

Brays School Newsletter

Summer 2023



**Brays School
Newsletter**

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Message from Nova our Head Teacher

Hello everyone,

Well here we are again at the end of another year at Brays. How quickly this year seems to have gone by. I do hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, we have done some incredible things this year. The swimming pool has been fully open, and the children have had great fun taking part in lessons. Well done to Agnes who provides the swimming sessions for our pupils. Coffee mornings for parents have taken place and Rubina organised some fantastic workshops including Cerebra and Mencap. I know she has lots planned for next year so watch this space.

Our celebration events have been fantastic, the Kings Coronation, world book day, Eid, Easter, Black history month, to name but a few. Brays staff and children love a good party so any opportunity to get together is good for us!

Most children have been on a trip this year and well done to Miss Nat and the team who took some pupils on the first Brays residential for 18 years. It was a great success and we have already booked in for next year.

We have a new soft play-room and are excited to have a scheduled refurb of the nursery building in the summer holidays.

Thank you for supporting all of the events we have organised. It was lovely to see so many of you for sports day and the leavers assembly was magical. I hope you have enjoyed coming into school to speak to your child's teacher and finding out about their progress.

As our year 6 pupils get ready to leave Brays we will look back at their time with us fondly. There are some very big characters leaving this year and the staff are going to miss them all.

As you know Jess and I will also be leaving at the end of term. I wanted to let you know that this has been a fantastic experience and we have both thoroughly enjoyed our time at Brays.

It has been a pleasure to be the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher at Brays and we are very proud of all of the children and their achievements. This school is truly amazing.

Have a great summer and take care.



Creative and sensory learning, linked to our themes and pathways. More details in our fun packed newsletter.

Message from Debbie Bailey



Dear Parents and Carers,
I'm writing to let you know that our plans for a new Headteacher for Brays are still a work in progress!

However, I am delighted to take on the role of Executive Headteacher for Brays while we find the perfect candidate for the role of Headteacher. I will be working closely with Mrs Julia Lloyd-Jones as the school's new deputy headteacher.

Let me share a secret! Julia and I have worked together previously and already have a well established professional relationship. We are really looking forward to supporting the school through the next steps of its journey - building on the hard work of Nova and Jess. We are all going to miss them very much, but we are confident that Brays will continue to be an outstanding provision for all its pupils.

I look forward to meeting you all soon. I wish you a very happy and healthy summer break!

Debbie Bailey
Director of Education / Deputy CEO

Attendance

Attendance for Brays school this term is 77%

Class 1 - 72%

Class 2 - 89%

Class 3 - 71%

Class 4 - 88%

Class 5 - 66%

Class 6 - 86%

Class 7 - 75%

Class 8 - 54%

Class 9 - 87%

Pupils with 100% attendance: Well done Jimi McNally, Alayna Qureshi and Corey Mesa

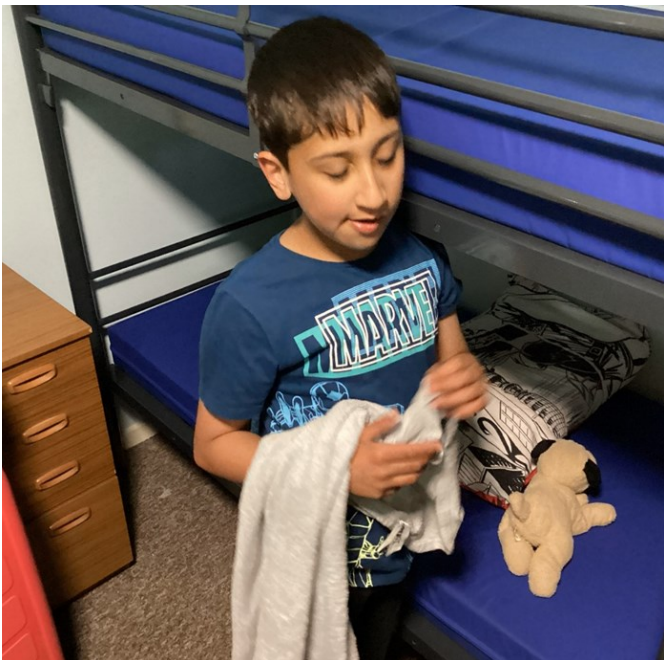
Good attendance is essential for the children to make outstanding progress in communication, social and academic skills. If your child is a little "under the weather" please do consider sending them to school, we will look after them and inform you if they need to be sent home. Please make sure your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

Beaudesert Centre Residential



A group of pupils at Brays School had a wonderful time during our first residential trip in 18 years! The pupils, Amelia, Ruhan, Ashleigh, Huma, Idrees, and Mustafa spent three adventurous days at the Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre in Cannock Wood, a fantastic place with plenty of things to do for our pupils!

