



Building  
together  
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## ***Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School***

**89 Fry's Road, Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 7EN  
1989- 2019: 30 Years of Integration**

**028 25647899**



**Principal: J McAuley  
www.braidside.co.uk**

23/10/23

### October 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

It's been a busy first half-term and I'm sure everyone is ready for the break ahead. School will be closed from Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov inclusive.



Over these first few weeks we have had several events and activities which the whole school has been involved in and enjoyed. Firstly, we had "[Bike to School Week](#)". It is encouraging to see many children continue to use active travel to school, which also helps with congestion and safety in our school grounds. I would encourage all those on the school

grounds to be mindful of pedestrians and to avoid parking in the bus spaces.



Last week we participated in [Maths Week](#) and again children had the opportunity to enjoy lots of practical maths, investigative maths and online games. Well done everyone! - it's great to be able to highlight fun maths activities.

Our [Student Council](#) is now also newly formed and preparing for a busy school year and events ahead. We hope to introduce the Student Council to the children before half term.

#### Breakfast Club/ Stay and Play Club

Places can be booked and paid for both clubs in advance. For the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, please ensure bookings are made by 27<sup>th</sup> October before half-term. Thank you.



Research and experience tell us that pupil progress will be impacted by lack of regular school attendance. As we begin a new school year, I have been focused on prioritising regular school attendance and considering both monitoring and intervention strategies, as well as incentives for those who continue to maintain excellent attendance.

**Last year whole school attendance at Braidside was 90.02%.** As a school, our target for attendance is 94%+ and that is once again the target for 23-24.

With the introduction of attendance tiers, I continue to undertake monthly analysis of attendance/ absence figures, across the school.

Attendance Tier	Percentage Attendance	September % (for each tier)
<b>1: Regular attendance</b>	<b>95%+</b>	<b>81.2%</b>
<b>1a At Risk</b>	<b>90-95%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>2. Chronic Attendance</b>	<b>80-90%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>3: Severe chronic attendance</b>	<b>&lt;80%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>

It is evident from the September data that many children in Braidside are in the 95% attendance tier, however we would aspire to have more children in this top tier. At the end of October, I will once again examine the attendance outcomes for all children.

**It is very encouraging that in September there were 209 children who had 100% attendance.** We hope this continues. At the end of October '23, all those children who have achieved 100% will receive a Homework Pass Reward.

For further information parents can refer to the following two documents which can be downloaded from the website: [Braidside IPS Pupil Attendance Policy \(2022\)](#) and [School Attendance Matters- A Parents' Guide \(DE\)](#).

#### Hair Care

**Please check hair regularly** and treat as necessary.

A range of treatments are available, including wet combing with a fine comb, lotions from pharmacies, and electric combs. Pharmacists can advise. **Repeating** the treatment is essential to break the cycle.

If you need any further advice or information, you can contact the School Nurse Service, at 25313160.

**Dates for your diary after half term:**

Book Fair: 9<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> November

World Kindness Day: 13<sup>th</sup> November

Anti-Bullying Week: 13<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> November

Rotary Christmas Hamper Collection will begin from 8<sup>th</sup> Nov (Elderly & Vulnerable)

**Reminder: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October is a non-uniform day.** Children may come to school in costume or simply in their own clothes but avoid bringing accessories or toys to school which would be considered frightening, especially for younger children.

I hope everyone enjoys the half-term break. We will return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November.



**Lastly a huge thank you** to everyone who has contributed and donated to the Harvest Collection for the Trussel Trust. We are so thankful for your generosity and support and look forward to handing this over to the volunteers on Thursday.

Yours faithfully,

*J McAuley*

Principal.