

Brays School Newsletter

December 2023



Brays School
Newsletter

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Message from our Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well this term has been very busy - it has been lovely becoming acquainted with many of your youngster. There has been lots of paperwork to complete, however our deputy head, Julia and myself have so enjoyed going into classrooms and watching the pupils engage and achieve.

The thing that has been so evident, as interim headteacher, is to feel and see the unique hardworking community spirit that Brays has. I know Kari, the incoming Headteacher, has felt this on her transition days and is so excited to be taking over in January. I know she will be continuing in the drive to increase the pupils attendance, amongst other developments.

Christmas has been wonderful in school, community visits, amazing performances and fun parties. The pupils were so proud of themselves, performing for you all and I must confess I have shed a tear or two, all part of the Brays magic.

So it just remains for me to say please stay healthy and happy over the Christmas period.

Merry Christmas
Jane Davenport

P.S. Just a quick reminder there will be no more paper copies of the Newsletter sent out, Class Dojo here we come!

Attendance for Brays School this term is 75%

Class 1 - 67%
Class 4 - 84%
Class 7 - 65%

Class 2 - 83%
Class 5 - 58%
Class 8 - 77%

Class 3 - 66%
Class 6 - 79%
Class 9 - 92%

Pupil with 100% attendance: Well done Jimi McNally

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.

Remembrance Day



This term pupils held a two minute silence in the hall in remembrance of soldiers who died during wars and conflicts. Pupils and staff sat very quietly and listened to a moving presentation explaining what Remembrance day is all about. In our classrooms we made poppies using different materials and put them up all around school, we liked walking past the art work in the corridors as a way of remembering. We also bought our own poppies and wore them on Remembrance day. Thank you to parents for your contributions.

Diwali Celebrations



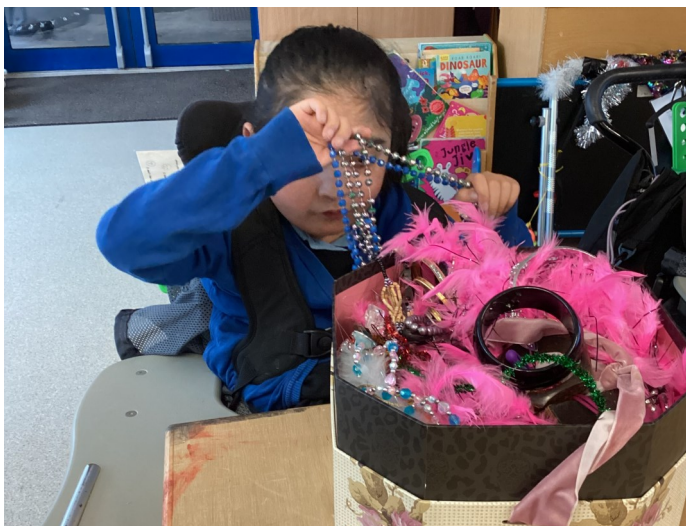
In the week beginning the 13th November, Super Swifts celebrated Diwali, they made Diva lamps from clay and Rangoli patterns using coloured sand. There was music playing throughout and the pupils enjoyed listening to the beat. The Creative Space had also been transformed into a Diwali experience with patterns, lights and music to enhance the senses. It was a lovely start to the half term.

Children in Need



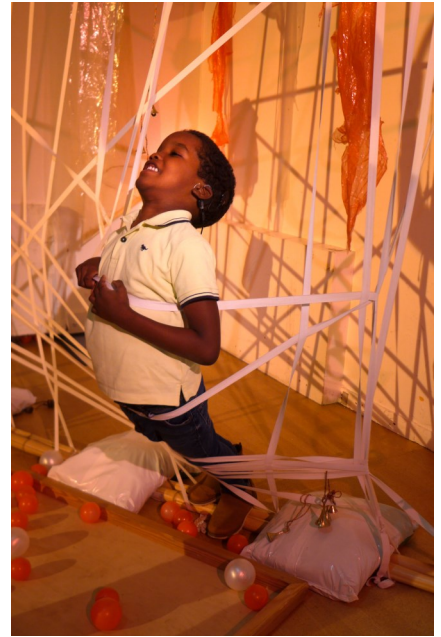
This year we had a successful fundraising day of events for Children in Need. With the help of parents and carers we managed to raise a 'Spotacular' £921.90, a big thank you to Lewis, and his family from Busy Bees who managed to raise £276.00. Great work! Everyone danced their socks off to our favourite Brays Classic hits during our 60 minute nonstop Danceathon session. We had lots of fun across school and enjoyed our party games, one of our favourites was dressing staff up as Pudsey the bear. A big Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a productive day!

