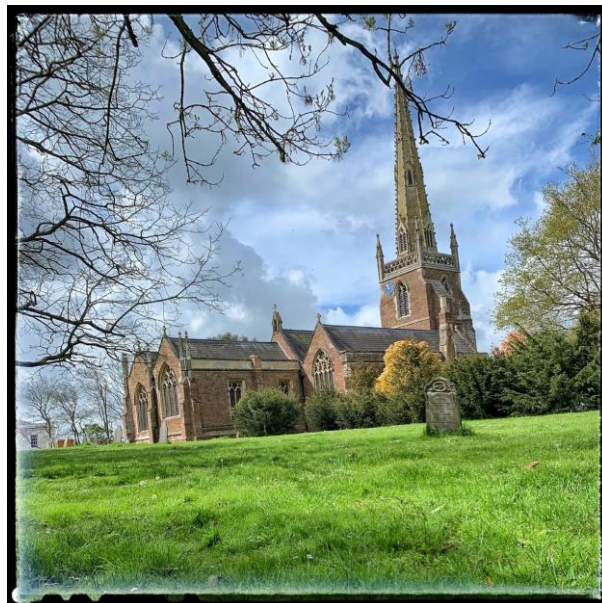




Newsletter 29th January 2024





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**'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.'**

## Head Teacher's Welcome - issue 1

A belated 'Happy New Year' to you all and welcome to the spring term. We are trialling a new way of presenting our newsletter and would welcome any feedback regarding content, style, ease of access and anything else you would like to see included. Please feel free to email me with your ideas at [head@braunston.pdet.org.uk](mailto:head@braunston.pdet.org.uk).

Our value this term is responsibility. The biblical verse above reminds us that being responsible involves us using our own unique gifts and abilities for the benefits of others. Children are encouraged to take care of themselves, each other and the things around them.

During our Inset days in January, staff focused on our new approach to writing which links to our class reading book. When we gathered children's opinions last term, the general feel was that they all enjoy our new texts but would like greater opportunities to write freely of their own choice. This term, we have noticed that children are bringing pieces of writing that they have completed at home, and this should be encouraged.

As we enter the spring term, we are hit with an incredibly cold spell and are thankful for all the work that our Trust has carried out to improve our heating and insulation. Our Year 3 children are taking part in a six-week Forest School provision led by in-house trained staff and wrap up in many layers to go and explore our environment in and around school.

Earlier in January, our choir performed at the O2 Academy in Birmingham to a sell-out crowd and the feedback was incredibly positive. Year 4 have been studying *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and visited the theatre last week to see the production at Birmingham Rep Theatre. Year 5 are heading to the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough at the end of January to participate in a maths day with many other schools in our Trust. Our Year 6 have been busy designing and baking their bread and the school smelled wonderful!

Children can take part in many before and after school activities including Art Club, Dance Club, Gymnastics, Football, Basketball, Spy Club and after half term, we are also running a Sewing Club, Cross Country, Pottery and Gardening. Children can develop their interest and talents through these clubs and build on their confidence.

In our Collective Worship assemblies this term we are focusing on what equality, diversity, inclusion and justice looks like. Rev. Kathryn spoke to us about what life is like having ADHD and Rev. Michelle talked about what it is like being deaf. These assemblies reaffirm that life is better if we are kind to everyone and make sure we all feel valued and included.

And finally, a reminder that the calendar in WEDUC is updated daily so please keep checking (see the link at the end of this newsletter).

Best wishes

Lianna Willis

Headteacher

## Reception - Inkpen

This term's topic is China. We have been looking at where China is in relation to England and how we might travel there. We have been reading 'C is for China', this is a non-fiction book written by Robyn Chance. It uses beautiful illustrations to explore China. The children have also enjoyed exploring Chinese dragons and watching a dragon dance.

We have been looking at and labelling dragons. The children have enjoyed exploring the different parts of a dragon and giving those parts a name. The children have used their phonics to help them write the labels.

We have also been exploring clay this term. The children have taken pleasure in, squishing, moulding, rolling, and building with the clay.

