



Braunston C.E. Primary School

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30th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Writing this letter, as the term draws to a close, has given me the opportunity to reflect on the deep collaboration within our school as a whole. Yesterday, the 'Book Drop' session showed how important it is for us all to work together and share in the children's many successes and talents. We know that many of the children's achievements are not academic, but are skills that develop us as people. Thank you for your support in attending the events that happen both in the school day and after school time. We appreciate that for many parents, activities that occur during the school clash with working commitments and so it is always lovely to see grandparents and other family members.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter and look forward to seeing the children back on Monday 17th April. ready for another busy term ahead!

Are you or someone in your family interested in taking part in drama?

Not a family drama! A community theatre production in Braunston. As some of you know this year's summer performance is being supported by Alarum Productions. Kate, Joanna and Trevor have been in school for the last 6 weeks, to help bring alive a tale that even the Braunston Bugle could not match.

It's not just the school production that Alarum are working on. There will be a community production performed in Braunston Village Hall and in other village locations. And all members of your family (whether you live in Braunston or not) are very welcome to get involved - parents/carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, older siblings. Whether it be performing, storytelling, front of house, costumes or backstage - no experience necessary just come and have a go.

Even if your children aren't in years 4-6, you're more than welcome to join in. It's free! Meetings and drama workshops start in early May.

Here's how to contact – hello@alarumproductions.org.uk or ann-marie@alarumproductions.org.uk

Or you can leave a message with Ann-Marie Morris (school office and photography club) or phone Kate on 07976 818959

Joanna Matthews

Creative Producer

Braunston 1920s-2020s years Project

Alarum Productions

www.alarumproductions.org.uk

I do not work every day on this project so please bear with me in waiting for a reply.

joanna@alarumproductions

01865 376478

07710 524407 for WhatsApp/Signal



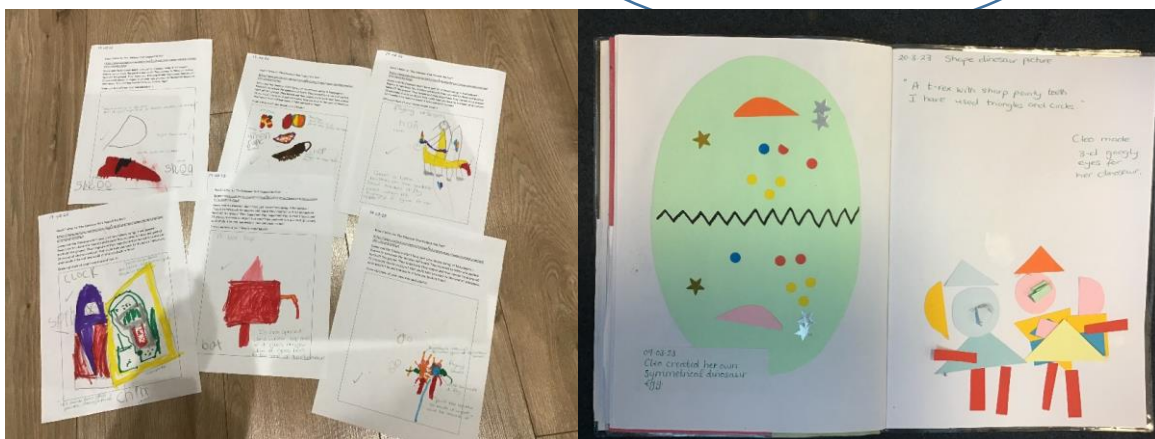
Reception Class – Inkpen

Reception have had a really busy term learning all about DINOSAURS. In maths we have practised recognising the names of 2D and 3D shapes and using mathematical words such as vertices and faces to best describe them and used a selection of pre-cut shapes to create our very own dinosaur pictures! We have continued practising to count in 1s to 20 and finding more / fewer than a number. We have gained some really good estimating skills by looking for clusters of objects within a group and using our knowledge of number bonds to work out the total number. We have just started to learn how to count in groups of 2 to help us with our doubling. We have enjoyed looking at shadows and discussing how they are formed using both artificial and natural light sources. In art, the children have worked on a large scale to create a volcano using resources from our outdoor area, as well as creating our own dinosaur fossils using salt dough and clay.

Ellis' explanation of the word 'lair' : it's a place where baddies live, like a dark cave. The baddies sit in their lair making evil plans

You add the same amounts together to do the double. Stanley S

Emily's explanation of a shadow: When something is blocking out the light. It makes a shadow.



Some of our design work – time travelling devices for going back to the time of the dinosaurs!!

