



Braunston C.E. Primary School

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'And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.'
Galatians 6:9

Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

October has arrived and so has the wet weather! Please make sure children bring coats to school as we endeavour to go outside in all conditions. We continue to teach in ventilated spaces, so recommend that children wear layers - particularly on the days that children do PE, as they are often outside.

This week, we have been challenged by staff shortages and the innocent cough and cold that is making its way around reception and year 1. Wherever possible, staff absence is covered within our usual staffing team, and we aim to make sure that teaching staff, who are known to the children, teach them. If this is not possible, then the class teaching assistants remain with the class to ensure consistency. If any communication between you and the class teacher remains unanswered for longer than 48 hours, please send the email to me or to the office.

Thank you for your support in working to keep COVID out of school. So far, we have been fortunate in the number of positive cases in school, and have appreciated how vigilant you have been in using Lateral Flow Tests and/ or taking your child to have a PCR test. If your child has been identified as a close contact, school will contact you and ask you to take your child for a PCR test. This system has prevented any spread within our bubbles and has meant that the overall majority of children are accessing a full curriculum within the school setting. Long may this continue!

Children who test positive and are well enough, can access our remote provision. This continues to be accessed via Google Classroom and is a mixture of live teaching and uploaded learning. Laptop computers can be made available if required, please contact the office.

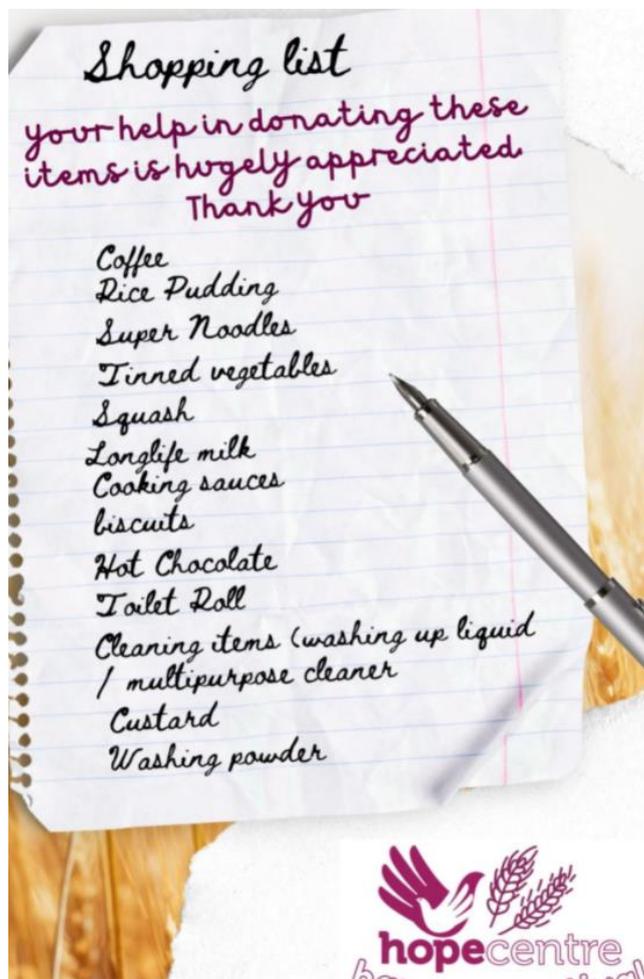
On Friday 8th October, Friday 15th October and Friday 22nd October, we are collecting donations for Hope. Please see the list on page 2 and follow the link to see the impact of your donation.

<https://www.northamptonhopecentre.org.uk/harvest/>

The week beginning 11th October is scheduled for our autumn parent meetings. The booking goes live at 7.00pm on Monday 4th October. At this stage, we are hopeful for the meetings to be face to face in school, however, if COVID cases rise, we will review the situation and contact you remotely. Please try to meet with your child's class teacher on the day, we will only be offering alternative dates as a last resort.

You may have seen our new EYFS area that is finally in place after three years of budgeting and several setbacks linked to the steep incline of the setting. The children love it and we move onto our next plan of improving the Key Stage 1 playground. Our FOBS members are working really hard to raise funds and we seek to raise further monies through accessing grants and community support. The cost of these improvements looks to be in the region of £20,000, so please support events run by FOBS as much as you can. If you know of any grants or funds that we may access, please let me know.





