

Newsletter 6th November 2026

Learning for life in all its fullness. John 10:10

Head Teacher's Welcome - issue 44

Ephesians 4:32**: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you!".**

Dear Parents, Carers and extended school community,

As part of our ongoing work to develop strong character, positive relationships and a caring school community, we are introducing a this term's school value: **Reconciliation**.

Reconciliation is about putting things right when mistakes happen. It encourages us to be honest about our actions, take responsibility for our choices and work towards restoring relationships. This term, we will be focusing on the statement:

"I will always tell the truth and forgive others."

Truthfulness helps us build trust with one another, while forgiveness allows us to move forward with kindness and understanding. We recognise that everyone makes mistakes from time to time, but what matters most is how we respond. By being honest, saying sorry when needed and accepting apologies graciously, we create a school environment where everyone feels valued, respected and supported.

Throughout the term, pupils will explore what reconciliation looks like in their classrooms, friendships and everyday lives. We encourage families to support this value at home by discussing the importance of honesty, forgiveness and making positive choices.

Together, we can help our children develop the confidence and compassion needed to build strong and healthy relationships both now and in the future.

One of the greatest strengths of our school is the wide range of enrichment opportunities that help bring learning to life beyond the classroom. These experiences create lasting memories, deepen understanding and help our children develop confidence, resilience and curiosity.

This term, pupils have enjoyed a wonderful variety of activities. Our children have continued to develop their musical talents through **iRock** sessions, learning to perform together as part of a band and building their confidence as musicians. Year 4 pupils have embraced their drumming lessons with enthusiasm, demonstrating teamwork, rhythm and perseverance as they develop new skills.

Educational visits have provided valuable opportunities for experiential learning. Year 2 enjoyed an exciting visit to **Warwick Castle**, where they stepped back in time and enhanced their understanding of history through hands-on experiences. The children returned full of excitement and knowledge, sharing what they had learned about castles, medieval life and significant historical events. Meanwhile, Year 5 visited the **National Space Centre**, where they explored the wonders of space, science and technology. The visit inspired many thoughtful questions and helped bring their classroom learning to life.

We are also proud of the leadership shown by our **School Council**. Recently, council members organised and supported the sale of poppies in school, helping to promote remembrance while raising funds for the Royal British Legion. Their commitment to serving our community demonstrates the positive impact pupil leadership can have across the school. Poppies will continue to be on sale on Monday and Tuesday next week.

A key priority for us is ensuring that every child feels heard and valued. Collecting **pupil voice** is an important part of school improvement. By listening carefully to children's opinions, ideas and experiences, we gain valuable insights that help us shape the opportunities and support we provide. When pupils know that their views matter, they become more engaged in their learning and develop a stronger sense of belonging and responsibility within the school community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Lianna Willis

Headteacher

Reception - Inkpen

The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the numbers 1, 2 and 3 over the past few weeks. We have been looking at different ways to make these numbers and developing our understanding of number composition. The children have particularly excelled when finding one more and one less, and they have loved singing a variety of counting songs to help consolidate their learning.

In Literacy, we enjoyed reading 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. The children were brilliant at recalling key events from the story and enthusiastically helped to retell it. They were especially impressive when re-enacting the story and taking on the different character roles.

Our topic, Street Detectives, has also been a huge success. The children were excited to talk about what they see on their journey to school and the different ways they travel. We also explored a map of Braunston, identifying local landmarks and learning more about our community. The children have shown great curiosity, enthusiasm and confidence throughout all of their learning, and we are very proud of their achievements.









"I travel in the car. I see cows in the field."

Class 1 - Donaldson

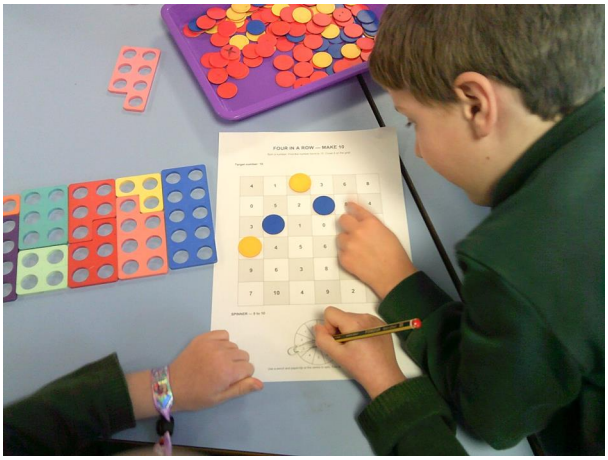
What a lovely start to the new half-term we have had in Year 1! The children have returned full of enthusiasm and have been working so hard. It has been wonderful to see them so excited about their learning.

