

Newsletter 19th October 2018

Dear parents and carers

Thank you to everyone who came to our parent consultation meetings; we hope that you found your meeting informative and useful. Following feedback through responses to the Parent View questionnaire last term, we are mindful that some parents would like more information about their child's progress throughout the year. The Governing Body therefore wanted to gather opinions following the consultation meetings so governors circulated, asking parents to complete a short questionnaire. It was great to see from these that almost everyone was wholly positive about the meetings, with the vast majority feeling well informed about their child's attainment and progress. We are now looking at how to provide further pupil progress information to you before the next set of meetings in the spring term.

If you were unable to meet your child's teacher, please contact the office, or the teacher directly on the playground after school, to arrange a convenient time to come in to school - we really do want to talk to you. I wish you all a happy, relaxing half term break. We look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 30th October (reminder - Monday 29th October is an Inset Day when staff are in school for training but children are not).

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

World Values Day – Thursday 18th November 2018

This week our school celebrated World Values Day. As a values-based education school, we celebrate a different value each month on a two year rolling schedule and these values are embedded in everything we do in school. On Thursday each class celebrated a different value and took part in a variety of activities linked to their value. This meant all twenty-two values were celebrated at once!

Children from each class then shared information about their value and the activities they took part in at our special World Values Day celebration assemblies on Friday. It was an amazing event and raised awareness of the importance of each of our school's values. Ask your children which value they celebrated in their class and which activities they took part in.

Values Based Education

Freedom

Branfil's value of the month for October is Freedom. Individual liberty is one of our most important British Values and it is something we champion at Branfil. Each class in our school has a Pupil Voice box which gives children the freedom to share their ideas and suggestions about the school. These ideas are then discussed and acted upon by the school council.

Maths Workshops



Thank you to everyone who attended the maths workshops - we had over 300 parents/carers attend over the two sessions! We hope you found it beneficial to see the methods we use for calculations and also enjoyed trying out some problem solving and reasoning. Thank you for your support with your child's maths learning at home

Maths sponsored event

Please help your child to practise the times tables over this half term holiday in readiness for our autumn term sponsored event. Details to follow straight after the holiday.

Spelling Workshops

A reminder to all parents of Y2,3,4,5,6 children that on Tuesday 30th October at 9.00am until 9.45am there is a Spelling workshop on the Read, Write, Inc. approach. This workshop is for parents and does not involve working with the children.

Reception Literacy meetings

Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to attend the meetings this week. We hope that you found the session useful; we certainly had lots of positive feedback informally at the end of the meetings. For those who were unable to attend, the PowerPoint handout has been sent home in your child's book bag today. Please talk to the Reception team on the playground after school if you have any questions.

Engayne v Branfil Boys Football

On Thursday 18th October, Branfil boys played their first football match of the season against Engayne Primary School. It was a fantastic game, with end to end action and the boys did themselves proud. Branfil lost 3 – 0 but it could easily have been a different result as Adam hit the crossbar with an audacious shot from just inside the opponents half and Albie had a goal unluckily disallowed. Well done to all the boys that played.

Pupil Ambassadors

Some of our Year 6 pupils have talked to prospective new intake parents at 3 events recently. The children wrote their own speeches then delivered them to over one hundred visitors. They talked about what makes Branfil special for them: the opportunities that they have to develop their skills in art, music and PE; the family atmosphere in the school; our fantastic PTA events, for pupils and parents/carers; the responsibilities that we give to children so they develop confidence and leadership skills. They were a real credit to their families and to Branfil. I would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU!" To Evie, Albie, Maggie, Joe and Grace for being fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Mental Health Week

Last week was Mental Health Week and as part of this, pupils in every year group took part in activities to celebrate this year's theme; 'Being Ourselves'. Mrs Daly ran an assembly on Monday to tell pupils about how they can all celebrate being unique and how they might help someone who may be feeling left out

or different. Then, throughout the week, classes did their own activities based on being themselves, such as practising mindfulness and thinking of ways to support themselves and others in keeping mentally healthy.

Bikeability

Our Year 6 children this week have been working towards their bikeability standards. These are standards designed to make children more competent cyclists and prepare them for cycling on the road. The children all passed their level 1 and are now working towards level 2.



Education Provision in Havering

This is just a gentle reminder that the Council still wants to hear your views regarding the Havering's draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2019-2023

The draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision sets out how Havering Council seeks to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet demand for early years, primary, secondary, post-16, special and alternative provision across the borough and the plans to meet additional school places needed in the future.

The survey will only take about 10 -15minutes to complete; just click on the survey link below to get started.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parentsview>

Staying Safe Online

We recently received this safeguarding update about Fortnite from London Grid for Learning DigiSafe:



- Don't ban Fortnite (or any other game) because a newspaper headline said it's evil; at the same time, don't allow it because a friend said it's fine. Have a look and decide yourself (get your child to show you, or play together if you're feeling brave). If you're happy, fine; if not, it doesn't matter whether "everyone else is playing it".
- Fortnite's PEGI age rating is 12 (= appropriate age, NOT skill level).
- Games don't go on for hours, but average 20-30 minutes. So if your child says they need hours and hours, they're wrong...
- One of the best ways to keep children safe on games is to know what they are doing, so if you allow it, get them to play near you with the sound on (no headphones so you can hear the other players' comments)
- When you start, there's a 'Privacy' button - choose between Public (anyone in the world) / Friends / Private (invite only). It's easy to change. Make sure you have made the decision.
- The game is free, but there are lots of in-app purchases. Is your credit card attached to the account/device? Worth checking if your child could buy the £79 100,00 V-Bucks + 3,500 Bonus pack at a click. Click on a cheap one to see if there is a payment method attached

media and therefore cannot offer a response. We want to work in partnership with you and social media can be a barrier to this.



5th October

Lyla T, Ansa T, Lily T, Georgia F, Lennie O, Katie K, Lexi A, Maisie B, Frankie H, Charlie S, Phoebe N, Kieran P, Amelie P, Winnie T, Kara S, Alice R, Lily-May R, Isabelle M.

12th October

Lukas B, Jude H, Bella C, Johnny B, Emily B, Tommy W, Harry C, Joseph S, 3 Miruna C, Evie B, Max F, Grace P, Freddie J, Caitlin S, Oliver S, Jack W, Sonny H, William B.

Social Media

Please share your feedback or any issues you may have with us in person or by email/letter to the office rather than sharing your views with others on social media. We may not see them if they are shared on social