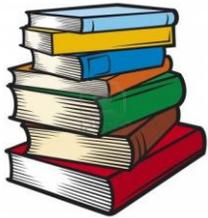


Newsletter 10 November 2017

Dear parents and carers

We have had a busy start to this half term already including sports events, maths workshops and the science dome - the website has lots of new photos and stories about what our pupils have been up to, please do take the time to look.



Thank you for your support with the Book Sale we were able to purchase new books for the Library up to the value of £200. We also had a record number of Library Reading Challenge medals and certificates to present in assemblies today – well done to everyone involved!

School Communication

There is now a table outside the school office which has a box for parent/carers to deposit any correspondence for the office. This will help reduce the queues and your waiting time in the mornings and after school.

If your child is being collected early for an appointment/unwell/being collected by someone else please fill out the relevant form and place in the box.

If you need to talk to someone then office staff are still available for you at the window.

Lateness

Whilst most parents and carers do a good job of ensuring their children arrive at school promptly, we still have a significant minority who regularly arrive late in the mornings. It is important that adults encourage children to form positive habits with regards to time keeping in order to become successful members of society. Pupils in Years 3-6 must arrive between 8.40-8.50am with registers being completed at 8.50am promptly; please bear in mind that some of the children have a couple of minutes walk to get to their classes once they are in the building. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 must arrive between 8.50-9.00am with registers being completed at 9.00am promptly. Please ensure that your child is in class in time for their registration.

If you do arrive late you will be asked by the office to complete a late form for our records.

Values Based Education



PEACE

Remembrance Service

We held our two minute remembrance silence on the Garwood Court, which was named after Frank Garwood an Air Raid Warden who was killed in Cedar Avenue during WW2 where the school now stands. Each class produced a beautiful art display based around a poppy wreath to reflect on the school's value of 'Peace'. School Councillors have been selling poppies in school this week and helped to display the poppy wreaths for parents to view at the end of the school day.

Recording of Absence

It is our duty to contact parents or carers as soon as a child is not present at school if we have not already been informed of the absence. This is an important aspect of our safeguarding of children's welfare and it is therefore essential that we have up to date contact details, including alternative contacts. Please note that if we are unable to speak to any adults on the list provided we will have to contact outside agencies to report a child missing in education.

Birthday Sweets

If you have birthday sweets for your child's whole class then we are happy for the teacher to give them out on the playground as the children are handed over. However, if you have selective party invites/sweets etc then please give these out individually.

Monday Staff Meeting – Office staff

The office staff will be involved in staff meetings from 4pm on Monday evening. Any issues relating to Monday after school clubs (running & karate) should be directed to Foundation Sports on their mobile number 07806 811589.

Social Media

At Branfil we strive to achieve the best for all of our children, however, we recognise that on some occasions you may feel that we could have done better. We would like to encourage you to come in and discuss any concerns with a relevant member of staff. We would be grateful if parents/carers do not use social media to raise complaints but instead we encourage you to come into school and speak with us so that we can understand your concerns and help solve the problem. Complaints on social media can be damaging for the school, its staff and most importantly the pupils. If you still feel that the issue has not been dealt with appropriately then you will find our Complaints Policy on the school website which will guide you through the correct process to pursue in order to resolve your complaint.

Cross Country

On Tuesday 7th November 2017, the Primary Cross Country competition took place at [Stubbers Adventure Centre](#) in Upminster. Runners from years 3/4 and 5/6 took part in the competition which was entered by 27 schools. A separate boys and girls race was held for each category. Despite the cold and windy weather, every runner of the Branfil team participated with great enthusiasm and determination. They certainly did the school proud. Well done!

Individual success came from Jack West who retained his title from last year and won the boys' years 5/6 race and Aimee-Louise Lush who came 6th in the girls' years 5/6 race. Overall Branfil's year 3/4 girls team came 7th, the year 3/4 boys team came 5th, the year 5/6 girls team came 5th and the year 5/6 boys team came 5th. Well done to Branfil's Cross Country team.

Mrs Lee

Tag Rugby

Last week, a group of year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a tag rugby festival/tournament at May and Baker, where they competed against other schools within Havering. They showed lots of enthusiasm and put in a lot of effort! The children behaved exceptionally well and played with good team spirit.

