



BRAYS SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2ND HALF SUMMER TERM 2024

Welcome to our new edition of the Brays School Newsletter.

A NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

As summer term draws to a close, I want to extend heartfelt gratitude to every member of our wonderful school community. Though I only joined in January, I've been met with warmth and support, making me feel truly at home. #Braysbelonging It's an absolute pleasure and a tremendous privilege to lead such an incredible school.

As you read through this newsletter, you'll see the highlights from Summer Term and wow – what a term! Just like Gareth Southgate once said:

*"Success isn't just about what you accomplish in your life;
it's about what you inspire others to do."*

This quote reflects the incredible potential within our community. Together, we've inspired and supported each other, making remarkable strides. This term has been a testament to the power of teamwork and community spirit. Each of you has played a vital role, contributing to the success of our school. Thank you for every effort, big or small.

Here's to a restful summer break where everyone maintains good health and an exciting new term ahead!

Kari



BRAYS SCHOOL VALUES

We are delighted to have worked with all stakeholders e.g. families, staff, pupil, Local Academy Council (LAC) transport etc. to decide and democratically vote for our school values.

In September we are looking forward to giving out the Star of the Week certificates to pupils because of how they have shown our values within school. Look out for the post cards home too.

Kari and Julia gained permission from some of our values and created a video to launch and explain our values. We hope this will be able to feature on our school website. You can watch the video by clicking this link:

[Brays Belonging on Vimeo](#)



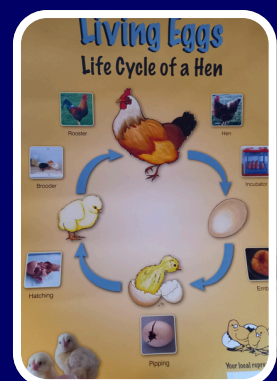
THE CURRICULUM COMES ALIVE

Here at Brays, we pride ourselves on our thematic curriculum and bringing an adapted National Curriculum to life with an opportunity for experiential learning. In R.E the theme was to look after animals. In Science it was lifecycles and food chains so of course we have had:

- Caterpillars emerging as butterflies
- Eggs hatching into Hens.... Who eat worms!
- Rusty our newly adopted school dog

**Disclaimer – all risk assessed with our competent partners.*

We are keeping the 6 female hens. If they survive over Summer then we look forward to taking some children to buy their food, collect their eggs and generally take responsibility for caring for them.



CREATIVE SPACE

Everyone has been really busy in The Creative Space this term. First of all, we were learning about different Fairy Tales, including The Gingerbread Man and Aladdin. When we were exploring Jack and the Beanstalk there was plenty of time to play Tug of War with the beanstalk. Then we all took turn to be giants, with our pictures being projected onto the wall. Look at staff member Chantel saying 'Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum...." We looked massive!

In the last few weeks, we have been exploring the Undergrowth, where all the little bugs and beetles live. We dressed up as ants, sang The Ants Go Marching One by One song, and explored the tunnels in the ants' nest. Sometimes you get the best view of all the animals when you lie down on the floor, to see them more closely.

All the children at Brays go into The Creative Space every week. They enjoy all the different experiences, and they all explore the different environments and activities, in their own way.



CREATIVE ARTS ROUND UP FROM MR T

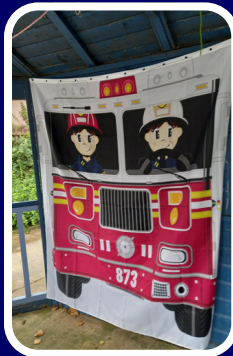
This term our Themes have been Fairy tales and Undergrowth. Classes explored a variety of ways of producing amazing artworks, from printing and painting right through to clay work and Junk art modelling.



Some classes created foam board prints inspired by the story of Goldilocks and the three bears, other classes explored bright sparkly and iridescent materials, that made us think of fairies and pixies. For our Undergrowth theme, art activities got messy, creepy and crawly, but always fun and creative.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY

We proudly participated in International Day of Play to emphasize the important role of play in children's development recognising play's impact on learning, social skills, and overall well being, it will remain a significant focus for us next year, ensuring all our pupils flourish and thrive.



RESIDENTIALS & SCHOOL TRIPS

The recent residential trip marked a significant milestone for many of our pupils as they embarked on their first adventure away from home! The experience was filled with exploration of nature, engaging in scavenger hunts, refining independence skills and not to forget – embracing the joy of getting messy with mud! All 10 pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in outdoor activities and creating lasting memories. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to step out of their comfort zones, try new things and be curious about the natural world. The trip was a resounding success.

Three children had a last minute opportunity to listen to Derek Paravacini – incredible blind autistic musician, one pupil even got to play the piano with him!:

[Meet the blind, autistic piano genius, who can play any piece after hearing it once - Classic FM](#)

Here's to many more exciting adventures ahead as we work towards more trips in 2024/25



DIVERSITY WEEK - EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT

This year, the theme for our Diversity week, was 'What makes me unique!'. As a school, we created 'Diverse Hands', which forms part of our Diversity display board. We worked carefully to mix the colour of paints together to create a range of skin colours.



