



BRAYS SCHOOL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 1, 2026

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

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME ...

What a busy and exciting start to the Spring Term we've had! After the festive break, we came back to school to find we had been flooded. This brought many changes over the last six weeks. Our Cheetah class moved to the hall, cooking was only possible using a mobile hob, meetings (including important annual reviews) took place in offices, and we had to use the light and sound room differently.

Despite these challenges, the way everyone in our school community has pulled together has been truly amazing. The children have shown incredible resilience and flexibility, adapting so well to the changes. The repair work is progressing, and we hope to be back to a fully functioning school very soon.

Each week on DoJo, I share my 'Fab Five' highlights from the week to keep families connected, and I'll be sharing these in every half-term newsletter too.



Here's my Fab Five for Spring 1:

1. Welcoming new pupils and staff to our school family. We hope they're feeling the love and connection of #braysbelonging.
2. Welcoming families to join us in celebrating children's learning. It's been wonderful to see so many of you at events like Number Day and Chinese New Year. The Talented Turtles event had such an incredible turnout—I wasn't sure we'd all fit in the classroom!
3. We've bought a 3D printer! Soon, we'll be able to print symbols to help our pupils with visual impairments.
4. We are proud to have been awarded the Gold Reading Award from One Education.
5. Welcoming Trustees from Forward Education who visited the school to meet some of the children and learn more about the community they serve.

Looking ahead, next half term is just five weeks long, but it's already shaping up to be full of exciting opportunities. Several children will be representing Brays in local competitions, and we can't wait to cheer them on! Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we make Brays a wonderful place for our children to learn, grow, and belong.

Warm wishes,
Kari Anson

INTRODUCING OUR NEW LOCAL ACADEMY COUNCIL (LAC) MEMBERS

We have three new appointments to our Local Academy Council.

Paul has been appointed by Forward Education Trust and Shazia and Rachel were elected a parent representatives.

Over the course of the coming weeks all three will have a dedicated Local Academy Council e-mail address. This will be shared with all of the school community so that should you wish to raise anything you have a direct contact.

Once of their first tasks will be to work with school to co-produce an up to date Intimate Care Policy ensuring the voice of families and community is accurately represented.



CELEBRATING CHRISTIANITY - SHROVE TUESDAY

On 17th February, Christians around the world will observe Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. Before the half-term break, we took the opportunity to teach the children about the traditions and meaning behind this special day.

Our children enjoyed many fun filled hands-on learning experiences such as: making play dough pancakes, flipping the pancakes in the frying pans and many children also had the chance to taste real pancakes, which was a real treat for them.

It was lovely to see the children engaging with this tradition in a way that is both meaningful and enjoyable. Celebrating events like Shrove Tuesday helps us build understanding of different cultures and traditions, while also supporting important independence skill development.



CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

Although the traditional date varies each this year, we celebrated Chinese New Year, the Year of the Horse, on 13th February.

All our classes took part in a range of fun and meaningful activities to learn about Chinese culture and celebrate the New Year. The children enjoyed mark making and exploring with tea, practised their fine motor skills by using chopsticks, and made beautiful Chinese lanterns. Many wore traditional clothing, which added to the festive atmosphere. Sensory exploration activities helped the children engage their senses, and they took part in cleaning activities to prepare the school 'house' for the celebrations, just as families do at home. We also cooked and tasted traditional Chinese food, giving the children a delicious way to experience the culture.

We were delighted to invite families from our Super Swifts and Talented Turtles classes to join in the celebrations, making the day even more special.



BREAKING NEWS - BRAYS FIRST PUPIL TO RECEIVE NHS VOCA DEVICE

We are delighted that Caius has taken part in an extensive assessment which has resulted in the NHS agreeing to fund a voice output communication aid. Over the coming weeks and months his family, school and the NHS will work together to ensure personalised programming of his device. Exciting times ahead.

A shout out and thanks to our very own Gemma who has pursued the assessment never refusing to give up that Caius had the capability and was deserving of NHS support.

**CREATIVE SPACE - ICE WORLD**

It's been really cold in The Space for the last few weeks because we've been in The Arctic. First we had to build a shelter out of big blocks of ice, then we had to catch some fish because we were really hungry. We cooked the fish on a fire. We had to be really careful because the cheeky wolves kept trying to steal our dinner!



