



# Braishfield Bugle



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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,

A special Bugle message to all of year 6...

As we head into SATs week, I wanted to take a moment to say how incredibly proud we are of each and every one of you.

Year 6, your hard work, dedication and commitment to learning throughout this year have been clear for all to see. The progress you have made, the resilience you have shown and the attitude you bring each day tell us far more than any test ever could. While we know SATs are something we have to do, please remember this: we do not need a set of test results to tell us how amazing you are or how far you have come.

We are proud of your efforts, your determination and the positive way you have approached every challenge.

This weekend, please:

**Be kind** to yourselves

Rest and recharge so you are **ready to learn**

On Monday morning, **be brave and be your best**

That is all we ask. (Well... that and enjoy the SATs breakfast treats!)

I would also like to give a very special thank you to Miss Jones, Mrs Niles, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Moore for everything they have done to support, challenge and encourage Year 6 this year. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful Oaks team. I hope you all enjoy a restful weekend, knowing that your hard work, care and dedication have prepared the children so well. Thank you all.

Wishing all of our families a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

**Natalie Alldred – Headteacher**

[headteacher@braishfield.hants.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@braishfield.hants.sch.uk)

## Celebration Assembly – 9am on Friday morning

Our wonderful children who have been awarded certificates this week.

Headteacher's Certificate			
Freya			
Little Acorns	Big Acorns	Saplings	Oaks
Joe	Tima Ava	Maisie Greyson Ewan	Skye



Congratulations to all of the children below who were awarded their **Bronze** reading badges this week for **100 reads!** What a fantastic achievement!

- Benjamin, Olivia, Lizzy, James, John, Sienna (Year 6)
- Kaja, Leo H, Imogen, Hallie, Tommy, Zoe, Leo M, Chester, Cian (Year 5)
- Eloise (Year R)

### Upcoming events ...

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

## Parent Forum

Please come along to our Parent Forum on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

We will be discussing:

- Reading engagement
- Transition
- Wraparound care
- Social media
- Handy Helpers' Day
- RSE Policy

All are welcome to join us at 2:30pm in Mrs Aldred's office.

## PARENT FORUM



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

01794 368359

adminoffice@braishfield.hants.sch.uk



## What we have been learning this week...

### Little Acorns

This week, Little Acorns have been busy continuing their learning about minibeasts. During Independent Learning Time, the children enjoyed continuing with their bug hunting and carefully recording their discoveries.

With Miss Frampton, the class explored programming using Beebots, while with Miss Jones they had great fun writing "What am I?" clues for Mrs Aldred to guess different minibeasts.

In Maths, the children focused on the composition of the number 10, building their understanding through practical activities. In PSHE, we discussed what makes a good friend, sharing thoughtful ideas about kindness and cooperation. Meanwhile, in PE, the children have been developing their jumping skills with enthusiasm.

Although it was a shorter week, the children certainly made the most of every moment and packed in lots of fantastic learning!

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 started our new English book called 'Wolves'. We talked about what we already know about wolves and we also talked about descriptive vocabulary from the text that could be used to describe a wolf. In maths, Year 2 have been telling the time in 5-minute intervals. They all worked incredibly hard at this challenging part of time! Year 1 did a fantastic job at learning how to tell the time to half past and they started to learn how to draw the hands on the clock to show o'clock and half past. In history, the children explored what made the Titanic special and then they used these ideas to create their own special ship. In RE, we learnt about the last supper and the Holy Communion. The children then created a stained-glass window using oil pastels to represent this part of the Christian religion. In PE, the children developed their running, jumping and throwing skills through different challenges. It was really lovely to see how encouraging the children were to each other throughout the lessons.

Mrs Morant

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





## Saplings

This week in Saplings, we have been writing our own stories about the Nouka and the mischief he got up to. We used paragraphs, a range of sentence openers, conjunctions, and speech in our writing. Some of us had some very interesting ideas for the mischief! In Science, we have been learning about plants. This week, we found out how plants make their own food.

In Geography with Mr Churcher, we learned about earthquakes, how they are caused, and the effects they can have.

In PE, we worked on improving our jumping skills in preparation for the jumping activities on Sports Day.

Mrs Doherty

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



## Oaks

Oaks have had a fantastic and productive week! In guided reading, we have been developing our skills in answering questions by carefully retrieving and referencing information from across a text. In Spanish, the children have been busy translating information from letters and bringing their learning to life through fun Spanish board games. In English, we have been putting our writing skills to great use by crafting letters to the film festival, proudly nominating Alma.

In PE, we have been enjoying practising their Sports Day activities this week and showing great teamwork by working in their houses to develop their techniques.