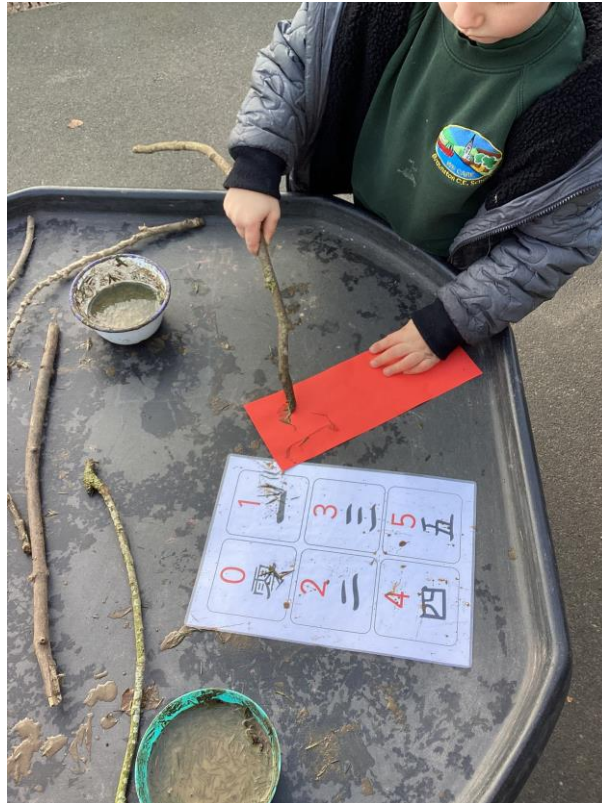
In maths we are exploring mass and capacity. The children have been using scales to discover which classroom materials are the heaviest and which are the lightest.

We are revising all of the set 1 sounds in phonics, with a big focus on sounding out and blending the words together.









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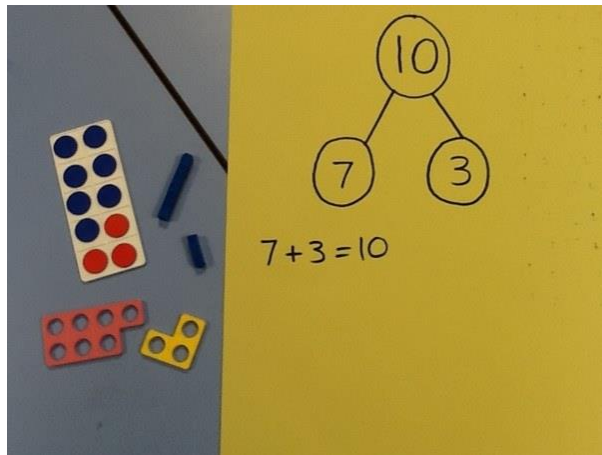
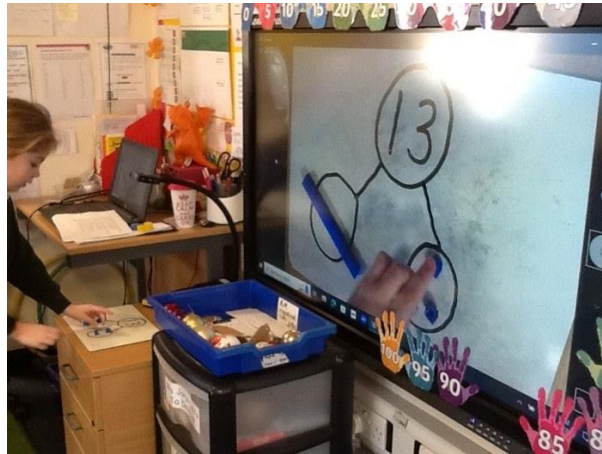
*"It's a sticky volcano." - Chester*

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## Class 1 - Donaldson

Year 1 have been extremely busy during the last couple of weeks. In English we have been focusing on asking questions about a text and reading with expression. In maths we have been practising estimating and positioning numbers on a blank number line and comparing numbers to 20 and using the  $<$  = or  $>$  symbols.

Year 1 know lots of information about our topic this term – The Great Fire of London! We have written some very informative newspaper reports and learnt what primary and secondary sources are in history and what information they can help give us about the past.



*It started in Pudding Lane and a maid didn't put the fire out so a little spark got bigger and bigger and grew so big it nearly took over London - Axelle*

Class 2 - Ahlberg

We have had a fantastic return to school in Year 2. The children are all incredibly focused and ready to learn!