MY HAPPY MIND

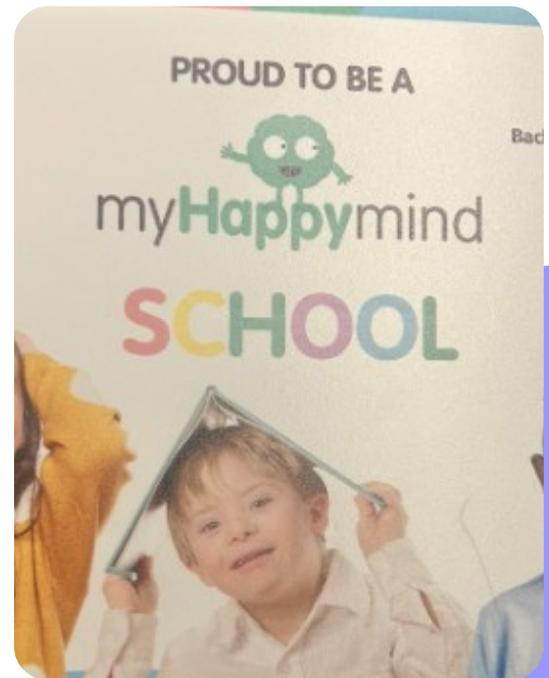
We are proud to be a part of the myHappyMind Family!
Our Cheeky Cheetahs are piloting this in school.

The program is grounded in science and dedicated to building positive mental wellbeing, myHappyMind helps children understand how their brains work and creates a culture that helps to build children's resilience, confidence, and self-esteem.

myHappyMind also teaches the children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their very best selves!

myHappyMind Module Descriptions:

- **Meet Your Brain:** Understanding how your brain works and how to ensure we look after it so that we can manage our emotions and be at our best. Growth mindset is a key part of this too.
- **Celebrate:** Understanding your unique character strengths and learning to celebrate them. This is a fantastic module for building self-esteem.
- **Appreciate:** Understanding why gratitude matters and how you can develop gratitude as a habit. Gratitude is key to well-being and resilience and we're all about making it a habit!
- **Relate:** Understanding why positive relationships matter and how to build them. We're focussed on the building blocks of good relationships and friendships.
- **Engage:** Understanding how to set meaningful goals that matter and how to keep resilient in times of challenge. This module is all about building self-esteem and resilience too.



FREE HEARING TESTS

Many get their eyes tested but not many get their hearing tested. This link from the RNID website takes just 3mins. [Hearing test - 3 minutes, free, online, easy and reliable | RNID](#)

It can send the results to your own email and so you can take it to your GP. The earlier you have intervention to improve your hearing, the better your brain will adapt to hearing devices.



ATTENDANCE - SAFE & WELL CHECKS

At Brays School our children's wellbeing is very important to us and forms part of our Inclusive Attendance approach.

There may be times when our children are unable attend school, whether for illness or another issues e.g. transport or equipment.

During this time, you will have contact from our Attendance Team and/or from your child's class. These 'Safe and Well' communications help us to work together and to make the transition back into school easier for your child. Video calls and Class Dojo messages help your family stayed connected to their class and to school. Making it easier for them to return to school.

We also have a safeguarding duty to make sure that your child is ok.

Therefore these 'Safe and Well' communications are all part of us working together to best support your child #braysbelonging

A Child Centred Approach to Improving Attendance

STAFF MEMBER MAKES THEIR 40TH PLASMA DONATION



Did you know that donating blood plasma can save lives? Blood plasma is a part of our blood that carries important proteins and helps our bodies fight infections and heal. It is used to help people with serious illnesses such as immune disorders, bleeding problems, and burns.

At Brays, we are proud to celebrate Tracey, one of our wonderful staff members, who has shown the true meaning of #kindness by making her 40th blood plasma donation! Her generosity helps many people in need, and she is a real inspiration to us all.

If you would like to learn more about donating blood plasma or find out how you can help, please visit:

<https://www.blood.co.uk/plasma-donation/>

FAMILY SUPPORT



A Free Event

TIME FOR YOU

Join us for a special event celebrating the invaluable contributions of carers, where you'll find support, resources, and a community that understands your journey.

Join us for a fun filled day with free activities including Hand massages, Mehndi, Health checks, Local support, Board Games, Advice and guidance, Food, Chat with other carers, and more

Carers drop
in
Recharge
and Connect



Wednesday 4th of March 2026

From 11 am to 2 pm

At

Blakesley Hall, Blakesley Road, Yardley,
Birmingham, B25 8RN

YNS Yardley
Neighbourhood
Network Scheme
Connecting People. Improving Lives

Birmingham
City Council



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 13th February - **School Breaks Up, usual time**
- 23rd February - **Children return to school**
- 23rd February - **FET Parental Survey Launches**
- 3rd March - **Inclusive Attendance trip to Birmingham City Football Club**
- 3rd March - **½ Day School closes at 1pm for staff training**
- 4th March - **Holi Theme Day**
- 4th March - **Brays Badminton Team @ All England Shuttle Stars Disability Day**
- 5th March - **World Book Day**
- 12th March - **Brays Team @ Birmingham Special Schools Panathlon Competition**
- 19th or 20th March - **Eid**
- 20th March - **Comic Relief**
- 23rd March - **Eid Theme Day (AM)**
- 23rd March - **½ Day School closes at 1pm for staff training**
- 25th March - **A group to visit Naidex**
- 27th March - **Easter Theme Day**

**FIND US ONLINE**

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.

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

www.brays.fet.ac T: 0121 743 5730 • E: enquiry@brays.fet.ac

