



**Braidside Integrated Primary
and Nursery School**
89 Frys Road, Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 7EN



Building
together
for our future.

028 25647899

Principal: J McAuley
www.braidside.co.uk

05/06/23

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful spell of good weather. At this time of year, we usually try to have a week where written homework is withdrawn to allow children time to get outside and enjoy playing as much as possible. We hope parents can get the benefit of this too!

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend our KS1 and 2 Sports days and to those who helped on the day. Everything ran smoothly and the children participated enthusiastically as always. We are grateful to *Eamon McKillop and the Spar Frys Road*, for the sponsorship of both days and for joining in the fun.

This *Friday, 9th June, we will be having a Sustrans Party in the Carpark*, which we hope will be a fun and engaging day for the children. Organised by our Active Travel Champion Mrs Horan, and the children's committee we hope to share more information soon on our website.

We are now in the last 4 weeks of school for this academic year, but there is still much to bring to your attention and to look forward to in the coming weeks. As always please do visit the school website (www.braidside.co.uk) and Facebook page for regular updates and information.

End of Year Reports, together with information on classes for 23-24, will be issued on Monday 26th June, 2023. This will also provide information on class teachers for September 2023.



Congratulations to all the children in P4 who celebrated First Holy Communion on Saturday 13th May. It was a beautiful ceremony and we were very proud of all the children.

Mr O'Sullivan Retires

Following 23 years teaching at Braidside, Mr O'Sullivan will retire officially at the end of August this year. Although we will miss him greatly and will be sad to see him leave, we are pleased for him and hope that he enjoys a long, happy and healthy retirement. I am sure many of you will have great memories of Mr O'Sullivan over many years and indeed he has been a wonderful colleague. We have all enjoyed seeing him grace many a school play and get involved in much school fun. While we will mark his retirement separately in August, I am sure many of you will join with us in offering him our very best wishes in the years ahead!



The Annual Parent Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13th June @7pm** in the Assembly Hall, with refreshments served on arrival.

This year we have a ***vacancy within our parent governors***, due to Mrs Pauline McNeill having completed her term on the Board of Governors. It is possible that a further vacancy may also arise in the Autumn term. We are very grateful to Pauline for her work with Governors and supporting the school so steadfastly during her 4-year term.

Any parent with children at the school can stand as a Parent Governor, which is a voluntary role. Governors meet once a month (usually on the second Tuesday in the month) and play an important role as a management group for the school, having their say on decisions which can include the school budget, staffing, the running of the school and school development planning. Parent Governors are elected by the school at the Parent Meeting. Once appointed Governors now go through the same vetting procedure as school staff, which involves filling in an AccessNI clearance form.

Our Parent Governors have helped to play a vital role in driving and supporting the success of the school. Please feel encouraged to consider this role. If you would like any further information, feel free to ask. A nomination form follows below. If you are interested, please return the form to the office by **Tuesday 13th June @9am**.



Healthy Eating Week: 12th-16th June

Next week we will mark and celebrate Healthy Eating Week across the school. The theme of this will be **“Healthy Eating Week For Everyone!”**

Due to the cost-of-living crisis the focus is on providing free, evidence-based advice for ways to eat a healthier diet regardless of financial barriers.

During the week, we plan to distribute re-usable water bottles to every child, relaunch our Healthy Eating Policy, which has just been reviewed and revised, and allow children to participate in activities on this theme.

NERVE CENTRE PROJECT 22-23

Throughout this year, we have been engaged with the Nerve Centre on a project focused on coding. Teachers have participated in online training, face-to-face sessions and supported in-class teaching sessions. This continued professional development has further enhanced the teachers’ skills but has also afforded the opportunity to enhance the teaching and learning opportunities of the children. They will, no doubt, be able to tell you of their learning, their sessions with iPads and for the older children their work with the spheros.

I am delighted we were able to participate and complete this project this year and that Mrs Fulton will attend the celebration event with the Nerve Centre this week.



ECO Schools

Congratulations to Mrs Turner and the Eco Schools group, who have achieved the Eco Schools flag this year! Lead by Mrs Turner, the group have invested so much of their time on many activities throughout the year, from organising paper recycling to regular litter picks and planting on school grounds. I have been so impressed by their work and dedication. Well done everyone, it will be great to see the Eco flag at Braidside again!



Parents will be aware that over the last few years, we have been developing an initiative in school we called Wellbeing Wednesday. Each Wednesday we focus on an aspect of wellbeing and incorporate various lessons and activities for the children to enjoy. Since last year, we have been incorporating aspects of the Take 5 themes into those lessons; namely Give, Be Active, Connect, Learn, Take Notice and Integration. Additionally, we include throughout the school year various themes, special days and awareness weeks to highlight wellbeing among our pupils and school community. This continues to be important work and is supported also by the work of our school counsellor who is available on a weekly basis following referral. *I am very pleased to share with you that this year, we have achieved school accreditation for the work we have completed and we will receive this at a celebration event this week.*



Lost Property

We have some lost property this year. A cupboard with a small number of items, is maintained in the Hygiene Room, as cloakrooms and classrooms are tidied over the next few weeks, please encourage your children to check the cupboard for any missing items.

During the last week of term, we would aim to have a lost property afternoon, when parents can come into the school hall and reclaim any missing items.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 9th June: Sustrans Party in the Carpark

12th – 16th June: Healthy Eating Week

12th-14th June: P1 Induction sessions

19th- 23rd June: Nursery Induction sessions

26th June: Annual Pupil Reports issued and information on classes for 23/24

28th June: Leavers' Day and Assembly (10am)
P7 pupils will finish school after their assembly.

29th June: Bump Up Morning! Classes will meet and spend the morning with their new teacher for September 2023.

30th June: Last day of School, close for summer holidays at 12:15pm

Applications for Free School Meals 23-24

We encourage all parents to get ready now for your 2023-24 application for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance

If you are in receipt of one of the following:

1. Income Support
2. Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
3. Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
4. Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;

you will need a Proof of Benefits letter when you apply for Free School Meals and Uniform for the 2023-24 school year. Request one now via [Get a proof of benefit letter](#). It will take at least five days to be sent to you. Once you receive the letter keep it securely. You must upload a copy of the letter when you apply. It must be dated no earlier than the beginning of the month before you submit your application. If you receive Tax Credits or Universal Credit you do not require the above letter

Finally, as we approach the end of term may I take the opportunity to wish you all a healthy, relaxing and fun summer holiday. Thank you all for your continued support and cooperation throughout this school year. As a school community it is so important that we all work in partnership together, to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children. There has been much achieved throughout this school year and I hope we can look forward to the next year and continue to build on this progress.

Yours faithfully,

J McAuley

Parent Governor Nomination Form
Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School

Nominee

I am the parent of a child at the school and am willing to be nominated as a Parent Governor.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Proposer (parent of children at the school)-

Proposed by (please sign): _____ Date: _____

Please return to the school by 13th June at the latest. Thanks.