



Respect, Responsibility, Hope, Courage

Brabourne

CofE Primary School

Friday 13th September 2024

Welcome back

Welcome back to everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and a special welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us this year. It has been fantastic to meet all of the new Year Rs and see them settle in so well! It has been equally wonderful to see all the children again and looking so smart. Please do reinforce with children to wear and look after their school uniform (which should be named). Ties and book bags can be purchased from the school office.

I wish all of the children a very happy and exciting term of learning and look forward to updating you, through our newsletters, as the term progresses.

With best wishes, Andrew Stapley, Headteacher



Curriculum Plans

Each term you can see coverage of the children's learning on the school's class pages. Please click on the class name below and go to '2024/2025 Term 1':

[Venus](#)

[Mars](#)

[Neptune](#)

[Jupiter](#)

Each Class will be studying a Key Concept and corresponding Key Question this term, which they will study in detail. These can be found below:

Key Concept: Power & Legitimacy

Venus - **Who is in charge?**

Mars - **Which qualities make a successful monarch?**

Neptune - **How did the Romans use their power to govern and rule?**

Jupiter - **Which is better—democracy or dictatorship?**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20th September	After school	PTA Cake & Tea in the playground - see poster for further details
Monday 30th September	All Day	Individual School Photographs
Wednesday 23rd October	9.00 am	Harvest Festival at Church
Friday 25th October		End of Term 1 NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS OR WRAP AROUND TODAY



After School Clubs & Wrap Around

Website

Please do follow us on Twitter/X, as we will be posting some of the children's learning activities on there:

<https://www.twitter.com/brabournecep>.

There is also much information on our school website, so please do explore:

www.brabourne.kent.sch.uk

Here newsletters and letters home will be posted. Please go to 'Parents' and Newsletters' or 'Letters Home'.

After school clubs start this week. Pupils should turn up to the first session and are expected to attend for the rest of the term. Please There are still places available for all clubs. If your child would like to attend a club, please book and pay for the space using School Money. If your child would like to join Cooking Club please contact Mrs Parry office@brabourne.kent.sch.uk as payment is made directly to Mrs Bancroft (via the office).

A list of clubs can be found here: [After-school-clubs-September-2022-2.pdf \(brabourne.kent.sch.uk\)](#).

Early morning and Wrap Around Care will also start this week. Details can be found here: [Wrap around care - Brabourne Church of England Primary School](#). Please book at least a day in advance on [School Money](#). Please ensure you collect your child promptly at the end of their session. **Late pick ups may be charged.**

Kent Test

Yesterday, some of our Year 6 children took the Kent Test. This can be a stressful time, however, I was incredibly proud of the way all of the children approached the test with confidence and perseverance.

School Minibus Sponsorship

We are looking for a company to help us sponsor another staff member to be able to drive the minibus. If you are able to help, or know anyone that can, we would be very grateful.



Early Year Bicycles

If you have an old bike/balance bike suitable for our Early Years children we would be most grateful to receive any donations. Thank you.

Website: www.brabourne.kent.sch.uk

Twitter: [@brabournecep](https://twitter.com/brabournecep)



Staffing

A warm welcome to Mr Parry (as opposed to Mrs Parry!) as a new TA in Jupiter Class. He will also continue to teach hockey on Thursdays and Fridays. The staffing structure this year for each class is below and we hope you have all enjoyed the opportunity to meet the children's teachers this week.

Staff details can be found here:

[Staff - Brabourne Church of England Primary School](#)



Venus	Mars	Neptune	Jupiter
Teacher: Mrs Brown-Harris	Teachers: Mrs Barnes (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Mrs Green (Thursday, Friday)	Teachers: Mrs Green (Monday, Tuesday) Mrs Burnett (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)	Teacher: Miss Unsworth
Teaching Assistant: Miss Court	Teaching Assistant: Mrs Riggs, Mrs Hopkins	Teaching Assistants: Mrs Jowett, Mrs Sparkes, Miss Cook	Teaching Assistants: Mrs Vasu, Mr Parry

Celebration Worship

Every Friday, we celebrate the children's work and their achievements for the week. Certificates to each year group are awarded for good work, as well as Citizenship badges for putting the school values of Respect, Responsibility, Hope and Courage into action. Please look out for these when your child comes home on a Friday! Children are chosen each week to write a prayer, which they then read to the school. I include one below:

Dear God

Always make wise decisions. Like a tree we start small, and we grow and grow, full of learning and love.

