



Braybrook Primary Academy

Head's Newsletter

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a productive and exciting week at Braybrook. We kicked off the week with the whole school enjoying a very special Zoom session, hearing from the author of *Don't Trust Fish*, Neil Sharpson, which was voted as the children's favourite during our Picture Book Awards challenge in the autumn term. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to hear directly from an author and learn more about the stories they love. Around the school, the classes have all been busy learning:

Reception children learned the rest of the story of Shackleton the explorer and discovered how he and his crew were stranded for almost two years. They brought this learning to life by building shelters outdoors and pretending to be Shackleton and his crew. The class also read *Penguin* by Polly Dunbar and had great fun drawing what they imagined Penguin might see in outer space. In maths, they sang *Five Little Speckled Frogs* and explored different ways of making the number five.

Our Year 1 class have been busy writing retellings of *Ocean Meets Sky* in English, producing some truly impressive work that shows just how talented they are becoming. In science, they continued learning about the senses, using their hearing to identify mystery sounds. In maths, the children explored 'teen' numbers, focusing on finding one more and one less.

Year 2 pupils continued their work on *Dragon Post*, writing thoughtful letters to an animal expert to ask for advice about what to do with Alex's dragon. Alongside this, they have been learning about Judaism in RE, with a particular focus on the importance of the Torah.

In Year 3 this week, the children explored calories in science, learning that calories come from foods and provide our bodies with energy. They predicted and researched the number of calories in different food products and were surprised by some of their findings—discovering, for example, that cheese puffs contain more calories than chocolate. The class also discussed how foods that are low in calories are not always the healthiest choice.

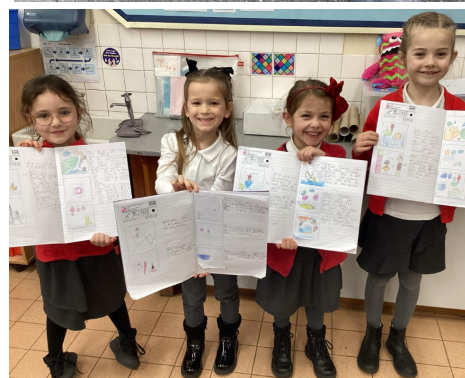
The Year 4 class focused on the 9 times table in maths, learning to recite it confidently while also exploring patterns and creating their own rule posters. In English, they have been learning all about dragons, including reading *How to Train Your Dragon* and using it as inspiration to create imaginative dragon stories.

Our Year 5 children enjoyed a practical DT lesson tasting different pasta sauces before designing their own spaghetti bolognese recipes. Many were surprised to discover that vegetables they thought they disliked were actually quite enjoyable. In reading, the class have been learning about Chinese dynasties and the significant inventions that originated in China.

Meanwhile, Year 6 have been watching clips of Pandora from *Avatar* to inspire their planning for non-chronological reports about their own planets. Their ideas are already sounding imaginative and detailed, and they are very much looking forward to sharing their finished pieces.

In addition, Year 6 pupils and members of the school choir enjoyed an unforgettable trip to the O2 Arena in London for Young Voices 2026. The children performed as part of the world's largest choir alongside over 8,000 other pupils and sang with the cast of *Wicked*, live-streamed to an audience of over 250,000 people. They were a credit to the school—singing enthusiastically, giving their all and behaving impeccably throughout the experience.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you all a great weekend, Mr Gross and the Braybrook Team



Diary Dates

February

Monday 9th-Thursday 12th: No after school clubs except homework and YDP

Tuesday 10th: Parents' evening

Thursday 12th: Parents' evening

Friday 13th: Passport to the World Day

Friday 13th: Break for Half term

Monday 23rd: Back to school

Friday 27th: Y6 trip to Cambridge University

Friday 27th: Y5 trip to the National Space Centre

March

Monday 16th: Class photos

Thursday 19th: after school clubs end

Wednesday 25th: Rocksteady Concert

Friday 27th: Reward Day

Friday 27th: Break up for Easter holiday

April

Tuesday 14th: Back to school