

Newsletter 23rd November 2018

Dear parents and carers,

As you are no doubt aware, we had an Ofsted inspection last Thursday, having been notified of this at lunchtime last Wednesday. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to share the outcome of this with you until the report is made public in 1-2 weeks. However, I would like to say thank you to all of the parents and carers who completed the online Parent View questionnaire; there were 170 responses and these were overwhelmingly positive about all aspects of our school.

I have also thanked the pupils who were a credit to Branfil, and to you; they behaved impeccably and were keen to talk about their learning, doing so with confidence and enthusiasm. Our staff and governors also did a fantastic job of showing the inspector the numerous improvements that we have made over the last two years and sharing our next steps towards achieving our vision for the school.

We will send the report out in paper form as soon as we are allowed so keep an eye on your child's book bag!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Whole School Book Look

We are holding book looks for all classes from Y1 to Y6 on Thursday 29 November from 3.20-4.30pm. We are inviting all parents and carers to look at their children's work in their classroom and you are also welcome to look around the school at the same time.

Please ensure your children stay with you throughout your time in school; children should not be playing outside or unsupervised in any part of the building.

Private Tutors

We would advise that if parents/carers are employing private tutors outside of school, they ensure they have an enhanced DBS including a check of the barred list. The DBS should also be related to working with

Values Based Education

Tolerance

In a month famous for celebrating the end of a world war and the downfall of a plot to overthrow a monarch, it is perhaps appropriate that during November at Branfil we will be learning about and celebrating the school value of tolerance. At Branfil we look to not only tolerate our differences, but also accept and celebrate them. We are proud of the things which make us unique, different and special and look to show others that we find their differences special too. This month let's all try to make tolerating each other's differences the bare minimum, but strive to accept, respect and love those differences too.

children and be recent (within the last 3 years) Please ask at the office if you need further clarification.

Dogs on School Premises

Please do not bring dogs onto school premises and tie them up inside the school when bringing your children into school. Some children are frightened of dogs and can be distressed. We are also mindful some children have severe allergies to dogs. If you bring your dog on the journey to school they must be tied up outside away from the school gate, however, it is highly preferable that an adult waits with the dog to ensure our children's safety.

Christmas Events

A reminder that it is the PTA Christmas Fair next Saturday 1 December between 11am and 2pm. Our School choir will be singing at 12 noon. If you are able to volunteer to help please let our PTA members know or book a slot via the website.



The letter for Reception Concert and Year 2 Christmas Production will be sent out next week.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who donated money for Children in Need. Branfil raised an amazing £1149.82!



Donations

Thank you to those parents and carers who are kindly making monthly or one off donations to our school fund account. Last year we raised £1,090 and these donations have been put towards buying Visualisers for Year 6 and Year 5. We are aiming to install these in every class. Visualisers are digital presentation and teaching tools that enable teachers to share a much wider range of information and resources. Teachers and pupils can use visualisers to demonstrate, share and show learning resources, as well as work that children have produced and they open up many fantastic opportunities for self and peer assessment which is proven to develop depth of learning. We know that the use of visualisers have a huge impact on pupil's learning.

If you do not currently make a donation and would like to, our bank details are as follows

Acct name: Branfil school fund account
Sort code: 30.14.24
Account number 00976304

Remembrance Wreath

Many thanks to Mrs King who was able to take Branfil's remembrance wreath and lay it at the Cenotaph for us all. Below is a picture of the wreath with our blue ribbon.



Sponsored Maths Event

A reminder that our sponsored maths event is happening next week! The aim of this event is to support your child's learning of the multiplication tables since this knowledge is fundamental to your child's success in maths. The funds raised will be used

to purchase additional maths resources for use in maths lessons and across the curriculum.

May and Baker Tag Rugby Competition

Last week Branfil sent a team of year 6 children to visit May and Baker Rugby club for a tag rugby competition, competing against lots of other schools from Havering. We played 6 matches - won 3, drew 1 and lost 2. Due to our teams' excellent sportsmanship and brilliant behaviour, we won the Respect Award which we were very proud of. In the end it was a great day out and we were unlucky not to reach the semi-finals.



By Oliver P, Oliver C, and George G.

Science Demonstration by Coopers School

Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous visit from Mr Galvin from The Coopers Company and Coburn School this week. They experienced several exciting demonstrations, including use of liquid nitrogen to propel plastic rockets, static electricity passing through a plasma ball to power light bulbs without wires and even the creation of clouds using liquid nitrogen and hot water.

4 Rowan visit to Muffin Break

On Wednesday 21st November, 4 Rowan were excited to go on a special school trip to Muffin Break in The Liberty Shopping Centre. The children were invited to the shop for a workshop to make and decorate cookies. This was a reward for the competition winner Isla, who designed a special cookie to celebrate The Liberty Shopping Centre's 50th anniversary.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to decorate their own cookies and each child was allowed to take their decorated cookie home.

Elm, Fir and Ash get a visit from a vet!

On Wednesday 21st November Reception were very lucky to receive a visit from a vet. The vet visited us because our current topic is 'People Who Help Us'. The vet told us lots about how to look after animals and what to do if an animal is hurt or poorly. The vet even brought a tortoise and a rabbit with them! The children were able to stroke the tortoise and they really enjoyed asking lots of questions about the job of a vet.



