

Where everyone contributes to our success

Parents are their child's first and most enduring educator. We want to encourage and guide our parents' continual involvement in their child's education and to work together as a team to ensure continued success. We have an 'open door' policy where parents can talk to the class teacher on a daily basis. Teaching staff send a weekly email through our safe intranet on eschools which can be accessed through a login on our website or an associated eschools app. Our office staff communicate to our parents through a weekly email to your personal account. Our website is full of information for new parents together with an extensive induction programme.

Homework is routinely provided to reinforce and extend learning. Children have their homework posted on our electronic learning platform together with a wide variety of reading materials. A wide variety of awards and celebrations are linked to our pupils' achievements to ensure that a whole range of achievements are celebrated including Family Assembly where the 'Headteacher's Award' is presented or the weekly 'Star of the Week' where your child has lunch with the headteacher. We host three annual parent/staff/child consultations, and events where parents can see the classroom in action such as Mums and Dads into School. There is also an end of year report.

All parents are automatically members of the 'Friends of Braywood. The PTA plays a vital role in the life of the school. Throughout the year there are many events organised to ensure that everyone feels valued. The PTA plan events where parents socialise together and the school invite parents into school to share events such as Sports Day & BBQ, Christmas Nativity, Summer Ball, Easter & Summer Concert etc. In addition, we have a strong, friendly and effective Governing Body who are always on hand to support our school. They attend many events and can always provide another point of contact.

We offer 'wrap around care' to our parents. We have a comprehensive extended provision including a Breakfast Club 'Early Birds', and an After-School Club 'The Squirrel Club'. The Breakfast Club runs every morning from 7.45 until 8.45am and a heathy breakfast is included in the fee. Our After-School Club runs from the end of the school day until 5.30pm. This club is focused around the children's interests and activities are stimulating, enjoyable and quite different from the usual school day. Both clubs are organized by trained members of school staff to ensure that the Braywood ethos is integral.





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WHERE THE LEARNING BEGINS

Braywood C of E First School

"From little acorns, mighty oak trees grow, watered and nurtured by God."





Welcome to Braywood

"At Braywood our aspirations are for all children to become confident, secure and caring individuals who achieve personal success through a love of learning"

We would like to welcome you to Braywood CE First School and look forward to a very happy and successful partnership over the coming years. As parents you want the best education possible for your child and at Braywood we aim to meet this challenge. We have an excellent reputation for both our academic standards and our inclusive, nurturing and empowering learning environment. We provide strong educational foundations; a well-balanced and creative curriculum with innovative teaching methods. Learning at Braywood is exciting and stimulating so that children develop a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

A child's first school is concerned with the growth of the whole individual. Our enthusiastic approach within a warm, happy and friendly atmosphere is at the heart of everything we do at Braywood We celebrate success at every opportunity and provide enough challenges to help promote a child's self-esteem and confidence. All children are treated as special individuals receiving direction, support and the recognition that they deserve.

Confidence in a school comes from knowing and understanding the ethos and vision. We hope that you will develop your knowledge of Braywood through contact and open discussion with either myself, our governors and members of staff. We invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities we offer to come into school. It is important that mutual understanding and trust should be the basis of our shared responsibility.

Mrs Susan Calvert



Our School Day

At Braywood our school day starts at 8.45am and has a staggered finish which is 2.45pm for Foundation; 3pm for Year 1 & 2 and 3.15pm for Year 3 & 4. Gates are open from 8.30am for drop your child off at school and the site is secure from 9am to 2.30pm where the gates are closed. Parents wishing to visit the school need to enter through the main door. Foundation and Year 1 are collected from their classrooms at the end of the day whilst the older children are dismissed in the playground once we have seen their parent. The trim trail is out of bounds at the end of the day for safety reasons.

Children have plenty of rest breaks during the day. They have mid-morning breaks with fruit and a drink; a lunch time and several PE bursts. At midday children can either choose to have a packed lunch or a freshly prepared school dinner in our dining hall/kitchen through a staggered timetable. Initially the little Acorns stay in their classroom for lunch. There is a three-week rotational menu which is sent to parents for their convenience. We try to avoid nuts in all our choices. Universal free school meals ensure that the Foundation, Year 1 and 2 pupils can have a lunch free of charge. We are a healthy school and our meals are enjoyed by the children.