Amen

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Twitter: [@brabournecep](https://twitter.com/brabournecep)



Village News

You may have seen in your child's book bag a copy of the newly revamped Brabourne and Smeeth Village Magazine. Look out for these each month, as they will include details of news and events taking place in the villages.

iRock

Our iRock sessions on a Friday afternoon continue to be a massive hit with the children. iRock allows groups of children the opportunity to form their own rock band. These individual sessions, delivered by specialist music teachers, are available to children from YR-6 and, if you would like your child to take part, further details and costs can be found below:



iRock band lessons are fun, boost confidence, support wellbeing and help develop social skills!



No experience needed and all instruments are provided

Choose drums, guitar, keyboard or vocals

Led by professional Band Coaches with a love for music

Access our parent portal for updates and band memories

Exam-free qualification for Year 2, 4 and 6 through RSL

30-minute weekly lessons happen during school time



I can see a boost in confidence, an expressive outlet, our child is developing social skills by being part of a music band, and, of course, happiness and a lifelong love for music.
Proud parent, 2024



JOIN THE FUN

There are spaces in bands at your school

IROCKSCHOOL.COM

SCAN TO ENROL



Eco Award



A great piece of news at the start of a new term for our green fingered pupils! We have been awarded 'Beacon Status' by the Tree Council. "Beacon Schools are exemplary schools that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to addressing the climate emergency in their school grounds and through their teaching and learning."

We have some ambitious plans for developing the field over the next couple of years, with the inclusion of an orchard, wildflower meadow and outdoor learning zone.

Please see a message below from Kent Police regarding the use of e-scooters. These should not be used on any public road, space or footpath and should not be brought to school.

THE LAW STATES...

E-Scooters and E-Bikes come under the category of "powered transporters". This also covers a range of other personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

"Powered transporters" fall within the legal definition of a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Therefore, the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters.

As a motor vehicle, they must comply with various pieces of Road Traffic Legislation, including but not limited to:

- driving with a licence
- driving/riding with insurance
- driving/riding other than on a road need to be taxed

Any person who uses an e-scooter on a public road or other public space, must comply with the relevant Road Traffic Legislation or they face potential prosecution.



Gardening Club update

The new term started with a fanfare of trumpets (well, nearly) for the Gardening Club. The team entered the Brabourne and Smeeth Gardening Society's autumn show with some excellent fruit and vegetables that they'd grown at the school - and romped home with prizes.

They won first prizes for cucumber and for a particularly lovely-looking plate of raspberries and 3rd prize - against stiff competition - for a trio of rosy onions.

We know it's not the winning, it's the long, satisfying, interesting, educative and fun process of raising veg from seed to plate - but a few rosettes are welcome all the same!

The club is going from strength to strength and we have many new members this year. There are plenty of things for them to do. We still have autumn veg to harvest and there's a lot of hands-on, muddy clearing to do to prepare beds for winter. (Reminder! Please could your child bring wellies or some other water repellent footwear for garden working?)

There are many things we can sow now too: hardy annual flowers like sweet peas to get a head start on next spring; winter veg such as parsnips - the work in a garden never stops.

We're also thinking about how we can develop the area near the chickens where the tree had to come down, so watch that space.

When it rains we have indoor plans too, based around making lovely things to raise funds for the club at the Christmas fair.

We talk to the children about the economics of gardening and they discover first-hand how one tiny seed from, say, a £2 packet of 50 seeds can grow into a plant giving many ££s worth of food, with the simple addition of "warmth to swell the grain the breezes, and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain..."

Working with the soil is most definitely a calming thing, perhaps combining the spiritual and mindful with a dose of natural pheromones. It's been scientifically proven that a specific soil bacteria released when you handle soil can increase the levels of 'happy chemicals' - serotonin and dopamine - in the body. It can help boost the immune system too.

