 4 – 98.7%	1 day missed
Year 1 – 98.5%	1 day missed
Year 5 – 98.5%	1 day missed
Year 6 – 94.6%	3.5 days missed
Year 3 – 90%	7 days missed
Overall this week–97%	14.5 days of missed learning across the school
Overall this year- 95.7%	
Our minimum target is 96.5%	

BSA News

Summer Fayre - 4th July

Please save the date for our summer Fayre! This is a key date in the fundraising calendar and this year sees us celebrate 150 years since our school was built with live Morris dancing, inflatables, ice cream etc!

Can you help?

We are desperate for volunteers - please consider popping your name down on the rota!
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kdGYuNLUwzoQgytSorENatLMn2yEWNfHvrppDB2V2jl/edit?usp=sharing>

If you are struggling to edit the spreadsheet, you can download the Google sheets app or send us an email with your preferred slot to braishfieldschoolassociation@gmail.com

Teddy Bears

This year we'd love to have a 'Teddybear Tombola' at the Fayre. If you have any unwanted soft toys that are in condition, please pop them in the wash and then bring them in to school - there'll be a collection point in the office.

Handy Helpers Day – Sunday 7th June 2026

We're delighted by the fantastic response from parents and carers who have already signed up to be our 'Handy Helpers' - thank you! With a number of jobs to tackle around the school site, this is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and make a real difference.

Join us on Sunday 7th June, 10:00am–2:00pm – save the date!

Whether you can spare the morning, the afternoon, or stay for the whole session, we'd love to have you involved. Please let us know your availability by completing the Google

Form: <https://forms.gle/pYZQfk5xh5t3CiDY8>

There's something for everyone to get stuck into, including:

- Planting and refreshing flower beds
- Painting fences and sheds
- General fixing and mending
- Litter picking
- Creating fun play features using pallets

This is more than just a tidy-up day – it's a chance for families to connect, collaborate, and help shape our school environment together.



Children are very welcome to attend; however, please note that they will not be supervised by school staff during the event and must remain under the care and responsibility of their parent or carer at all times.

If you're able to join us, please bring along any tools you may have.

We look forward to seeing lots of families there for a productive and enjoyable day!

Homework

Big Acorns

Year 1
Phonics - Practice adding the sound buttons and writing out the words on the spelling sheet 'year 1 summer 1 week 3'.

Maths - complete the telling the time sheet in your child's reading pack.

Year 2
Spellings - complete the spelling sheet in your child's reading pack.

Maths - complete the telling the time sheet in your child's reading pack.

Saplings

Year 3 Spelling sheet and Maths pg 36,37

Year 4 Spelling sheet and Maths pg 38,39

Oaks

Year 5
Maths pg. 52, 53 Spellings pg. 7

Year 6
Arithmetic, Reasoning, Spelling, Grammar - Please select two pages from each of your homework book that you feel you need to practice.

Sports News

Yesterday, every class enjoyed a session with Ben from Hampshire Cricket. We have been lucky enough to offer this opportunity to the whole school over the past few years and everyone enjoys the experience. Thank you to Ben for coming back every year and organising such engaging and fun activities for the children, and to Mrs Niles for arranging it for everyone.



Useful links and information:

Please see the below link from Hampshire County Council, which offers information may be of interest to families of children with Special Educational Needs.

[SEND Local Offer Discovery Days | Hampshire CTSH](#)

PARENT FORUM



Monday 11th May 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.

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Safeguarding and Wellbeing:

Here is the link to the government's national consultation surveys about children and their online/ social media exposure. There is a survey for everyone, a survey for parents and a survey for children over 10. Please use the link below to share your views.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/growing-up-in-the-online-world-a-national-consultation>

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>

Help Your Child Stay Safe Online

Find practical information from trusted places to help you feel more confident on the steps you can take to protect your child online.

With so many apps, games, and websites out there, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But the good news is you're not alone.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/children-phones-online-safety/>

Children, Phones and Online Safety

Find out how you can navigate phones and online safety for your child and encourage responsible use.

With more choice than ever and rising concerns about safety, phone ownership can raise important questions for families

<https://www.hampshirehealthysteps.org.uk/>

MHST – Mental Health Support Team – There are a range of different leaflets and information, which can be found on the bookshelf in the office foyer, and parents are welcome to take anything that might be useful to them.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure — to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our books; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polyina and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever. It generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it, is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy adviser and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



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