This week, we have been exploring the four countries of the United Kingdom and finding out all about our capital city, London. The children have had great fun building their own versions of Big Ben using construction materials, and next week we are looking forward to having a go at building the London Eye!

In art, we have been discovering the work of Bridget Riley and having lots of fun experimenting with straight and wavy lines to create our own striking black-and-white pictures.

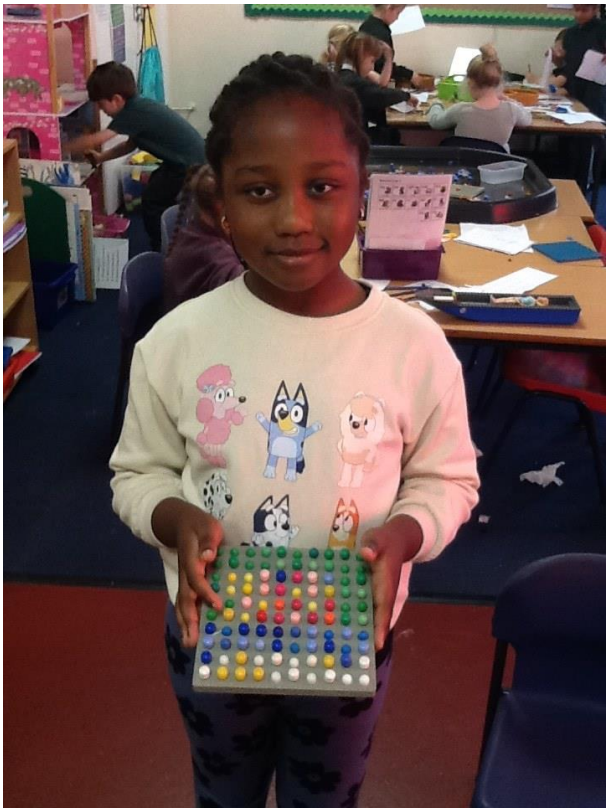
In maths, we have been practising our number bonds to 10, finding lots of different ways to make 10 and becoming quicker and more confident with our number facts. In English, we have continued working hard on our phonics and have really enjoyed sharing our new story, *This Is the Bear*.

Well done, Year 1! We are so proud of how hard you are working and what a super start you have made to the term!

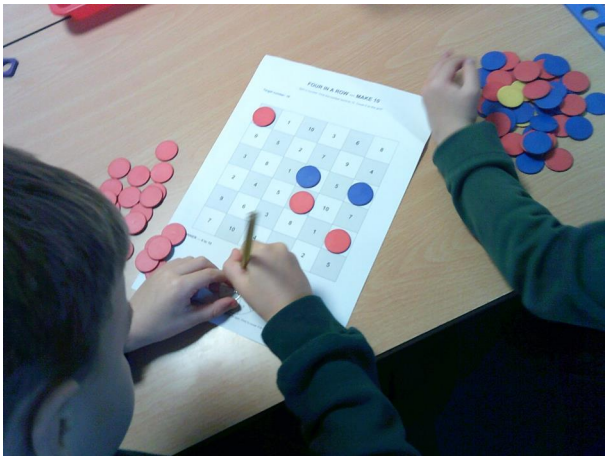












Class 2 - Ahlberg

Year 2 had a fantastic first term learning all about Castles. They thoroughly enjoyed the topic and it was lovely to see so many children extending their learning at home. We loved reading about castles, dragons and knights. We even wrote our own castle siege story! The Year 2 team have been delighted with the phenomenal progress they have all made. In art, the children enjoyed drawing castles in the style of Paul Klee and learning all about King Henry V111 in history. We have been blown away by the gruesome facts we have learnt about castle life. Our trip to Warwick Castle was brilliant. The children loved the bird show and got very excited when the birds flew over their head. Their wingspan was huge! The children had lots of fun exploring Zog's playground and learning all about castle life. We particularly enjoyed walking under the portcullis and listening to stories about medieval times. The Year 2 team were blown away by the wonderful walking and marvellous manners that all of the children displayed. What incredible children we have in Year 2!