Of course, we're careful to keep any manure away from our precious charges but dirt, in short, is good for us. A too-clean environment in childhood has been linked to quite a spectrum of illnesses including allergies, asthma and depression. So if your child's pristine white shirt comes back with a few mud stains please don't complain TOO much, ha ha.

As ever, we have a few requests. If anyone is dividing perennials at this time of year we would love to give them a home, potentially. Just get in touch with Mrs Parry. And if you have any dried lavender that too would be welcome for some scented laundry-bag making.

Happy autumn! **The Gardening Club volunteers**



Fenn,
Jupiter



Felicity, Mars



Scarlett,
Mars



Ryan, Jupiter

Sunflower Challenge: There is still time for you to enter your sunflower photographs. Please send them to office@brabourne.kent.sch.uk, along with the height. The winner will be announced on Friday 20th September. You will see there is some tough competition already!



Class News



A big welcome and well done to the new starters in Venus Class who are settling in really well. It is wonderful to have you as part of our school community.



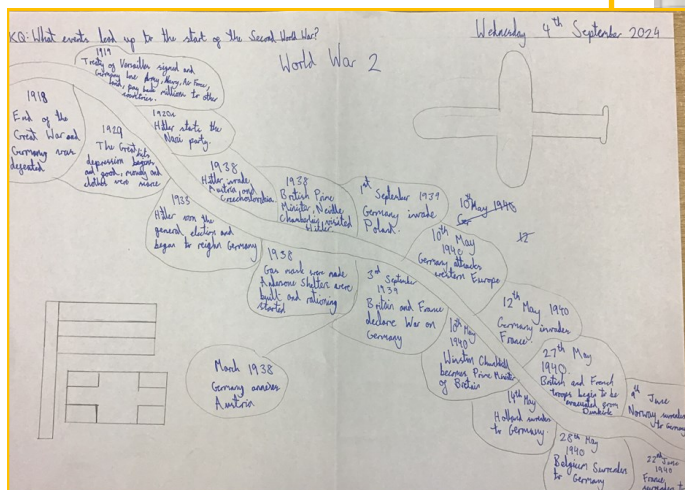
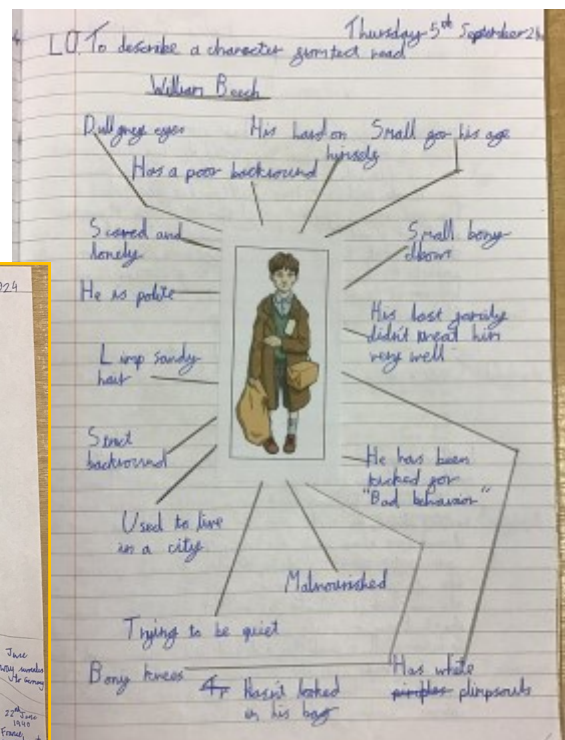
Mars class have been very busy this term so far! In Art, they have been creating self-portraits by looking at outlines and recreating their faces using strong black line work.



Neptune class had their first swimming lesson at the Stour Centre this week. Everyone was impressed with the children's confidence and how they approached the lesson with enthusiasm.



Jupiter have made an excellent start to the new academic year and are settling well into their new year groups. We have started our topic on World War 2 called Battles! Blackouts! Blitz! As part of this topic, we are reading Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian and using it as the basis for our English work; which includes analysing the protagonist William Beech and writing a description of him. We have also learnt about the events that led up to the start of World War 2 and created a timeline to show the order in which they happened.



