



Braishfield Bugle



Friday 18th September 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 another busy week at school, and we have now reached the end of our third week of the half term. The children have remained calm, settled and focused in their learning, which has been wonderful to see.

The responsibilities for our pupil voice groups have now been decided, and the children will be receiving their badges very soon. I am looking forward to meeting with the School Council and already have quite a list of exciting things I would like to discuss with them!

Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) — Bisandu, Tommy, Jacob and Lily — are already busy planning their upcoming assemblies next week under Mrs Niles' watchful eye. Look out for more information from them in the *Bugle* next week.

Yesterday, we had the pleasure of celebrating Mrs Cooper's special big birthday with her in school. She had a lovely day and was thoroughly spoilt, which was very much deserved! The children were so kind and thoughtful, making sure that she knew just how important she is to us all. Mrs Cooper has been part of the Braishfield family for a very long time and is well known by our children and families. She works across the school in so many different ways — from leading groups at sporting events to welcoming children to Breakfast Club each morning. We are very lucky to have her as part of our school community, and it was lovely to see the children making her birthday so special.



Finally, there are lots of upcoming events and opportunities outlined below, so please do have a look for further details. These include the Parent Forum, Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, BSA AGM, Harvest Assembly and, of course, the all-important homework!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Natalie Alldred – Headteacher

headteacher@braishfield.hants.sch.uk

Celebration Assembly – 9am on Friday morning STARTING NEXT WEEK

Our wonderful children who have been awarded certificates this week.

Headteacher's Certificate			
Lilyanne			
Little Acorns	Big Acorns	Saplings	Oaks
Zoey	Zuri Isla Harry B	Maisie	Bisandu Olivia-May S



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

- Luca

Upcoming events ...

- Monday 21st September– Parent Forum @ 2:30pm
- Tuesday 22nd September- Saplings' Portals to the Past Roman Day
- Monday 28th September - Cross Country 4-5pm
- Wednesday 30th September – Macmillan Coffee Afternoon @ 3pm (wear green)
- Thursday 1st October – Census Day
- Thursday 1st October – Harvest Assembly in school @
- Thursday 8th October – Oaks' Mayan Workshop
- Monday 12th October – MHST led Parent Workshop on Managing Challenging Behaviour 2-3:30pm
- Wednesday 14th October – Parents' Evening 1 3:40-6:10pm
- Friday 16th October – Braishfield Be Ready to Learn Day
- Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st October – EYs/KS1 Swimming (details to follow)
- Tuesday 20th October – Parents' Evening 2 3:40-7:10pm
- Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October – INSET Days
- Monday 26th – 30th October – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- Monday 2nd – Friday 6th November – KS2 Swimming (details to follow)
- **INSET DAYS 2026/2027 – 1st September, 22nd and 23rd October, 4th January and 28th May**

What we have been learning this week...

Little Acorns

This week, Little Acorns have begun their phonics lessons. They have been learning to read and write the sounds s, a, t and p, and have started blending these sounds together to read short words.

In maths, the children have been learning to subitise 1, 2 and 3 objects and have been exploring how to show the same quantity on their fingers in different ways.

We have also begun our 'Marvellous Marks' art unit, using crayons, felt tip pens and chalks to experiment with different patterns, colours, textures and pressure. The children have enjoyed exploring how the different tools can be used to create a variety of marks.

In PSED, the children worked in pairs to create their own feelings jars, linked to our work on *The Colour Monster*. It has been lovely to see the children talking about and exploring different feelings together.

Mrs Wortham



Big Acorns

This week in Big Acorns, we began reading the story '*Can I Build Another Me?*' following Kevin's clever quest to build a robot double to handle his chores and homework! Inspired by his idea, our class decided to design a 'Mrs. Sherbot' to step in whenever Mrs. Sherfield is away. The class tried to read Miss Jones' mind by drawing the robot she was thinking of, but quickly learnt that it's much easier to use the power of descriptive words to paint an accurate picture!

In PSHE, our focus turned to understanding our feelings. We explored the six core emotions of happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, and disgust, sharing stories about when we've felt them and discussing what helps us feel safe and calm. This week we also explored 'The Dip,' that challenging phase where learning something new gets tricky. We know everyone will experience 'The Dip' at some point in the year, and we are excited to build the resilience needed to climb right back out!

