



# NEWSLETTER

December 2019

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## Headmistress's Message

It has been lovely to see so many parents and grandparents at our Christmas events this year: the excellent infant Nativity performance and the whole school Carol Service on Monday 9 December.

I feel very proud of the pupils: their enthusiasm, willingness and confidence. It was a privilege to see the pupils perform and participate, be it singing, reading, acting or playing in the band. I am grateful also to parents and pupils for your generous donations to our charities in the retiring collection and the Salvation Army present collection.

The school has thought about others and shown generosity and kindness, which is fitting for this Christmas season. I wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas season and every good wish for the New Year.

The Spring term begins for pupils on Tuesday 7 January at the normal times.

**Best wishes for the New Year!**

**Chloe Moon**

## Posting Our Letters to Santa!

Reception had a very exciting trip recently! They walked to the Post Office to post their letters to Santa. In class they all worked very hard on their letter writing and tried hard to write their address really neatly to make sure it gets there!

Now the countdown to Christmas begins!



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## Braeside House Drama Competition

Everyone had a fantastic evening on Friday 22 November for the annual House Drama Competition, which took place in Lopping Hall in Loughton. The hall was packed with friends and family all eager to see what the pupils have been dedicating so much of their time to during the weeks leading up to the event.

Fry performed a fun and lively version of 'Matilda', Bronte performed an abridged version of another Roald Dahl story, 'Witches', Mason did a great job of showcasing the hilarious play 'Bad Auditions', and Nightingale finished the show with 'Appropriate Audience Behaviour.'

The evening flowed smoothly, with every pupil performing their part to the very best of their ability. The pupils were confident and professional and the staff were very proud of them all!

The judges were Mr Coates from Normanhurst School, Mr Reich-Storer from Braeside and Coopersale Hall School and a guest appearance from past pupil, Zoe Zacaria. After a short interval they announced that the winners were as follows:



Most Promising Actress  
Humaira and Freya



Runner Up (Best Actress)  
Lily-Ann and Samantha



Best Actress  
Kiera



Best House Play  
Nightingale

## All About Thanksgiving

Kindergarten had a visit from a parent this term who very kindly came in to talk to them all about Thanksgiving. The pupils enjoyed listening to a story about the first Thanksgiving and had fun tracing around their hands to make pictures of Thanksgiving turkeys. They also chose the food they would like to eat at a Thanksgiving meal and cut out and stuck pictures of their favourite food onto a festive plate.





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## Social Networking



### Website

Go to the School Calendar page for upcoming events and our News page for all the latest news and lots more photos.



### App

Keep up to date with the latest news, calendar dates, and much more by downloading the new Braeside School App.



### Instagram

Follow us on Instagram for regular photo updates! Search for **braesidesch** to find us and then click follow.



### Twitter

Follow us **@BraesideSch** on Twitter to get the latest updates.



### YouTube

Subscribe to our YouTube account to watch some of pupils in action in class, during performances, at sports day and more.



### Facebook

Facebook is our newest form of Social Media. Like us on Facebook to get news, photos, events and updates posted straight to your newsfeed.

## INTO Film Festival

Years 7 and 8 went to Vue Cinema in Stratford to take part in the INTO film festival to watch Mamma Mia!, all of the pupils behaved impeccably and enjoyed the sing-a-long version of the film.

**Laila Year 7** – “The trip was really fun, it was a good film, I enjoyed singing and dancing along to the songs!”

**Humaira Year 7** – “It was a nice way to bond as a form and spend time with Year 8.”

**Freya Year 7** – “It was good to do a different style of trip and go to the cinema.”



## Year 7 Gymnastics

In gymnastics the Year 7 pupils have learnt all about the importance of body tension and the difference between a counter balance and a counter tension.

It was excellent to see them working so hard to form some fantastic gymnastics sequences and perform them beautifully to the class.



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## Year 9 Investigate Diffusion

Year 9 looked at the effect of temperature on the rate of diffusion using potassium manganate crystals.

They then took different foods such as cheese puffs and bread flour and filled some dialysis tubing with solutions of the crushed food. They found that iodine solution could diffuse through the dialysis tubing and colour the food blue/black. This showed the pupils that although the iodine was able to diffuse through the tubing, the starch molecules in the food were too big to get through the microscopic pores in the membrane.