Brabourne PTA Fundraising 2023/2024

The PTA would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all parents and carers and staff for your support during the 23/24 school year! Here is a brief roundup of the money we have all raised together:

**Total profit (after expenses) raised in
the year 23/24:**

£7,400

Fundraising highlights:

Christmas Fair (incl. raffle): £2,810

Summer Fair (incl. raffle): £2,200

Sponsored walk: £870

PJs and Popcorn: £340

Coin challenge: £260

Clothing bin: £250

Ice cream sales: £210

As we start the new school year, we are on the last stretch of raising money for the monkey bars. Don't forget that the Tesco Blue Token Scheme is still running until end of September. We will start planning new events and fundraising goals very soon & hope you will join us and continue to support our fundraising efforts for the children & the school.

Thank you from the PTA :)

Tesco Blue Token Scheme: Vote for Brabourne School

Beginning of July - End of September 2024

Brabourne School will be featured in local Tesco Stores to raise money for the monkey bars & we need your help! Please help us get as many blue tokens as possible by making sure you vote for our school when you shop in Tesco & by letting friends and family know to do the same.

To support, just shop in Tesco and choose our school when depositing your blue tokens into the voting station at the following Tesco stores:

- Ashford Crooksfoot Extra - TN24 0YE
- Ashford Park Farm Extra - TN23 3LU
- Mace Lane Ashford Express - TN24 8DN
- Ashford Eureka Express - TN25 4BY
- Dymchurch Express - TN29 ONG
- Ashford High St Express - TN24 8SE

Your votes for Brabourne School can be cast **from the first week of July until the end of September 2024.**

Can we go for Gold? The project with most tokens will receive £1,500, second most £1,000 and third place will receive £500.

We might be a small school but we can do this!



Thank you!



Brabourne PTA - Asda Cashpot

Between **now and 30th November** you can support Brabourne School when you **shop at Asda** (online and in store) - please see details on how below.

Don't forget that we're also featured in the Tesco Blue Token scheme until end of September - only 3 weeks to go so let's have one last push to the finish line....

Thank you for your support (as always)!

HERE'S HOW:

- 1 Download the Asda Rewards app and opt-in to Cashpot for schools.
- 2 Choose your primary school.
- 3 Shop in-store across Asda & George and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout.
- 4 Shopping online? Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account.
- 5 We'll do the rest! We donate 5% to your chosen school every time you shop, so they can spend it on exactly what they need.



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PTA FOR THE YEAR END

SINGING LESSONS



 with Corinne

Singing lessons are a fun & exciting way to build confidence, boost self-esteem and release your inner performer! Now available at Brabourne Primary School, during the school day.

In lessons, we cover:

- Voice control
- Breathing
- Expanding your vocal range
- Performance technique
- Repertoire
- Trinity College London exams (optional)

And much more!

Corinne has over 18 years teaching experience within the performing arts and has a 100% pass rate of students entering Trinity College London exams. She holds an enhanced DBS check & works regularly as a peripatetic teacher within local schools and her own vocal academy.



Lessons are one-to-one (£15 a session) or in pairs (£10 per student per session) and last for 20mins.

Enrol Now!



 Folkestone, Kent
  07540 037349
  corinnefordham@gmail.com

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 12:30 - 2:30pm
 4 - 4:30pm
 (last optional session for reflection and support if needed)





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SATURDAY 9:30AM - 10:30AM
Brabourne Village Hall
Lees Road, Brabourne TN25 6QB



www.karatejutsukai.com

Brabourne Ex Alumnus

I thought I would share this speech from Pat Thornby, an ex-pupil of the school, who presented some of the awards at our Year 6 Leavers awards in July. We do hope all of last year's Year 6s are settling in and enjoying their new secondary schools.

Good evening pupils of Brabourne School, Teachers, Parents and Friends.

My name is Pat Thornby and I was born on a little farm in West Brabourne in 1953.

My family has lived in Brabourne for well over 300 years and I feel a strong connection with this place, my father came here, my three children attended in the 1980's and 90's and my wife taught Violin at the school for many years.

Brabourne School was built in 1846, I wasn't here then, but I joined the school in 1958.

