



# BRAYS SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2, 2025

Welcome to our latest edition of the Brays School Family Newsletter.

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

### A Wonderful Seven Weeks at Brays

What a superb seven weeks it has been here at Brays! We are excited to share and celebrate a selection of fantastic events from the last half term with you all.



### Farewells and Good Wishes

At the end of this term, we say a fond farewell to Rabia, who has been a valued lunchtime supervisor for 15 years. We wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter working full-time.

We also temporarily say goodbye to Georgina Davey, who will be working at Elms Farm throughout the Spring Term as part of her teacher apprenticeship mainstream school placement. We look forward to welcoming her back after this important experience.

### Celebrating Achievements

Congratulations to Julia Lloyd-Jones and Farzana Chowdhury, who have both recently passed significant leadership qualifications. Julia has achieved her National Professional Qualification for Headship, and Miss Chowdhury has completed her National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership. We are very proud of their accomplishments!

### Supporting Our Community

Over the Christmas break, we are pleased to partner once again with Our Special Angels, who are running a subsidised holiday club for children with additional needs, including some of our Brays pupils.

### Swimming Pool Update

Thanks to funding from Forward Education Trust, we are able to replace the philtre for our swimming pool. We know that many children and staff have missed their weekly swimming sessions, and we hope to have the pool back up and running towards the end of January.

### Season's Greetings

For those celebrating Christmas, we wish you and your family good tidings and a joyful holiday season. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday, 6th January.



## ARTS COUNCIL FUNDED INSTRUMENTS

We are grateful to The Arts Council for funding 30+ high-quality percussion instruments. Our pack contained a range of handheld instruments including bells, tambourines, triangles, drums, bongos and much more.

As a lead school for Music within Birmingham they will be a fantastic addition to support the delivery of our Creative Arts faculty.



## BRAYS SPECIAL SCHOOL WELCOMES PERIPATETIC MUSIC TEACHER NICK

This term, Brays Special School is proud to welcome Nick, our new peripatetic music teacher, as part of our role as a lead school for music in Birmingham. Nick brings his expertise to support our gifted and talented pupils through personalised 1:1 tuition, helping them to develop their musical skills to their fullest potential.

In addition to individual lessons, Nick is also working with small groups of children, fostering a love for music in an inclusive and supportive environment. His work enriches our vibrant music offer and provides exciting opportunities for our pupils to explore their talents.

## FRIENDS OF BRAYS

A huge thank you to The Friends of Brays for raising over £500 in their winter raffle. This was supported by The Mount Tavern and members Shirley Zoe who ran a raffle and hosted a stall.



**FRIENDS OF BRAYS**

## CREATIVE SPACE

It's been another great half term in The Space where we have been learning about Ancient Egypt.

First of all, we caught fish in the river Nile and learned how to use an old piece of technology called a shaduf to collect water. Then we gathered in the barley to make bread, played in the desert sand and made models of pyramids and temples using bricks and clay.



Finally, we met The Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. The Pharaoh was very tall and sat on a royal throne. They were a bit scary! Anyway, we made friends and The Pharaoh invited us to a great feast where there was lots of food, drink and music. Ancient Egypt was fun!





## BRAYS SCHOOL SHOWS #KINDNESS IN ACTION FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

We are incredibly proud of our whole school community for coming together to support Children in Need this year. Through sponsorship and generous contributions, our children, staff, and families raised a magnificent total of £1,184.41!



Children in Need is a wonderful cause close to our hearts, especially as some of our children have directly benefited from the funding it provides. It is truly inspiring to see our Brays family embody our school value of #kindness by making such a positive difference.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make this fundraising effort so successful. Together, we are helping to change lives and support children in need across the country.



## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



A huge thank you to Graceful Hands for once again providing us with bespoke resources that bring classic nursery rhymes to life. The care and attention to detail that goes into all their products is truly appreciated by our children and staff.

We also extend our gratitude to Milestone Education, a local supply agency, who generously provided Christmas gifts for five families as part of their corporate social responsibility. Their #kindness has made a real difference to these families during the festive season.





## BRAYS CELEBRATES INTERFAITH WEEK

This year, InterFaith Week was a new and exciting addition to the Brays school calendar. It provided a fantastic opportunity for our children to learn about a wide range of world religions in a respectful and inclusive way.

As part of the week's activities, one group of children visited St Thomas' Church, while another group explored a local mosque. These visits allowed our pupils to experience different places of worship firsthand and deepen their understanding of diverse faiths and cultures.



## BRAYS SHINES AT THE EDUCATION TODAY AWARDS

On Friday 5th December, a team from Brays—Kari, Harry, Miss Chowdhury, and Mr T—travelled to London to attend the prestigious Education Today Awards Ceremony. We were honoured to be finalists in three categories: Creative School of the Year, Primary School of the Year, and Headteacher of the Year.

Although we did not take home an award this time, being recognised as finalists among so many outstanding educational establishments was a fantastic achievement. The event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the dedication and hard work of schools across the country.

We are proud of our school community and remain committed to providing an exceptional education for every child at Brays.





## CHEEKY CHEETAH'S GLOBAL DESIGN4SDG ADVENTURE

Cheeky Cheetah class recently took part in a global competition linked to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 11: building sustainable communities. Working together in teams, the children focused on reducing, reusing, and recycling materials to create an exciting enhancement to their existing outdoor hut.

They drew on their prior learning from the summer's visit by The Junk Orchestra. Their designs were presented to a judge all the way in Egypt!

While they didn't win the competition, Cheeky Cheetah's entry was highly commended – a fantastic accolade for their hard work and dedication. Importantly, before the Year 6 pupils leave at the end of summer 2026, Kari has promised to bring their design to life, turning their vision into a real, sustainable addition to our school environment.

We are incredibly proud of the children's commitment to sustainability and their role in shaping a better future.

### What are the things/features your idea should have?



### We hope you love our final design!



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- 5th January - **School closed for staff training**
- 6th January - **Pupils return to school**
- 20th January - **Family Coffee Morning**
- 28th January - **School closes at lunch time for staff training**
- 6th February - **Number Day**
- 6th February - **Bees Family Learning Session**
- 6th February - **Clever Cubs Oscar Winning Performance for Families**
- 9th February - **Child Mental Health Day**
- 9th February - **Jellyfish, Cats & Lions Family Learning Session**
- 10th February - **Internet Safety Day**
- 11th February - **Cheeky Cheetah Family Learning Session**
- 12th February - **Pancake Day**
- 13th February - **Chinese New Year**
- 13th February - **Turtles, Swifts & Worms Family Learning Session**
- 13th February - **Children break up from school**

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

Brays Special School offers a place for children with special needs to flourish, with their needs at the heart of everything we do

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