

# Braywick Court School Newsletter

*Nurturing confident, independent learners with a passion to succeed*

ISSUE 2 • OCTOBER 2026



## Mrs Robertson's News

### Happy Half Term!

As we approach the end of our first half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a remarkably strong start to the academic year. The school has been buzzing with purposeful learning and activity, and I am proud of how quickly our pupils have settled into their routines with curiosity and enthusiasm.

We have had some notable achievements to celebrate over the past few weeks. Firstly, we were thrilled to receive official OPAL accreditation this month, achieving Platinum status. This places Braywick Court School in the top 1% of schools nationally for the quality of outdoor play we offer.

We are delighted to have rejoined the Ascot & Maidenhead School Sports Partnership this academic year. Our pupils have already been out and about representing the school, taking part in events, building their enthusiasm for sport and helping to keep active and healthy.

Pupil leadership has been a major focus this month, with pupils taking on key responsibilities across the school. We have already appointed our new House Captains, School Ambassadors, and Play Leaders. Applications are currently open for our new Subject Leaders and Pupil Parliament MPs, and it is wonderful to see our children so genuinely invested in the life and work of our school.

In the classroom, our staff team continues to work hard on developing and refining our curriculum. The introduction of new curriculums for RE, PSHE, and Finance is further strengthening the education we offer and making sure that our teaching is relevant to the world the children are growing up in. Over the past few weeks, it has been a delight to talk with the children about their learning. They speak with such confidence, pride, and understanding. I am also immensely proud of the progress we have made on our school vision and values following input from staff, pupils, and parents.

There is so much to be proud of from this first half term, and both staff and pupils are well-prepared for a well-earned break. I hope the children enjoy the PTA Halloween Disco on Friday evening, what a great end-of-term celebration!

Lots of updates in this October issue, do enjoy reading what we have been up to.

Have a great half term!

**If you want to get in touch or have any questions please email the office:**

**[office@braywickcourtschool.org.uk](mailto:office@braywickcourtschool.org.uk)**

[Visit our website: www.braywickcourtschool.co.uk](http://www.braywickcourtschool.co.uk)



### Current House Points

| Hawks | Kites | Falcons | Eagles |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| 2682  | 2539  | 2188    | 2389   |

### Dates for the Diary

| November      |                                        |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|
| Mon 2nd       | Inset Day -<br>SCHOOL CLOSED           |
| Wed 4th       | Birch Class Parent<br>Consultations    |
| Thurs 5th     | Holly Class<br>Swimming Starts         |
| Sun 8th       | Bray Remembrance<br>Service            |
| Mon 23rd      | UK Parliament Week                     |
| Tues 24th     | Open Evening for<br>2027 Entry (6-7pm) |
| Thurs<br>26th | Joshua Reynolds MP<br>Visit            |
| Fri 27th      | Key Stage 2<br>Athletics Competition   |
|               |                                        |

| December               |                                                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 2nd                | Year 2 Health Screening                               |
| Fri 4th                | PTA Christmas Fair<br>(2:30-4:30pm)                   |
| Fri 11th               | Birch Class trip to<br>Norden Farm<br>PTA Elfridges   |
| Mon 14th               | Key Stage 2 Carol<br>Concert @ Bray Church<br>(2-3pm) |
| Wed 16th               | EYFS & Key Stage 1<br>Nativity                        |
| Fri 18th               | End of Term                                           |
| January                |                                                       |
| Mon 4th                | Inset Day -<br>SCHOOL CLOSED                          |
| Tues 5th               | School Reopens -<br>Spring Term Begins                |
| Thurs 7th<br>& Fri 8th | Sequoia Class<br>Residential                          |



### Walnut Class *Preschool*

#### October Highlights

The children have had a wonderful time exploring a variety of exciting topics!

**Autumn:** The children enjoyed exploring natural materials such as leaves, sticks and pine cones to create beautiful marks in different coloured paints.

**'National day of Spain':** They made Spanish fans using paper plates and different red and yellow sticking resources. It was a lovely day celebrating Spanish culture!

**On the farm:** The children took on the role of farmers, caring for animals that live on the farm. They enjoyed using their imagination to act out life on the farm.

**Room on the Broom:** The children have been busy creating a variety of Halloween and witch-themed playdough models and have enjoyed retelling the main parts of the story.



### Birch Class *Reception*

**October Highlights** Birch Class have been very busy. They have been creating wonderful self-portraits, sharing special family photos and talking proudly about the important people in their lives. Alongside this, the children have been working hard to develop their phonics and maths skills, showing great enthusiasm and making fantastic progress. well done, Birch Class!

