



Braishfield Bugle



Friday 9th October 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,

This week, we have been delighted to welcome lots of visitors into school, each bringing something special to our children's learning and experiences.

Mrs Ewens and I had the pleasure of welcoming prospective parents and showing them around our school. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all the things that make our small school such a huge special place. We are incredibly proud of our close-knit community and the care, enthusiasm and opportunities we are able to offer our children.

Big Acorns had the pleasure of welcoming Southampton City Mission into school for an RE day this week. The day supported their learning around Harvest and the theme of being thankful, providing the children with opportunities to reflect on gratitude and what we can be thankful for.

On Thursday, Oaks enjoyed a fascinating day of immersion in the Maya civilisation. A visiting historian brought the period to life, giving the children the opportunity to explore artefacts, play games and even taste foods that would have been familiar during this time. Experiences such as these provide a wonderful way for children to deepen their understanding and make meaningful connections with their learning.



As a school, we really value the visitors who come into school and help us to bring learning to life. They create memorable experiences for our children and give them opportunities to learn in ways that extend far beyond the classroom.

A huge thank you to all our visitors for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with us, and to our parents for your continued support in helping us provide these enriching experiences for our children.

Have a wonderful 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			
Jack and Joe			
Little Acorns	Big Acorns	Saplings	Oaks
Lizzie	Dolly Evie P	Jack Darcie	Sophie Ayden



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

- Coming soon ...

Upcoming events ...

- Monday 12th October – MHST led Parent Workshop on Managing Challenging Behaviour 2-3:30pm
- Monday 12th October - Cross Country 3 from 4-5pm
- 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 – 22nd and 23rd October, 4th January and 28th May**

What we have been learning this week...

Little Acorns

This week, Little Acorns have been learning all about our senses. First, we played a mystery bag game, where the children used their sense of touch to feel and describe different fruits without being able to see them. Next, pieces of fruit were passed around the circle for the children to smell. We talked about the different scents before making our own delicious fruit kebabs! Everyone enjoyed sampling their creations, although the lemon caused a few very funny faces!

Later in the week, we focused on our sense of hearing. After listening to *The Listening Walk* by Paul Showers, we went on our very own listening walk. We listened carefully to the different sounds around us and noticed how our shoes sounded different as we walked across the grass, pavement and gravel. We also heard children playing in the playground, cars passing by, birds singing in the trees, the goats bleating and the fan at the pub. We had lots of fun trying to recreate some of the sounds we heard using our voices!

It has been a lovely week of using our senses to explore the world around us.

Mrs Wortham



Big Acorns

We've had a wonderful week of learning and exploration in Big Acorns! In Science, we became material detectives as we explored different materials and the objects they are used to make. The children enjoyed creating their own magnifying glasses before heading off on a materials hunt around the school. Armed with their detective skills, they carefully observed, identified, and discussed the different materials they could find, showing fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm for the world around them.

Another highlight of the week was our special RE Harvest Day, where we learned about what it means to be thankful and reflected on the many things we appreciate in our lives. The children expressed their creativity by making harvest fruit mosaics, carefully arranging colours and shapes to create their own unique designs.

In English, we began an exciting new learning journey inspired by *Martha Maps It Out*. The children loved sharing their first thoughts about the story, discussing their likes, dislikes, and questions as we explored the book together. Using both the children's expert knowledge and Mrs Sherfield's local expertise, we worked collaboratively to create a map of Braishfield!

Miss Jones and Mrs Niles





Saplings

This week in Saplings, we have continued our learning about the Romans. We have been exploring why the Romans invaded Britain and developing our understanding of this important period in history.

