

# Braywood Newsletter



Happy New Year to everyone!

January 2017



## What is happening January?

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Morning at 9.45am
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm in the Church House
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	PTA Meeting at 8pm Jolly Gardener
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Road Safety Workshop Y4
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Family Assembly 9.00am

## Parent Consultations

Next month we have our annual parent consultation on the dates below. Work has started now as the children are preparing for this event by discussing their targets with their teachers. Year 4, 3 and 2 children attend the sessions and contribute to the discussion whilst with Year 1 and Foundation only the parents attend

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February** **Year 2, 3 and 4**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** **Year 1 and Foundation**

The booking system will open on eschools on

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Please remember to regularly check your eschools platform.



## Please note

You can always log onto our website to find out more information through the link [http://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk/website/how\\_can\\_i\\_help\\_my\\_child\\_/36218](http://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk/website/how_can_i_help_my_child_/36218)



# What happened last month?

## Some of the trips and visitors we have over December

### Christmas

As you can see from the photographs we had a very exciting and action packed Christmas.

The Christmas Fair was a real success and well attended. It was extremely well organized and raised £3,368 which is quite amazing. We will be purchasing 10 standalone computers, additional toys for playtime and teaching resources for staff.

Father Christmas came and visited our school on a Harley Davidson which was a real thrill. He spoke to all the children and they received a gift. This was a real treat!

We shared a traditional Christingle Service led by Reverend Louise Brown when the children were all in their Christmas jumpers. This is one of the teachers' favourite events of the year.

The Christmas Concert was brilliant and the whole school sang beautifully. The Year 4 children did really well to remember all their words and the presented the Nativity with great confidence.

The only shadow on this occasion was the parking as some cars were damaged on the main road and a teacher's car was hit in the car park.

## What's happening in our Squirrel Club?

### New Menu

The after school team are always careful to check their menus against the lunches we provide at school to ensure a healthy and varied diet. At present we offering a roast dinner on Tuesdays and the rest of the days there is a rolling 3 week menu offering

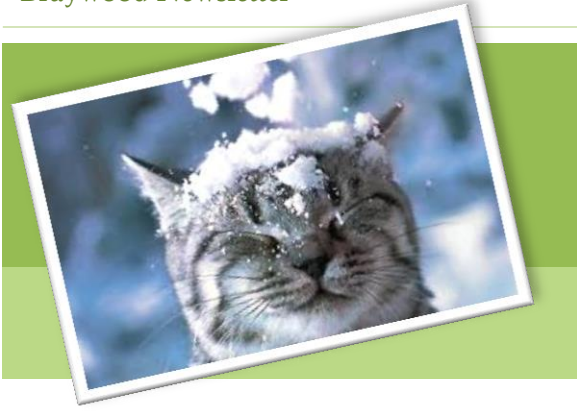
pasta, pizza, sausages, Spanish chicken, fish fingers, meat balls or burgers. Chips or waffles are served once a week and all meals are accompanied by salad or vegetables. Each meal is different for these three weeks and are popular choices for the children.



### Late Collection

If you collect your child after 5.30pm there is a £3 charge for every 15 minutes.

An emergency telephone number 07545881264 is available if you do not get a response from school.



### **Closure of the School due to Snow**

As a policy we try not to close the school if at all possible. We have been forecast snow over the next few days so for your information if the snow is very deep and it is too dangerous to travel or the staff are unable to get into school or the school facilities are not adequate i.e. heating, water, meals we will regrettably have to close the school.

If we do close the school you will be informed through the VLE and eschools (although this can be slow due to excessive demand) and it will be posted on the front page of the website.

Information will also be posted on the RBWM website and on Radio Berkshire.

### **Booster Dates**

We are very fortunate that our teachers give up their time to staff after school to provide additional classes.

All booster classes will start this week and finish at the end of this half term.

## Events and news for this month

We hope that as many of you as possible can join us for our Family Assembly on

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 9am**

We will be talking about Internet Safety, launching our new website and saying 'goodbye' to Julie Gaskin. She has been a wonderful TA at Braywood for over 12 years and will be sadly missed. The school will be collecting for a gift so any contributions will be gratefully received.

### **Lunches**

Fish and Chips lunch is changing from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January for administration reasons.

### **Parking**

Unfortunately someone has reversed into one of our benches in front of the Church House. Although we do not think that it was a parent please do not use this area to do 3-point turns as it is very dangerous

### **Happy Bags**

Everyone should have a 'happy bag' to collect you unwanted clothes, household linens and shoes. These will be collected on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January outside the Church House in the morning.

### **Head lice**

We have head lice in school at the moments. Please check your child's hair.

### **Collection of hats and gloves**

Last term Lauren Hall said a huge thank you to all the parents who donated hats and gloves to children in Syria. They were sent via One Nation Charity and distributed to areas that need it most Aleppo, Idlib and refugee camps in Syria.