Miss Barnes

Y6 visit to Chatham Dockyard

Year 6 had a fantastic day at Chatham Dockyard. They went in a genuine Second World War Air Raid Shelter where they experienced the sights, smells and sounds of an Air Raid in one of the Admiralty's 'most luxurious' shelters of the time.

Then they got to go on the HMS Cavalier where they learnt about life above and below deck aboard the Royal Navy's last operational Second World War Destroyer.

Maths

Mrs Fisk took a Year 6 team to the Explore Learning Centre in Hornchurch for the first round in their Mathematician Competition on Thursday 9th. We hope to hear if we are through to round two next week. If successful the final will take place at Cambridge University fingers crossed!

Mrs Smith also took a group of mathematicians from Year 5 and 6 to St Patrick's Catholic School for an able maths workshop on Wednesday 8th. Mrs Smith said that the children enjoyed the challenge and their behaviour and attitude to learning was impeccable.

School Track Suits

Havering Schoolwear are now stocking tracksuits in our school colour with an embroidered school logo. Hooded tops are £13 and joggers are £9. Although not compulsory we would encourage the children to wear these – especially those representing the school in team games.

School nurse Drop In

Our School nurse, Denise Ellis, will be doing a drop in session on Wednesday 29 November at 3.00pm.

She is here for anyone who has any concerns about their child and would like to have a chat.

Micro Scooters for Schools Scheme

Please support our school when purchasing a micro-scooter for your child. We will receive 10% of the basket value every time the school code is used at the check out at micro-scooters.co.uk. All you need to do is provide the school URN number which is: 135588.

Many thanks for your support,
Mrs Harris

Parent Forum

Please note that our first parent forum will now be held on Friday 24 November 9-10am (change of date from 17 November).

Safety at collection time

When waiting in the playground at drop off and pick up times please ensure that your younger children do not swing on the rails along the slope by the new build and run up and down the steps to the platform or run across it.

Staff are reminding all children that the slopes are for access only and that rails are not play equipment.

Please note that the doors from the platform and by the year 3 corridor are for children only and that parents/carers need to enter school by the office door if necessary.

Thank you to everyone who is now leaving via the back gate promptly so it can be locked at 9.00am.

A whistle will now be blown to let everyone know that the gate has been locked, which means you will have to exit the playground via the front entrance.

£50 Uniform Grant available

A reminder that a £50 Uniform Grant is available as a thank you for a **new** successful application for Free School Meals. This entitles the school to Pupil Premium.

Pupil Premium is a route by which the school can get additional funding for any child who is entitled to Free School Meals. Although all children in Reception to Year 2 currently received their meals free of charge, the school is only able to access additional funding if the parent/carers actually qualifies for free school meals on the grounds of income. For children in Year 3 to Year 6, qualification will mean a saving on the daily cost of a school meal. The school will get additional funding even if your child chooses to have a packed lunch. It is eligibility that qualifies the school for extra funding.

You can quickly check whether you are eligible by entering your name, date of birth and national insurance number on the following website: <http://www.fsm.lgfl.net> or apply directly on the www.fsm.lgfl.net website

<https://my.havering.gov.uk/Pages/OnlineForms/Free-school-meals.aspx#Details>.

If you need any advice or help with applying one of the ladies in our office will be happy to help.

Missing Lunchbox

A brand new Smiggle lunchbox has disappeared. If your child has taken this home by mistake could you please return it to the office.

Pupil of the Week



20 October

Ruby Wadsworth, Dolcie Roberts, Miley Cohen, Eliza Moulder, Harriet Leggatt, Chloe Burton, Jessica Exall, Sonny Hosler, Poppy Sharp, Jay Lush, Lois Grove, Amelie Piper, Harry Jones, Oscar Robertson, Macey Sheldrick, Ted Dukelow, Violet Clark, Charlie Roberts, Ava-Rose Hartie, Brandon Whittlesey

3 November

Ben Goodman, Loanne Hatchett, George Sheridan, Mira Zgaibey, Jack Rowe, Lennard Nugent, Henry Collard, Amy Edmondson, George Argent, Imogen La-Page, George Marketis, Demi Abbott, Harrison Butcher, Lydon Clarke, Billy Sheridan, Luke Kemp, Harry Esdale, Isabelle Rumble-Gurney, Miya Punter, Ewan Lowrie.