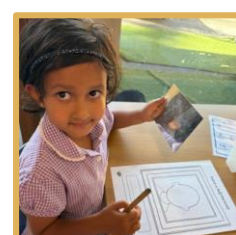




### Maple Class *Year 1*

#### October Highlights

Wow was a busy October we have had in Maple Class! We made the most of the glorious weather and spent lots of time outside for our Green Schools and Science lessons. We have loved learning all about puffins! The book Puffin Peter proved to be a wonderful writing stimulus for Maple Class and the work they have produced from it is incredible!



### Hazel Class *Year 2*

#### October Highlights

We have had a very busy October in Hazel Class! We have finished studying the Bog Baby and produced two beautiful pieces of writing - character descriptions and instructions. In Maths, we have been working on addition and subtraction, using a variety of methods to support us with this. In class, we have absolutely loved reading Matilda by Roald Dahl. We have also begun pre cursive handwriting - I am so impressed by the pride that the children are taking in their handwriting and the focus that they are putting on their work. Well done Hazel Class!





### Beech Class Year 3

#### October Highlights

This month we have been the best readers, writers and artists whilst finishing our 'The Tin Forest' book. We planned a new version of the story, changing the setting, and then wrote the most amazing stories. Our stamina for writing was impressive and we are so proud of them. They inspired some wonderful collage art depicting the plastic wasteland at the start of our stories and the forest at the end.



### Sequoia Class Year 4

#### October Highlights

Sequoia has had a great second month in Year 4! We have investigated our local area to identify, group and classify invertebrates, vertebrates and different types of plants. We have written exciting news reports, created compositions with body percussions, designed games and created very detailed artwork in the style of Stephen Wiltshire! It's been a busy month full of learning and sport. Next up is Varjak Paw and the festive season next term.





### Holly Class Year 5

#### October Highlights

Holly Class have thrown themselves into every challenge this month, demonstrating fantastic creativity, scientific curiosity, and practical life skills.

Here are some of the highlights of what we have been getting to grips with over the last few weeks:

**Bringing Literacy to Life:** Inspired by our class reading book, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*, we have held our own parliament in the classroom debating the motion of Unaccompanied Child Refugees.

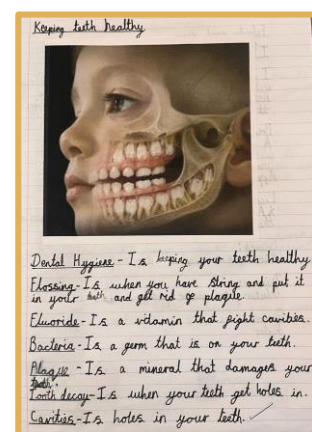
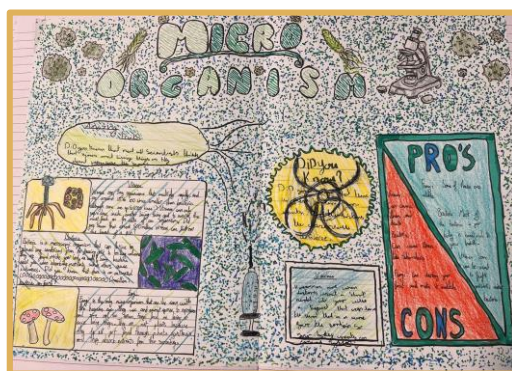
**Ready, Steady, Launch!** In science, we have had hands-on investigation, designing parachutes, testing objects in water and air using fair testing to measure the effects of air, water resistance and gravity.



**Music:** inspired by the outdoors: Holly Class have composed simple musical compositions involving drone, chords and a melody incorporating dynamics and thick and thin textures.

### Ash Class Year 6

#### October Highlights



The children have achieved so much this half term working with enthusiasm and positivity in all subjects. We have completed our class novel and written some super balanced arguments, persuasive letters and explored precepts. Teamwork was a highlight in science - working together to produce information presentations and posters all about microorganisms. In maths we tackled problems in division and multiplication. Our PSHE focus has been all about creating a healthy future for ourselves.



## Remembrance Service

The Bray Remembrance Sunday service takes place on the 2nd Sunday in November, so this year it will be on **Sunday 8th November**. There is a service in St Michael's church followed by a procession through the village and a service at the War Memorial.

We are honored to take part, ensuring that as a school we pay our respects to those from the local area who gave their lives. Every year our pupils lay a wreath on the War Memorial on behalf of the school.

Children would be very welcome to attend, and we ask that they wear smart school uniform if they are taking part in the procession and remembrance service.

If you are attending Church you will need to be in Church between **10.30am** and **10.45am**.

If you are attending the Bray War Memorial Observance only, that will take place following the Church Service at approximately 11.30am.

**Please let the office know if you are planning to attend so that Mrs Robertson can choose the pupils who will carry and lay the wreath.**

## Sports Corner

Wow what a busy month, P.E lessons have experienced all four seasons already!