Colchester Castle Visit

On Monday 12th November Year 3 went on their history trip to Colchester Castle. We all had a great day and really enjoyed learning even more about the Romans. The children got to try on different clothing from the Roman times, look at lots of different artefacts and our favourite part of all was building the Roman villas and roundhouses that we were allowed to get inside of. Each class also got to go down into the castle vaults for a guided story tour all about Boudica and the Roman invasion of Britain.



Year 6 Trip 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.

They also got to explore the HM Submarine Ocelot - the last Royal Navy warship built at Chatham Dockyard. All the children behaved impeccably and were a credit to Branfil.

Thank you to all the parent helpers too!

Football Results

The girls' football team played in a league tournament and won one out of their three matches. Goals were scored by Rosie and Evie but all the team played really well and were gracious in victory and defeat. Thank you to Lily May, Evie, Matilda, Rosie, Ella, Ella-Louise, Megan, Layla and Emily for a great afternoon and also to the parents for transporting the girls to and fro!



The boys' football team played in a league tournament to see who would qualify for the quarter finals of the Havering League. In their first game, James scored two early goals which led to victory against Oakfields. St Alban's were the second game and Branfil didn't disappoint again as there were sublime goals by Oliver, Chay and a wonderful team goal finished off by James. Finally, the boys faced St Mary's, who they resoundingly beat 4 nil. Even better than the victories was the spirit and sportsmanship demonstrated by the boys, being humble winners.



Mental Health and Wellbeing at Branfil

To support the wellbeing of our pupils, each class has set up an 'I want you to know...' box where pupils can post things that they want the teacher to know. This could be something they are proud of, a particular achievement they would like to share, a concern or worry they would like help with.

To support parents and carers, this link will take you to a really helpful website that provides a 'Parent's Survival Guide' that you can access if you are worried about how a child or young person is feeling or behaving.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>

Havering and Brentwood Bereavement Services

HBBS offer counselling for children who have been affected by bereavement at any time in their young lives. Anyone can make a referral by simply phoning their office. The counselling takes place at home, school or in their counselling rooms in Hornchurch and Brentwood. There is an initial fee of £40 for assessment/registration after which the counselling sessions are free. HBBS also offer bereavement counselling for adults.

Tel: 01277 283199

<https://www.hbbbcounselling.org/>

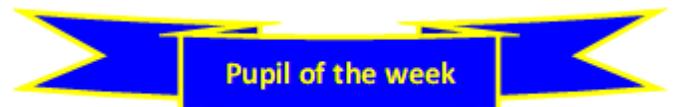
Online Safety

Musical.ly has a new name - TikTok

The social network app Musical.ly has often given adults cause for concern, because of the way that children use it to generate and share their own short videos and lip sync to popular audio clips. The app has a new name and new features, and now includes live streaming. Although the app has an age-limit of 13 years old, in practice there will be younger children using it, and the content may not be suitable.

Profiles on TikTok are automatically set to public, so that any content you post can be seen by anyone within the app. There is also a Restricted Mode which can help to filter out inappropriate content.

We have added some updated parent guides about some of the most popular apps and websites that young people enjoy using to the Online Safety page of our website. On the Online Safety page you will find parent guides about Youtube, Live Streaming, Whatsapp, Roblox and TikTok (formally Musical.ly) as well as many useful links to other information about helping to keep your family safe online.



9th November

Ava-Rose H, Alexia N, Eddy S, Amelie M, Lilah T, Eadi F, Luca F, Rosie R, Rylee G, Joseph W, Jorge D-F-T, Drew W, Max L, Louis B, Demi A, Poppy M, Chay W, Charlie T.

16th November

George L, Katie S-D, Avianna M, Abbie I, Brooklyn S, Benjamin S, Ema G, Issa Z, All of 3 Hazel, Aaron E, Amelia B, Lara G, Freya K, Jack P, Khalid O, Isabel T, Damien C.

Upcoming dates in the next fortnight

Tuesday 27 November	R Ash stay and play session 8.50-9.30am
Tuesday 27 November	Y5 Science Dome Workshop in school
Wednesday 28 November	R Elm stay and play session 8.50-9.30am
Wednesday 28 November	Athletics at Hornchurch Stadium - Yr 5 and Yr 6 AM
Wednesday 28 November	Museum Day in classrooms (Children only) – Yr 1 to Yr 6
Thursday 29 November	Athletics at Hornchurch Stadium – Yr 3 and Yr 4 AM
Thursday 29 November	R fir stay and play session 8.50-9.30am
Thursday 29 November	Y1 – Y6 Whole school book Looks 3.20-4.30pm
Tuesday 4 December	5 Aspen and 5 Hawthorn visit to Eastbury Manor
Thursday 6 December	5 Alder visit to Eastbury Manor
Thursday 6 December	Phonics briefing and lesson visit for R & Y1 parents/carers: how we teach phonics and how to support your child at home 9.00-9.45am
Friday 7 December	Children's Christmas Bazaar (upper hall)



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