Miss Jones and Mrs Niles



Saplings

It has been another busy and exciting week in Saplings! In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value, recognising the value of digits within numbers and learning how to partition numbers. We have also been practising adding and subtracting 1, 10 and 100 from different numbers.

In English, we have been making our writing more interesting by using expanded noun phrases and conjunctions to add detail and link our ideas together. We put these skills into practice by writing our own retellings of a story. During Reading, we have been enjoying a poem about changing the world one step at a time. We have focused on reading with expression and intonation to help bring the poem to life.

In PSHE, we have been exploring how our bodies can give us clues about the emotions we are feeling. We have also thought about how we can recognise and understand how other people might be feeling by noticing their body language and actions.

In PE, we worked collaboratively in teams to complete a range of exciting missions. We quickly discovered that communication, cooperation and teamwork were essential, as some of the missions could not be completed unless everyone worked together. It was wonderful to see the children listening to one another, sharing ideas, encouraging their teammates and working together to achieve a shared goal.

Well done, Saplings, for another fantastic week of learning and teamwork! 🌞

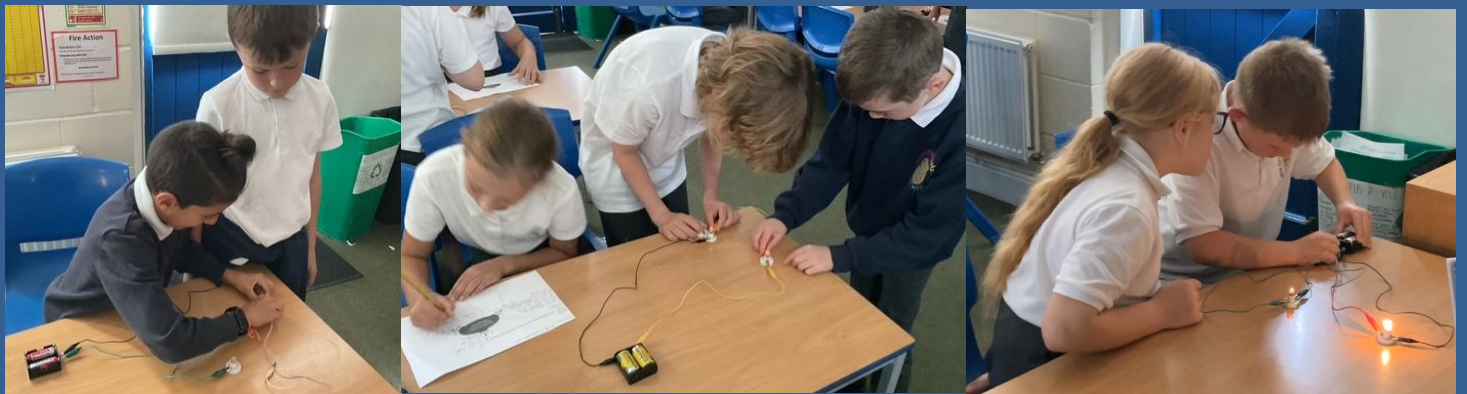
Mrs Doherty



Oaks

This week, Oaks have been working hard across the curriculum. In maths, we have started our unit on Place Value, recognising the value of digits within numbers and exploring different ways to represent them. In English, we have been exploring the key themes and messages in 'The Lost Thing', using drama to bring the characters, emotions and ideas to life. In science, we have been investigating electrical circuits and exploring how the number of components can affect their output. In computing, we have been exploring real-world systems, considering how they work, the different parts involved and why they are important in our everyday lives.

Mrs Wright 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.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

BEING LATE ADDS UP TO A LOSS OF LEARNING

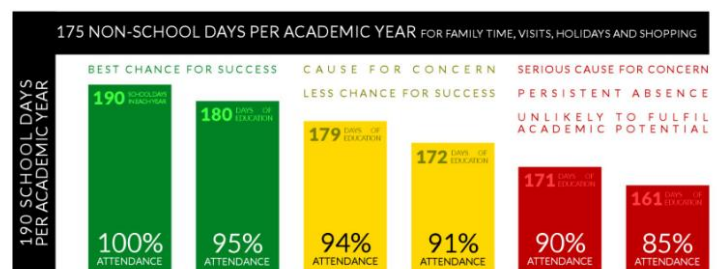
If you are 5 minutes late every day that adds up to 3 days lost each year.
15 minutes late is the same as being absent for 2 weeks per year.