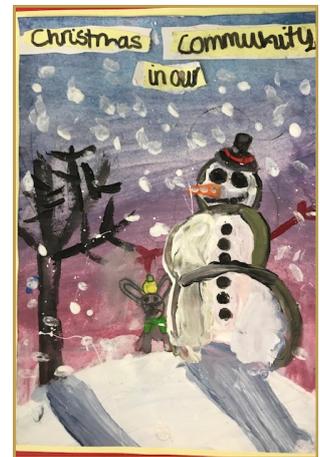
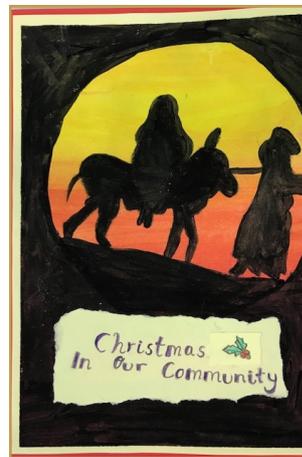
It was quite a lot of fun comparing rice crispy juice with cheese puff juice!

## Buckhurst Hill Parish Council Christmas Card Competition

Year 6 have worked really hard in recent weeks to produce some fantastic Christmas Cards for the Buckhurst Hill Parish Council Christmas Card Competition.

They have explored 'Community at Christmas' and enjoyed using a range of painting techniques and ideas inspired by winter scenes, the choir, wild animals and Mary and Joseph.

Well done Year 6, good work.



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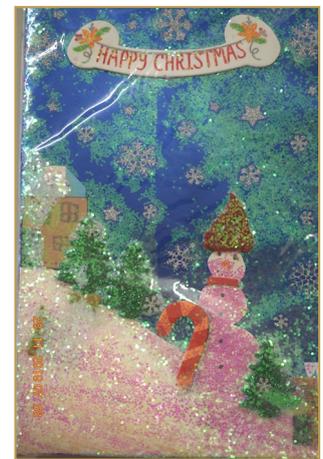
## Braeside Christmas Card Competition

This year we have run a truly successful School Christmas Card Competition. We have been absolutely blown away by some of the creativity and dedication shown this year! We even had a request for a staff category which was great.

Pupils from KS2, 3 and 4 have produced some lovely festive cards ranging from jolly family scenes, robins, pop ups, reindeers and Santa himself. The pupils were given the freedom to choose whichever was their preferred medium and it was lovely to see that they explored collage, water-colour, acrylic and mixed media.

All the entries were judged on Thursday 5 December and the winning entries are as follows:

Riana— 1st Place KS2



**KS2:** 1st Riana - 2nd Beatrice - 3rd Aleena  
Special mention to Maya, Freya and Eliza

**KS3:** 1st Sophia - 2nd Lauren and Ayra - 3rd Elizabeth  
Special mention to Annie, Lola and Hazel

**KS4:** 1st Jessica - 2nd Anoushka - 3rd Sara  
Special mention to whole class entry

**Teacher:** 1st Madame Houcberg - 2nd Ms Barrett - 3rd Ms Krist  
Special mention to Mrs Alahi, Mrs Jermutus, Mrs Toye and Mr Masood

Sophia—1st Place KS3

Jessica—1st Place KS4

Mme Hucbourg—1st Place Teacher



## Oak-Tree Netball Tournament

A number of the Year 5 and 6 pupils displayed some excellent netball skills at the Oak-Tree Group Netball Competition.

Izellah and Alexis worked well together to move the ball down the court and create many goal scoring opportunities. Aleena and Ti'an defended excellently and helped to regain possession for the team. Izellah was chosen as Braeside's player of the tournament.

Overall we came a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Well done to everyone involved.





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## Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics Competition

All of the Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 pupils should be very proud of their efforts at the Oak-Tree Indoor Athletics Competition.

All of the pupils competed in at least 3 events, which included a number of field events. Eliza, Ti'an, Zahra and Freya deserve a special mention for coming 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Over/Under Relay. Izellah, Alexis, Zahra and Freya also gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Obstacle Relay. Very well done to Maryam and Izellah who completed the challenging 6 lap Paarlaf.



## Football Fixtures—Braeside vs Bancroft's School

Braeside's newly formed football teams enjoyed 2 greatly contested fixtures against Bancroft's. The Year 7 and 8 pupils went ahead after the first 5 minutes as Lily-Ann slotted 2 excellent goals past the Bancroft's keeper and Issy saved numerous good shots. Bancroft's managed to pull 2 goals back, leaving the score at half time as 2-2. Lola then put us ahead as she chased down their defence and scored. Bancroft's pulled 2 back as we started to tire. Lily-Ann then completed her hat trick as she placed the ball just inside the post.

