

Brays School Newsletter

December 2020



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Message from our Head Teacher

In a pre COVID pandemic world, I would have left Brays School in a whirl of Christmas plays, parties and Winter Wonderlands across both sites, where I could have personally said goodbye to pupils, staff and families. Sadly, this cannot happen this year.

I have had a wonderful time at Brays School. It has been a privilege to teach, work with, support and learn from an amazing school community.

With the help of many passionate and committed people both within the school and beyond, the school has, and will continue, to go from strength to strength.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the staff I have had the pleasure of working alongside during my 7 years at Brays; the admin teams, teaching teams, Governors, support teams and catering & cleaning teams - they have all done their bit to make Brays the place it is today. Thank you to all parents who continue to support us - schools can only be successful with a strong partnership with our families.

To the children of Brays, you will all hold a very special place in my heart, you are all truly amazing children who make the world a better place.

I would also like to wish Jodie Fotheringham, Assistant Head Teacher, the very best in her new role at Mayfield School.

I am sure that you will all warmly welcome, Emma Rees, Head Teacher in January 2021 and will show her the same support, as you have to me.

Stay safe and well, everyone.

Andrea Davis

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Attendance for Brays Tile Cross Period 01/09/20 to 13/12/20 is 92%

Class EY - 88%	Class 1G - 91%	Class 2A - 93%
Class 2P - 96%	Class 1A - 87%	Class 3G - 94%
Class 1J - 95%	Class 1W - 92%	Class 3P - 94%
Class 1S - 83%	Class 2W - 95%	Class 2L - 98%
Class 2T - 88%	Class 2H - 95%	Class 3S - 89%

Attendance for Brays Sheldon Period 01/09/20 to 13/12/20 is 78%

Class EY - 69%	Class 2B - 91%	Class 2E - 67%
Class 1J - 65%	Class 2C - 77%	Class 1N - 84%
Class 1D - 92%		

Maths Week



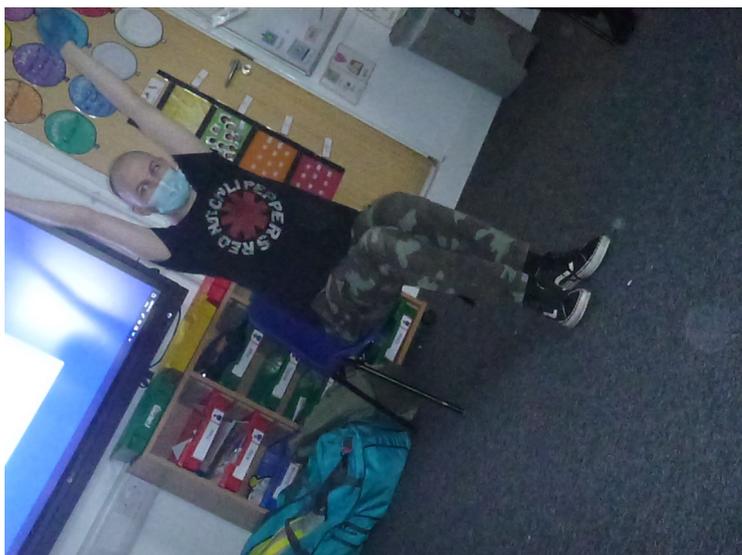
This term we celebrated everything mathematical with a special week of numeracy based activities and events. Across Brays School pupils had opportunity to enjoy maths in different contexts. Some classes turned into maths labs, giving pupils opportunity to explore different elements of the subject by playing a variety of fun games and take part in exciting group activities, other classes took maths outdoors, collecting shapes and objects to count, sort and sequence. The pupils really enjoyed the activities, particularly the group activities and games, proving that maths can be exciting and interesting.

Children in Need



This year we had a successful Fundraising day supporting Children in Need. Across both sites pupils took part in a host of activities. The theme for this year's fancy dress was to wear clothes that make you feel good, Children and staff dressed up in party clothes, comfy costumes and Children in Need tops. Classes created Pudsey inspired artworks, took part in baking activities, organised and took part in fun games and raised money for this special cause. Pupils also learned about how the money raised is used to help others. We want to thank parents who supported the day, sent in money and sorted costumes for the pupils. Thanks to your effort we made a fabulous £147.70

Open Theatre



This term classes 3P and 3G have been taking part in sessions with the Open Theatre, a drama company that has been developing work with Young People with Learning Disabilities through non-verbal physical theatre for over 30 years.

The pupils have joined in with musical activities, played games and participated in interactive drama performances alongside Ryan who leads the sessions. The children have loved the blend of music, performance, dance and drama and really look forward to it every week.

Music Services



This half term 2L at Tile Cross have had the pleasure of working with Katy from Music Services, an organisation that bring high quality musicians into classrooms. Katy has lead music lessons for us every Wednesday. All of the children have enjoyed working with her, and their confidence and involvement in the lessons are improving week by week.

We have been working on listening to the music and stopping playing our instruments when Katy stops playing hers. We also love to hear Katy play music to the beat of our name and respond with a smile or an eye gaze when we hear our name.

Earth and Beyond



Our Themes this term have been 'Life in the City' and 'Earth and Beyond'. The term may have started differently than usual, for example we haven't been able to invite parents to Thematic entry days, but we have made the most of our exciting themes. In class pupils in KS2 have explored our solar system, taking part in sessions and activities that have been practical, creative and focused on pupils developing an understanding of what makes our Solar System so amazing. KS1 have focused on our amazing skies, looking also at how artists have been inspired by our splendid skies.

Christmas Events



At Brays we have had to celebrate Christmas differently this year to ensure we confirm to social distancing and follow Covid Risk Assessment. However, that has not stopped us from having fun. So far, every class has enjoyed a Polar Express Movie experience, where they made their own golden ticket, watched the movie whilst enjoying a warm hot chocolate with marshmallows and popcorn.

Every class has been set a range of challenges from Mrs Santa where she has asked her little helpers to decorate candles and make a Christmas tree or wreath out of painted handprints. We will also have a visit from Santa who will deliver a present for every pupil.

Brays wish to thank you for all the wonderful donations from Dunelm, The British Irish Association, Milestones Teaching Agency and Castle Bromwich Lions. We have received over 260 selection boxes, 18 bubble tubes, four rocking horses, a selection of toys and over 12 food hampers which will be distributed to pupils and families within our school. We are amazed by your kindness and we are positive your donations will ensure our pupils will have a magical Christmas.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via:

<https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
or by calling 119

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

Quick Diary Dates

Christmas pupils break up:

18th December '20

Pupils return to school:

5th January '21

Staff Training:

4th January '21

A sad goodbye to:

Andrea Davis, Jodie Fotheringham,
Samantha Moore, Sayeda Akhtar,
Chloe Tidmus, Abbie Carlin,
James Brookes, Natalie Phelan,
Bethany Rees, Lucy England,
Mia James, Zoe Taylor, Nimrah Iqbal
and Demi Baker.

Jodie Fotheringham message:

To all the wonderful children and families at Brays. I will miss you all. Have a safe and healthy Christmas and thank you for all the memories.

School Uniform

School uniform is compulsory, please ensure that your child is wearing school uniform. Orders for uniform are made online please visit www.brigade.uk.com or e-mail sales@brigade.uk.com Uniform is easy and comfortable for children to wear and makes it easier to manage personal care. If you find this difficult for any reason then please contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Contacts

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Pupil Absence Notification

Always ring school by 9AM to let us know if your child will not be in.
On some occasions if your child has been absent for 3 days without notifying the school, a safe and well check may be carried out to the family home.