In English we have been reading an adventure story called 'Traction Man' by Mini Grey. The class have adored the different ways Traction Man can get in and out of trouble and we are now writing our own adventures. The children have come up with some amazing ideas and are all writing quite fluently now.

In maths we are learning about multiplication and division and in history we have been learning about Victorian scientists. The class have been fascinated by the changes Florence Nightingale made to hospitals and astounded by the dinosaurs Mary Anning discovered on the south coast. If anyone is travelling to London or Oxford during half term then please pop into the natural history museum or the Pitt Rivers Museum to investigate fossils in more detail. I guarantee your children will love it.

Well done Ahlbergs! You have made me really proud.





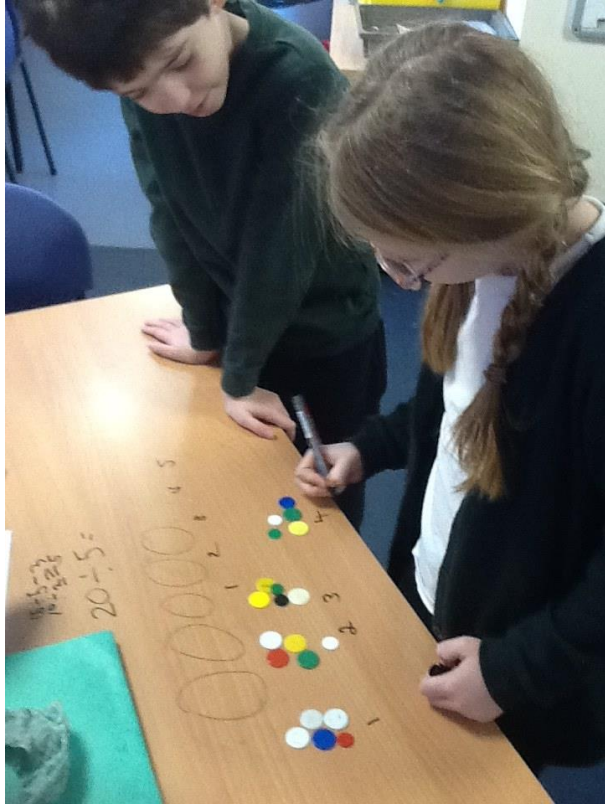
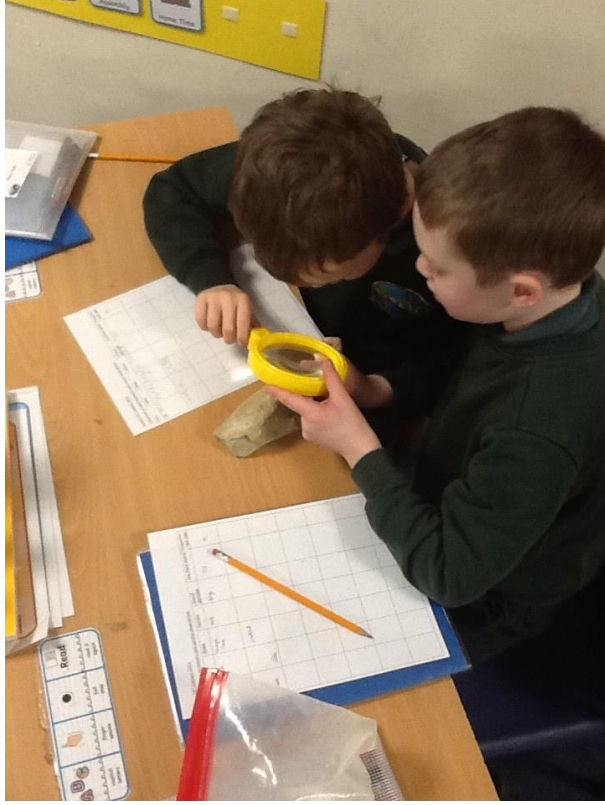
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*I am shocked that Mary Anning was not famous in her own lifetime because she was the greatest fossil hunter that has ever lived! Mary*

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### Class 3 - Jamila

This term in maths, Year 3 have been looking at multiplication and division, focusing on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables. Children have enjoyed learning the difference between division by sharing and division by grouping. We have had fun showing the difference with lots of practical activities. In English, we have been working on describing a setting and a character using expanded noun phrases and using inverted commas for speech. We have based our work on The Iron Man by Ted Hughes, a story we are all really enjoying! In science this term, we are looking at rocks and soils. We learnt that there are 3 main categories of rock and used our observation and recording skills to categorise rocks as either sedimentary, metamorphic or igneous.