Reception Class – Inkpen

A very warm welcome to our lovely Reception class. We hope you have enjoyed your first few weeks in school! We have been busy learning our class expectations and completing base line assessments in Literacy and Maths. We have begun learning set 1 sounds from our Phonics: Read, Write, Inc, as well as the first five rotten red words. These have been sent home for your children to continue learning ready for their first spelling quiz on 24th September. We have tried our hand at doing mud paintings using natural resources, such as feathers, leaves and twigs, as well as drawing self-portraits. These will be turned into Picasso inspired portraits using oil pastels. We cannot wait to see how these turn out!

The adults in Reception have been playing with the children and making observations, which are being uploaded onto our online learning journal – Tapestry. You should have now received your log-in details and be able to access your child's account. Please speak to an adult in Reception if you require assistance with this.

Our outdoor area is coming along nicely and the children are very excited to see the finished result and play on our new equipment! Please see photos below.

This is the lever for the computer.
You pull it and it turns on. These
are the buttons – you push them.
This is the bit you move around
the screen.

- Van

What is an artist?
It's a very good painter.
- Kingsley.

Whilst reading a book:
Look at the spider! He's building a
web.

- Rory.



Class Donaldson -Class 1

What an amazing start to the year!

We have been working hard to learn the key skills we need in our maths and writing sessions. Our favourite topic is Toys and we have been busy sorting into groups of 'now' and 'a long-time ago'. In science, we are learning all about ourselves and have created labelled, self-portraits. Can you guess who is who? In our religious education studies, we learnt all about how Christians believe the world was created. We enjoyed acting this out, particularly day 7 when God had a rest! Group A have enjoyed spending time at Forest School, making autumn crowns whilst Group B have been busy designing and making a cart to carry the enormous turnip. In computing we have been very successful in logging on to the chrome books and have even made our own avatars. We have made all of our teachers super proud!



I like maths in Year 1 - Avery

I like having lunch in the hall.
Georgia

I've got better at writing in Year 1.
Blake O

I like using the computers. Darcie

Class Ahlberg -Class 2

Year 2 have settled back in to school beautifully and are making all of their teachers extremely proud!

In history we have been learning why England has so many castles. We have found out about William the Conqueror and his 84 castles and looked at sources such as the Bayeux Tapestry to help find out what life was like 1000 years ago.

In maths we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and using a 100 square to notice patterns in sequences of numbers.

In English we have almost finished reading our super class story 'George and the Dragon' and it has inspired some incredible stories – we can't wait to share them with you.

Well done Year 2 – I can tell we are going to have an amazing year, learning together.



I like learning about castles and how the army shot arrows through the arrow slits. Olive

I have used new words for 'big'. I wrote COLOSSAL in my story today.
George

My favourite story in Year 2 is 'Mrs Wobble the Waitress'. It is an Ahlberg story and that is what our class is called.
Honey

Class Jamila -Class 3



Year 3 have worked so hard and have responded well to Mrs Edge and Mrs Oliver teaching them. They are accessing the full curriculum, including learning to play the ukulele. Children thoroughly enjoyed using our brand new Chrome Books and seem to be able to explore sound very quickly.

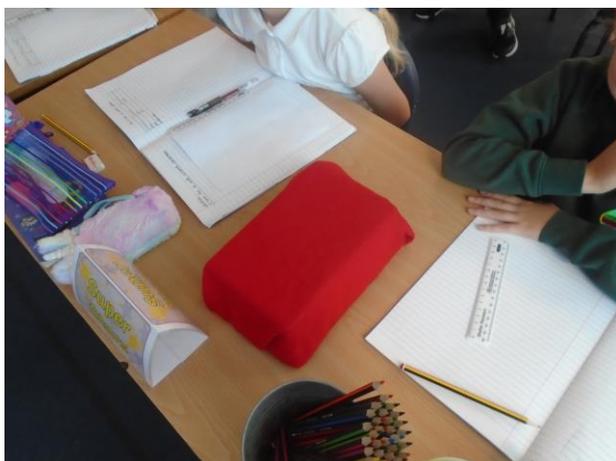
In history, children are finding out about The Stone Age and are discovering new knowledge daily. They are continuing to develop their writing skills and aiming to write in pen as soon as they can.