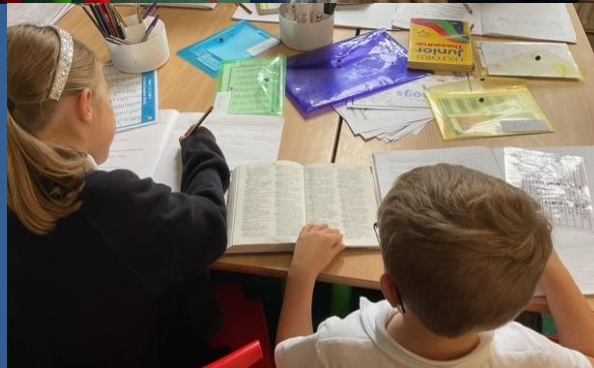
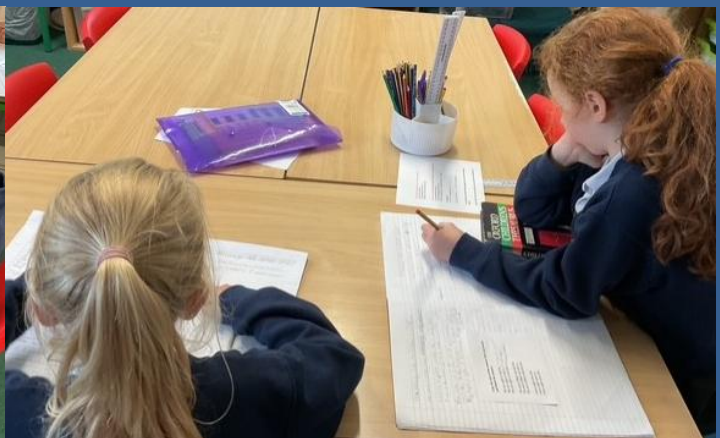
In Maths, we have been practising adding 10s and 100s to different numbers. Year 4 have also begun learning how to use the column method for addition and subtraction.

In PE, we worked collaboratively in groups, practising our listening skills and following instructions. We had to remember sequences of colours and the actions that matched them. We found this activity really fun, and Mrs Doherty was very impressed with how well we remembered the sequences and worked together!

In Science, we made electrical circuits and investigated whether adding more batteries would make a light bulb brighter. We enjoyed exploring our ideas and finding out more about how electricity works.

Well done, Saplings, for another fantastic week of learning!

Mrs Doherty



Oaks

It's been another fantastic week of learning in Oaks! The children have shown great curiosity, enthusiasm and engagement across our lessons. On Thursday, we took part in an exciting history workshop exploring the fascinating world of the Ancient Maya civilisation. The children discovered what everyday life was like for the Maya, learning about their trading systems, food, clothing, settlements and daily routines. They also had the opportunity to explore a range of artefacts, which sparked curiosity and thoughtful questions. In PSHE, we explored the importance of mental health and discussed different ways to seek help and support when needed. The children considered who they could turn to for support and why it is important to talk about our feelings. During Guided Reading, we have been focusing on how authors use punctuation to influence the reader and create particular effects. The children have also been sharing their opinions about texts and learning to justify their views with evidence from the text.

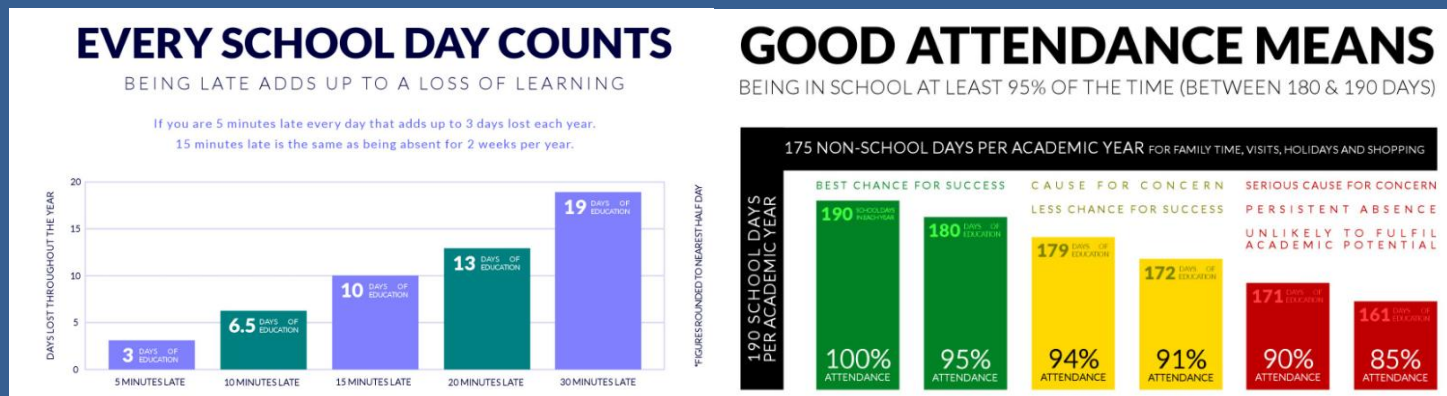
Mrs Wright and Mrs Niles



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.