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*You can see the particles in sedimentary rocks. They are made by water pushing down on things like sand. That's how sandstone is made - Sophia*

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## Class 4 - Morpurgo

This term in English, we have been studying our new text 'Charlotte's Web'. The children have loved exploring the characters of Wilbur and Charlotte and their special friendship. We have been learning to write a setting description, dialogue between characters and explore new vocabulary in our reading session. The children have been writing using fronted adverbials, pronouns and direct speech. Each day, we love to find out what will happen next!

In maths, we are continuing to look at different ways to multiply and divide. We have been working on multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by a 1 digit number. The children are trying really hard to learn their times tables. Please can we ask that they continue to do this at home, ready for a multiplication test in June. Thank you for your continued support.

In PE, we have started learning how to play Volleyball with Mr Webb. The children love taking part in his sessions and learning a new sport. We have seen fabulous teamwork and sportsmanship across the class. Mr Webb has been very impressed with our 'dig shot'. In history, we are continuing to learn about the Romans and what life was like in Roman Britain. We have learnt about key influential people like Julius Caesar and the challenges they faced. We love learning new facts and making comparisons between life then and life now. Excellent enthusiasm towards all of your learning Year 4 - well done!

This term, we were extremely lucky to be able to organise a trip to Birmingham Rep Theatre. The children went to see The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, after a successful autumn term of studying the book. We were absolutely mesmerised by the characters of Aslan, The White Witch and Maudglim. The magical performance and the fantastic creativity captured our imagination from start to finish. We really enjoyed the experience!









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*The children's behaviour was excellent and I thoroughly enjoyed watching 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The children were eager to tell me their favourite part and have remembered lots of information. Thank you for inviting me. Mrs Waghorn, School Governor*

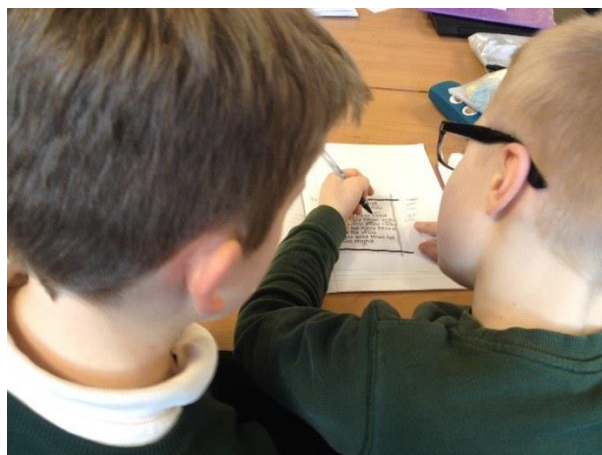
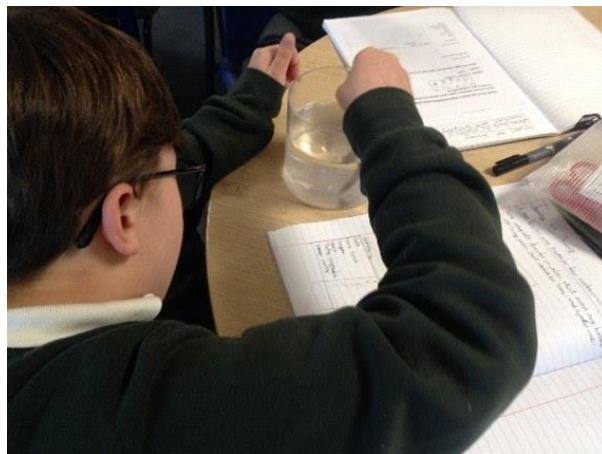
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## Class 5 - Rowling

Year 5 have returned with lots of new year resolutions including neat presentation, trying their best and keeping healthy – most of which I believe have been kept! In maths, we have shown perseverance and resilience to crack long multiplication and all the children have shown success in this area. In English, we have been writing non-chronological reports about animals and we are looking forward to writing them about our imaginary rainforest animal. After leaving space behind,

we have begun our new book The Explorer, and have entered into the Amazon Rainforest instead for this term. Unfortunately, we won't be heading on a school trip there!