*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 1 and Year 5** 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 5 – 100%	0 days missed
Year R – 99.2%	½ a day missed
Year 3 – 96.7%	2 ½ days missed
Year 2 – 93.9%	4 days missed
Year 6 – 91.4%	6 days missed
Year 4 – 88.3%	7 days missed
Overall this week– 95.7%	20 days of missed learning across the school
Overall this year- 96.4%	
Our minimum target is 96.5%	

Homework

Big Acorns

Reading and phonics or spelling sheet

Saplings

Times tables and spellings sheets in bags and reading their own books for fluency

Oaks

Reading and times tables this week. (Homework books will be available soon)

PARENT FORUM

Monday 21st September 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

Free School Meals (FSM) Information

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be £7,400 a year or less (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

From the start of academic year 2026 to 2027, your child will qualify for free school meals if you get Universal Credit, regardless of household income.

If you do not qualify for most benefits (also known as having ‘no recourse to public funds’), your child may still be eligible for free school meals. Ask their school or local authority whether they’re eligible.

Infant free school meals in England

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they’re in a government-funded school and in:

- reception class
- year 1
- year 2

Tell your local authority if you also get any of the qualifying benefits. Your child’s school could get extra funding if you do.

BSA News!

We hope all our families had a fun and restful summer, and are now fully back into the swing of the new school year!

We’d like to remind everyone of our upcoming **AGM**, which is being held on **Tuesday 22nd September, at 7:00pm, in the school hall.**

After 4 years in post, the current committee will be standing down and we will be voting in new members. As a registered charity, the BSA needs at least 3 committee members that are willing to be named trustees in order to continue running so please do consider whether this is something you could do, to ensure the continuation of the school PTA.

Many thanks for all your support!

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon in our school hall, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

To help us raise as much as possible for this wonderful charity, we would love for the children to take part by:

 Wearing green to school on the day

 Bringing in a cake donation to school

If you are sending in a homemade cake, please provide a separate list of ingredients with your donation.

For the safety of all our children, please do not send in any cakes containing nuts.

We look forward to coming together as a school community, enjoying some delicious treats and raising money for such an important cause.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!   

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Mrs Sanders

Harvest Assembly

In a break from tradition, this year we will be holding our Harvest Assembly in school, rather than our usual Harvest service in church.

The assembly will take place at 1:15pm on Thursday 1st October and will be led by Rev. Jane. The children will not be contributing individually, but we will enjoy sharing some Harvest songs together.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to come, please sign up using the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/78muSNoNqbs81khf6>

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will also be collecting donations for Romsey Foodbank. Each class will have a collection box, and children are welcome to bring in donations on any day up until the day of the assembly.

Romsey Foodbank would particularly appreciate donations of the following items:

- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Potatoes & Carrots
- Tinned Sweetcorn & Peas
- Sponge Puddings
- Rice (Microwave and Standard)
- Custard & Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fruit
- Sweets and Chocolate
- Instant Mash
- Spreads, esp. Marmite

More information about Romsey Foodbank can be found here: <https://romsey.foodbank.org.uk/>

Thank you for your generosity and support as we come together to celebrate Harvest and help support families in our local community.

Census Day

On Thursday 1st October it is School Census Day. Therefore, we would appreciate as many children as possible (in YR, Y1 and Y2) having a school dinner on this day. The number of children choosing a school dinner on this day directly links to the funding that we receive as a school. Special lunch option details for this day to follow next week.

Snacks by Year Group

Early Years & Key Stage 1

(Years R, 1 and 2)

- Children in these year groups receive a free daily snack of fruit or vegetables, provided by the government.
- As this meets their morning snack needs, additional snacks are usually not required.

Year 2 (Transition Year)

- Year 2 pupils still receive the free fruit/veg snack but can also purchase a bread roll or bring a healthy snack from home if desired.

Key Stage 2

(Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

- Children may bring in a named healthy snack from home or
- Purchase a freshly baked, topped bread roll for 20p per day.

