

# Brays School Newsletter Spring 2023



Brays School  
Newsletter

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## Message from our Head Teacher

Hello everyone,

I cannot believe how quickly the Spring term has gone. We are now preparing for our Easter activities in school and the children are also learning about Ramadan and looking forward to Eid celebrations later on in the summer term. I would like to say thank you to all of our families who have donated to the school's charity giving this term. Our disco dancethon was fantastic and raised over £600. I am very proud of the contributions we have made as a school towards those who are in need of support.

My time as Headteacher at Brays was due to come to an end this term but I am pleased to tell you I will be staying on until July. In September 2023 Mr Dave Lowe will join Forward Education Trust as the new Headteacher of Brays School. Dave has worked in a number of special schools and is looking forward to joining the team at Brays. I know you will welcome him and I hope he is able to join us for some of our summer celebrations, giving you the opportunity to meet him.

The Spring term has been a short but busy one! Thank you to all of you who have attended our coffee mornings, parent workshops, bring and buy sales and EHCP reviews. It has been lovely to see so many parents/ carers in school and we have plans for more workshops/ events in the summer term.

Just a few reminders from me:

Join class dojo, our home-school online communication.

Remember to phone into school if your child is ill or has an appointment.

Your child needs their swimming kit every week. Kit needs to be labelled and in a suitable bag.

We have lots of activities planned in the summer term and I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Have a lovely break.

Warm wishes

Nova Harvey

From *Children Therapy Solutions*, Occupational Therapists, Pip and Georgi, started working with Brays school one day a week in January, to support with pupil's functional, physical, and sensory needs. They are currently focusing on the environment and supporting staff with their classrooms, use of the school areas and providing class based advice. In the summer term Pip (left) and Georgi (right) hope to move to a referral system to assess pupils individually. They look forward to meeting everyone.



**CHILDREN'S  
THERAPY  
SOLUTIONS**  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SPECIALISTS

## Message from Simon Dilkes



I am very proud to be Chief Executive of Forward Education Trust and to work with Brays School. Along with your Headteacher Nova Harvey, everyone across Forward Education Trust is striving to do our very best to improve the education and welfare of our children. We are committed to sharing good practice and great ideas, to try new things and take sensible risks in exploring new ways of working together.

Along with my team, we visit schools regularly so that we see for ourselves the great work achieved by our children, with the support of our staff.

Should you have any thoughts, ideas or concerns, I would welcome hearing from you please email me on [ceo@fet.ac](mailto:ceo@fet.ac)

Best wishes,

Simon Dilkes, Chief Executive Officer

## Attendance

Attendance for Brays Sheldon this term is 75%

EYFS - NEED

Year 1 - 80%

Year 2 - 68%

Year 3 - 74%

Year 4 - 75%

Year 5 - 69%

Year 6 - 85%

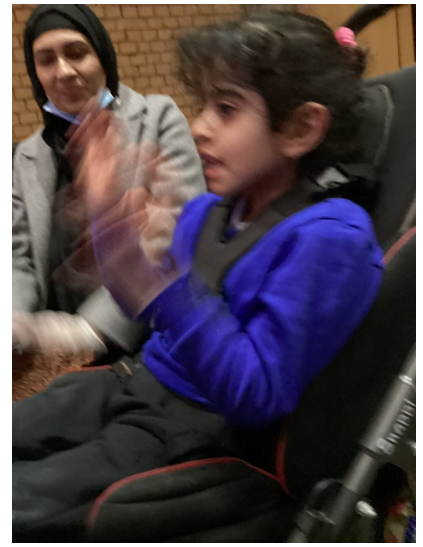
Pupils with above 98% attendance:

Anahi Caci, Conner Casey, Jimi McNally

Well Done!

Good attendance is essential for the children to make outstanding progress in their communication, social and academic skills. If your child is a little "under the weather" please do consider sending them to school, we will look after them and inform you if they need to be sent home. Please make sure your child attends school before or after medical appointments. Every session counts and our children love to learn and be at school.

# City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra



On the 9th of February, Talented Turtles, some of Busy Bees and 1 child from Early Birds went to the CBSO for a relaxed orchestra performance of Around the World in 80 Days! We travelled to the City Centre on minibuses and spent the afternoon enjoying an amazing hour long performance. We had music from Birmingham, France, Spain, Egypt, Africa, India, Japan, Columbia and America. Everyone had an amazing time and we danced along to all the songs.