Class 1 - Donaldson

The bridge needs to be replaced so the Billy Goats Gruff can get to the longest, greenest grass. Year 1 have been amazing engineers, just like Isambard Kingdom Brunel!

The children researched bridges and their uses. We discussed the different types of bridges (roads, canals, footways, toys) and identified what they all have in common and in what ways they differ and why. The children have become masters at identifying the different types of bridges (suspension, arch, cantilever and beam). The children learnt to recognise and name the main parts and features of a bridge (pier, struts, railings, beams).

The children were tasked with designing a bridge that is strong enough for the Three Billy Goats Gruff to cross the river. We explored and evaluated the effectiveness of various bridges. We explored how bridge type structures can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable. We then made our bridge and evaluated against our design criteria.

We would add more columns to improve our bridge. – Rory and Luke

It didn't work the first time but we fixed it. – Bertie and Leah

Our bridge held 3 people. – Emily and Kingsley



Class 2 – Ahlberg

We have had a fantastic couple of weeks in Year 2. We have finished our clay animal art projects and have had a fantastic time testing our egg drop creations too!

In R.E. we have been learning about Holy Week and in science we have been finding out about microhabitats and the invertebrates that live within them. We were astonished to find so much life under the logs and stones of our playground environment. We looked at minibeasts with exoskeletons and the 'squishy' ones with no exoskeletons at all!

Our egg drop was amazing. Despite the drizzle everyone enjoyed either testing or watching the eggs hurtling towards the ground. Some even survived!

In English we have been writing our own versions of Dogger and in maths we have learned our final fraction - thirds! Well done class 2. You have worked so unbelievably hard and we are so proud of you.

Leo: I loved doing multiplication and super hard maths!

Oliver: We loved the egg drop because it was fun

Hanna: My egg didn't break because it had sponges around it.



Class 3 - Jamila

Year 3 have been busy learning about skeletons as part of our science unit 'Animals, including humans'. During our STEM week, the class worked together to devise and conduct an investigation to help solve the 'Mystery of the Bones in the Carpark'. Our challenge was to work out the age of the person whose bones had been found in a carpark in Leicester. We decided to measure the tibia of four children per year group, as this was an easily measurable bone which grows with age. As a class, we then plotted our results on a graph. We used the graph to work out our suggested age based on the length of the discovered tibia. The archaeologists let us know that the bones had been identified as those of King Richard III. Although he was much older than our suggested age, the

archaeologists told us that as people were much shorter 500 years ago, our results had been very helpful in their findings. We were all very excited to have helped crack the mystery!

We continued our work on skeletons by making our own elbow joints. We enjoyed seeing how our joints worked by using elastic bands to show the role of muscles and tendons.

It was really tricky to get the tendons on. I managed to do one but then I needed help. It was exactly the same size as my own arm!

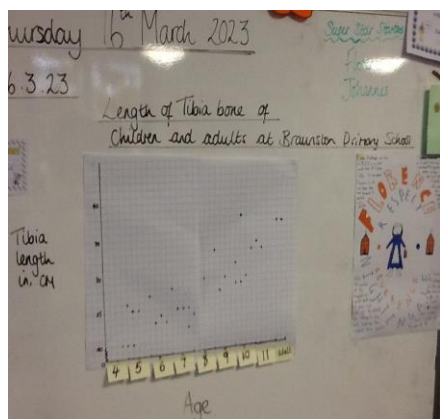
Johannes

I thought it was really exciting to find a king!

Ellie

I enjoyed measuring all the tibias. I was surprised when Darcey had the longest one, but she's not the oldest person we measured.

Phoebe



| Name | Age | Measurement |
|-----------|-----|-------------|
| George | 10 | 29cm |
| Isabella | 11 | 34cm |
| Isabella | 10 | 28cm |
| Isabella | 11 | 33cm |
| Christina | 6 | 24cm |
| Sophia | 7 | 25cm |
| Blake | 7 | 22cm |
| James | 6 | 23cm |
| James | 9 | 29cm |
| Sarah | 9 | 31cm |
| Iris | 8 | 29cm |
| Ayla | 9 | 27cm |
| Izzy | 5 | 20cm |
| Riley | 5 | 20cm |
| Lucas | 4 | 20cm |
| Luna | 5 | 25cm |



Class 4 – Morpurgo

We can't believe it is Easter already – we have not had to time to fit in all that we have wanted to do. We have been busy in Forest school and making crumbles on Mondays. We hope the other half of the tasty crumbles made it home to you successfully as we certainly enjoyed eating them in school. Maybe the children might implement their culinary skills at home over the holiday to make you a crumble to enjoy as a family. On Tuesdays, we have enjoyed cricket culminating in a successful interhouse tournament.

