

Braiswick Primary News

ISSUE 10

JUNE 2026

Head Teacher Area

June has certainly reminded us of the true spirit of resilience, bringing everything from torrential downpours to bursts of summer sunshine. Through it all, our school community has taken the changing weather in its stride. Whether reaching for waterproofs or seeking shade, our children and staff have embraced each day with positivity, adaptability, and plenty of smiles.

It has also been a month full of memorable experiences. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their inspiring visit to the opera, followed by a fascinating journey into the past through the Saffron Walden Egyptian experience. Across the school, children have embraced our OPAL approach with enthusiasm. It was wonderful to share this with families during our recent play afternoon, thanks to Mrs Clayton. The creativity on display has been incredible, from imaginative dens providing welcome shade to a homemade theme park complete with its own rollercoaster.

Alongside these exciting opportunities, we have experienced mixed emotions as our Year 6 pupils begin their transition visits to secondary school. It is a time of great pride as we see them grow into confident, capable young people, balanced with a touch of sadness as they prepare for the next stage of their journey beyond the Braiswick family.

We have also been delighted to welcome colleagues from other schools interested in our Writing for Pleasure approach. Sharing our practice and celebrating the children's enthusiasm for writing has been a wonderful opportunity and a reminder of the vibrant learning culture we continue to build together.

As we look ahead to our final month of the academic year, we are excited for the events still to come, including Performing Arts Day and the Year 6 production.

Stay cool, stay safe, and enjoy the weeks ahead!

FOBP Bag 2 School

Thank you for all the donations, we have raised 559kg which relates to approximately:

£251.55



As part of the Year 6 fundraising efforts, the school has recorded a special album which is now available to purchase on Bandcamp. The album features a selection of songs performed by the whole school, the school choir, The Braiswick Rockers, and Year 6 pupils.

The 8-track album is available via the link below for just £7.20 (inc £1.20 tax) Individual songs can also be downloaded for £1.20 (inc 20p tax) each — simply select the track(s) you would like to purchase and choose the option to buy individually.

If you would like to offer additional support, you are also welcome to donate more than the listed prices.

<https://braiswickprimaryschool.bandcamp.com/album/braiswick-primary-school-fund-raiser>



Beat The Street School Awards

On Friday 5th June, our top six Beat the Street participants had the exciting opportunity to attend a special awards ceremony as part of the Love Colchester celebrations.

The invitation was extended to our school after being recognised as one of the winning schools in the Beat the Street Colchester challenge. Throughout the competition, pupils and their families showed great enthusiasm by walking, cycling and scooting around the local area, collecting points and contributing to our school's success.

The awards ceremony celebrated the achievements of schools from across Colchester and highlighted the positive impact that Beat the Street has had in encouraging healthier lifestyles and increased physical activity within local communities. The children enjoyed being part of the event and hearing about the achievements of other participating schools.

We are incredibly proud of our top six pupils; Henry, Teddy, Kirsten, Collin, Ronni & Maggie, who demonstrated outstanding commitment and determination throughout the challenge. Their efforts helped secure our school's winning position and provided a fantastic example of perseverance and community spirit.

A huge thank you and congratulations go to all the pupils, families and staff who took part in Beat the Street. Your support and enthusiasm made the challenge a tremendous success and helped our school earn this wonderful recognition.

As part of the celebrations, we were honoured to welcome Dr Wali Noori, who delivered an inspiring speech about resilience, determination and achieving your goals.

During the awards ceremony, Dr Noori shared his remarkable life story, explaining how he lost his sight at the age of 20 after stepping on an explosive device in Afghanistan. Despite this life-changing event, he refused to let it prevent him from pursuing his ambitions.

Since then, Dr Noori has completed the London Marathon and won an incredible 21 medals for running and three medals for swimming. He spoke about how meeting Prince Harry inspired him to become involved in sport and challenge himself further.

Dr Noori is also the author of the autobiography *Running Blind*, which tells the story of his journey from adversity to becoming an elite athlete. The book shares the challenges he has overcome since losing his sight and the determination that has driven him to achieve success. Today, he lives in the UK with his wife and three children and continues to inspire others through his achievements and positive outlook on life.

One of the key messages from his talk was:

"Set the goal to reach the stars – if you try hard, you'll reach the moon."

His powerful story encouraged our pupils to persevere through challenges, believe in themselves and never give up on their dreams. We are extremely grateful to Dr Noori for sharing his experiences and inspiring everyone who attended.

It was a memorable day that celebrated both physical achievement and the power of determination, leaving pupils motivated to set ambitious goals and strive to achieve them.