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

Year R – 100%	0 days missed
Year 2 – 99.2%	½ a day missed
Year 5 – 99.2%	½ a day missed
Year 3 – 98.7%	1 day missed
Year 6 – 95.7%	3 days missed
Year 1 – 95.4%	3 days missed
Year 4 – 94.2%	3 ½ days missed
Overall this week– 97.5%	11 ½ days of missed learning across the school
Overall this year- 96.8%	
Our minimum target is 96.5%	

Homework

Big Acorns

Reading and phonics or spelling sheet

Saplings

Y4 - Maths pg 9, Y3 maths pg 9, Year 4 spellings pg 6/7, Year 3 spellings pg 18

If you do not yet have your homework books, please ensure you continue to practise your times tables and reading.

Oaks

Year 5: Maths book p7. You could also complete the Year 4 objectives test at the start of the book to consolidate your maths learning from last year.

Year 6: Arithmetic book p2. Grammar book pages 2 and 3.

If you do not yet have your homework books, please ensure you continue to practise your times tables and reading.

Message from our Sports Ambassadors



We are pleased to announce that this year we will be taking part in Walktober.

Walktober is a challenge held each October to celebrate International Walk to School Month. School communities are encouraged to get moving by walking, wheeling and choosing other active and sustainable ways to travel throughout the month.

We understand that some of you may live further away so would encourage you to park a little further away (Village Hall/

Dog & Crook) and travel the rest of the way to school in an active way.

They are running a competition to encourage children to share their ways of travelling to school and creating sharing some top-tip for your travels.

The Sports Ambassadors will be seeing how the children have travelled to school each morning to encourage everyone to be more active.

Pupils, staff and parents/carers will be able to submit their Top Tips, More Trips entries directly at: myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

The competition closes on 13 November 2026.

We look forward to seeing you be active!

Bisandu, Chester, Hallie, Imogen and Leo H

JRSO Team message from Tommy, Bisandu, Lily and Jacob

Parent webinar – modelling good road safety behaviour

A new programme is being launched by the Road Safety Team, helping parents teach their children about road safety from an early age.

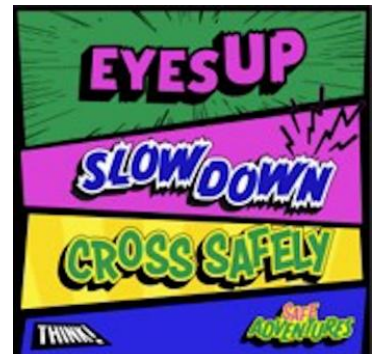
A leaflet and webinar cover pedestrian, cycle and in-car safety, supporting parents to model good road safety behaviours.

The first webinar takes place on **Monday 16 November, 12 - 12.30**. Parents can register via the [webinar registration form](#).

Distraction poster competition

The Road Safety Team is launching a new poster competition, inviting pupils to design a poster promoting the importance of giving the road their full attention.

To register and receive the supporting classroom resource, complete the [poster competition registration form](#).



Useful links and information:

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



hants.gov.uk

Funded by UK Government



Raising Resilient Children Online course

Mondays 28 September - 19 October
7pm - 9pm

FREE - Eligibility criteria applies

This is an online course using Microsoft Teams. Participants will be required to use Microsoft Teams.

Booking is essential, please visit <https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



Funded by UK Government



Positive Parenting Online course

Mondays 2 November - 30 November
7:30pm - 9pm

FREE - Eligibility criteria applies

This is an online course using Microsoft Teams. Participants will be required to use Microsoft Teams.

Booking is essential, please visit <https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



MUSIC PRODUCTION HALLOWEEN ENRICHMENT DAY

For children in Years 5 - 8

- Create spooky tracks and Halloween soundscapes!
- Use iPads and GarageBand
- Make monster beats and haunted remixes
- Explore sampling and sound effects
- No experience needed - just bring your creativity!

[Sign Up Here](#)

October Half Term Music Enrichment

Monday 26 October 2026 9:30am - 3:30pm

Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh, SO50 5ZA

£42.50 (lunch included)

CHOIR FOR A DAY

For children in Years 4 - 9

- Spend the day singing with other young people from across Hampshire!
- Perform songs from musical theatre and pop
- Build confidence and vocal skills
- Learn harmonies and performance techniques
- No auditions or experience needed - everyone welcome!