We will start with our Year 3 and 4 Football teams who competed hard in the BPET Football tournament. Well done to Neve, Delia, Ava, Grace, Poppy, Freya, Marley, Maiya, Jiya and Emily for the girls team who finished 2nd!

Well done to the boys team who fought hard - Hordii, Abdullah, Taarush, Leon, Barnaby, Musa, Jacob, Enea and Ettore.

The girls Netball team have also been in action, the girls have worked really hard during squad training to get used to the rules and develop their skills. A lot of the team taking part in their first matches ever, well done girls!

Finally well done to Charlotte, Roman, Cameron, Chloe B and Samuel for taking part in the "Try it" festival, they represented Braywick amazingly!

We have more football and Netball league matches in November, so our busy schedule will continue!





## OPAL News



We are very excited to share the news that we received the **PLATINUM** award for our OPAL playtimes. We had a fantastic OPAL awards ceremony two weeks ago in which we were awarded our certificate and reflected back on our OPAL journey.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to our OPAL working party team, Mrs Robertson, Miss Tor and Miss Feely and our wider staff team for all of their help and support with making our playtimes amazing.

To our OPAL governor Mandeep and OPAL parent representative Fiona for all of their support, enthusiasm and drive to the cause - we really couldn't have done it without you! I also want to thank our amazing families and children for all of your help with donations, time and money (most of which was spent on cake!).

Your dedication to this project has not gone unnoticed and I thank you for putting up with my constant emailing for new donations as well as all the sand that has been brought home!

I'm very proud of our achievement and this is only the beginning!

From Mrs Reading



**Meet our brand new Play Leaders!**





## PTA News

### TL;DR

**Christmas Fair:** afternoon of Friday 4 December. Please save the date! There'll be no clubs or walking bus, and children must be accompanied by an adult to attend the Fair.

**Elfridges:** Friday 11 December. Please pop this date in your calendars too!

**Swimarathon:** Sunday 10 January. Live a little, KS2, and pop a third date in your calendars!

**Copas turkeys:** if you're buying a Copas turkey or two for Christmas this year, please use the code **BCS26**.

**PTA wishlist:** as ever, we'd be enormously grateful for any donations: [PTA wishlist](#)

### Updates to share!

#### Halloween School Disco

We hope the kids have the best time tonight!

#### Christmas Fair donations

As ever, we really need your (and your relatives', neighbours' etc) donations, please! We'll collect these at drop-off on Fridays leading up to the Fair. First collection:

**Friday 6 November.**

We'd love:

- Toys
- Teddies
- Books
- Small prizes (McDonald's toys, party bag bits etc)
- Sweets (purge your house of Halloween leftovers!)
- Fancy dress and Christmas jumpers
- Small gift bags (for Elfridges)
- Bottles, candles, smellies for grown-ups

Plus, our "Lucky Christmas Tree" is back! If you know anyone who could donate a prize, please let us know via your class rep or email

[braywickpta@braywickcourtschool.org.uk](mailto:braywickpta@braywickcourtschool.org.uk)

#### Copas turkeys

If you're buying a Copas turkey or two for Christmas this year, please use the code **BCS26**.

Copas will donate 5% of each order that uses this code to the PTA.

### Christmas!

#### Christmas Hampers

If you can believe it, it's time to start thinking about your class's fabulous Christmas hampers, please! These will be raffled, and prizes awarded at the Christmas Fair.

The allocation of themes this year is as follows:

- **Birch** Confectionery
- **Maple** Wine and cheese
- **Hazel** Perfect night in
- **Beech** Pamper and self-care
- **Sequoia** Afternoon tea
- **Holly** Board games and gaming
- **Ash** Arts and crafts
- **Staff** Home baking

Hampers should be brought to school at drop-off on the morning of the Fair, with photos sent to class reps one week in advance.

#### Elfridges - Friday 11th December

During the school day, your little 'uns will be able to buy their loved ones a small something for Christmas. Cash and leftover Christmas Fair tokens will be accepted.

#### PTA wishlist

To put the cherry on the icing on the cake of our Platinum OPAL award, our updated PTA wishlist, which currently targets OPAL and our new gardening club, has a distinctly whimsical theme! As ever, we'd be enormously grateful for any donations:

[PTA wishlist](#)



## Numbots & Times Table Rockstars

Friday 16th October Winners - For Most Correct Answers

Year 1: Avni



Year 2: Harry

Year 3: Brodie



Year 4: Jiya



## The Braywick Way

Thank you to everyone who shared their views about our school values. The collaboration between staff, pupils and parents made sure that every voice was heard and that our new school values are owned by everyone within the BCS community. This week we had a whole school assembly where we started to think about how these values can help us every day in school.