Back in those days the school had two classes – The big un's (the senior class) and the little un's (the junior class). Mrs Norrington, the headmistress taught the senior class of 23 pupils and Miss Hoyle the juniors with 24. The school was much smaller then, with just the two classrooms at the front with the kitchen to the rear and toilets to the north. The playgrounds were divided into Boys and Girls. The Boys playground backed onto the playing field and also had an overgrown area we called 'The Jungle'. This land had once been the school garden. When my father attended back in 1932, he won a prize for the best kept garden. You can imagine his horror when he revisited the school in my time, to see what had become of it. But as pupils we enjoyed the 'Jungle' we climbed its trees and made camps there.

Mealtimes were interesting, with the kitchen located directly behind Jupiter class many children were distracted by the smell of cooking from half past eleven onwards. School meals were meat, potatoes and two veg back then, no vegetarian option in those days. Puddings were usually something with custard, Gypsy Tart or Tapioca pudding. At morning break we would each be given a small bottle of milk (about a third of a pint). This would be handed out by a nominated pupil called the milk monitor, which was considered to be a very important job.

A number of events took place during the school year besides Christmas parties and sports days we also celebrated May day, the 1st of May and this meant dancing around the may pole. A pole with attached ribbons would be erected in one of the playgrounds. Each child would take a ribbon and dace around the pole weaving in and out of the outer dancers until they were woven into a complex pattern and the dancers ran out of ribbon.

The high point of the year, for me, was the annual truck race, where we would make go-carts and race them a break neck speed down school lane towards the school. There were two sets of prizes; one for the race and one for best truck. I won first prize for best truck and was awarded a stainless steel adjustable spanner presented by Mr Norrington, husband of the Head mistress and owner of Norrington's Garage in Sellindge.

Mr Norrington inspected the carts pre-race and performed a safety check. He also quizzed the children about building their vehicles, just to check that it hadn't been built by the parents. I owned up that my mother had painted a large figure 4 on the front of mine. I remember him asking me how I thought I could improve my design – "by adding a brake I replied" – I think it was this remark that won me the prize.

None of the racing carts had brakes and the standard method of stopping was to run then into the hedge. Despite this being a dangerous sport there never seemed to be any accidents beyond the occasional grazed knee.

Getting to school in the early days was by mini bus from Wards Garage in Brabourne Lees which collected the children from the outlying areas. My Parents would take it in turns to walk me down Weekes Lane to Crow Corner where the taxi, as we called it, would pick me

My father, a farmer, would take in the seaside Donkeys from Dymchurch over the winter and one day he thought it would be a good idea to meet me from the mini bus with a donkey, so that I could ride it home.

Being the joker that he was, dad decided that it would be funny if he sat on the donkey and waited for me. As the vehicle approached it startled the donkey and off it ran up the lane with my father clinging to its back. The children on the mini bus found this hilarious and it was a talking point for many days afterwards. Thankfully neither the donkey or my father were injured.

As I got older I would ride my bicycle to school and on days when I had a puncture I would walk, by myself, across the footpaths from Weekes Lane to the School, this was my definitely favourite way of arriving.

Entertainment came in many forms, Puppet shows, a gramophone and the radio programme Music Movement and Mime, which mainly consisted of being told to stand like a tree, float like a leaf and dance around the hall (what is now Jupiter Class). I must confess I had more interest in the radio itself and peering in the back to see it's glowing valves.

I was always curious about technology and how things worked. One of my favourite lessons was 'crafts' on a Friday afternoon. It was during this lesson that I took apart a broken chiming clock cog by cog., convinced that I could repair it. Each week the box of parts would come out as I struggled to rebuild it. And, you know, I think it was that experience that led me to become an engineer. I worked for British Telecommunications (BT), in many different roles over the years, finally working in their planning department on Fibre Optics. When I retired 10 years ago my final job was planning the high speed broadband routes into Brabourne and Smeeth.

As an only child living on a farm, Brabourne School taught me how to socialise and make friends, many of whom I'm still in contact with today. So, as you move on, and leave this school I wish you every happiness and success whatever you choose to do, I can only hope that you like me will carry those fond memories of this School with you throughout your lives.

Thank you very much – That's all – Good night and thank you for listening to me.