Year 3 Wild Arts Trip

On Tuesday 9th June, Year 3 pupils enjoyed an exciting educational visit to Layer Marney Tower, where they attended a specially organised morning performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*.

The visit provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience live opera and develop their appreciation of music and performance. Many of the pupils were experiencing opera for the first time and were captivated by the colourful costumes, engaging storytelling and talented performers.

Throughout the performance, the children demonstrated excellent listening skills and enthusiasm, responding thoughtfully to the music and drama unfolding on stage. The experience helped bring their learning to life and offered a valuable insight into a different style of musical theatre.

In addition to enjoying the performance, the children were able to explore the beautiful surroundings of Layer Marney Tower and learn more about this historic local landmark.

The visit provided a memorable combination of culture, history and education, helping to enrich the children's learning beyond the classroom.

The pupils were a credit to the school throughout the day, displaying exemplary behaviour and representing the school with pride. We are delighted that they had the opportunity to take part in such a unique and inspiring experience.



Year 3 Saffron Waldron Museum Trip

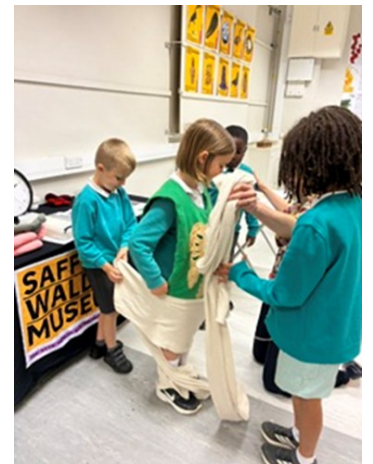
On Wednesday 10th June, Year 3 pupils enjoyed an exciting educational visit to Saffron Walden Museum as part of their history learning about Ancient Egypt.

The children travelled by coach and were eager to begin a day filled with discovery and hands-on learning. During their visit, they took part in the fascinating *Tomb Raiders and Mummy Makers* workshop, which gave them the opportunity to explore the world of Ancient Egypt in greater depth.

A highlight of the day was the chance to handle real artefacts linked to Ancient Egyptian civilisation. The children were captivated as they examined objects from the past and learned about their purpose and significance. They also discovered more about Egyptian burial practices, the beliefs surrounding the afterlife, and the detailed process of mummification. Throughout the workshop, the pupils asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated an excellent understanding of the topics they have been studying in class. The interactive activities helped bring their learning to life and gave them a deeper appreciation of how archaeologists and historians learn about ancient cultures.

The visit also provided an opportunity for the children to explore the museum's collections and engage with a variety of historical exhibits. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and exemplary behaviour made the day a great success, and they represented the school wonderfully.

We are incredibly proud of Year 3 and hope that this memorable experience will inspire a lasting interest in history and the ancient world.



Performing Arts Festival—Friday 17th July 2026



After the success of the last four years, our fifth Performing Arts Festival will be held on Friday 17th July. The children have been practising hard and look forward to sharing their performances with you. Please see below a rough outline of the morning.

9.10am: Families can enter via the side gate adjacent to the car park. We will have a programme available for you on the gate.

9.15am - 10.45am: Poetry and Music Performances from each year group. These will be performed in front of the hall facing out onto the playground as at previous events. Please bring a camping style chair for watching these performances. (We'll have some chairs available if needed!) We will again make a clear boundary so you know where to place your chairs.

10.45am - 11.00am: Break – children will return to their classrooms in preparation for their dance performances.

11.00am - 12.15pm: Dance Performances and Whole School Singing including a performance from our rock band! The children will perform in a performance space that is slightly more central on the playground. We will ask you to sit around this performance space once again. Again, we will make the boundaries clear so that you can place your chairs accordingly.

12.15pm - 1pm: Family Picnic Lunch on the main playground and field. Please remember we are a 'no nuts' school. At lunchtime children will initially return back to class, and we then ask families to collect their children from the same pick up points as on Sports Day, either their classrooms, the end of day collection point or for year 6, or the hall. A grab and go lunch will be available to all pupils on this day. Children will return to their classrooms after lunch, school will then finish at 1.30pm

Year 5/6 Activity Event at Lexden Golf Club

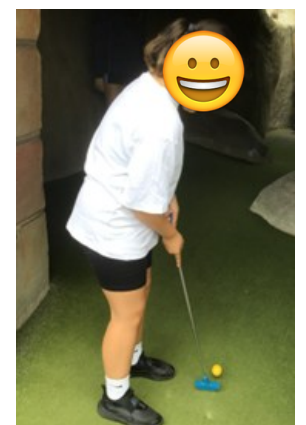
On Friday 5th June, ten children from Years 5 and 6 enjoyed an exciting activity day at Lexden Golf Club. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part in golf, footgolf and crazy golf while developing their confidence, teamwork and resilience in a new environment.

