



BRAYS SCHOOL

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 1, 2026

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

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME ...

What a fantastic half term we've had. As part of #braysbelonging, we were delighted to welcome two new pupils, River and Bia, who have both settled quickly and happily into their classes. Alongside their welcome we have been preparing for transition with 18 Year 6 pupils getting ready for their next chapter we have been welcoming our September starters to their first admissions meetings. This year, I have committed to joining Rubina on every home visit so that we can begin building strong relationships with new families before they start.

As ever, there have been many opportunities for enrichment, helping pupils to develop wider life skills. These have included the Primary School Enterprise Challenge, outdoor learning and civic engagement through our work with Gardening Guru, and arts and culture through an exciting visit from Rock Kidz and celebrating cultures from around the world on Diversity Day. We were also pleased (and relieved) to see Cheeky Cheetah return to their classroom following December's flood. I cannot express enough my gratitude and #respect for the resilience shown by both staff and pupils during this time—a true example of #teamwork in action. The site team

As I write this newsletter (a little later than usual), we are facing further disruption following the May half term flood. This will mean Talented Turtles will be moving to the hall as their classroom for the near future. This means we have some uncertainty and lack of availability for use of the school hall. However, in true Brays style, we will pull together to ensure that the seven weeks of Summer 2 are just as rich and rewarding for our pupils, with two residential still to look forward to. It's a busy time for the site team and it is with sadness that I share that Jakson our current site manager will leave during next half term. We thank him for all his hard work, commitment and dedication to Brays and wish him all the best for the future. At times like this, the benefits of being part of Forward Education Trust really come into their own, with the central team supporting us significantly, particularly with site team staff, insurance claims and the organisation of contractors.

Let's rock into Summer 2 with the continued spirit of positivity and 'can do' attitude that makes us Brays,

Kari

ROCK KIDZ –

Following last year's inaugural visit, we were delighted to welcome Rock Kidz back this half term—an experience we hope will now become a firm annual tradition at Brays. Every child had the opportunity to take part in the workshops, coming together to sing and celebrate #kindness, one of our core values. A special shout out must go to Super Swifts—their enthusiasm, energy and incredible costumes truly captured the spirit of the day and showed the world that here at Brays, we are most definitely 'rock and roll'!



CREATIVE SPACE

We have been really busy in The Space for the last few weeks, down at the allotment. There is always so much to do! We had to plant seeds in flowerpots, dig the soil, mend the shed and sort out the stones. Then one day we went in and everything was covered in plastic bottles, boxes and other rubbish, so we had to clear it all up. Luckily there was still time to play some music and relax.



GARDENING GURU

This half term, we have been delighted to work with Natasha from Food School Matters as part of the Young Marketeers Birmingham Programme. The programme gives pupils opportunities to develop real-life skills, from understanding where food comes from to preparing for running their own stall. Natasha, our expert gardener, has been working closely with the children to teach them how to grow and harvest their crops, and next half term she will support them further by sharing marketing tips on how to successfully sell their produce. We have certainly felt the pressure of keeping everything alive over half term, so a huge thank you goes to the site team and staff who have carefully tended to the plants—fingers crossed for a bumper crop!



FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS & ACTION PLAN

With our hall out of action, it has been difficult to host our usual family events so thank you to the families who joined us for a coffee morning so that we could co-produce our action plan to respond to the feedback from this year's family survey.

Brays School

Family Survey Highlights 2026

Executive Summary

- Parents and carers report **exceptionally** high levels of satisfaction across nearly all areas of the school.
- Families regularly praise Brays as a **warm, welcoming and family-like** environment, with staff who are caring, reliable and deeply committed to ensuring children receive the support they need.
- Five key areas for improvement focus will directly inform the school's action plan.

Key Quantitative Findings

- **99%** say their child is happy at Brays
- **94%** say their child feels safe
- **96%** say behaviour is well supported
- **97%** say their child receives the right support for learning.
- **99%** say the school is easy to contact

Strengths & Celebrations

- Welcoming, family-like atmosphere
- Trust and emotional safety
- Caring and responsive staff

Thank you to our families for taking part in the survey and sharing your feedback.



Key Areas for Improvement

- Strengthen communication about learning
- Expand family training offer
- Improve specialist support visibility
- Enhance parent events and accessibility
- Long term work to improve infrastructure

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

On the 16th April we were selected by The Local Authority to host a delegation of leaders from special schools in Brussels. It could be the start of an international partnership.