We will be running a series of curriculum sessions on reading, phonics, writing and mathematics running up to parents' evening. Watch out for dates!



## Continued

### Sickness

Please remember that if your child has had sickness or diarrhea they should not return back to school for 24 hours.



Please don't forget to use the easy fundraising site when you are buying any goods as the school will benefit.

The link is on our homepage.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/?v=a>

### Termly Payment

We are slowly receiving your contributions towards your child's extra-curricular activities however there is a

third of payments still outstanding. As we know our parents are incredibly supportive we will be writing to inform you over the next few weeks if you have not paid this contribution. If you want to check just ask at the office or email us.

This termly payment pays for trips, visitors and travel costs to ensure that we can provide a varied and rich extracurricular provision.

We do ensure that we use the £15 per term for each child carefully always with a view to value for money. For every £45 parents contribute the school adds approximately £30 per child.

If this is not a convenient way to collect your voluntary contributions we may revert back to paying for individual trips but we will consult with our parents before we make that decision.

### Farm Visit

The Early Years pupils are studying a Farm Topic this term and started this work with a visit from a local farm. The whole school was very excited about this as they got to see the animals at break time. The younger children had a 30 minute session holding, feeding and learning more about the animals.

This is an example of a visit to school. This cost to the school was £420 and the termly contribution of the Foundation class is £450 for the whole year. This experience is nevertheless really valuable for the children as they embark on their Farm topic.

PLEASE REMEMBER NO TRIM TRAIL AFTER SCHOOL.

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## Attendance

As you know Headteachers are no longer permitted to grant leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. This is a procedure directed by the Government and monitored through the Educational Welfare Office who checks our registers. The EWO needs to know why each child is not in school so

it is very important that as a school we maintain our records. Any request for absence needs a form which can be obtained from the office or can be obtained from the school website

[http://braywood-cc.eschools.co.uk/website/useful\\_forms/245549](http://braywood-cc.eschools.co.uk/website/useful_forms/245549)

At family assembly we gave out all the awards for 100% attendance through 2015-16.

**The class with the overall best record for attendance last year is Year 4 and they are allowed to come in wearing home clothes.**



## Art Classes

Bill Collier (school governor) is starting classes at the Braywood Memorial Hall on Mondays from 10.00am until 12 noon.



## SAVE THE DATE

Summer Ball  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

### **Black and White Summer Ball 2017**

We are working towards celebrating 160 years since Braywood opened with a fantastic Summer Ball in our beautiful grounds. Anyone with any links to musicians or hiring crockery please contact the office.

## **Reading Skills**

Reading is such a key skill in school and without this skill children soon start to struggle and lose their confidence in lessons. Parents make a huge contribution towards their child's reading by hearing them read very night. This is such an important area in which every parent can make a difference for their child even when they are quite an accomplished reader.

Although there are many teaching initiatives used in the art of reading the two most important tools are phonics and reading comprehension.

Phonics is the skill by which we decode words and also construct words we need to spell. The government think this area is so important they have introduced a phonics test in Year 1 to ensure that all children are taught the fundamentals of all of the 44 sounds which build up our English language. We have found that the year we introduced the phonics test our reading did indeed improve even further in Year 2 so it is definitely worth investing in the time to ensure that your child knows all their sounds accurately and at speed.

The second skill, comprehension is of course fundamental because it not only helps a child to understand the text, but to predict words in the text which ultimately improves fluency and speed.

Surprisingly enough children can often read well but do not always understand what they have read.

For more information see [http://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk/website/help\\_your\\_child\\_to\\_read\\_/36258](http://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk/website/help_your_child_to_read_/36258)

## **What is happening in February 2017**

Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Kidzania
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	PTA Meeting at 8pm
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parent Consultations with teacher and your child for Year 2, 3 and 4 from 9am to 5pm
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parent Consultations with teacher for Year 1 and Foundation from 9am to 5pm
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term School closes on Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb at the usual time and starts again on Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb at 8.45am
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Spring (World Book Day) Disco Children will be required to come to school dressed as their favourite fictional character



## Clubs

Monday	Judo Years 1,2,3 & 4	3.15-4.15
	French Yr1,2,3 & 4	3.15-4.15
Wednesday	Chelsea Football	
	Foundation	2.45-3.15
	Years 1,2,3 & 4	3.15-4.15
	Ballet Years 1&2	3.15-4.00
	Ballet Years 3+	4.00-4.45
	Modern/Tap dance 2+	4.45-5.30
Thursday	Sewing Years 1-4	3.20-4.35
	Netball Years 3&4	3.15-4.15
Friday	No Club at presnet	

Clubs start w/c 16<sup>th</sup> January

## PTA Update

There is a PTA meeting on 18th January at the Jolly Gardener at 8pm

Thank you to all the parents who organized this Christmas Fair or who attended the fair. We raised an amazing £3,368.

Next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm.

Kind Regards

*Susan Calvert*



*Theme – New beginnings, ambition and determination*

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