

## **Newsletter 22 September 2017**

Dear parents and carers

It was lovely to see so many of you at the recent Meet the Teacher meetings. I hope that you found them informative and you now feel better equipped to support your child this year. If you were unable to attend then notes from the meetings will be on the website within the next few days, under letters and news, covering all of the main points that the teachers spoke about.

You will also find on the website (under Letters and News) my analysis of the questionnaires that parents/carers and pupils completed towards the end of last term. It was encouraging to see that we have already addressed some of the suggestions for improvements or we are planning to do so through this year's School Improvement Plan (to be shared with you shortly once the Governing Body have agreed it). The other identified areas will be carefully considered by staff and governors then prioritised for future action.

Please continue to give us feedback on what we're doing well and what you'd like us to do better - our aim is to give you and your child the best possible educational experience at Branfil.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

### **Web Site News**

Coming very soon - Individual Year group pages which will be updated with current news and information related to the particular Year Group. These will be online soon and will be updated regularly.

### **Values Based Education (VBE)**

We are excited to start our journey as a Values-based school. Children will learn 22 values over 2 years with a new value being shared and celebrated each month. We will share each month's value with you on our school newsletters and school website.

Values are principles that guide behaviour. At Branfil, adults are encouraged to model values and to give time for reflective practices. We believe that this empowers individuals to be effective learners and good citizens.

Our Values-based education philosophy underpins our work to actively promote fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those from all faiths, backgrounds and cultures. A rounded programme of assemblies and events promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, enabling them to develop their own moral and ethical compass to guide what is right and what is wrong.

September's value is friendship and already the children have learnt how to respect each other's views, made new friends by walking their Daily Mile with another year group, learnt about being a Global friend as part of International Peace Day on 21<sup>st</sup> September and supported our elderly friends in the local area with kind food donations as part of our Harvest celebrations. Please visit our website for photos!

### **School nurse**

Our school nurse, Denise Ellis, will be doing a drop in session on Wednesday 11 October at 3.00pm. If you have any concerns and would like to have a chat with the nurse please let the office know or just come along to the session. There will be further dates in the year to be confirmed.

### **INSET Days for next Academic year**

Mon 4 September 2017

Tues 5 September 2017

Tues 2 January 2018

Wed 3 January 2018

Thurs 3 May 2018 – please note unavoidable change of date due to the school being used as a polling station.

### **Snack Trolley**

As from today there will be no snack trolley at break time. This is to encourage healthy eating. From Monday children can only bring in fruit or vegetables for their breaktime snack.

### **Thursday Assemblies**

In Thursday assemblies the children watch, with the teacher, Newsround or News Bites which cover topical issues that are currently in the news. These are sometimes difficult or challenging issues which we then discuss within the class to support the children's understanding.

### **School Times**

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Start: 8.50-9.00am children enter their classroom

Lunch: 11.50am-1.00pm for Reception;  
11.50am-12.50pm for Years 1-2

End: 3.25pm

Years 3-6

Start: 8.40-8.50am children enter their classroom

Lunch: 12.20-1.20pm for Years 3-4;  
12.30-1.30pm for Years 5-6

End: 3.30pm

### **Back Gate**

The back gate is opened at 8.30am every morning and closed at 9.00am promptly. If you set off from the playground at 9.00am then unfortunately the back gate will be locked when you reach it. Sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause.

### **Mr Maul update**

Thank you for all your kind enquiries about Mr Maul; he is making a good recovery.

### **Dog Issues**

Some of our parents and carers have expressed concern at the number of dogs tied up near our school gates. Several children, particularly those very young or new to the school, are becoming anxious and stressed as the dogs are barking and jumping up. Some children are even unhappy about coming to school because they are worried about the dogs. Please could we ask that if you have no alternative to bringing your dog to school, that you try to leave another adult with the dog, or tie it up well away from the gates and other dogs.

And also on the subject of dogs...we are aware of more and more dog fouling along the pathways into school and the surrounding streets. Please be careful when walking into school and if you are a dog owner please act responsibly and clear up after your dog! Thank you for your continued support.

### **School Meals**

Cost of school meals remains at £2.20 and can only be purchased on line at [www.haveringcatering.co.uk](http://www.haveringcatering.co.uk).

Tickets are delivered via school book bags. The current menu runs until 20 October.

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

As an encouragement for parents to apply for Free School Meals, the Governing Body has decided to award a uniform voucher worth £50 for every child who is awarded Free School Meals from now on. Please contact the office and let us know if you are granted free school meals so that we can arrange the voucher. If you need any advice or help with applying one of the ladies in our office will be happy to help.

### **Sanders School Open Morning**

Sanders are holding an open morning on Saturday 14 October from 10am to 1.00pm for current Y6 pupils. There will be activities including a variety of different subjects which are all free of charge.

**Pupil of the Week**



**15 September**

**Holly Bradbury, Leo Filomarino, Elsie**

**Furey, Evie Dennis, Jessica Tran, George Collard, George Brocklehurst, Bella Monk, Quadell Spractley, Nancy Surridge.**



**Branfil**  
Primary School

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