



Building
together
for our future.

Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School

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

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

26/10/22

October 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

It's been a busy first half-term and I'm sure all the children and parents are ready for the break ahead. School will be closed from Mon 31st Oct- Fri 4th Nov inclusive.



Over these first few weeks we have had several events and activities which the whole school has been involved in and enjoyed. We didn't have great weather for the "[Bike to School Week](#)". Although we did have lots of bikes, scooters and children walking to school every day the weather definitely impacted participation. However, it is always

encouraging to see many children continue to use active travel to school, which also helps with congestion and safety in our school grounds.

Linked to this we were delighted to host the PSNI, and to enable some of our P7 pupils to participate in the [Kids' Court](#). This initiative underlines the importance of safe travel and adhering to the speed limit outside school.

We have also had [Healthy Happy Kidz](#) PE sessions in school for the last few weeks, due to Mrs Young's success in a competition. These have been great, and means the hall is always buzzing with noise and activity on a Friday!

It has been great to see [Shared Education](#) get underway in this school year too! We've had our friends from Buick Memorial PS join us here and engage in lots of fun outdoor play activities. Shared education sessions will run until Easter 2022.



Last week we participated in [Maths Week](#) and again children had the opportunity to enjoy lots of practical maths, investigative maths and online games. I know the competition between P6/7O and P7Y was intense as they took part in the times tables challenge. Well done everyone! - it's great to be able to highlight fun maths activities.

This week we have launched the [Healthy Break Parent Survey](#), as we look to review and relaunch our school policy. I would encourage parents to participate in the survey which can be found on the homepage of our school website. The survey will close on Fri 4th Nov. Thank you!

Our [Student Council](#) is now also newly formed and preparing for an event after the break. Children were invited to apply, and I'm delighted we now have 10 P6 and P7 pupils engaging in this opportunity. I look forward to hearing their ideas!

Attendance Matters



In the last couple of years, regular school attendance has been directly affected by the pandemic. In turn, research and experience tell us that pupil progress will also be impacted by lack of regular 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 90.09%. As a school, our target for attendance is 94%+ and that is once again the target for 22-23.

Following new guidance from the Department of Education, I will be undertaking monthly analysis of attendance/ absence figures, across the school and using the following tiers to analyse pupil attendance figures.

Attendance Tier	Percentage Attendance	September % (for each tier)
1: Regular attendance	95%+	63.8%
1a	90-95%	19.3%
2	80-90%	13.2%
3: Severe chronic attendance	<80%	3.7%

It is evident from the September data that many children in Braidside are in the 95% 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 encouraging that in September there were 189 children who had 100% attendance. We hope this continues. At the end of October '22, all those children who have achieved 100% will receive a Homework Pass Reward. This will continue at regular intervals throughout the year.

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 \(DE\)](#).

Throughout this school year, I intend to provide regular information to parents on school attendance and to make contact where there are concerns. I am grateful for your support as we work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children.

Dates for your diary after half term:

P4-P7 Auditions for KS2 Show: week bg 7th Nov

Book Fair: 10th- 11th November

World Kindness Day: 14th November

Anti-Bullying Week: 14th- 18th November

Rotary Christmas Hamper Collection will begin from 7th Nov (Elderly & Vulnerable)

I hope everyone enjoys the half-term break. We will return to school on Monday 7th November. Parents should ensure any bookings for Breakfast Club and/ or Stay & Play are with the office by Friday 28th October.



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 support and look forward to handing this over to the volunteers on Thursday.

Yours faithfully,

J McAuley

Principal.