[Sign Up Here](#)



COMETS
Disability Football

FOOTBALL FOR EVERYONE

Looking for a fun, relaxed and inclusive way for your child to enjoy football?

Comets is a recreational, pan-disability football programme for disabled children aged 5-11, delivered by Romsey Town Youth FC. It's all about fun, friendships and inclusion - with children of all abilities encouraged to take part, play football and, most importantly, just be themselves.

WHAT DOES PAN-DISABILITY MEAN?

Comets welcomes children with a broad range of disabilities and additional needs, including:

- LEARNING DIFFICULTIES**
Including moderate or severe learning difficulties, autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalculia and global cognitive delay.
- PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS**
Including cerebral palsy, muscular growth and other mobility conditions.
- SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS**
Including children who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired.
- NEURODIVERGENCE & ADDITIONAL NEEDS**
Including autism, ADHD and speech, language or communication needs.

You don't need any previous football experience - children can explore football at their own pace in a supportive and welcoming environment.

SIGN UP HERE → or use the QR code on the right.

COME ALONG. HAVE FUN. JUST BE YOU.

DREAMS NETBALL CLUB

CALLING ALL CURRENT YEAR 6&7

come join us

- ✓ Qualified level 2 coaches
- ✓ Fun and friendly environment
- ✓ Learn new skills
- ✓ Make new friends

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED - JUST BRING YOUR ENTHUSIASM!

sessions start in September 2026

EMAIL: dreamsnetballclub@gmail.com

Halloween Tales at King John's House

This Halloween, step inside the grounds of the historic King John's House for a spook-tacular adventure the whole family will enjoy!

Join our enchanting Halloween tours and meet a cast of mysterious spooky characters lurking throughout the grounds. Discover ghostly tales, Halloween surprises, and magical moments as you explore this atmospheric historic setting.

Date: Saturday 31 October
Time: 5pm & 7pm
Where: King John's House Gardens
Price: £8 per person

Book online from TicketSource or use the QR code
For more information, visit www.kingjohnshouse.org.uk

Halloween Cookie Decorating at King John's House

Get into the Halloween spirit and create your own deliciously spooky cookie masterpieces!

Date: Monday 26 October
Time: 10:30am-2pm
Where: King John's House Cafe
Price: £5 per cookie

Book online from TicketSource or use the QR code
For more information, visit www.kingjohnshouse.org.uk



Charity No. 276961



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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.

2026/27 Online Parent Workshop Offer



What To Expect: Our workshops are delivered by experienced Mental Health Practitioners and last approximately 1.5 hours. There will be time at the end of each session for questions and discussion. We hope you find the sessions informative and supportive. Please note that we are unable to discuss individual young people or specific cases.	Topic: Supporting your Child with Anxiety Focus: Secondary & Primary Schools Date: Oct 8, 2026 10-11:30am Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83038532980?pwd=6WG3MaQaLhP8TCBgXaQvN1PmAggD.1 Meeting ID: 830 3853 2980 Passcode: 231178	Topic: Autism Focus: Secondary & Primary Schools Time: Nov 12, 2026 10-11:30am Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89937011870?pwd=Ma6Hzq98xxaLKDGo51lrXME042dQWj.1 Meeting ID: 899 3701 1870 Passcode: 971139	Topic: EBSA & Transition Focus: Primary Schools Time: Jan 20, 2027 1-2:30pm Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87622535818?pwd=MWNgNGM85Daqc0ZCAAwbWxja7yKxtc.1 Meeting ID: 876 2253 5818 Passcode: 236620
Topic: EBSA & Transition Focus: Secondary Schools Time: Mar 10, 2027 1:00-2:30pm Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85042241502?pwd=1kfuSW6Qte5MeNX7ySwaG38wbKURlq.1 Meeting ID: 850 4224 1502 Passcode: 881854	Topic: Now conversations Focus: Primary Schools Time: May 12, 2027 1- 2:30pm Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87416646498?pwd=zMH0rqao8cHD5Kjqz7lha0PapPan.1 Meeting ID: 874 1664 6498 Passcode: 411941	Topic: MH Building Blocks & Teen Brain Development Focus: Secondary Schools Time: Jun 9, 2027 1 – 2:30PM Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85277493568?pwd=br4a4xRWoBDZ22bBtarKjOY6bLMi7.1 Meeting ID: 852 7749 3568 Passcode: 171177	Topic: Supporting Yourself to Support Your Child Focus: Secondary & Primary Schools Time: Jul 6, 2027 10-11:30am Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86444219793?pwd=bsylRCwnx0hNRgzidLgTrG36XaIW.1 Meeting ID: 864 4421 9793 Passcode: 566456

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent Workshops!