We finished our futuristic drawings in art – I just hope some of the images become reality! In science, we have been hands on with lots of investigating. After finding out what solubility is by making solutions, each group carried out their own fair test. We found out that the hotter the water, the smaller the grains, the smaller amount of solute but more solvent all help to speed up the process of dissolving. In PE, we have been rolling and balancing into fabulous routines on Wednesday afternoons, whilst tackling tennis on Fridays, despite the cold weather!





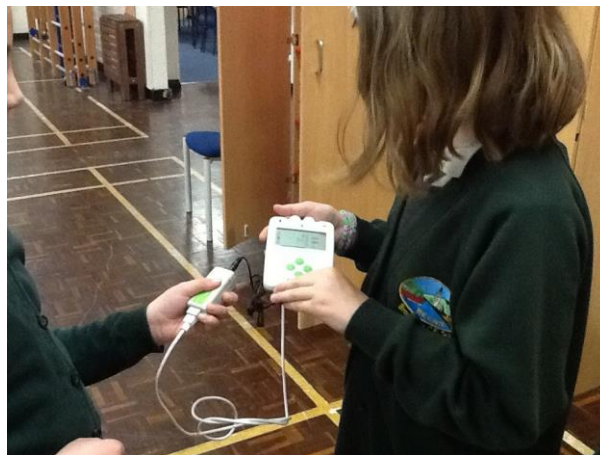
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*"The small jelly cubes dissolved the quickest," Sonny.*

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## Class 6 - Horowitz

Class Horowitz have made a great start to 2024: they are enjoying their new topic 'Survival'. In English, they have been enjoying reading some amazing real life stories from our class reader 'Survivors' - it has been incredible to discover how many inspirational adventurers have managed to survive such deadly situations. Their story writing is developing beautifully and they are becoming increasingly skilled at describing setting, character and atmosphere in survival situations. As many of the stories involve being rescued from remote places, in geography they have developed their ability to locate places around the world (particularly mountains) - improving their ability to identify latitude and longitude. In science, they have been discovering more about the circulatory system: asking some fantastic questions, making some careful observations and beginning to draw conclusions. As it wouldn't be possible to survive without food - they've also had a great time making bread in Design Technology!



*1 - Experimenting using our new heart rate monitors*



*2 - Discovering more about surviving a volcanic eruption*

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*We liked making a white roll into different shapes and sizes and eating it. - Sophie*

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## Focus On Sport

Sport is always at the heart of Braunston school. We have started the school year with some of our regular clubs as well as some new ones too. Dance club, with Mrs Nash, have already begun to learn some energetic routines; Mr Webb has been putting his sports club members through their paces on a Friday; and the new Spy Club has proved to be a real hit with children ducking and weaving between imaginary laser beams. We are looking forward to entering some competitions this year and reorganising some of the postponed fixtures from before Christmas.







## Forest School



Hello from Forest School. We have Year 3 with us at Forest School until half term. We had a cold and frosty start to our sessions with children 'layering up' and learning new games to fight the cold. We began with mixing magical potions and moved on to investigating the eyesight of owls and other animals., concentrating on peripheral vision. We moved on to another activity exploring our senses. We discovered the many uses of sticks and the children suggested stickmen, javelin, directional arrows, walking sticks, firewood etc. Our activities included a balancing game, using a bubble pipe, animal homes and practising rope work making a square lashing. On our second week we made bird feeders using apples and sticks, we mixed fat and seeds to fill coconut shells and fir cones and re-filled our bird seed feeders. This is all in readiness for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. The children enjoyed some role play acting out 'How The Robin Got His Red Breast'. I am sure they will be able to tell you the mythical story! The weather was so frosty Mrs Allinson made some ice decorations for the children to see and decorate the trees with. We watched the warm winter sun slowly melt them. A warm hot chocolate kept the cold at bay!