Healthy Snack Suggestions

We aim to take a common-sense approach, focusing on **nutritious options** that support your child's wellbeing.

Acceptable snacks include:

- Fresh fruit (e.g. apple, banana, grapes)
- Vegetable sticks (e.g. carrot, cucumber, pepper)
- Cheese
- Yogurt (in a pot or pouch, clearly named)

Please avoid:

- Chocolate
- Sweets
- Crisps
- Biscuits
- Pastries
- **No nuts or products containing nuts**

Note:

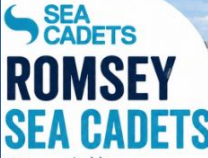
Snacks that do not meet the healthy snack guidance will be kept safely and returned at lunchtime.

Healthy snacks brought from home should be clearly **named** and placed on the **class snack trolley** at the start of the school day.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's snack options, please feel free to contact the school office.

Useful links and information:

Coach Tom's clubs are on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Sparks on a Tuesday



ROMSEY SEA CADETS
We are holding an *Open Evening!*

MONDAY
14TH SEPTEMBER 2026
7:00-8:00PM

Come along and find out what Sea Cadets get up to and talk to our cadets.

FUN, FRIENDS AND ADVENTURES

Romsey Sea Cadets is a welcoming unit for 10-17 year olds, meeting near Romsey Rapids on Mondays, with boating nights in Southampton during summer, weekend courses and national qualifications.

Location: Romsey Sea Cadets, Southampton Road, SO51 8AF (behind Romsey Rapids)

Cadets (12-17): Mondays 7-8pm
Junior Cadets (10-12): Mondays 7-8:30pm

Find out more: <https://www.sea-cadets.org/welcome>
Apply: <https://www.sea-cadets.org/apply>
Email: romseyseacadets@shamshire@gmail.com

SEA CADETS READY FOR LIFE



OTs & ROMSEY CRICKET CLUB
EST. 1998

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
10.30AM START

You're Invited!
JOIN US FOR OUR **WOMEN'S & GIRLS FESTIVAL DAY!**

AT OTs & ROMSEY CRICKET CLUB

A DAY OF FRIENDLY MATCHES
LADIES vs LADIES
GIRLS vs GIRLS

RAFFLE MUSIC CAKES BBQ & A WHOLE LOT OF FUN!

Come for the cricket, stay for the fun, friendship & community!

LET'S CELEBRATE WOMEN & GIRLS' CRICKET TOGETHER!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!



KICK-A-BOUT
The Unique Football Experience

Weekly Football Sessions

TERM TIME CLASSES

MONDAYS	WEDNESDAYS
Winchester Leisure Centre	Knightwood Leisure Centre, Chandlers Ford
4-5 years 4.30-5.15	3-5 years 4.00-4.45
6-7 years 5.15-6.00	6-11 years 4.45-5.30
8-11 years 6.00-6.45	

FRIDAYS	SATURDAYS
Places Leisure, Eastleigh	Itchen College, Southampton
3-5 years 3.45-4.30	3-4 years 8.45-9.30
6-7 years 4.30-5.15	4-5 years 9.30-10.15
8-11 years 5.15-6.00	6-7 years 10.15-11.00
	8-11 years 11.00-11.45

TWO WEEK FREE TRIALS AVAILABLE

TO SIGN UP, GO TO
WWW.KICK-A-BOUT.COM

Call ROB on 078 2727 4197 | ROB@KICK-A-BOUT.COM



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Starting school
in September
2027

If your child is 4 or
will turn 4 before
1 September 2027,
they can start school
in September 2027

Applications open for
Hampshire residents on
1 November 2026

THE NATIONAL CLOSING
DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027
DON'T MISS IT!

For more information go to
www.hants.gov.uk/admissions



The Romsey School

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2026
17:00 - 19:30

The Headteacher's presentations will take place
at 17:30 and 18:30 in the main School Hall.

VIEW OUR PROSPECTUS

www.theromseyschool.org 01794 512334

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.

Parent Workshop linked to supporting children's behaviour at home led by the MHST.

Further dates and information are available using this link:

<https://www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk/workshops/>

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 CTS](#)

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 8000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Cavan is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI teaching and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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