



Braidwood Primary School

September Newsletter 2026

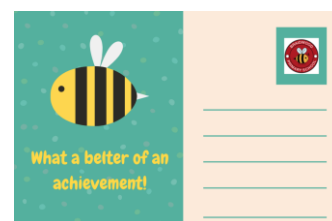


Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to the school session, and our pupils have already enjoyed a range of learning experiences. We have been talking a lot about what we do at school, and why we do it.

School is not only a place where your children come to learn, school offers a community, a sense of belonging and an opportunity for young people to develop social skills and build understanding on the wider world around them. Attendance at school is highly important. Please read on for details of SLC's attendance campaign. We are very proud of our school and our pupils, and appreciate your support in ensuring all our children, your children, get the most out of their time in school.

To further celebrate success beyond school, we have introduced our Braidwood Belters Wall. Your child will have a postcard in their school bag, please keep it safe and send it into school at some point throughout the school year telling us about their achievement.



Pupil Voice and leadership

Our School Captains and House Captains have now been elected. The School Captains will be taking part in our Young Leaders of Learning Programme this year. Our House Team will be busy arranging House Events for their fellow pupils.

School Captains

Elise Graham
Erin Pollock

Vice School Captains

Maili Gilmour
Lily Cleland

Baird House

Captain – Devon Davies
Vice Captain – Anna Fleming

Burns House

Captain – Oliver Liddell
Vice Captain – Lochlan Harrop

Murray House

Captain – Donovan McCulloch
Vice Captain – Henry McGinty

Wallace House

Captain – Grace Welch
Vice Captain – Lewis Richardson

Kids Kitchen

Our P5, P6 and P7 pupils had an amazing time over the past month working with Chef Robert from Kids Kitchen. They learned so many skills for preparing and cooking delicious healthy lunches and dinner. They also enjoyed showing off their talents to you at our parent events. Thanks for managing to come along, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as they did!



Be the best you can be!

Sidekicks

P7 have recently been trained as Sidekicks Sports Leaders. They have already put their new skills and knowledge to use by starting up our Sidekicks playtime club for younger pupils. They have done a brilliant job so far and the feedback from the pupils involved has been really positive!



Improvement Planning

Our improvement priorities for this session are as follows:

Priority One

Further raise attainment in reading through consistent pedagogy in the teaching of reading.

Priority Two

Continue to support pupils with self-regulation strategies and identify support networks for building positive relationships.

Priority Three

Ensure consistency of approach in Inquiry Based Learning opportunities in our Interdisciplinary Learning topics, resulting in stronger pupil engagement.

We will be looking to gather your views at Parents' Night on how to spend our Participatory Budget. Please look out for this information on the evening and cast your vote!

Inquiry Based Learning

For the first few weeks of school each class worked on a 'Big Question'. Each class were given the same question and could explore it in any way the pupils decided! They were asked to find a spot and stand still. The question was 'What is below our feet?'. The range of ideas from the pupils was amazing. They then voted as a class on which one (or two) to learn more about. The classes chose to inquire about:

Primary 1/2 - Coal mines and Minecraft

Primary 2/3 - Minibeasts and bugs

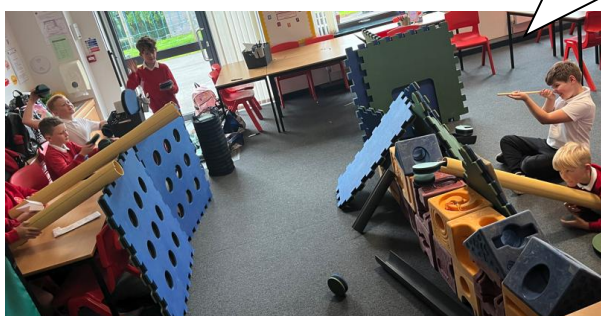
Primary 4 - What bugs and birds are in our school playground, and why?

Primary 5 - Fossils and artefacts found underground, and Australia.

Primary 6 - Coal mining and World War One trenches.

Primary 7 - The layers of the earth and tectonic plates.

P6 learned about WW1 trenches and their purpose through building with Kapla and using the play equipment! Ask them at home about their learning.



Be the best you can be!

Parent Council

A huge thanks to everyone who managed along to the Parent Council meeting. It was lovely to see so many people there, including new members. At the Parent Council AGM the following committee was elected.

Chair Person – Kirsty Forrest

Secretary- Lorna McFarlane

Treasurer – Sharon Frame

The Parent Council have arranged a Halloween Disco for all pupils on Wednesday 28th October. A letter and return slip will come home in school bags for this soon. The Parent Council works hard to plan and lead events over the year which raise funds for the pupils. These funds are used to pay for things such as Christmas party snacks and prizes. Your support is hugely appreciated, and if you are able to help out at any events over the year please get in touch.

Pupil Absences and Time Keeping

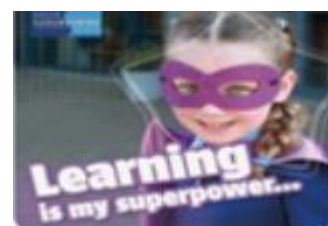
As we get further into the Autumn/Winter season, the number of pupils absent with colds, illnesses etc starts to increase. Please notify the office in the morning if your child is going to be absent from school. This way we can ensure we know they are safe and understand why they are not at school. This allows the absence to be recorded appropriately. If we have not heard why they are absent a member of staff will call you to check their whereabouts. Thanks for your support with this.

The number of pupils being late to school regularly is increasing, please ensure children are at school and in the playground for 9am to join their class in the line. That way they can be met each morning by their teacher.

Every School Day Matters

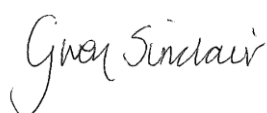
Did you know that a pupil with an average of 90% attendance from P1 onwards could miss the equivalent of an entire school year by the time they reach S3?

South Lanarkshire's campaign highlights the message that 'Every School Day Matters'. What might seem to be just a few days of absence a year can quickly add up, and that cumulative effect makes a difference. Coming to school is about so much more than books and numbers. It helps to nurture, support and create social skills, friendships, support networks, and the ability to learn, change and adapt. Being in school is the foundation upon which happy, successful and resilient young people are built.



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Best wishes,



Mrs Sinclair
Head Teacher

Be the best you can be!

Dates for your Diary

If parents and carers are invited along to a school event, it will state 'Parents invited' next to the event.



Friday 25th September – Holiday
Monday 28th September – Holiday
Tuesday 29th September – Parents' Night
Wednesday 7th October – Cross Country event P6 and P7 (some pupils)
Friday 9th October – Finish for October Week Holiday
Monday 19th October – Return to school
Wednesday 28th October – Halloween Disco
Monday 2nd November – Parent Council Meeting
Monday 9th November – Inservice Day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 11th November – Individual and Class Photographs Day
Wednesday 18th November – Open Morning (info to follow)

Be the best you can be!