Year 6 have been superstars this week, working incredibly hard as they complete their final bits of learning before SATs next week. We are so proud of the effort, commitment and resilience you have shown over the past few months. Whatever the outcome, you should all be very proud of yourselves and everything you have achieved. We hope you all have a restful weekend and we look forward to welcoming you for your breakfast on Monday.

A special thank you also goes to Year 5, who have been fantastic in supporting Year 6 and showing great flexibility with their own learning to help create a calm and focused environment. Well done, Oaks. (Belated Y5 bikeability photos below)

Miss Jones and Mrs Niles

To find out more about the learning in Oaks, please visit:

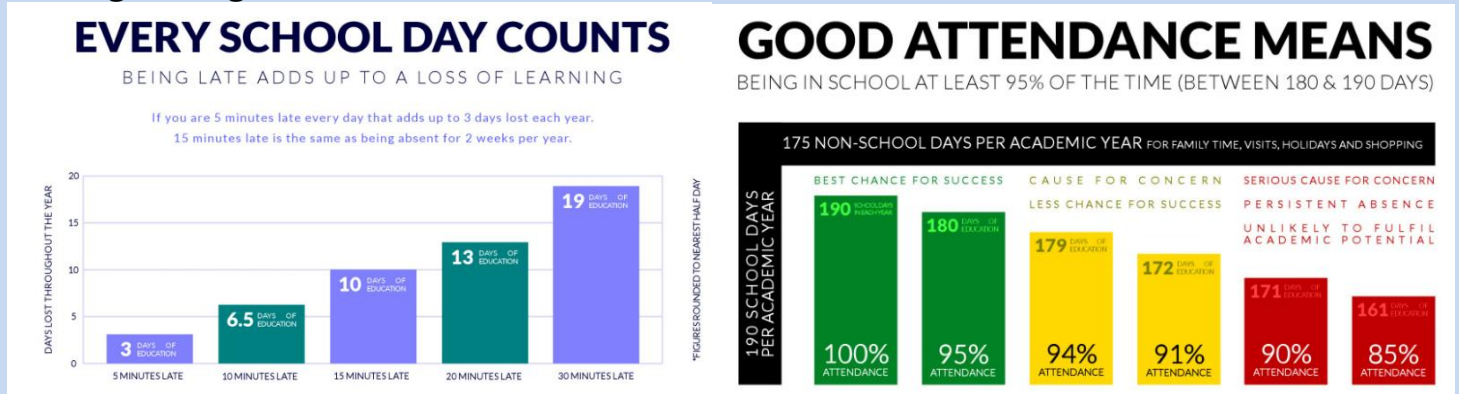
<https://www.braishfield.hants.sch.uk/oaks-1/>



## 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.



🌟 Congratulations to **Year 1** who this week have achieved the best attendance in the school with 100%. Well done for showing such great commitment to learning!

Year 1 – 100%	0 days missed
Year 2 – 98.4%	1 day missed
Year 3 – 95.5%	2.5 days missed
Year 5 – 95.2%	2.5 days missed
Year R – 95%	3 days missed
Year 4 – 95%	3 days missed
Year 6 – 94.2%	3 days missed
Overall this week – 96.2%	15 days of missed learning across the school
Overall this year- 95.8%	
<b>Our minimum target is 96.5%</b>	

## Thank You and Goodbye

Miss Allen popped in to see the children and staff to say goodbye to us all yesterday. She hasn't been able to return to work during her absence but it was lovely to be able to see her as her time as a member of the Braishfield staff team comes to an end. She was able to visit each class and in her very thoughtful Miss Allen way left everyone feeling special and with a big smile on their face. We will miss her but she has promised it is a see you soon and not a goodbye as she continues to be a parent at Braishfield. We wish her all the best in whatever she chooses to do next. Thank you, Miss Allen. We will miss you.

## 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/1kdGYuNLUwzoQ9ytSorENatLMn2yEWNfHvrppDB2V2jl/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](mailto: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** Maths-Complete the time sheet in reading packs and practise writing numbers 1-20

Phonics - Practice adding the sound buttons and writing out the words on the spelling sheet 'year 1 summer 1 week 4'

**Year 2** Maths - page 39 in your maths homework books and also practice counting forwards and backwards in 5s up to 100.

Spelling - Please complete the sheet in your reading packs

### Saplings

**Year 3** and **Year 4**

Spellings - practise your year 3/4 words

Maths - TTRS or [timestables.co.uk](http://timestables.co.uk)

### Oaks

**Year 5**

Enjoy a week off homework as a thank you for being a great support.

**Year 6**

Your homework this week is to have some good night's sleep and recharge ready for next week.