Black History Week



During October we spent time celebrating black history month. Each class explored the life of different people, from musicians to sports stars. Jolly Jellyfish focussed on Diana Ross and the Supremes, they listened to lots of their music throughout and explored their outfits and jewellery. They had a lot of fun making their own dresses and jewellery and exploring a range of musical instruments to make their own songs. Other important figures associated with black culture and history that classes explored included Benjamin Zephaniah, Simone Biles, Nelson Mandela, Nina Simone and Bob Marley.

Creative Space



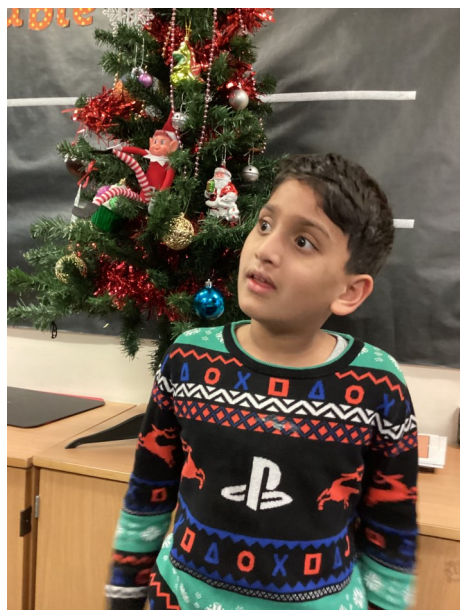
It's been a wonderful Autumn in The Creative Space. First of all we spent six weeks inside the human body!. We listened to the giant heart and touched it to feel it beating. We rolled the red blood cells down tubes and felt the air rushing into the lungs. Some children even stretched their own bodies on the elastic muscles. Lastly we took photos of all the children's faces and projected them onto the walls, so they could enjoy the pictures of all their friends. There are a lot of things happening inside the body!



Then we learned about different festivals in different places in the world. We celebrated Diwali with the people in India, watching the lights and making Rangolis with rice. Then we travelled to China for the Lantern Festival and finally to Mexico, where we all dressed up for The Day of The Dead.

The children explored everything in their own way. They learned by experiencing the different lighting and music in each session, and by playing with all the different resources, enjoying the feel of the rice, the movement of the balls rolling down tubes and their new costumes.

Seasonal Celebrations



The Autumn term is a busy time at Brays School, particularly towards Christmas time. This year we have welcomed parents to our Christmas productions, pupils and staff worked really hard to make the Nativity shows exciting, fun and entertaining. Pupils have taken part in many Christmas related activities, Christmas games, Christmas jumper days, seasonal signed singing and a visit from Santa.

St Thomas Church Visit



Talented Turtles and Wiggly Worms had a fantastic time at St Thomas' Church for a sensory story of the Nativity. They met characters from the Nativity story, travelled to the Inn to talk to the Inn Keeper and travelled to the stable where the pupils met Joseph, Mary and a real baby!



Sibs is the only UK charity representing the needs of siblings of disabled people.

There are over half a million young siblings and at least 1.7 million adults siblings in the UK, who have grown up with a disabled brother or sister.

Sibs website offers advice and support and is a useful resource for anyone who lives and cares for someone with a disability.

www.sibs.org.uk

Quick Diary Dates

Christmas pupils break up:

Friday 22 December 2023

Pupils return to school:

Monday 8 January 2024

Staff Training Days:

12 January 2024 - closed to pupils

15 January 2024 - closed to pupils

A warm welcome to:

Kari Anson

A sad goodbye to:

Jane Davenport, Frances Cherry-France,
Archie Gadaria

School Uniform

In line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform, 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 that requiring many such items 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 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: 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 at the latest 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.