

From tiny acorns, mighty oak trees grow, watered, and nurtured by God's love .

# Braywood Newsletter



Let's hope that 2024 brings happiness and good health to all our families!



Aspire, Learn, Achieve *together*

## What is happening this term?

- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan Family Assembly
- 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> February **HALF TERM**
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb Parent/Teacher/Pupil Consultations
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March Literacy Day
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March Maths Day & Red Nose Day
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Entrepreneurial Day & KS1 Dance Show
- 29<sup>th</sup> March to 15<sup>th</sup> April **EASTER HOLIDAYS**

## Celebrating 165+ years of Braywood

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June from 6.30pm

Braywood is celebrating this special event a little later than expected by having another one of our fabulous evening events under a marquee in the school grounds. We will have dancing all evening, a spectacular selection of hog roasts and time to reminisce on the history of our school. These events in the past have been a huge success so please put the date in your diary.

JULY, 1957

### History in the log books

## RELIGION AND THE THREE Rs

ONE hundred years ago, most of the poorer folk of Bray and Braywood could neither read nor write. Like the good Church of England folk that they were, the parishioners of Bray (which then included Braywood) decided that something must be done about it and they began to build a school.

This year, the school—still standing on its original site and still using the original building and extensions added during the years—celebrates its centenary.

Little church schools like Braywood's were the pioneers of the vast state system of education that we have today.

By the time the school was built, the fight against the prejudice of those people who thought the "lower classes" should be kept illiterate had been partly won. Braywood's battle was to be one against the ignorance of the working people themselves, against poverty and sickness.

#### **Worship and lessons**

When the building was planned, the aim was to build a schoolroom with a teacher's residence, which could be adapted for public worship and administration of the Sacraments.



## PLEASE NOTE

We will soon have a Facebook page and are tweeting and posting on Instagram. *Press on the icon to see the site!!*





# What has been happening in school?

Curriculum, teaching and learning achievements.

## Visit from SIAMS and Ofsted

As you are all aware, last term was very busy with official visitors. Having 6 days between both inspections and so near to Christmas was a challenge, but we have ended up with two very positive reports.

Everyone has received the final SIAMS report, and the final Ofsted Report will be circulated alongside this newsletter.

## Extending the Curriculum

Studying the Egyptians and Romans is always great fun and the trip to Ufton Court was really enjoyed by all. Similarly, being time detectives and studying the past will be completed by the younger children's trip to Milestones.

We were lucky enough to meet the Mayor last term which was fascinating. Thank you to Astrid's mum who made this possible.

## Christmas

Above are a small selection of pictures from Christmas at Braywood. There are pictures of the Christingle, the Christmas lunch and the concert where the Year 4 children sang to adults in Longlea Nursing home.

It was great to see so many of our parents in church as numbers had dropped last year. Thank you!

## PTA update

Happy New Year from the PTA!

We just wanted to thank each and every person who helped to support our Christmas Fayre in December - all the volunteers, those who donated prizes, bought raffle tickets and everyone who came along! It was a great success, and we raised an amazing £1808.00 for the school.

The next event will be the Valentine's Day Cake sale on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 3pm, so please bring any donations to the school playground in the morning.



We have lots of ideas for 2024 and the next PTA meeting will be at

**2:15pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.**

We understand that it's not always easy to commit to meetings and events, particularly during the working week, but any input at all is always very appreciated.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Claire Smith

(pta@braywoodfirstschool.co.uk)



### **Booster Classes**

These sessions have started on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 8am. Please do not park in the staff car park as it is dangerous.

### **Year 1 & 2 visiting Milestones Museum**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

These year groups are visiting this museum to support their topic on toys & Time Detectives - past and present.

### **KS2 visiting the Gurdwara and Eton College**

There are plans for the Year 3 and 4 pupils to attend the local Gurdwara as part of their RE topic work. There are also plans for the KS2 children to go to Eton College to discover more about Egyptians and life in Victorian times.

### **Parent/teacher/pupil consultations on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

This is a perfect opportunity to find out more what is happening in your child's classroom.

The older children (Y2, 3 & 4) attend the meeting with their parents and Year 4 share a learning presentation. There will be appointments all through the day and will run from 9am to roughly 3pm.

# Events coming up soon!

## Breaking News

**Don't forget to collect any raffle prizes from the office!!**

**Please remember not to leave small children/babies in the car when you are in school!!**

These sessions are assigned through our eschools communication tool. Appointments can be booked from 7<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm and the portal closes on 19<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm.

### **Little City Workshop for Early Years**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February**

This visit looks fabulous and is aimed at our nursery and foundation children. This company brings a range of play equipment revolving around vocations.

The nursery session is 9-10am and the EYFS is 10.10-11.10am. All nursery children can attend.