Anne Boleyn
Catherine Howard





"The castle is so big and so much fun." - Arlo

Class 3 - Dahl

It has been lovely welcoming the children back to Year 3 this week. They have settled back into classroom life well, enjoyed catching up with their friends and have made a positive start to the new term.

In English, we have started reading *The Worst Witch*. Lots of the children already know the story and its characters, so there has been plenty to discuss as we begin exploring the book

together. We are looking forward to finding out more about Mildred Hubble and her adventures at Miss Cackle's Academy over the coming weeks.

In PE, we have started our new hockey unit. The children have made a fantastic start, demonstrating some great skills and teamwork. It has been lovely to see everyone getting involved and enjoying the activities.

In geography, we have been learning all about the different layers of the Earth. The children explored how the Earth is structured before creating their own models through cutting and sticking, helping them to understand and remember the different layers.

Last half term, the children enjoyed experimenting with charcoal before painting onto lentils, couscous and bulgur wheat to create textured artwork inspired by cave walls,

What a fantastic start to the half term!



"I didn't know the Earth had so many different layers!"

Class 4 - Morpurgo

It has been a good first week back in Year 4! The children have settled well into our beautifully redecorated classroom and have started to get back into positive learning routines. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm and excitement for the term ahead.

In English, we have started reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and the children are already captivated by the story. We are enjoying getting to know the characters and are looking forward to stepping through the wardrobe and exploring the magical world of Narnia alongside them over the coming weeks.

In maths, our focus is on addition and subtraction. The children have been working hard to develop their understanding of the formal column method, paying particular attention to

accurate layout and presentation. We have also begun exploring exchanges, building confidence and fluency with more challenging calculations.

Our history topic this term is the Romans. The children are excited to begin discovering more about Roman life, their achievements and the impact they had on Britain. We are particularly looking forward to linking our learning with our PE dance unit, where children will create and perform their own dances inspired by Roman soldiers.

We are excited for a busy and enjoyable term ahead and look forward to sharing more of our learning with you soon!

"I'm getting much better at using the column method. I love maths now!" - Luna B.

Class 5 - Rowling

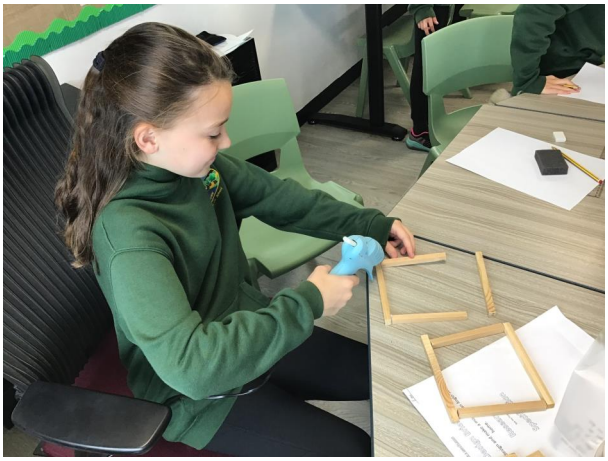
Year 5 had a fantastic end to the half term with 3 dedicated DT days. The children used a range of skills from measuring to sawing and created their own Anglo-Saxon houses! Some of the components were very tricky and required lots of careful precision. The Year 5 team were blown away by the resilience and determination demonstated by all children throughout these lessons.

Year 5 then had a very exciting return to school with a visit to the National Space Centre! This will be explored more throughout the term in our Science lessons. In maths, times tables will be a crucial element to learning. This can be supported with the use of TTRS!














Eco-Smart Girl says ...









1 - Visiting other planets at the Space Centre.



2 - Journeying into the unknown



3 - Re-enacting space missions





4 - Testing our knowledge about the Solar System



5 - Finding out more about 'Our Solar System'