Unfortunately, the game ended in a Bancroft's win. However, the pupils should be extremely proud of their efforts against a massive school! Issy was player of the match for her excellent goalkeeping.

The Year 9 and 10 pupils worked hard to win the ball back against a well drilled Bancroft side. Emily was brilliant in goal and kept us in the game in the first half. In the first half Bancroft's had scored 2 and Alisha scored an excellent goal for Braeside which saw it 2-1, this meant we were very much still in the game! In the second half we struggled to keep the ball down and score any more goals. The pupils battled to the end but Bancroft's won the game. Sam was player of the match for her excellent skills upfront.

We look forward to our next football matches.



## Epping Forest Schools Parliamentary Debating Competition

Congratulations to Alisha and Nicola who took part in this years Epping Forest Parliamentary Schools Debating Competition.

The two Braeside pupils were among the youngest participants, and were noted by Dame Eleanor Laing as being very well prepared with excellent arguments that had been well researched.

A very proud moment for Braeside School.



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## Early Years Christmas Activity Morning



The Early Years children got together for a morning of Christmas-themed activities at the end of term. They enjoyed painting their hands to make reindeer calendars and decorated baubles with glitter. They used cutters to make Christmas items with the playdough, practised their scissor skills by cutting out some Christmas pictures and had fun doing some dot-to-dot. They finished off the morning by dancing to some festive tunes.



## Creative Writing Competition Results

Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the Young Writers Creative Writing Competition entitled 'Hunted'. To enter, the pupils had to write a story of 100 words or less in length about being hunted or hunting something or someone. They had to decide on the outcome of it and whether there were any survivors or not. There were 30 entries across the 3 year groups. As well as the main competition where we will compete against entries from other schools, we ran an in-house competition before sending the entries off to the organisers. A massive well done to everyone who took part! It was really difficult to narrow it down to one winner per year group as the entries were all so great but the winners were as follows:

**Year 7: Sophia**

**Year 8: Eva**

**Year 9: Annie**



## Children in Need

The children had a great time celebrating Children in Need by all coming to school dressed in something yellow, with yellow accessories to match! Everyone gave a small donation to this deserving charity which is sure to make a huge difference.

Year 4 then completed their class assembly on Children in Need. The class worked hard finding out about the work of Children in Need and created, in their own words, a presentation for their assembly.



Year 4 spoke beautifully to the rest of the Juniors, giving both informative and interesting information about what the money raised goes towards. Well done.

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## Christmas Activity Afternoon

All pupils were invited to take part in a Christmas Activity Afternoon on Friday 29 November.

Year 10 helped to wrap and organise the presents for the lucky dip earlier in the week and then they walked to the juniors to set up the hall for the event. They also ran the stalls, including chocolate bar hoopla, decorate a bauble, Christmas colouring, stick the nose on Rudolph, sweetie and chocolate tombola and face painting.



Steve, the school chef, cooked sausages in buns for all pupils and there were cakes and hot chocolate on offer.

The afternoon started with two songs from the Juniors and two from the Seniors, and there was an appearance from Father Christmas who gave out presents for all pupils.

Thank you to all those parents who were able to help out with setting up and during the event. The pupils had a great time!

## Christmas Nativity

This year, the nativity included all pupils from Kindergarten to Year 3 and has been directed and produced by Miss Van Bergen and Mrs Doss. The nativity was called 'Angel Express' and all pupils had a part to play. The theme was the announcement of the birth of Jesus through song. All pupils worked so hard to learn their lines and work as a team. Well done to all the staff and pupils involved!



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## Save the Children Fundraiser

The Charity Committee wanted to raise money for Save The Children again this year. They asked all pupils across the school to wear either a festive jumper with non-uniform or an accessory – or both! The Charity Committee were responsible for planning the day and communicated the message via a letter.



They collected £2 from every pupil and member of staff that took part.



## Christmas Lunch



The Chartwell's team cooked up a fantastic Christmas lunch again this year for all pupils and staff in the school. The hall was decorated and the tables had tablecloths, crackers and special napkins for a festive feel. Christmas music played in the background while pupils enjoyed a roast dinner with all the trimmings (to suit all dietary requirements).



Pupils relished the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with their friends across all year groups and their teachers.



## Reindeer Visit

The Early Years children had a real festive treat on the last week of term when they went to visit some reindeer. They were keen to find out what reindeer like to eat and surprised to hear that their antlers would fall off when they went back to the North Pole and grow back again next year.



The children all behaved excellently and had a really lovely time.