## Sports News – Sports Day Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

In two weeks' time, we will be having our annual Sports Day.

Parents and carers are welcome to join us for the field events from **10:30am** on the recreation ground. If you would like to, then you are able to sign your child out of school and into your care for the duration of the **lunch hour between 12 and 1 to enjoy your own picnic lunch** on the rec. The children would need to be signed back in promptly at 1pm so that the afternoon races can begin as soon as possible after this. We will aim to **finish about 3/3:15pm** on the day and the children are then welcome to collect their well-earned ice cream (courtesy of the BSA) before enjoying an early start to their half term break.

For the lunch:

Little Acorns can be collected from their classroom door

Big Acorns from the school entrance

Saplings from the gate by the climbing frame onto the rec

Oaks from their classroom door

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Niles



## 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](#)

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing:

**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

## MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, most young people will encounter exam stress, which can affect their mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimates that 87% of pupils experience exam-related stress. This highlights the importance of supporting young people to manage exam pressure effectively, maintain perspective, and protect their overall wellbeing during these periods.

### 1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM

The build-up to exams can feel overwhelming, with competing demands on time and energy. Encourage young people to reflect on whether their workload is realistic and allows them time to rest and recharge. Support them in creating a manageable revision timetable that includes regular breaks and occasional days off. Remind them that plans can be adjusted if they feel overwhelmed, helping to reduce the pressure and prevent burnout.

### 2 CLEAR UP THE CLUTTER

A cluttered workspace can reduce focus and increase stress levels. Encourage young people to keep their study area tidy and organised, with clearly arranged notes and materials. A calm, dedicated space can support concentration and create a more relaxed mindset. Adding colour, mind maps, or creative elements can also make revision feel less daunting and more manageable.

### 3 MASTER THE MATERIALS

Revision can feel particularly stressful if young people are unsure where to begin. Help them confirm key study topics and materials, ensuring they're using accurate and relevant resources. Reducing uncertainty can help them feel more in control of their learning. Reassure them that they don't need to know everything perfectly, as building their understanding over time is what matters most.

### 4 GET CREATIVE WITH NOTES

Writing out detailed notes, rather than relying only on bullet points, can strengthen their understanding and retention. Encourage young people to turn these notes into flashcards for regular review and repetition. Feeling familiar with their material can boost their confidence and reduce anxiety during exams. This approach can help them feel more prepared and less likely to panic under pressure.

### 5 USE VISUAL MEMORY AIDS

Visual resources can make learning more effective and reduce their frustration when information feels difficult to grasp. Encourage the use of diagrams, videos, sticky notes, and colour coding to reinforce key ideas. Creating simple mnemonics can also make information easier to remember. Using a variety of methods can help prevent mental fatigue and keep revision feeling fresh and manageable.

### 6 BUILD A TECH TOOLKIT

Technology can be a valuable supporting tool during exam preparation when used in a balanced way. Educational websites, revision platforms, and subject-specific videos can help explain complicated topics clearly, reducing the risk of confusion or stress. Encourage young people to use these tools to support – rather than overwhelm – their learning, and to take regular breaks from their screens to protect their wellbeing.

### 7 KEEP REVISION ENJOYABLE

Revision is often more effective when it feels engaging and varied. Encourage young people to incorporate humour, real-life examples, or creative approaches into their learning. Mixing study methods, including light physical activity such as short walks, can also improve their mood and focus. Enjoyable revision experiences can help reduce stress and make the process feel more positive and sustainable.

### 8 USE ACTIVE STUDY METHODS

Active revision techniques can help young people feel more confident and in control of their learning. Strategies such as spaced repetition and active recall, including self-testing or explaining concepts aloud, can highlight both their strengths and areas for improvement. This clarity can reduce last-minute panic and support a calmer, more prepared approach to exams.

### 9 USE AI THOUGHTFULLY

AI tools can support revision by making learning more personalised and manageable. Young people can use them to generate practice questions, summarise information, or break down topics into simpler steps. Used carefully, these tools can reduce overwhelm and save time. Remind young people to check AI information with trusted sources to ensure its accuracy and build confidence in their understanding.

### 10 PRACTISE WITH ONLINE TOOLS

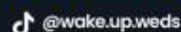
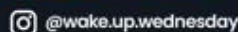
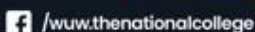
Online revision platforms can help young people test their knowledge and track their progress. Many offer quizzes, flashcards, and practice papers aligned with exam boards. Encourage regular self-testing – including timed activities – to build up familiarity with exam conditions. Becoming more comfortable with the format of exams can reduce anxiety and help young people approach them with greater confidence.

### Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of Social Enterprise UK's 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.



See full reference list on our website



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