6 - Touching a meteorite

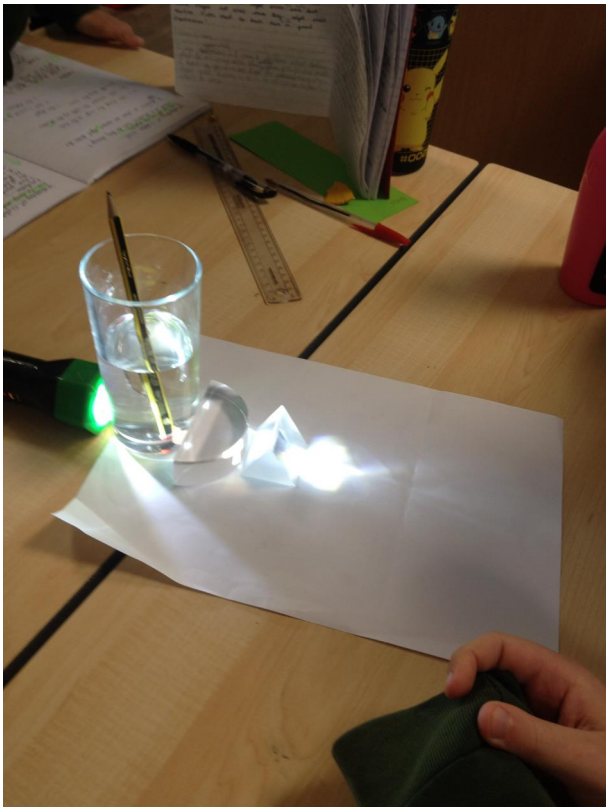
"I enjoyed using the saws and being able to work with my friends." -Dillon

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Class 6 - Horowitz

At the end of last half term we enjoyed completing lots of our units of work: we wrote some reflective diary entries from Jim and persevered to master the skill of long division. In science, we enjoyed finding out about refraction and managed to use prisms to create spectrums of light. We also put our artistic skills to good use and created some lovely pieces based on Braunston in the style of L S Lowry.

The start of this term has been very positive. We have begun reading Pig Heart Boy and are looking forward to finding out about how Cameron gets on with his new heart. In maths, we have begun looking at fractions and are looking forward to learning more in this area. But, the highlight of this half term is going to be forest school - we are really looking forward to this.









"I enjoyed painting and I'm really proud of what I have created" - Madalina

Focus on sport

Following our taster session with Hot Shots, the club has been in full swing with lots of children shooting the hoops on a Friday morning. Cross country has also been 'running'! This week, we had just over 30 children down at the playing field; well done to Darcie from yr 6 who has been invited to represent our area of the county this week after her success in the recent race we took children to. Our house sports captains have been busy on the playground at lunchtimes refereeing matches between children post the successful interhouse dodgeball tournament ; they are busy planning the next. They also awarded trophies to the winning houses for the class interhouse competitions at the end of last half term. This week also saw the boys football team heading out to their first match of the year. We played at Barby and did very well; we scored a goal almost straight away which got us off to a great start then the match continued well with good teamwork, positive attitudes and great skills. We won 3-1; thank you to Barby for hosting us.











Church and Community



Picture News
For Parents
October 2026

Hello!

It's Katie from Picture News here. If you're reading this newsletter, your child's school uses our weekly news resources, so I thought it'd be helpful to fill you in on everything Picture News schools have been up to this half term! Let's get started...

News Recap

Each Picture News resource focuses on a 'Big Question', to encourage deeper thinking and discussion around news stories. Let's look back at some of the topics we've explored this half term...

Learning from Dolly:
What can help us feel hopeful about a new beginning?

Dolly Parton re-recorded a song to raise money for charity, showing how revisiting something from the past can have a fresh impact. Coinciding with the new school year, children considered how they can build on their earlier experiences, take on new challenges, and make a positive difference.

Homelessness:
Do we all have a part to play in helping those in need?

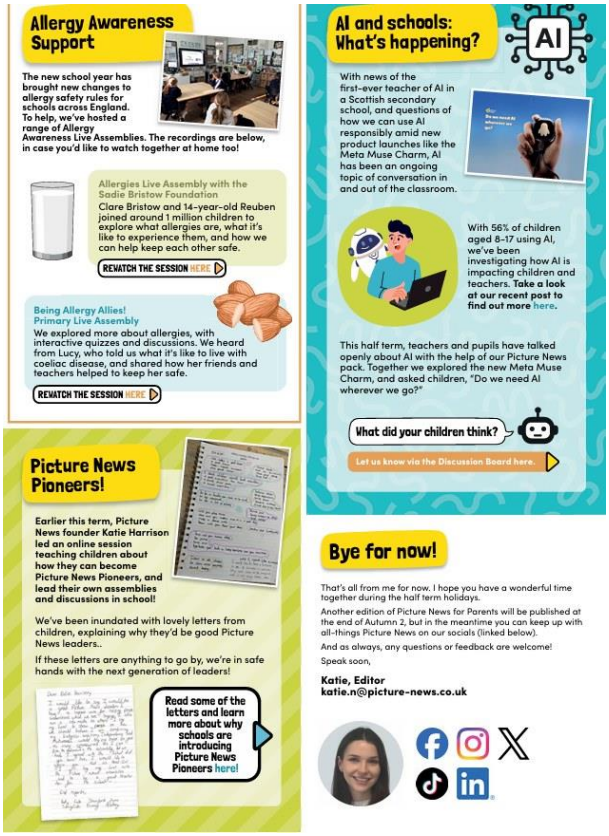
Prime Minister Andy Burnham pledged to offer everyone sleeping rough in England a safe place to stay by Christmas. Children thought about times when people need the help of others, what that help might look like, and why asking for help and telling a safe adult when we are worried about someone can matter.