The six pupils were supported by an equal number of staff, Chantel Roberts, Natalia Kulakowski, John Parsons, Jackie Dowling, Davinder Singh, and Hayley Hanson who did a great job helping our pupils get accustomed to the new environment, and make the most out of this trip.



During the trip, we focussed on practising our independent skills, with pupils making their own breakfast, getting their beds ready for staying the night at the centre.

At Brays, we think it's so important to expose our pupils to new experiences, while making sure they feel and are safe. There has been a lot of work in planning this trip, and we're so happy that everyone had such a lovely time!

Creative Space Roundup



Our two topics this term have been Birmingham and Pirates. As always in the Creative Space, we provide lots of activities to help the children explore and discover new things about these themes.

When we were studying Birmingham we built a mini version of Paradise Circus so the children could help with the building works. We also created our own version of The Sea Life Centre and went swimming with the fish and sea creatures.



In our Pirates topic we built a ship for the children to load up with boxes and suitcases before sailing off in search of treasure! There were sails to hoist and two ship's wheels to steer with.

It's been a busy year where we've travelled to the African rainforests, visited different planets, experienced different sorts of weather, crossed the sea to America, explored Birmingham and finally set off in a pirate ship to look for buried treasure. We're exhausted!

Bag Book Time



This term we had a visit from Bag Books! Bag Books are a company that offer story time using different sensory props related to the story. They also gave us two free sets to use in school! We had multiple sessions throughout where classes brought up pupils in groups of ten for a small sensory focused story time which was enjoyed by all!

Sports Day



Sports Day was a big success this year, and thankfully the rain held off and the sun came out. The children were very enthusiastic, and all got involved. Parents were very supportive in games like egg & spoon race, parachuting, bean bag toss, and football. We had a lovely turn out of parents and ended our sports day with our traditional wake up shake up dance and baby shark (which everyone was involved in). We look forward to another great sports day next year. Well Done Everyone!

Sea Life Centre Visits



This term, in order to enrich our curriculum, classes visited Birmingham Sea Life Centre. The visits were linked to our *Sea and Pirates* theme, giving our pupils real experiences of the things we learn about in class. Pupils enjoyed seeing the exhibits, exploring the underwater tunnels and observing the newly re-opened penguin enclosure. Pupils took their time looking carefully at the jellyfish, sea otters, sharks and rays. It is always great to match an exciting day out to our thematic learning.

Leavers Disco



Our Leavers Disco was an exciting event, featuring pizza, dancing, musical games, a 360° video booth and a fantastic disk jockey. Pupils loved wearing their best party clothes and looked fantastic. The Disco took place in the Hall, decked out with party lights and a disco booth. Pupils could invite a friend from class or school, this made the event really special. Thank you to staff and parents who gave their time to make it possible and a big thanks to Nova Harvey who suggested and organised the event!

COVID-19 Government Advice

There are no COVID-19 restrictions in the UK.

If you have COVID-19 you should try to stay at home.

Most people cannot get free COVID-19 tests. You can buy tests in shops but you cannot report the result to the NHS.

You can get vaccinated against COVID-19 by the NHS.

You do not need to take a test or quarantine when you arrive in the UK. You should check travel advice for any country you are travelling to.

Visit
www.gov.uk
for most recent guidance

Quick Diary Dates

Summer pupils break up:

July 21st 23

Pupils return to school:

September 6th 23

Staff Training Days:

4th, 5th September 23 - closed to pupils

A warm welcome to:

Julia Lloyd- Jones- Deputy Headteacher

Amita Lyal- Lunchtime supervisor

Sumeya Kathoon- Lunchtime supervisor

Alicia Patel- Teaching Assistant

Archana Gadaria- Admin

Jackie Cody- Admin

A sad goodbye to:

Nova Harvey- Headteacher

Jessica Hocknull- Deputy Headteacher

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

Contact

Brays School

Brays Road,

Sheldon,

Birmingham

B26 1NS

Phone: 0121 743 5730

Email: enquiry@brays.fet.ac

Website: 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.