

HOT TOPICS – JANUARY 2024

WORLD BRAILLE DAY



World Braille Day on January 4 is celebrated to honor [sp] the birth of Braille's inventor, Louis Braille. Braille's

gift to the world has brightened the lives of millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired, and they benefit from his work every day. The day also acknowledges that those with visual impairments deserve the same standard of human rights as everyone else. [Source: [WORLD BRAILLE DAY - January 4, 2024 - National Today](#)]

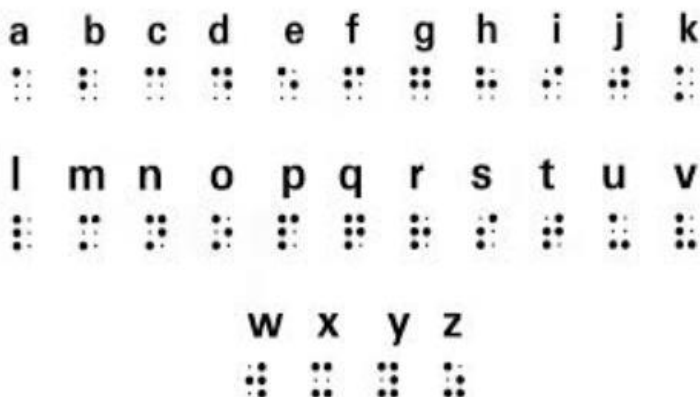


What is Braille?

Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols. Braille was invented in the 19th century, and is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font.

Braille is essential in the context of education, freedom of expression and opinion, as well as social inclusion, as reflected in article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [Source: [World Braille Day | United Nations](#)].

As you can see from the Braille translator below, the six dots are arranged in two columns of three dots. There are 63 possible combinations of the six dots, which are used to represent the alphabet and numbers. The characters are designed to be read by fingers rather than eyes, hence the explanation above of it being tactile. Braille can be learnt and used by children or adults to read and write pretty much anything!



Like many other police forces, the MPS warrant card includes a metal braille bar, located just below the coat of arms. Using the Braille translator, can you 'read' the braille on the warrant card? (** see answer below **)



The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is challenging us all to see sight loss differently, and it runs a campaign called "see the person, not the sight loss" to get us to reflect on, as well as challenge, our approach towards sight loss. Please have a read of their FAQ [here](#).

How much do you know about living with sight loss? Click [here](#) to take a short quiz to test your knowledge



To help you prepare for a discussion with your PDC regarding World Braille Day, consider this comment, "[We often take our sight for granted and don't understand the unique challenges that those with little or no sight face daily. Those with visual impairments deserve not only our recognition but also respect](#)". Consider some of the significant issues faced by people with sight loss, such as education and learning, employment and equality, independent living, using phones and tablets and then think about the different types of situations where you may encounter somebody with sight loss in your role as a police officer; perhaps during a stop and search, in the custody suite, or as a victim of crime. What positive action and decisions can you take to support those people that you deal with, who face these challenges? Be mindful of the [protected characteristics](#) of the Equality Act 2010 and British Values [Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect & Tolerance, Individual Liberty]. Keep in mind also that vision loss can often represent a lifetime of inequality, poorer health, and barriers to education and employment, according to the United Nations.

If you have been affected or concerned by anything that you have read in this Hot Topic, you may discuss this with your PDC, HEI staff or your line manager in the first instance. Further support is available through the RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999 (Open 8am – 8pm on weekdays and 9am – 1pm on Saturdays or email at helpline@rnib.org.uk or say: "Alexa, call RNIB Helpline").

The braille on the warrant card states the word 'POLICE'