## Focus on Wellbeing



We would like to invite you to our next Pastoral coffee morning on Thursday 8th February at 9.00am in the school hall. With a focus on wellbeing and mental health, this is a great opportunity to meet with other parents and members of the Pastoral team to talk about any concerns you may have for your child and learn more about the services available to you. There will also be cake! We look forward to seeing you there.

***We will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week in school from 5th February 2024. With a focus on 'My Voice Matters' the children will be learning how to express their feelings and how their feelings matter. For more information on how to open up conversations with your children around Mental Health, please visit: [Childrens Mental Health Week](#)***



## Certificates Of The Week

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Pupil of the Week		
	12.1.24	19.1.24
Inkpen	Dylan	Evan
Donaldson	Axelle	Izabella
Ahlberg	Noah	Mary
Jamila	Tobey	Isaac
Morpurgo	Aston	Adam
Rowling	Joshua	Ayla
Horowitz	Clayton	Zack

<b>Our School Value</b> Resilience – Relationships – Reconciliation – Responsibility – Respect & Reverence – Reflection		
	<b>12.1.24</b>	<b>19.1.24</b>
Inkpen	Grayson	Bemjamin
Donaldson	Zac	George
Ahlberg	Polly	Minnie
Jamila	George	May
Morpurgo	Florence	Mya-Poppy
Rowling	Violet	Ellie-May
Horowitz	Kayleigh	Darcey

<b>Pupil of the Week</b>		
	<b>26.1.24</b>	
Inkpen	Olivia	
Donaldson	Eloise	
Ahlberg	Dexter	
Jamila	Jasmine	
Morpurgo	Jack	
Rowling	Scarlet	
Horowitz	Kayleigh	

<b>Our School Value</b> Resilience – Relationships – Reconciliation – Responsibility – Respect & Reverence – Reflection		
	<b>26.1.24</b>	
Inkpen	Arthur	
Donaldson	Lily	
Ahlberg	Kingsley	
Jamila	Ellis	
Morpurgo	Tiffany	
Rowling	Sadie	
Horowitz	Fearn	

<b>Presentation Award</b>		
	<b>12.1.24</b>	<b>19.1.24</b>
Inkpen		
Donaldson	Roman	Axelle
Ahlberg		
Jamila	Oliver	Leo
Morpurgo	Amanat	Tiffany
Rowling	Amelia	Sonny
Horowitz	Alicia	Fearne

Problem Solver		
	<b>12.1.24</b>	<b>19.1.24</b>
Inkpen		
Donaldson		Luna
Ahlberg		
Jamila	Lucas	Madalina
Morpurgo	Mya-Poppy	George
Rowling	Joshua	Sophia
Horowitz	Kayleigh	Ryan

Presentation Award		
	<b>26.1.24</b>	
Inkpen	Marshall	
Donaldson	Roman	
Ahlberg	Seth	
Jamila	Lucas	
Morpurgo	Phebe	
Rowling	Stanley	
Horowitz	Jessie	

Problem Solver		
	<b>26.1.24</b>	
Inkpen	Chester	
Donaldson	Luna	
Ahlberg	Luke	
Jamila	Bertie	
Morpurgo	Molly	
Rowling	Katie	
Horowitz	Bella	

## Attendance

Attendance		
	<b>19.1.24</b>	<b>26.1.24</b>
Inkpen	96.9%	98.3%
Donaldson	95.3%	99.3%
Ahlberg	100%	97.9%
Jamila	97.0%	96.7%
Morpurgo	97.2%	97.6%
Rowling	99.3%	93.1%
Horowitz	99.0%	99.3%
<b>WHOLE SCHOOL</b>	97.7%	97.5%

## Contact Us

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***Website :- [Website](#)***

***Email :- [bursar@braunston.pdet.org.uk](mailto:bursar@braunston.pdet.org.uk)***

***Headteacher :- [head@braunston.pdet.org.uk](mailto:head@braunston.pdet.org.uk)***

***Chair of Governors :- [j.morgan@braunston.pdet.org.uk](mailto:j.morgan@braunston.pdet.org.uk)***

WEDUC

***Link to calendar of events [Calendar](#)***

***Report An Absence - [Forms](#)***

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