Our Curriculum

The 'Little Acorns' foundation stage acts as a bridge between home and school- a happy introduction into school life. During the Early Years a stimulating learning environment through play delivers all curriculum areas including phonics, early reading and mathematics skills. The curriculum is offered through different themes often led by the children.

In English we aim to teach the children how to use language as effectively as they can, including opportunities to lead and speak in front of an audience. Children are taught the fundamentals of decoding words through an engaging phonics scheme which helps them to start to read and write. They build on these early skills to become accomplished readers. We have an extensive range of books in paper and electronic formats to excite the reader. Mathematics is an integral part of everyday life and as such we aim to promote a range of mathematical knowledge. A strong understanding of numerical concepts is essential and care is taken to ensure secure number facts are fostered to enable each child to apply these strategies to problem solving. Skills are developed using a practical approach of Singapore Mathematical techniques where mental agility is developed through practice and confidence.

All children learn to speak French. The younger children learn this through song, rhyme and games whilst in later years the language is taught in specific lessons. Through our Science curriculum we aim to give children a wide range of practical experiences in order to develop early scientific skills and attributes. Science helps children to understand more about the world around them and is often taught at Braywood in relation to the topics the children are covering at the time. Our Topics (History, Geography, Art and DT) are covered using the International Primary Curriculum which is lot of fun. The work aims to be on an International stage with 'wow' days, associated trips or visitors with an overarching sense of real purpose in the work. The learner is stimulated to discover more through these topics. Parents who are invited into school to participate and share the learning.

ICT is a popular subject and we have a wealth of technological resources to engage the learner. Although technology is continually changing we aim to provide children with stimulating resources to enhance their learning. Each child is encouraged to get involved in a wide range of PE. We pride ourselves in the opportunities we offer including specialist teachers. At Braywood we are passionate about the Arts and this forms a large part of our curriculum. Music is a strength and all class have a dedicated music lesson every week. They practice drama and dance and are used to performing on stage in front of an audience. All children receive religious education. Our curriculum covers a range of faiths. The subject Is vibrant, interesting and involves plenty of visits. The children are involved in a Nativity, Harvest and Easter concert in St Michaels Church Bray. Collective Worship consists of a range of assemblies often supported by our Collective Worship leaders. We have regular family assemblies where we celebrate our Christian values together.



Our History

Braywood was built in 1857 by Jean Van De Wever, the Belgian minister to the English Court and his wife Elizabeth. They built a grand house called New Lodge, a church and a small school with an integrated mortuary chapel and headteacher's home on their Braywood Estate. Van De Weyer wanted to build a school which served both as a place of public worship and as a place to educate the children on his land. The first service was held in the chapel on 21st February 1858 and the school was opened on Monday 22nd March 1858. At the time the school educated children from to age of 4 to 11 years old and had 140 children on role with an average of 120 attending. The Headmaster resided in the front part of the school and there was a service held in the chapel at weekends. In the past the headteachers at Braywood have been keen disciplinarians.

There are a lot of the original features left and the school has warmth, charm and character – a very inspiring place to teach and to learn.

Our School Procedures

At the heart of all we do is the welfare, progress and happiness of your child. Procedures are put in place with this aim in mind. We are a safe place for children and we adhere to all national guidelines in order to safeguard your child. We ask parents to make sure that our child attends school regularly and arrive on time. Mrs Calvert cannot authorise any holiday in school time unless it is extremely exceptional circumstances. If your child is unwell parents need to inform the school before 10am. If there is any change in your personal circumstances or procedures regarding the collection/drop off of your child we ask that you contact the school.

Road safety is always important and all parents are asked to abide by the Traffic Code of Conduct and be courteous to our neighbours. To reduce congestion outside our school we provide a 'kiss and drop' facility from 8.20pm onwards. Parents can drop their child off outside the Church House and a member of staff will safely deliver them to the classroom.

We do collect data about pupils and in accordance with the Data Protection Act we only collect data that is relevant to our needs and we process this information safely. Much more information can be found on the website under 'Parents and Pupils' and the office are very happy to help with any questions. If you have a problem concerning your child please talk to your class teacher. Most issues can be dealt with immediately.

We are keen to have feedback from our parents and Mrs Calvert or our Parent Governors are always available to help if necessary.