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## Year 5 Trip to Colchester Castle



On Friday 15 November, Year 5 visited Colchester Castle as part of their history topic on the Romans. It was a fabulous day out where the pupils had an opportunity to make a Roman Villa and an Iron Age Roundhouse. They also had the chance to dress up as Romans and Celts which was a lot of fun.

At end the day the class explored the Roman vaults of the castle where they were told the story of Boudicca. With lots of hands on learning, it was a great day!

## Christmas Carol Service

Pupils from Year 1 to Year 11 took part in the annual Carol Service this year at St James Church. The Senior Fusion Band (Years 6 to 11) played instruments and sang some Christmas favourites, Senior guitarists were accompanying the Junior Choir, there were congregational hymns, secular readings from LAMDA pupils and also Bible readings.

The service ended with a congregational hymn and a multi-faith prayer that was written and read aloud by the Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies group.

This was a fun and festive way to get the school community together.



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## L’Oreal Young Scientist Centre – The Royal Institution

Mrs Jermutus recently took Year 9 and 10 pupils to the L’Oreal Young Scientist Centre where they took part in a hands on workshop in the laboratory as clinical bacteriologists. The L’Oreal Young Scientist Centre (LYSC) is an imaginative laboratory space for young people and their teachers to experiment and explore science and technology outside the classroom.



The pupils used restriction enzyme digests and gel electrophoresis to analyse bacterial DNA and additional activities were included to reinforce learning about DNA, restriction enzymes and evolution. At the end of the workshop pupils looked at the DNA evidence, decided what advice to give their colleagues at the scene of the outbreak and whether their outbreak samples needed further investigation.

## A Trip to See Tutankhamun



Year 4 visited the Saatchi Gallery to visit a special exhibition - ‘Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Tomb’. The pupils were very lucky to get to see this exhibition which is only running for a limited time and includes some artefacts that have previously never been out of Egypt.

The exhibition gave the pupils a chance to see lots of the objects found in the tomb close up and to learn more about how the discovery was made. They also learnt more about Ancient Egyptian beliefs to do with death and how to make it through the Netherworld. One of the most exciting artefact they got to see was a huge statue of Tutankhamun which previously stood outside a temple in his honour.



## Year 10 Make Copper Sulphate Crystals

Year 10 have been making bright blue copper sulphate crystals in their Chemistry lessons this term. During the process they are learning how acids react with bases and how they can predict the products formed from different reactants. It is magical to see black powder and colourless acid form a beautiful blue product and then form perfect blue crystals.





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## Employability Workshop

AIM Apprenticeships visited Braeside Seniors to work with Year 10 and 11 pupils on their skills for work.

The trainer explained all their post 16 options and beyond. They were shown how to complete an application form for the workplace, what a personal statement should be like and how to prepare for interviews. Pupils worked in groups and looked at their own CVs to see what areas of improvements there were.

It was fun and thought provoking. Tamia in Year 10 said "It was really interesting to find out about my options as I want to study law. I am aiming to join a big law firm and get lots of experience".



## Poetry Live!

Year 11 went to Poetry Live!, which is a performance and lecture on the set poems that they study for GCSE. They had the opportunity to listen to Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage and Daljit Nagra from the Love and Relationships cluster of poetry that they study and 4 other poets from the Power and Conflict Cluster.

As well as this they heard some much welcomed advice from Tony Childs, a lead examiner for AQA on what they need to do in order to gain the highest possible marks in their essay responses. The pupils were impeccably behaved and a pleasure to take out.

"It was informative as it gave us more of an insight as to why the poets had written the poem which we can apply into our GCSE answers." **Ellie**

"Hearing the poem being performed to us by the poet brought it to life." **Katie**



## The Juniors Visit Waltham Abbey Church

Children from Reception to Year 6 recently visited Waltham Abbey Church as part of 'Christmas Around the World Week'. This allowed the pupils an opportunity to ask questions to Reverend Joyce about the church and Christian worship. The classes had a guided tour as well as some time to explore different parts of the building. They learnt about how the church has changed throughout history and the story of how it was founded. They also got to see some beautiful stained glasses images of the Nativity scene.



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## Christmas Around the World Week

To celebrate Christmas Around the World Week at Braeside, pupils have been learning about different Christmas traditions and beliefs in countries around the globe. Year 5 have started with Malta. After learning a little bit about a Maltese Christmas, they made salt dough wreaths which linked with the story of 'Baby in the Bread', a fascinating story where Mary and Joseph take refuge in the house of a baker.