Following on from STEM week, we enjoyed dropping our egg contraptions, and have used our STEM skills in English designing our own contraptions like Wallace and Gromit, that we have then written as an explanatory text about explaining how to set them up and use them. Through this, we implemented our use of causal conjunctions and adverbials. Maths has seen us calculating with fractions – and it has been quite a challenge - yet all the children have persevered and done well. Science has been lots of fun! We have had the electrical equipment out to develop our knowledge of what materials conduct and insulate electricity which we have then applied to making switches. Our switches then operated our buzzers, propeller blades on motors and lights. As part of STEM week, we have even made our own electricity – static!

To be ready for Easter, we have all deepened our understanding of the important days around the Easter story. Our active treasure hunt, gave us all the answers to the meanings and importance of Maundy Thursday and the Passover meal.

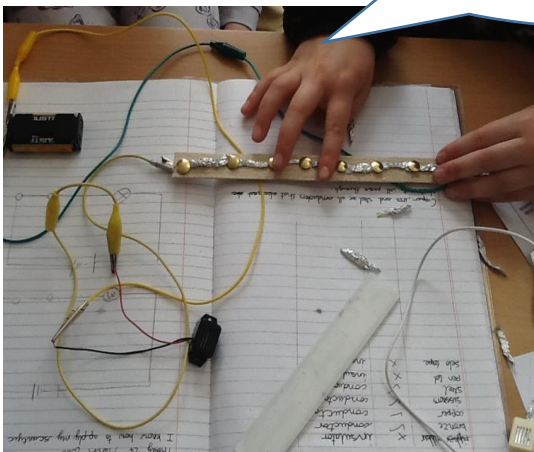
It works!

Faith - about her long foil switch.

Mine looks tasty!
I even made one at home.
Gracie

That was the best day ever! It went so quickly.

Riley – about Forest school.



Class 5 – Rowing

Year 5 have continued to work with a focused attitude and have included percentages too as part of their learning on fractions and decimals. Our next topic in maths is area and perimeter. We have enjoyed looking at biographies in English and have learnt a great deal about Sir David Attenborough. Ask us about parenthesis too (plus its punctuation)! Our music lessons have progressed well and we have been learning songs from our visitors about the canals and the people of Braunston from the 1920s.

Our DT project of Amazon Rainforest pop up books has finally been finished. We celebrated by an official reading to Year 1 children, who were very complimentary and enjoyed looking at our rainforest pop from the page into view.

The thrill of the great egg drop was also enjoyed by Year 5 when we ascertained the best way to prevent an egg from breaking when dropped from a height!

This week we have enjoyed a musical extravaganza at DSLV. We were invited to see their production of 'High School Musical'. It was absolutely amazing to see so much talent on the stage. We were mesmerised by the performance and joined in clapping with some of the songs.

Ryan: I liked High School Musical because it was fun, very cool and exciting.

Darcey: I loved it because they all tried their best and it turned out great - the best!



Billy: I really enjoyed it because of the singing and dancing.

Class 6 – Horowitz

During the last few weeks, Year 6 have been working with Alarum productions on a music and drama workshop. They have been learning about the history of the canal in Braunston during the 1920's. The children have been carrying out research on the people who would have lived in the village at the time and the effect that the canal people arriving and leaving would have on the village. During the workshops, the children have been taking part in drama games, learning musical terminology, singing new songs and writing their own drama performances.

Year 6 also took part in some STEM week activities. They had a mathematical investigation based on area (our maths focus that week). This led to some amazing mathematical discussions with Year 6 showing their problem-solving thinking and skills. They also had the opportunity - in groups - to make their own bridge out of paper and tape. The bridges had to span a gap of 20cm and carry the largest weight. The children's curiosity, creativity and design skills shone through, as we had some fabulously, well thought out bridges that managed to carry at least the weight of two dictionaries.

In PE, the children have really enjoyed exploring the sport of cricket. The class have been working on their under arm and over arm throwing techniques. We have been really impressed with their accuracy! In groups, they have been practising their batting skills, aiming the ball towards the fielder and trying to score a run. The children have demonstrated outstanding team work and sportsmanship!