Throughout the day, the children participated in a variety of activities led by experienced instructors. Many pupils were trying these sports for the first time and quickly embraced the challenge, learning new skills and techniques along the way. They showed great enthusiasm as they practised their putting, driving and accuracy in golf, while the footgolf course tested their control, coordination and problem-solving skills. The crazy golf course provided plenty of fun and laughter as pupils tackled a range of creative obstacles and challenges.

The children demonstrated excellent behaviour and sportsmanship throughout the visit, encouraging one another and celebrating each other's successes. It was fantastic to see them working together, supporting their peers and showing determination when faced with challenging shots and tricky obstacles.

As part of the day, the children were also treated to a delicious pizza lunch, giving everyone the opportunity to relax, socialise and reflect on the activities they had enjoyed. The lunch was a particular highlight for many of the pupils and helped to make the day even more memorable.

Overall, the visit was a great success. The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to represent the school, experience new sports and spend time outdoors being active. We are incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves and would like to thank the staff at Lexden Golf Club for providing such an enjoyable and well-organised experience.





Braiswick Eco-Committee at the Summer Fayre



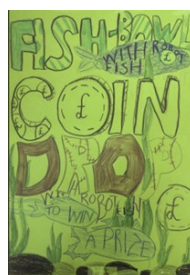
The Braiswick Eco-Committee had a fantastic time running two popular games at this year's Summer Fayre, helping to raise funds for the Friends of Braiswick Primary.

Our first game, Bottle Top Guess, challenged visitors to estimate how many bottle tops were inside a large container. After the fayre, the Eco-Committee took on the important task of counting them all – a total of 1,493 bottle tops! There were lots of creative guesses, but congratulations to Angeliki, whose guess of 1,223 was the closest. She won a reusable coffee cup as her prize. Keep an eye out for these bottle tops, as they will soon be used as part of our developing sensory garden. Our second game, the ever-popular Fish Bowl Coin Drop, proved to be a huge hit. Players attempted to drop a 20p coin into a small glass hidden beneath the water. Successful players won a sweet, and with over 50 participants taking part, there was plenty of excitement and fun throughout the day.

A huge thank you to all of the Eco-Committee members who gave up their time to help run the stall. Special thanks go to River, who supported the stall for the entire event and even provided robotic fish to make the Coin Drop challenge even trickier!

We will soon be holding our final meeting with this year's Eco-Committee members. Thank you to every member for their enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication to helping make Braiswick a more environmentally friendly place to learn.

Applications for next year's Eco-Committee will be announced in the Autumn Term.



Forest School

Year 5 have had a fantastic half term at Forest School, taking part in a wide range of exciting and engaging outdoor activities. It has been wonderful to see the children developing their confidence, teamwork and problem-solving skills while exploring the natural environment. One of the children's favourite activities has been creating obstacle courses for one another. Working together, they carefully planned and built challenges using natural materials before guiding their friends through them. To make the activity even more challenging, some children were blindfolded and had to rely on clear instructions and trust in their partners to complete the course successfully. This activity helped to develop communication skills, cooperation and resilience.

The children have also enjoyed a variety of creative activities. Using colourful wool, they made friendship bracelets, showing patience and perseverance as they learnt different weaving techniques. They also had the opportunity to create elder bracelets using peelers, secateurs and skewers. The children learnt how to use these tools safely and responsibly while developing their fine motor skills and creativity. Another highlight of the half term has been our campfire cooking sessions. The children thoroughly enjoyed preparing and cooking cookie dough over the fire, learning about fire safety and outdoor cooking techniques. There was great excitement as they watched their treats cook and even more enjoyment when it came time to taste them!

Throughout the sessions, we have played lots of different team-building and problem-solving games, encouraging the children to work together, support one another and have fun outdoors. We have also spent time learning about the natural world around us, discovering interesting facts about plants, trees, wildlife and the environment. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their own knowledge.

It has been a pleasure to watch Year 5 embrace every challenge with such positivity and enthusiasm.



Play Team Vacancies

We are looking for Play Team members to join our happy, positive and supportive team.

We currently have two vacancies available:

1. **Monday and Tuesday**
2. **Monday to Friday**

Working hours: 11:30am – 1:30pm

The role involves assisting children during lunchtime and providing playground support and supervision to ensure they have safe, enjoyable and happy lunchtimes. You will work both indoors and outdoors, supervising children, setting up games and activities, and supporting their wellbeing.