Children continue to focus on showing that they care and making each other feel welcome. There are now 30 children in year 3 and each child has settled into their Key Stage 2 journey very well.

Class Morpurgo – Class 4

The children have had a tremendous beginning to this new year back at school. They have settled well into the routine of being taught by two teachers and have shown some excellent attitude to their learning.

In Science this term we are investigating Sound. Asking questions about how sound is made and how our ears hear the sounds around us. This week we did an experiment to see which materials would make a sound quieter. We placed an alarm under 3 different materials and then took a reading on a data logger to see how many decibels we could hear. We had some very surprising results.



I have enjoyed learning how to play hockey and playing tiny games with other people.
Darcey

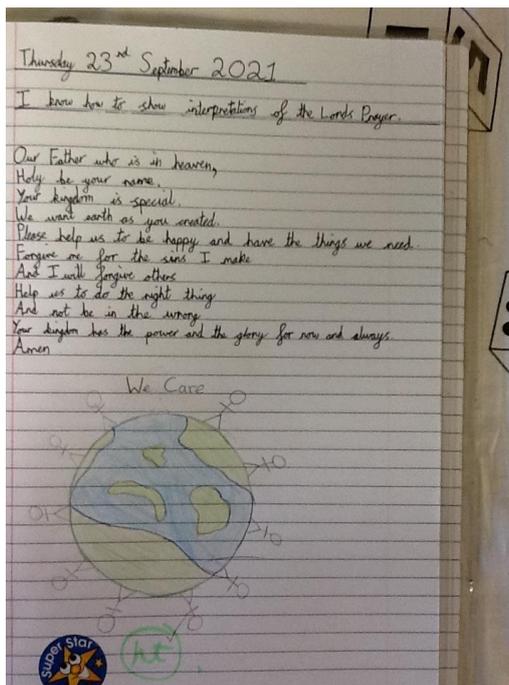
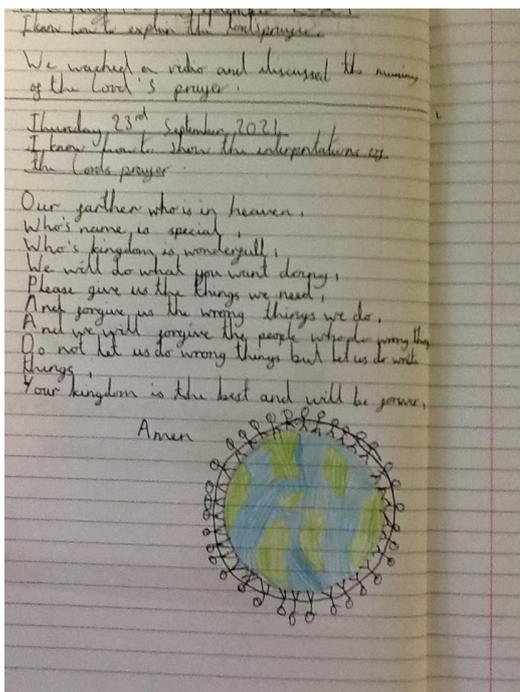
In our sound experiment we found out that bubble wrap was worse than felt and felt was worse than paper.
Noah

Starting Year 4 is great. Year 4 is the best class ever. The Science was fun.
Grace

Class Rowling - Class 5

What a start year five had made in Class Rowling. All the children have adapted well to the new routines of year five and, of course, also to the new work levels of year five. In maths, we have moved our knowledge of numbers on greatly – we have been working with numbers up to one million: reading and writing, ordering, comparing and rounding too. In English, we have been reading Beowulf and have just completed our first writing task on this text – our diary entries have included expanded noun phrases, time starters as well as using dashes to show our after thoughts and feeling – aren't we clever?!