The pupils made their dough out of flour, salt and water, before adding colour and shaping it into a beautiful wreath which can be used as a Christmas decoration.



## Year 8 Make Bobble Hats



Year 8 have really enjoyed working with wool and knitting looms this term. It gave them the opportunity to work with unfamiliar materials and techniques and to produce something personal and to keep.

The outcomes were all lovely and some of the pupils have even been inspired to purchase their own looms to go on creating woollen gifts for friends and family. Well done!

## Junior House Netball Competition

The Years 3, 4 and 5 pupils had an exciting afternoon up on the Seniors netball court competing in their annual House Netball Competition. Some great netball was on display and it was brilliant to see them putting what they had learnt last term into practice.

Nishtha played outstandingly as Goal Keeper for Mason House and prevented many goals from being scored. Maya should also be mentioned for her movement around the court. For Nightingale, Ava worked tirelessly on the court to get free for her team mates and Georgia communicated well with her team and worked hard to get free in the circle. Brogan and Darcey worked hard as shooters for Bronte House and Rosie led the team brilliantly. In Fry, standout players were Tian who worked hard to win the ball back for her team and Holly was a fabulous defender and gained many rebounds. Goal of the afternoon was scored by Manha in Fry House.

The overall tournament winners were Nightingale who were unbeaten! Well done to all the players, what an excellent afternoon of netball!



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## 12 Days of Christmas

Kindergarten's topic this half term is Celebrations and they have enjoyed learning about different Christmas celebrations and traditions around the world. They all had great fun singing the Twelve days of Christmas, with a little help from some picture cards. Recently the children made a bottle top Christmas tree together and are decorating it every day in keeping with the song - starting with a partridge in a pear tree!



## Baking and Painting

Year 4 have been doing some special baking and painting as part of Christmas Around the World Week. The pupils have worked hard to decorate their Bubushka inspired Russian Doll tree decorations. They also had a go at making some Russian themed chocolate bites which they shared with the rest of class as part of the Festive Food Tasting session.



## Inaaya Opens the Buckhurst Hill Christmas Fair!

A HUGE congratulations to Inaaya, the winner of the annual Buckhurst Hill Christmas Card Competition this year! Inaaya had the honour of opening the Buckhurst Hill Christmas Fair on Friday 6 December alongside Dame Eleanor Laing and Santa in front of the eager crowd.



Her wonderful design is on display on the Christmas tree at the top of Queen's Road. Well done Inaaya!





# NEWSLETTER

## FOBS Update

Hello everyone, here we are again at the end of term. How time flies.

### Parent Survey

In October we sent out a 10 question survey to gauge your thoughts on things that we have considered at FOBS committee meetings. We had 62 responses, so thank you very much to those parents who filled it in. Here is a summary of what you said:

- 69% said you would buy preloved uniform
- 87% said you would like to see a Movies and Munch event
- 62% said that you would like a family quiz
- 70% said you would like some discos
- 84% said you would like a summer picnic
- 97% said you would be happy for your children to attend events
- 66% said that you would be happy to offer some help to running events
- 53% said you had some preloved uniform at home and would be happy to donate it
- 59% said that a Xmas Fayre on a Friday was better than on a Saturday



A few of you also gave suggestions for other things that might be organised by school or FOBS. The suggestions were:

- Organising social responsibility initiatives like charity fundraising
- Running an international day or evening
- Free homework clubs
- Parties at the end of term including for Halloween
- Creating tea towels or Xmas cards for fundraising
- Helping out at Sports Day or school events
- Being sent a reminder text before non-uniform day
- Cake sales

We are having our next Committee Meeting on Tuesday 14 January at 6.30pm at the Senior site. If you can come along to help us plan ahead, with these ideas in mind, then that will be very helpful indeed.

### AGM

We held our AGM on Tuesday 12 November. Unfortunately a few parents were unable to attend on the day so we were a bit thin on the ground. There were no changes to the Committee. In the Summer term we will be contributing £15,000 to the school to buy a set of iPads.

### Christmas Activity Afternoon

Thank you to those parents who were able to help the school host the Christmas Activity Afternoon on Friday 29 November. This was organised by the school this year as unfortunately the FOBS Committee had other commitments. We were able to contribute a few things from our own stores but the credit for the event must rest with Mrs Moon and all the teachers. It was nice to hear that Senior pupils were quite involved in running some of the events. A very school spirited thing to do.

We wish you all the best with the holidays coming up and hope you get some peace, relaxation, fun and laughter. Happy New Year and we will all return in 2020.

Best wishes, FOBS Committee