Applicants should enjoy working with children and be able to work effectively as part of a team. Good communication, organisation, patience and understanding are essential qualities for the role.

At Braiswick Primary School, we use the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) approach to play at lunchtimes, helping to provide engaging and enriching play opportunities for all pupils.

If you are interested in joining our team, please apply via Essex School Jobs.

We look forward to hearing from you!



FOBP THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone involved in our Summer Fete on 12th June - committee members, volunteers, teaching staff, stall holders, Bee Line inflatables & Charluccio's Ice Cream van.

Also a huge thank you to Go Bananas who have donated 10% of our fete fundraising total, making our total raised £6,483 (£3,723.04 net profit)

Year 2 Squash Event

On Friday 26th June, eight of our Year 2 children recently attended the Squash Festival at Lexden Junior Squash Club. The festival provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a new sport in a fun and supportive environment. Throughout the day, the children took part in a variety of exciting squash activities and games designed to develop their skills, coordination and teamwork. They showed great enthusiasm, listened carefully to instructions and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship while encouraging one another.

The festival was enjoyable for all abilities, and the children embraced every challenge with confidence and determination. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces as they learned new skills and experienced the sport of squash for the first time.

We are incredibly proud of the children's behaviour and attitude throughout the day. They represented Braiswick Primary School brilliantly and were a credit to the school.

A big thank you to the staff who accompanied the children and helped make the day such a success.

Subject Spotlight—History

At Braiswick Primary, we believe that a high-quality history education helps pupils develop a strong understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Through engaging learning experiences, children are encouraged to be curious about the past and to understand how it has shaped the world we live in today.

History helps pupils explore the complexity of people's lives, the diversity of societies, and the changes that have taken place over time. It also supports them in developing their own sense of identity and understanding their role as informed global citizens. At Braiswick, our diverse school community is something we celebrate, and our history curriculum encourages children to think critically about the past and its impact on the present.



As we approach the end of the school year, we would like to share some of the exciting historical learning that has taken place across the school.

Early Years :Our youngest learners explored their own lives and families through photographs, stories, and discussions, helping them develop an early understanding of the past and how things change over time.

Year 1: Year 1 investigated toys from the past, comparing them with modern toys to discover how materials, designs, and technology have changed.

Year 2: Year 2 brought the Great Fire of London to life, learning how the fire started, why it spread so quickly, and how it changed London forever. They also explored the diary of Samuel Pepys and seventeenth-century fire-fighting methods.

Year 3: Year 3 pupils have been diving into their history topic on Ancient Egypt, exploring what life was like thousands of years ago along the River Nile. They have been fascinated by the incredible pyramids, the role of pharaohs, and the amazing objects archaeologists have discovered. The children are enjoying asking questions, investigating clues, and finding out how people lived, worked, and celebrated in this ancient civilisation.



Year 4: Year 4 immersed themselves in Roman Britain, with Roman Day providing a memorable opportunity to experience life as Roman soldiers and citizens while learning about the lasting impact of the Roman Empire.

Year 5: Year 5 are currently studying the Anglo-Saxons, exploring their settlements, beliefs, and daily life. An on-site archaeological dig and learning about Sutton Hoo brought this fascinating period to life.



Year 6: Year 6 are currently studying the transatlantic slave trade, abolition, and the Windrush generation. Through this important topic, pupils are developing empathy, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of justice, equality, and human rights.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by pupils throughout their history learning this year. Their growing understanding of the past continues to help them make sense of the present and their place in the wider world.

OUTDOOR PLAY **AND LEARNING**



A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our OPAL Play Afternoon on 19th June. It was wonderful to see so many families taking the time to come along, and the children were delighted to share their favourite places to play, explore and learn. Although the sunshine was out in full force, everyone did a fantastic job of finding shady spots to keep cool while enjoying the afternoon together.

Over the past few weeks, a group of children have been putting their den-building skills to the test, creating some incredibly thoughtful and imaginative structures. These impressive creations have showcased their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving abilities, while also providing some much-needed extra shade on sunny days. With such fantastic designs and innovative ideas, we may well have some future architects in our midst!



Diary Dates

29th June: KS2 Athletics (invite only)

3rd July: Year 2 Squash Event (invite only)

8th July: Whole School Transition Day

9th July: Year 1/2 Sportshall Athletics (invite only)

10th July: School Reports

13th July: Year 1 Walton Trip

13th July: KS2 Multi Sports (invite only)

16th July: Year 6 Production & Leavers Party

17th July: Performing Arts Day & Parent Picnic—school finishes at 1.30pm

17th July: Last day of Term

3th September: First day of Autumn Term