Anglo-Saxons has been the focus of our History – we already know when they came here, why and where from. We have compared the organisation of Anglo-Saxon Britain with how it is nowadays and have recently completed research about their homes. Music has been fun as we have been singing and performing parts of Jon Bon Jovi's, 'Living on a Prayer'. In RE, we have been writing our own versions of The Lord's Prayer, making it more up to date and easier to understand



I really like all the adults that help us in year five and have settled well.
Georgia B

I am looking forward to watching the end of the Beowulf film.
Alex P

At first, I was scared and thought I would not be able to do the work, but now I know I can.
Isobelle

Class Horowitz -Class 6

Year 6 have had an extremely busy week, starting with a visit from Mrs Cole from DSLV. She taught part of a dance to the class and is inviting children to volunteer to take part in a collective dance show at DSLV at Christmas time-more details will follow. She was very impressed with the speed that the children learnt the dance and they did look fantastic!

To make the most of the sun this week, we took our mathematics outside and calculated with negative numbers on the playground. The children's focus was impressive as they worked in pairs to support and challenge each other. They then applied these strategies to written working out in the classroom.

Well done Year 6- a brilliant week!



European Language Day

On Monday the 27th September, we celebrated European Day of Languages across the school. Children took part in a range of exciting and engaging interactive activities designed to promote an interest in language learning.

Inkpen class have been learning about the artist Pablo Picasso this term. The children enjoyed creating their own Picasso style self-portraits and learning some Spanish greetings.

Donaldson class focused on French this year and learnt to say 'hello'. The children discovered the national flower of France is the iris and the national animal is the cockerel. They enjoyed learning some Disney songs in French too!

Classes Alberg, Jamila and Morpurgo were very excited to have a visit from one of our parents, Mrs Costello, who is a fluent Portuguese speaker. The children learnt about the Portuguese flag and enjoyed practising some simple phrases together.

Classes Horowitz and Rowling also enjoyed a visit from another parent, Mrs Gardner, who speaks German. The children loved hearing the German words and guessing their meaning. Horowitz class also spent some time researching how to say words in several languages spoken across Europe and noticing the similarities and differences.

It was great to see children across the school having fun and using their knowledge about other languages to help them understand new words and phrases, showing we are excellent language learners at Braunston!

Pupil of the Week			Our School Values - Reconciliation		Playground Behaviour & Top Table Awards
	24.9.21	1.10.21	24.9.21	1.10.21	
R	Rory	Seth	Abigail	Mary	Finlay, Polly
1	Blake	Blake	May	Darcie	Ava Joshua, James, Jenson PJ, Grace, Aerinnwen Logan
2	Alfie	Ava	Honey	James	
3	Franklin	Riley	Violet	Sadie	
4	Aerin	Noah	Bay	Lacie-Mai	
5	Callum	Harrison	Logan	Logan	
6	Charlie	Sienna	Calen	Lily	
Best Attendance 2 & 2 ABIS the Ape visits the class with the Best Attendance (Abis stands for always being in school)					

'Wrap Around Care' news

The changes to Wrap Around Care (Breakfast and After School Club) have been really positive, with the majority of children having a hot snack. In all honesty, we did not expect the changes to be as successful, nor did we expect the numbers to grow as much as they have.

There is a limit of 25 places in Wrap Around Care and several times this week we have been at capacity. We have amended the booking system to allow you to book up to 24 hours before the session and not 48 hours, however we are very restricted in offering emergency bookings. Please continue to plan ahead and contact the office if you have a genuine unforeseen emergency. Unfortunately, we may not be able to offer a space if the 25 places have already been allocated.

We have staff changes in the Wrap Around Care team. Miss Madge will no longer be our Wrap Around Care supervisor, although we are pleased to say that she continues to work in year 4 as their teaching assistant. Mrs Brand, who currently works in year 1 and as a lunchtime supervisor, joins the breakfast team from Monday.

A big thank you to Miss Madge and the Wrap Around Care team for all of their work.

Forest School news

Year 1 went foraging for all sorts of different nature treasures. They made potions for woodland creatures. We put all sorts of leaves, berries, flowers and soil in a cup and bashed them with mini sticks to mix them all together. We added a drop of water and then we took it in turn to smell each cup and share what we thought they smelled like - some said like pizza, water, minty like toothpaste. In the afternoon, we read Elmer and had our own 'Elmer Day'. We searched for blackberries, elderberries, leaves and grass. We crushed them in pestle and mortars and made inky paint from them. We used twigs, leaves and other natural materials to paint with on paper. We ended the day hunting for mini-beasts.



Finally, please find our diary dates attached. We will continue to add to these throughout the year.

With best wishes

Lianna Willis

Headteacher