School Lunches:
Who should decide what we have for school lunch?

News of healthier changes to school dinner rules was the focus of this resource. Children thought about how decisions are made, discussing personal choice and shared responsibility, and the factors schools consider when providing meals.

AI:
Do we need AI wherever we go?

The announcement of the new Meta Muse Charm led to thought-provoking conversations in schools about whether AI is useful and when might we be better off without it. Children discussed AI's potential and limits, and how much technology should play a part in our lives.



Collective Worship

*Collective Worship remains an important part of school life, providing opportunities for our children to reflect, learn and grow together as a community. One of our regular Collective Worship focuses is **First News**, which helps pupils develop an understanding of the world around them and encourages them to engage with current events in an age-appropriate way.*

Through these sessions, children are encouraged to think about big questions, consider different perspectives and reflect on how their actions can make a positive difference both within our school and in the wider world. These discussions help pupils to develop empathy, critical thinking skills and a greater awareness of local, national and global issues.

*We also continue to explore and promote **British Values**: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Alongside this, pupils learn about **Protected Characteristics**, helping them to understand and celebrate diversity while developing respect for others.*

The impact of this work can be seen across our school community. Pupils demonstrate increasing confidence in sharing their opinions respectfully, show greater understanding of equality and inclusion, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to become thoughtful,

responsible citizens. Through Collective Worship, we aim to nurture children who are curious about the world, respectful of others and committed to making a positive contribution to society.

All Saints Church Braunston News

Click HERE for all the latest news from All Saints Church

Wellbeing



An exciting new approach to our emotional wellbeing provision at Braunston...

We are always looking to build upon what we can offer to our children and families as part of our wellbeing provision and we are really pleased to share with you that over the next few months, we will be adopting the Thrive Approach across our school. Mrs Craig is currently training to become a Thrive practitioner and we are looking to begin rolling this out in the New Year.

As well as offering targeted, therapeutic sessions to support emotional wellbeing, you may have noticed that we have been changing our spaces to offer a more nurturing setting for our children. Classrooms have been 'stripped back' to create an environment that is neutral, calm and feels more like 'home.' We have introduced height adjustable table, sofas, lamps and plants and the difference that this has made to the feel of our classrooms has been significant. The idea is that if a child feels calm and safe, they will be more ready to learn.

Our environment and interventions we offer to our children will evolve as Mrs Craig progresses through the programme, and we believe that the difference it will make to our children and staff will be profound.

For more information on what the Thrive Approach means to you and your children, please use this link Inclusion, SEMH & Behaviour Support in Schools | The Thrive Approach



7 - Please see below further information for parents and carers:

'Thrive equips educators with strategies and activities to help build young people's social and emotional skills, as well as develop their ability to manage stress and take on life's ups and downs.

The Approach is underpinned by neuroscience, attachment theory and child development research and is suitable for children and young people aged 0-25 years.

What difference does Thrive make?

Schools that have adopted the Thrive Approach have reported many benefits. These include calmer classrooms with fewer disruptions, improved attendance, reduced exclusions and higher achievements. To hear first-hand from settings already using Thrive, visit mythrive.uk/case studies.

How will my child be involved in Thrive?

Your child will be assessed using Thrive-Online, an award-winning tool used to measure and monitor social and emotional development. Thrive-Online has behaviour and skills surveys that help staff to see where young people are in their development and identify any pupils who could benefit from additional support.

Thrive-Online assessments will be led by school practitioners who will:

- *Assess classes, groups and individuals to see where they are in their social and emotional development*
- *Create targeted action plans to help pupils to manage their behaviour, build emotional resilience and become more open to learning*
- *Measure and report on progress over time*

Find out more

There is lots more information on the Thrive website: thriveapproach.com.'