I love learning about Braunston's history and acting it out. I also love doing the music especially when we wrote our own song.
Bella

During our cricket lessons, we have learnt lots of skills under and over arm bowling and batting to each other.
Riley and Harry

I enjoyed the bridge building because it was a fun thing to do with your friends and also we were in competition with the other groups.
Javier



Year 5/6 Basketball Team

Tournament at Parker E-Act Academy



Year 5 / 6s had a chance to represent the school in a Basketball tournament held over at Parker E-Act Academy. There were schools from all across Northamptonshire ready to compete in what was obviously going to be a difficult competition. We had a mixed bag of results: losses, draws and wins. Georgia scored many goals by getting back to the hoop quickly, Alyssia and Chloe moved well down the court and Kayleigh made some excellent interceptions to get the ball back to our team. Ethan moved well dribbling with the ball, Harrison intercepted well and passed thoughtfully, as Henry and Ryan both showed lots of skill knowing when to pass and when to dribble. Henry timed his shots to perfection to get the goal on the whistle, building up lots of suspense. Well done to all the team. We were placed 4th overall and came 1st out all the Daventry schools who were competing.

Braunston v Kilsby

Year 4/5 team

17th March at Braunston Playing Fields



We headed down to the playing fields to play a friendly match against Kilsby Primary. Immediately, we could tell this was going to be a very even game to play with end to end events happening. In the first half, Kilsby scored and we

finished 0-1 at half term. With a quick half time chat and a few new positions, we were back for the second half. Soon Sonny scored to level the game 1-1, then came another and it was 2-1. Before we knew it a third goal came our way and it was 3-1. Towards the end Kilsby scored and were coming back at 3-2. We managed to hold for the last few minutes of the game and the final result was 3-2 to us. Well done to all the team who played well and Jenson who was man of the match for many outstanding saves. Thanks to Bruce for setting up and refereeing.

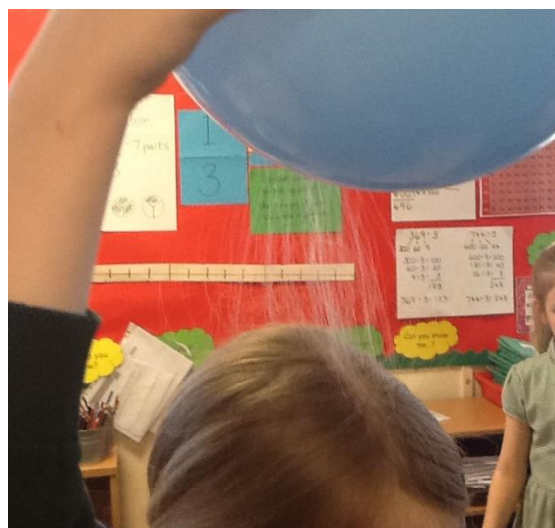
Back row: Josh S, Clayton, Isaac, Ryan and Cruz; Front row: Toby, Ben, Jenson and Sonny.



Braunston Primary STEM week



Science: To continue our work on Electricity, we made static electricity





Technology: We developed our spreadsheet skills about cells on the chromebooks.



Engineering: We made bridges from paper and tested whose held the heaviest weight.





Mathematics: We investigated a series of problems with calculators



| Pupil of the Week | | | Our School Value | | Most Active Class | |
|---|----------|----------|------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | 17.3.23 | 24.3.23 | 17.3.23 | 24.3.23 | 17.3.23 | 24.3.24 |
| R | Sam | Izzy | Cleo | Stanley | 254 | |
| 1 | Leah | William | Van | Finlay | 145 | |
| 2 | Jasmine | Jamie | Blake | Alfie | 222 | |
| 3 | James | Johannes | Zachary | Jacob | | |
| 4 | Sonny | Franklin | Faith | Leo | 200 | |
| 5 | Aerinn | Jack | Charlie | Bert | 265 | |
| 6 | Harrison | Aimee | Bells | Riley | 136 | |
| Best Attendance 4 & 4 Abis the Ape visits the class with the Best Attendance (Abis stands for always being in school) | | | | | | |

| Pupil of the Week | | | Our School Value | | Most Active Class | |
|---|---------|--|------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| | 30.3.23 | | 30.3.23 | | 30.3.23 | |
| R | Erin | | Emily | | 62 | |
| 1 | Minnie | | Bertie | | | |
| 2 | Hanna | | Harvey-Jack | | | |
| 3 | Max | | Aston | | 276 | |
| 4 | James | | Sam | | 200 | |
| 5 | Jessie | | Tilly | | | |
| 6 | Logan | | Harry | | 136 | |
| Best Attendance 1 & Abis the Ape visits the class with the Best Attendance (Abis stands for always being in school) | | | | | | |

Best wishes,
Lianna Willis, Headteacher