Further dates and information are available using this link:

<https://www.hampshiresendiaass.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](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

MANAGING DIGITAL BOUNDARIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

Screens are part of everyday life, but they should not take over early childhood routines. For under-fives, healthy digital habits are built through simple, steady boundaries that protect sleep, play, connection, and development. Current UK guidance advises avoiding screen time for children under two – except for shared activities such as video calls – while children aged two to five should ideally have no more than one hour a day.

1 ASK A GROWN-UP FIRST

For under-fives, autonomy is important, but not when it comes to choosing digital content. Establish an 'ask a grown-up first' rule early, whether at home or in an early years setting. Adults should choose the video, app, or game, therefore helping children avoid unsuitable content and understand that devices are tools to be guided, not toys to control.

2 PROTECT SLEEP BUFFERS

Screens can make it harder for young children to wind down, especially when content is bright, noisy, or fast paced. Aim for a screen-free hour before sleep or start with 30 minutes if that feels more realistic. Use this time for calming routines such as stories, bath time, quiet play, or cuddles, helping children recognise that bedtime is approaching.

3 CO-VIEW AND CHAT

Screen time is safer and more meaningful when adults are involved. Sit with children, even briefly, and talk about what they're watching. Ask simple questions like, "What can you see?" or "How does that character feel?" This turns passive viewing into shared interaction, supports language development, and helps adults spot adverts, unsuitable content, or confusing messages.

4 KEEP DEVICES HIDDEN

Young children are more likely to ask for screens when they can see or reach them. Keep devices out of sight when they're not being used, and consider casting content to a shared screen instead of handing over a phone or tablet to a child. This reduces private scrolling, supports shared viewing, and helps adults stay in control of what appears next.

5 PLAN THE TRANSITION

The hardest part of screen time is often stopping, before the screen goes off. Set the child what's coming next and offer two acceptable choices, such as blocks or drawing. This gives them a sense of agency without removing the boundary. A planned next activity prevents a sudden gap, which can quickly become frustration or distress.

6 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children notice adult habits long before they understand adult explanations. If they're expected to put their screens away, they need to see adults doing the same thing during meals, play, and conversations. Create a shared 'phone home', such as a basket or shelf, to show that technology has a place in daily life but does not need constant attention.

7 MAKE SCREENS PREDICTABLE

Young children do not always understand minutes, but they quickly learn patterns. When screen time happens at a regular point in the day, it becomes a routine rather than a negotiation. Use the same start and finish signals each time, such as a timer, goodbye wave, or tidy-away moment, so children know what to expect next.

8 CREATE SCREEN ZONES

Physical boundaries help children understand digital boundaries. Keep screens out of bedrooms to protect their sleep and away from tables to preserve mealtime connections. Choose one agreed 'yes space', such as a shared living room area or supervised classroom corner. This makes limits feel less personal and more like a clear family or setting routine.

9 USE SIMPLE SCRIPTS

Transitions are easier when children hear the same calm language each time. Use short, repeatable phrases such as, "First tidy, then tablet," or "When the timer beeps, we stop." Avoid long explanations during emotional moments. Simple scripts reduce negotiation, help adults stay consistent, and give children clear expectations they can gradually understand and follow.

10 PRIORITISE SLOW CONTENT

Not all screen time feels the same to a young child's brain. Fast-paced clips, loud sounds, and rapid scene changes can make it harder for some children to settle down afterwards. Choose slower content with simple stories, gentle voices, and natural pauses. Think of digital content like food, with more calm, nourishing choices than fast-paced, digital 'sugar rushes'.

Meet Our Expert

Neha Agarwal is the founder of Cyber Ved Kids, an innovative educational initiative that transforms complex cybersecurity concepts into engaging, age-appropriate adventures for children aged 3-10. With her unique background leading cybersecurity services for corporates and serving as an expert panel advisor on Internet Matters, Neha brings corporate-grade cybersecurity expertise to the early years world.



See full reference list on wake.wednesday.co.uk

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The National College

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