Across school, children, took part in a range of activities. They used mirrors to look at their physical characteristics, focused on their likes and dislikes, created pictures of themselves and explored a range of stories about being 'different'. Some pupils compared how they are different to their friends. Throughout school, staff reiterated the message, 'that being different is good and this is what makes us stand out in the world.'



"Being different gives the world colour." - Nelsan Ellis. As a result of this we are proud to be a 'No Outsiders' school.

COMMUNITY COHESION

A huge shout out and thank you to The High Sheriff who donated £3000 for a new mobile hoist for the swimming pool.

A huge shout out and thank you to DHL Jaguar Land Rover who are coming to school in the summer for two days as part of their corporate social responsibility to help improve the school site.

A huge shout out and thank you to Isabella – Grace's Angels who continue to support us with their creativity in making characters and resources to support the curriculum.

A huge shout out to Splash Moo Music who hire our pool with the funds helping us to maintain the upkeep of a swimming pool.

Tay Bally's Cafe in Dudley for raising funds to buy resources for the children. The electronic drawing pads proved popular.

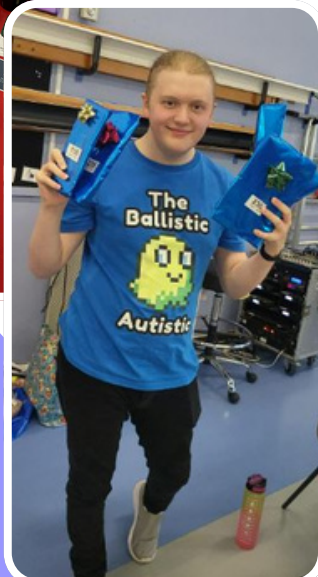
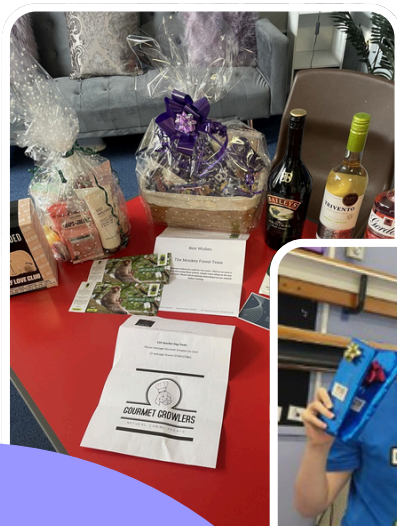
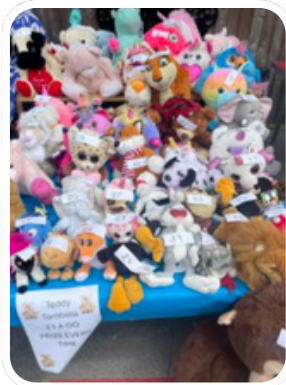


SUMMER FAYRE - TIME TO LAUNCH FRIENDS OF BRAYS

What a day...the first Summer Fayre in over a decade, some think it could even be 15 years! Incredible efforts from the school community with the #teamwork in making the event happen. We raised a staggering £1800, all of which will directly benefit pupils at Brays at the time e.g. the Y6 had their disco/prom for their share of the takings.



The round up of the day has been put together by none other than our longest serving teacher's son....



THE FETE CHANGING FATE

The Brays School fete was an awesome time
Hence why I made this amazing rhyme

Meeting all the colleagues that put in heart
Giving all the kids an outstanding start

How grateful I am for all their hard work
And me helping them all is a great perk

With what we've raised, you'll do great things
Metaphorically giving students wings

Opening their futures to whatever they like
Making all who doubt them go take a hike

These amazing teachers just being so nice
They'd help again twice.....actually thrice

I made this poem so that you're all aware
Of the great things you do for kids everywhere

Making lives better, no matter the hassle
Making your school seem like their castle

Charlie Swift

AUTUMN TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

2nd Sept & 3rd Sept – **INSET Day**

4th Sept – **Children Return to School**

8th Sept - **National Physiotherapist Day**

10th Sept – **Helping Hands Workshops** for 6 weeks for some KS2 classes

11th September – **Parent & Carer Coffee Morning** – A chance to meet the Local Authority in person

25th – 27th Sept – **YESFest Residential** for 2 children

27th Sept – **National Teaching Assistant Day**

27th Sept – **McMillan Community Coffee Morning**

5th October- **World Teacher's Day**

10th October - **World Mental Health Day**

Date TBC - **Diwali**

5th Nov – **INSET Staff Training day**

6th Nov – **Pupils Return to School**

7th Nov – **Outdoor Classroom Day**

13th Nov – **World Kindness Day**

15th Nov – **Children in Need**

FINAL FAREWELLS

This term we are saying goodbye to the following staff:

- Courtney Blackmore
- Michelle Farrow
- Amita Lyall
- Our long-term supply teacher Fahima Begum
- Many of our regular supply staff who have been covering vacancies

We thank them all for their dedication and commitment to Brays and wish them well for the future.

Next term we'll be welcoming new staff and look forward to introducing them in the first few weeks back....



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If you are on facebook, please like, follow and share our page with family and friends. You'll find us under 'Brays School'.

If you are on X(Twitter), please follow @BraysSchool1.