### Children's Parliament

On Thursday 15th October, we went on a trip to the Houses of Parliament to take part in a national debate about disabilities in schools.

At 9 AM we met Mrs Robertson and Mrs Dembowicz and then caught the train to Westminster. When we arrived, we went to Victoria Gardens for an introductory ceremony where we were given our T-shirts and bags.

We then walked into the main entrance where we stood in a very long queue to get through security. When we got there we were given our Parliament Visitor badges. After this, we entered the debate room. Lord Forsyth (The speaker of the House of Lords) came in to explain how parliament worked.

When we wanted to speak, we did something called bobbing. The way we did this was that every time someone wanted to speak you stood up and someone was selected. Everyone else sat down to listen and when they were finished we all stood up again. We were both given a chance to speak in front of the Children's Parliament.

We had a very long, but fun day and have just launched a new leadership position in the school in an assembly that we led, the Pupil Parliament. This will replace our school council and bring some more changes for the better to our school.

Written By,

**Joe Simms & Amika Manchanda**

*(Prime Ministers for Braywick Court School Pupil Parliament)*

Children's

Parliament





## Parliamentary Speeches

We are delighted to share the inspirational speeches that Joe and Amika gave in the Houses of Parliament during the Children's Parliament debate.

### Speech by Amika

"I'd like everyone here to imagine something. Imagine trying to concentrate while the room around you feels far too loud. Imagine knowing the answer, but the class moves on before you've had time to say it. Imagine needing help just to get to your next lesson.

For some children with disabilities, that is an ordinary school day. The good news is that it doesn't take huge changes to help.

A quiet space. A little extra time. A clear route around school. Small changes like these can make a big difference to how a child feels and learns.

But the people who know best what would help are the children themselves. That's why I think every teacher should ask one question: 'What things would help you learn?' And when children answer, schools must really listen, and then do something about it. Sir David Amess spent his life making sure people were heard.

I believe that should start in our classrooms. So my message today is simple.

Children with disabilities don't need someone to speak for them.

They need someone to listen. Because every child's voice matters."

— Amika

### Speech by Joe

"I feel that children with disabilities are often not fully understood.

This matters because children cannot be heard and cannot speak out if they cannot be understood meaning that many things can be much more difficult for them and with a disability life is difficult enough already.

For example, a child with a speech and language need might need to tell a teacher that someone is doing something potentially unsafe or against the school rules, if a teacher cannot understand them, the child will become potentially annoyed and the teacher will still not be any the wiser.

Every child deserves to be heard so I feel that all children that need it and all the teachers should be taught different types of communication, like sign language - just like we do at Braywick Court School. This helps because all children with speech disabilities can still give their message and be heard."

— Joe

## Create Art & Design

Half term is the perfect time to work on your entry for the Art Competition!

**ART  
Competition**

To celebrate The National Year of Reading, we would like you to create a 3D scene from a book. For bonus house points, rewrite the scene in your own words. Entries will be displayed around school.

**Prizes to be won!**  
Closing date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2026  
20 house points per entry  
Bonus house points for written entries

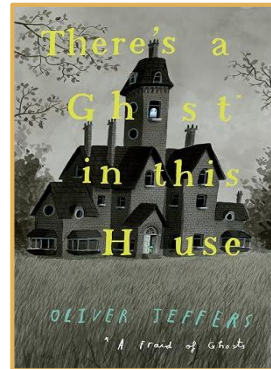
### Early Years



#### We're Going on a Ghost Hunt

by Martha Mumford

### Key Stage 1



#### There's a Ghost in this House

by Oliver Jeffers

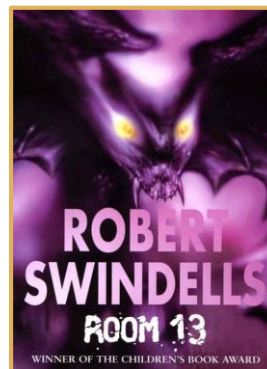
### Lower Key Stage 2



#### The Haunting of Aveline Jones

by Phil Hickes

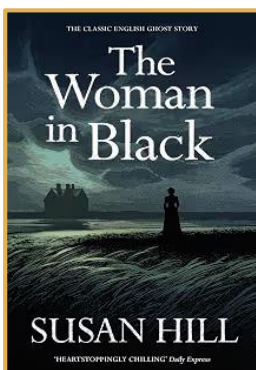
### Upper Key Stage 2



#### Room 13

by Robert Swindells

### Adults



#### The Woman in Black

by Susan Hill

### Staff Pick



#### Funnybones

by Janet & Allan Ahlberg

**Recommended for**  
**EYFS & KS1**  
by Mrs Robertson