If you would like any more information please contact Mrs Craig r.craig@braunston.pdet.org.uk

Anti-bullying Week 16th-20th November – Break the Silence.

This Anti-Bullying Week, we are encouraging everyone to start the conversation about bullying. We are calling on children and young people to speak up and share their experiences, and on adults to listen, support, and act.

Our wellbeing ambassadors will lead an assembly on Monday 16th to invite the whole school to take part in breaking the silence and come together to take meaningful action against bullying and create a kind supportive school environment.

On Thursday 19th we are asking each child and adult in school to take part in a Lap of Loudness. At the end of break each class will complete a lap of the playground supported by loud cheering from the rest of the school. Our cheers should be loud enough to be heard around the village!

To support this we are asking each child to bring in £1 donation for completing their lap. The proceeds of this will go to purchase a new buddy bench for each playground, where children who need a friend can sit and get support from friends throughout the school.

After break each class will work together to create a kindness pledge to be displayed in the classroom.

Upcoming Events

Parent Teacher Consultations

Christmas Hoops

Available to collect from the school office from Monday 9th November, to be returned by Wednesday 25th November.

Hunts Bookshop Book Fair

After school in the hall 16th – 20th November

Year 4 Drumming Concert 4th December

Y4 Parents welcome -9:30 – 10:00

iRock Concert - Friday 11th December

10:00 am (for members of iRock)

Nativity 15th December-

R, Y1, Y2, Y3

Wednesday 16th December-

Christmas Service in church – 09:30 -10:00am - All welcome

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas lunch

Carols Around the Tree Friday 18th December

Friends of Braunston School

What a fantastic start to the new academic year!

Our first disco was a huge success, and we would like to say a big thank you to all the children who came along and enjoyed the evening with us. Thanks to your amazing support, we managed to raise an incredible £506.07

Our fundraising efforts are currently continuing to support the classroom refurbishments. During the recent October half-term, we were delighted to see Year 4 benefit from a newly decorated classroom with brand-new flooring. With only the kitchen area to finish now in Year 4, that will be all of KS2 fully refurbished.

We are already looking forward to three more exciting events this half-term:

🎄 Wreath Making – Friday 20th November🎅 Christmas Fair – Friday 27th November🎁 Elfridges – Friday 4th December

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, carers and the wider community for your continued generosity, enthusiasm and support. These events simply wouldn't be possible without you!

We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Christmas events!

Upcoming dates prior to Christmas Fair

Wednesday 18th November - Non-School uniform in exchange for chocolates (KS1) & bottles (KS2)

From Thursday 12th November - Friday 20th November - House Hamper Donations - Red, Green, Yellow and Blue.

From Wednesday 25th November - Cakes donations for the Christmas Fayre on Friday 27th November.

Thank you again FOBS 💚

Certificates of The Week (10)

Pupil of the Week		
	W/C 19.10.26	W/C 2.11.26
Inkpen	Inayaat Florrie	Rosie
Donaldson	Jesse	Arthur
Ahlberg	x	Arlo
Dahl	Nora	Evan
Morpurgo	Freyja	Luna B
Rowling	X	Levison
Horowitz	May	Lucas

Our School Value Resilience – Relationships – Reconciliation – Responsibility – Respect & Reverence - Reflection		
	W/C 19.10.26	W/C 2.11.26
Inkpen	Jeremiah	Finley
Donaldson	Bobby	Struan
Ahlberg	x	Yasmin
Dahl	Orianna	Jack
Morpurgo	Emily	Louis
Rowling	Sadie	Maleia
Horowitz	Freya	Avery

Attendance

ATTENDANCE		
W/C	19.10.26	02.11.26
Inkpen	96.%	91%
Donaldson	93.1%	89.8%
Ahlberg	99.3%	97.1%
Dahl	94.1%	89.3%
Morpurgo	94.7%	97.1%
Rowling	98.2%	99.4%
Horowitz	85.2%	99.5%
WHOLE SCHOOL	96.2%	94.5%

Contact Us

Tel :- 01788 890494

Website :- Website

Email :- bursar@braunston.pdet.org.uk

Headteacher :- head@braunston.pdet.org.uk

Chair of Governors :- r.morgan@braunston.pdet.org.uk

If you have a safeguarding concern click HERE

ARBOR -

- **Please see our Arbor app for all school communication**
- **Report an illness via the app.**

Link to calendar of events Click Here For Calendar

Request term time absence Click Here For The Form
