

Newsletter 2 March 2018

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have seen the photos on the website of our children having fun in the snow last Wednesday. We were determined to stay open and enjoy the unusual weather rather than be defeated by it, as many other schools were. On Thursday, however, following a site inspection, frozen pipes and with more snow forecast, we felt we had no choice but to close the school, in line with the majority of other local schools. This is not a decision that was taken lightly since we realise the difficulties it may have created for some families. Hopefully, the extreme weather is now behind us for another year and we can all get back to business as usual!



I am very relieved to be able to tell you that my treatment has now finished following my diagnosis in May last year. It has been a challenging few months for me, however, I have been offered such amazing support and compassion from the whole Branfil community that it has made a significant difference to me during this time - thank you.

It seems an appropriate time to thank my amazing senior leadership team: Mrs Fisk, Miss Sutherland and Mrs Randlesome. They have willingly worked so flexibly to accommodate the times I have needed to work at home or have been unable to work. Not only have they continued to manage the school very ably on a day to day basis, they have also ensured that the school continues to move towards achieving its vision, with the support of the rest of the staff team; I feel lucky to be part of such a great team.

It is therefore with very mixed feelings that I have to inform you that Mrs Fisk will be leaving Branfil in July, following over 9 years as Deputy Headteacher here. I am delighted for Mrs Fisk that she has been appointed as the Principal of Draper's Pyrgo Primary starting in September, however, she will be greatly missed by all at Branfil and will be a hard act to follow as we now recruit to fill her position.

Mrs N Sansom
Headteacher

Values Based Education

Hope is our value for March

Hope is a belief that things will get better in the future or that good things will continue the way they are. Being hopeful means that you need to have some perseverance, because things that you hope for don't always happen overnight.

We can hope for little things like for sunshine tomorrow or for big things like an end to war and unhappiness in the world.

Can you imagine what it would be like if you didn't have any hope? You would always feel miserable about the future and never believe in good things. Would you be a happy person? We want everyone at Branfil to be happy and to look forward to a bright, happy, hopeful future.

Parent Governor Elections

Thank you to all those who voted in our recent parent/governor elections.

We have today counted your votes and we are pleased to announce that our newly appointed parent/governors are Mrs Kim McWilliam and Mrs Suzanne Beckley; congratulations to them and we welcome them on board!

Thank you also to the other candidates who put themselves forward for the position.

World Book Day

We have rescheduled World Book Day for Friday 9th March.

We will not be asking the children to dress up for this but they will be participating in a day full of fun activities planned

around a specific book that will be chosen by the children and suitable for their age range.



Donations

A big thank you to Mr Gary Knowlden and Discount Builders Merchants Ltd for their donation of a fantastic rugby kit for the children. Photo to follow!

Maths Fundraiser

Our final total was £1410.25 - a fantastic achievement. A big thank you to all the children who took part and to their families and friends for sponsoring them. So far we have used the money to buy:



books to promote problem solving and reasoning; a whole school subscription to a maths website which provides excellent resources to challenge children; Base 10 and place value counters for every class to support our new scheme of work.

Many thanks once again.

Miss Bain, Maths leader

Upminster Library Visits

Years 3, 4 and 5 will be visiting Upminster Library during the coming weeks. A letter will be going out later this week explaining this in more detail.

SQUID - Reminder!

From Tuesday 27 February Havering Catering Service will no longer be using dinner tickets for school meals. The registration letter you received recently had information on how to log on and pay online.

Any dinner tickets remaining once Squid starts can be returned to school and your Squid account will be credited with the appropriate amount.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow children to continue to have meals if the Squid account is not in credit so we would recommend that you select auto update which will ensure your child's 'purse' is always in credit.

Reception's visit to Freshfields

Reception children visited the elderly folks at Freshfields Residential Home for Retired Gentfolk last week. We received a lovely letter from the home and they look forward to seeing us again in the summer:

"The residents and staff enjoyed having the children visiting, it brightened up their day. The children were all very polite and well behaved, a pleasure to be around." Zoe, Joanne, Chris & everyone at Freshfields

Parent Forum

Thank you to those parents/carers who attended the recent meeting. This was a very positive meeting with Mrs Sansom, Mrs Fisk and Mr Moody, who was there representing the Governing Body. Notes on the meeting are available on the website.

11+ Information

11+ 2019 Entry & CSSE 11+ SIF Registration

Registration for these exams will be from 5 June to 20 July 2018 inclusive. CSSE schools will hold open days/evenings during June/July 2018.

The tests will take place on Saturday 22 September 2018 and parental guidelines for 11+ preparation is available on the website:

www.csse.org.uk

Parking Issues Feb 2018

We receive numerous complaints from our neighbours about the inconsiderate parking in Cedar Avenue, Lime Avenue and Southview Drive. We are aware that the majority of our parents/carers do park with care and consideration but there are a minority who flout the rules.

Please ensure that you are mindful of our residents and **do not park over driveways, the zig zag lines or on the pavement** as this is highly dangerous when there are children entering/leaving the school premises.

Upminster Police have contacted us asking us to remind parents about parking and have requested that the Local Authority parking enforcement vehicle does regular sweeps of the area.

ParentView

We would like to hear your views about the school. Please go to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> and click on 'give your views' on the top grey bar. There are 12 quick questions to respond to and space for explaining your answer if required. Thank you in advance.

INSET days 2018/2019

Governors have approved the following INSET days when school is closed to pupils for staff training:

3 & 4 September 2018

29 October 2018

7 January 2019

3 June 2019

Pupil of the Week



9 February

Charlotte Embery, Liam Langdale, Sophie Greenwood, Bonnie Toner, Gregory Smallman, Rose Horsey, Alfie Outram, Jack Abbott, Lukas Butler, Harrison Butcher, Tommy Warner, Ella Perkins, Jackson Lee, Darcy Stevenson-Brown, Caitlin Collins, Evie Denison, John O'Hanlon, James Sasere, Ruby Gibbs.

23 February

Max Malby, Christopher Gurry, Thomas Penfold, Irene Giacci, Tymon Zwirko, Joseph Warren, Kian King, Harrison Clark, Isabella Levy, Megan Beattie, Daisy Day, Josiah Alaka-Umeyor, Rosie Joyce, Noah Meadows, Kieran Palmer, Harry Darnell, Francesca Wingate, Lois Herbert, Seb Willis, Emma Murphy.

Learning Objectives for this week

Below are links to our year group pages where you will be able to find our Learning Objectives for this week:

Reception: <http://www.branfil.com/yg/year0/>

Y1: <http://www.branfil.com/yg/year1/>

Y2: <http://www.branfil.com/yg/year2/>

Y3: <http://www.branfil.com/yg/year3/>

Y4: <http://www.branfil.com/yg/year4/>

Y5: <http://www.branfil.com/yg/year5/>

Y6: <http://www.branfil.com/yg/year6/>