### **Literacy Day- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

This day coincides with World Book Day. This year the theme is 'writing a story to share with other children' On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Simon Murray (Author) will be leading a session on writing.

The children can come to school dressed as their favorite literary character and can bring their favourite book into school. They will be allowed to swap their books at the end of the day so please let your child know whether they are allowed to do this.

Year 3 and 4 we be sharing a story with the younger children and all children will receive a £1 book token on this day.

### **Curriculum session on Phonics**

At the end of this day there will be a curriculum session at 2.15 pm in the Church House for Nursery, Foundation and Year 1 regarding early phonics and reading.

### **Mathematics Day - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

On this day we will be focusing on money. We will be having sessions with HSBC Bank to support the work we already do on the children's understanding of financial matters

It is also **Red Nose Day!**

We are asking on this day that your child comes into school dressed in something red and brings in £1. We hope to raise some money for this important event.

### **Curriculum Session on Maths**

There is a second curriculum session at 2.15 pm in the Church House for Year 2, 3 and 4. This will cover the various strategies used to help your child understand more about the craft of manipulating number and learning their times tables.

**Entrepreneurial Day – Friday**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> March**

The aim of this day is to open the children's horizons to different careers. In the morning children will visit specific workshops, hopefully led by our parents.

**We are very grateful to our parent volunteers for giving up their time. Please let the office know if you can help!**

**KS1 Dance Show**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at**  
**2.15pm**

As a finale to entrepreneurial day, we will be performing some dance routines to our parents. The Y1 and Y2 performance will be choreographed by our older children.

**Trim trail**

**Please remember no trim trail whilst the weather is so wet**

**Easter Service**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Usually, we attend Church on this day, but this year we are performing our concert in the Church House at 9am & 2.15pm.

On this day all the children in Year 1, 2, 3, 4 and Foundation will be performing for their parents.

**May Fun Run**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm**

This is an enjoyable sponsored event at the Braywood Cricket Ground on the day we break up for half term.

The children run 1 mile around the cricket groups which is approximately 4 laps and friends, grandparents or work colleagues can sponsor the children. The teachers walk the children down for 1pm and afterwards there are refreshments organised by the PTA. **The Nursery will not be attending and will need collecting by 2pm**

**Holidays and lateness**

There is a government initiative stressing the importance of children being in school every day. This is so important.

National school attendance has dropped especially after Covid. The expected level of attendance should be 95% and above. These absences are monitored by the Government

As a focus, the office will send out a leaflet to every family where their child's attendance is less than 95% for your information. For your convenience this can also be monitored through eschools.

**END OF EASTER TERM**  
**School closes on Thursday**  
**28<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm.**  
**There is no after school club on this day.**  
**We open again on Tuesday**  
**16<sup>th</sup> April at the usual time.**

# Our Acorn Nursery Update

*Children can come to our Nursery from the age of 3 years for morning or afternoon session*

*"A friend is someone who helps you up when you're down, and if they can't, they would lay down beside you and listen"* Winnie the Pooh

As you are all aware our Nursery has now been open for over a year and is going from strength to strength.

The curriculum in our Nursery supports and enriches the Foundation Stage and children who move from our Nursery to Reception will be very well prepared for this next stage.



**There are places for September!**

To share all the children's learning experiences, we are using the Tapestry Online Platform. This outlines the children's development with photographs of their day. If you have any questions, do please ask.

To ensure parents are fully informed we are introducing progress meetings on Mondays and Fridays after school. You will be invited to attend by the Nursery staff.

Parent will also receive a small learning book where the Nursery children will be focusing on a number or a letter per week to help them with this core knowledge.





Monday	Gymnastics	3.15-4.15pm
	Wilderness & Wonder	3.15-4.30pm
Tuesday	Playball	3.15-4.15pm
	Creative Art	3.15-4.15pm
Wednesday	No Clubs at present	
Thursday	Fencing	3.15- 4.15pm
	Sewing	
Friday	Boys & Girls Football	3.15- 4.15pm

*Please remember that these clubs are responsible for the club including the fees, correspondence, and safety of your child.*

## Braywood Extra and Nursery

Reminders of our extended school facilities. More information can be found on our website under school.

Acorn Nursery – Pre-school	Breakfast Club ‘Early Birds’	Kiss and Drop	Grab and Go	After School Club ‘The Squirrels’
Runs from 8.45am to 3.15pm £45.50 a day with Government credits accepted	Runs from 7.45am to when your child starts school with a hearty breakfast £4.50/£4.00	Runs from 8.15am to the start of the school day £1 per family	Runs from the end of the school day for 20 minutes. £1 per family	Runs from the end of the school day to 5.30pm with a warm cooked meal. £2.50/£5.50/£12



Kind Regards

**Susan Calvert**  
*Theme – Friends and Family*

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