## Comic Relief



This year we had another successful fundraising day for Comic Relief. Brays School came to life with Mr Men. Lots of us dressed up in Mr Men costumes and t-shirts. The Wriggly Worms really enjoyed the story of Mr Bump and recreating this story.

With your help we managed to raise just over £620.00! Thanks to everyone for the Sponsor money and donations. Everyone danced their socks off in our 1 hour non stop dance session and it was lovely to see all the children involved. Well done everyone!

A big Thank you again to everyone who helped make Comic Relief a successful day! Give yourselves a pat on the back!

# English and Communication

## Phonics

All classes are now participating in regular phonics sessions. Most pupils access exciting sound boxes which contain exciting items to explore that begin with m, a, s, d or t. At Brays we use this song to introduce the lesson to the pupils which you could play at home. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffeZXP+TGC4>

## Communication

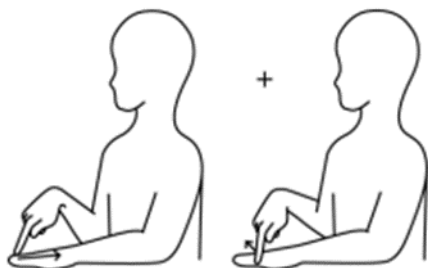
The communication team have been working hard to ensure our school is a total communication environment. They have been providing classes with advice and resources for their pupils and advocating for each pupil to receive the support they need to have their own voice. If you have any queries regarding communication, please inform your child's class teacher and they will let the team know.



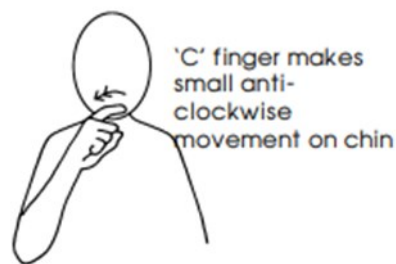
## Reading

This half term Sophie has begun weekly story telling sessions in the hall. These are going brilliantly, and the first story Roald Dahl's Easter Eggstravaganza was well received. Check out the schools Class Dojo for a video recording of the story.

## Easter Makaton



Easter



Chocolate

Easter Egg



## Cooking Sessions



This term across school we have been learning some key cooking skills. Pupils have loved taking part in all aspects of food preparation, including selecting and matching ingredients, weighing, measuring and even having sneak tastes of our ingredients. The recipes have included mac and cheese, pancakes, veggie burritos, vegan doughnuts and chickpea curry. We were all very pleased that such key skills are also such great fun! I'm sure you can take advantage and share some cooking sessions at home.

## Swimming Update



Pupils have been making fantastic progress in swimming at our hydrotherapy and pool over the last term, pupils have enjoyed improving their motor skills, flexibility, and coordination. We have been practicing important water safety skills, such as floating and swimming to the edge of the pool, ensuring that our pupils become confident and independent swimmers. Sensory swimming for our pupils encourages communication, interaction, and developing skills such as turn-taking and sharing, we are thrilled to see how much they are enjoying their time in the water.

## COVID-19 Information—gov.uk advice

School advice issued amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever

It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible.

If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.

Visit  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)  
for most recent guidance

## Quick Diary Dates

**Easter pupils break up:**

Friday 31st March 2023

**Pupils return to school:**

Monday 17th April 2023

**Staff Training Days:**

5th June 2023 - closed to pupils

**A warm welcome to:**

Jackie Cody, Archie Gadaria,  
Ruqayah Imran,

**A warm welcome back to:**

Jenny Webb, Farzana Chawdhury

**A sad goodbye to:**

Mary Gorman, after 22 years at Brays!

## School Uniform

In line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education, our school has a duty to ensure the uniform we require is affordable. We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.

We therefore recommend:

Light blue or white short sleeve polo shirt. (no need for school logo)

Blue sweat shirt. (no need for school logo)

Trousers or skirts but not jeans.

Please shop around to find the best value for money as parents/carers.

Please contact school if you require support.

For parents/carers wanting logos on the uniform contact: [www.brigade.uk.com](http://www.brigade.uk.com)

## Contact

### Brays School

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Sheldon,  
Birmingham  
B26 1NS

Phone: 0121 743 5730

Email: [enquiry@brays.fet.ac](mailto:enquiry@brays.fet.ac)

Website: [www.brays.fet.ac](http://www.brays.fet.ac)

## 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.