SUCCESS FOR BRAYS & YESFEST AT THE SMILEY CHARITY AWARDS

Harun and Faizan, former pupils at Brays were part of YESFest's winning film at this year's Smiley Charity Awards. You can take a look at the video 'All Together Now for Planet Earth' here... [YESfest - All Together Now - For Planet Earth](#)



MUSLIM TEACHER AWARDS

On 25th April, a group of staff took a road trip to London to celebrate a truly special achievement—our very own Assistant Head, Farzana Chowdhury, reaching the finals of the Muslim Teacher Awards, hosted by the NIDA Trust. Farzana was recognised in the Senior Leader category, achieving an incredible third place nationally. While we have always known how exceptional she is, it was fantastic to see her dedication, leadership and impact celebrated on such a significant stage.

Events like the Muslim Teacher Awards are so important. They shine a light on the outstanding contributions of educators who serve as powerful role models within their schools and wider communities. Representation matters—our children benefit from seeing talented, committed professionals from a wide range of backgrounds being celebrated and recognised.



SPOTLIGHT ON SECONDARY

Supporting our wonderful families through the move to secondary school is a huge part of what we do. As a primary SEND school, we work closely with parents to explore suitable secondary options, attend meetings together, and run helpful workshops to make the process clearer and less daunting.

And the support doesn't stop there! Once schools are allocated, we also help families apply for travel assistance and specialist transport, making sure every child can start their next adventure smoothly and safely.

We absolutely love celebrating the good news with our families. One proud parent shared the following message with us:

"Aslamo-Alakium I wanted to share my good news. Ismail got his award letter, and transport has been accepted. Allhumdulillah jazak Allah for all your efforts. May Allah SWT bless you with health and happiness. Ameen".

Early in Autumn Term Rubina will be hosting a secondary transition event for all current Y5 families (currently only 5 of you).

FAMILY SUPPORT – FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES

Through out support for families and their individual needs we wanted to share the names and links for a few charities that families may wish to explore for financial assistance to support their child. There are many organisations, lots of which feature on the WellChild website [Grants for families | WellChild](#)

Children Today - [Children Today | Apply now](#)

Newlife - <https://newlifecharity.co.uk/equipment/>

Variety - <https://varietychildrenscharity.my.site.com/forms/s/individual-grant-eligibility-check>



THANK A TEACHER DAY

National Thank a Teacher Day is fast approaching on Wednesday 17th June!

Why not show your appreciation with a free, personalised limited-edition e-card? Simply visit the [Thank a Teacher website](#) to send one for free.

DIVERSITY DAY

On 27th May, we celebrated Diversity Day, led brilliantly by our very own Miss Nat. The creativity and energy shown by staff was simply incredible. All pupils were given a "passport" and had the opportunity to travel around the world, visiting different continents and immersing themselves in a range of cultural experiences. From listening to music and tasting food to expressing their learning through art, the day was full of rich and memorable moments. While the event itself was a wonderful celebration, it is important to emphasise that diversity at Brays is not a one-off or tokenistic experience – it is woven throughout our curriculum. Our children benefit from meaningful exposure to a wide range of cultures through their lessons, books and visits, ensuring they develop an understanding and appreciation of the diverse world around them.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1st June – Children return to school
- 2nd June – Gardening Gurus for Cheetah and Cats
- 5th June – INSET Staff Training School closes at 1pm
- 8th – 10th June – PMLD residential to The Wingate Centre
- 11th June – Gardening Guru Market Training for Cheetah
- 15th – 16th June – Primary School Enterprise Challenge National Finals
- 15th June – Train Workshop (am)
- 15th June - INSET Staff Training School closes at 1pm
- 17th June – Thank a Teacher Day
- 22nd June – Local Academy Council Meeting
- 26th June – Gardening Guru Cooking Session for Cheetah and Cats
- 26th June – Chicken's 2nd Birthday
- 30th June - Sounds of Summer at Birmingham MAC
- 1st July – Secondary Transition Day, current Y6 pupils visit their secondary schools
- 3rd July – Trust Pupil Celebration (am) at The Heights School
- 8th July – Y6 Leaver's Prom After School – Time TBC
- 9th July - Bullring Farmer's Market
- 17th July – Children break up from school

TERM DATES 2026 TO 2027 -

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Term starts: Tuesday 1 September 2026

Half-term: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026

Term ends: Friday 18 December 2026

INSET – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS:

Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September 2026

Half day INSETS – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS FROM 1:00PM

Tuesday 22nd September 2026

Wednesday 25 November 2026

SPRING TERM 2027

Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027

Half-term: Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027

Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

INSET – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS:

Mon 4 January

Monday 11 January 2027

Half day INSETS – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS FROM 1:00PM

Thursday 4 February

Tuesday 16 March

SUMMER TERM 2027

Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027

Half-term: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027

Term ends: Wednesday 21 July 2027

INSET – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS:

Tuesday 4 May 2027

Half day INSETS – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS FROM 1:00PM

Thursday 1 July 2027



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.

