

Newsletter 24th May 2019

Dear parents and carers,

I have felt so proud of our Year 6 children over the last 2 weeks - they have really demonstrated everything that we strive for at Branfil.

Last week they faced the challenge of the SATs tests with confidence and positivity. While there were many stories on social media about children being really stressed and anxious about SATs, our children took them in their stride since our whole approach keeps the tests relatively low key as they only test a very small part of the children's learning at Branfil.

This week, the majority of our year 6 children have enjoyed a residential trip to Gilwell Park, the Scout headquarters, from Monday to today. I had the pleasure of joining them yesterday for their afternoon activities, tea and a camp fire. It was immediately clear that they were having a wonderful time, trying lots of new experiences, challenging themselves to overcome their fears and supporting each other as they tackled climbing, orienteering, crate stacking, camping, fire lighting.... As I arrived, one of the leaders from Gilwell Park was keen to tell me that the Branfil children have been a fantastic group, "one of the best".

The Year 6 children who remained at Branfil this week have taken part in a range of activities and trips including arts and crafts and visiting The Sweet Rose Cakery, park and theatre. The children were complimented by members of the public on their behaviour whilst out in our local community and they have all participated enthusiastically through the week.

At Branfil we believe that our children's education is about so much more than just the academic results and it would appear that we are getting the balance right. I am very grateful that we have a dedicated staff team who make all of these opportunities possible for our children - a huge thank you to them all.

I hope you enjoy a lovely half term break and we will see you back at school on Tuesday 4th June.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Values Based Education

This month our school value is Patience which, as we all know, is definitely a virtue. In our modern world, which runs at an incredible speed, sometimes it is important to remember that good things come to those who wait, and that being patient with others will help them as well as us.

So this month please be patient with each other and thank those who are patient with you.

'Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.'

John Quincy Adams

Arts and Culture Week 4th-7th June

The first week after half term, Branfil will celebrate Arts and Culture week for the very first time. Each year group in the school will be learning about the culture of another country through the Arts and a number of visitors will be coming to the school to lead dance and music workshops for the children. We hope this will be the first of many successful Arts and Culture weeks at Branfil and that it will help to foster our children's appreciation, respect and understanding of other cultures, as well as improving their confidence to perform to an audience. Please spend some time asking your child about what they have enjoyed learning about during Arts and Culture week and look out for photos on our school website and in the next newsletter.

INSET Day reminder

Monday 3 June is an INSET day. Children return to school on Tuesday 4 June.

Reception trip to Barleylands

Lots of fun and learning was had by all Reception children on our trip to Barleylands. The children were all so well behaved and represented the school beautifully. The children were able to feed animals, create a healthy snack and take a ride on a very bumpy tractor!



Parent/Carers of Year 5 Children

Re: Grammar School registration for September 2020 intake.

If you are considering entering your child into the 11+ entrance exam for one of the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE) or Chelmsford County High School for Girls, please read the following information regarding registering for the exam.

Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex

Entry Examination: Registration for the 2020 Entry Examination will open 14th May 2019 and close 1st July 2019

Examination Date: Saturday 21st September 2019

Contact Details: Phone - 01245 348257, email - admin@csse.org.uk

Website: www.csse.org.uk

Chelmsford County High School for Girls

Entry Examination: Closing date to register – Wednesday 26th June 2019, 4pm

Examination Date: Saturday 14th September 2019

Contact Details: Phone - 01245 352592, email - office@cchs.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.cchs.co.uk

Please remember:

If you are applying for a Grammar school, you must list the school as one of your preferences on the online application form you submit to your Local Authority before the 31st October 2019.

Mental Health and Wellbeing at Branfil

Over the coming weeks, children will be starting to think about next year; moving to a new class, new key stage or a new school altogether. Branfil are committed to ensuring that their transition into making the next step in their school career is as positive and welcoming as possible. We aim to ensure pupils feel prepared and also do not feel daunted about making the change. To support with this, staff will be working with individuals and groups and there will be opportunities to meet new teachers and visit new classrooms over the Summer term. If you have any concerns or questions about how your child will

Year 5 trip to Stubbers Activity Centre

On 14th May, year 5 visited Stubbers Adventure Centre for the day to take part in activities which required teamwork, bravery and resourcefulness. The children enjoyed the team challenge, archery, climbing and raft building. Year 5 teachers were also very proud of the children; they were brave when climbing, accurate when shooting arrows, supportive during team challenge and eager when building the rafts! Well done Year 5!



Branfil's Bike Winner!

Congratulations to Jenna Littlechild who won a bike from Havering Catering Service. Jenna was presented with her bike this afternoon in our celebration assembly!

cope with the transition, please speak to their class teacher.



17th May

Jesica S, Frank Y, Maximus K, Mylee-Rae P, Rose S, Noah M, Amelia P, Ruby S, Amelia B, Thomas P, Rosie R, Maisie B, Mithil P, Isabelle P, Leyla W, Joseph W, Max T, Kieran Mc W, All of 6 Hornbeam, All of 6 Acacia, All of 6 Chestnut.

24th May

Benjamin M, Moses C, Charlie E, Rachel M, Ansa T, Ben P, Lois M-Y, Pheobe S, Oscar H, Lewis M, Cherry VS, Loanne H, Tadas K, Jay L, Lily W, Alex L, David C, Oliver S.

Upcoming dates in the next fortnight

Monday 3 June	INSET DAY
Tuesday 4 June	School reopens 8.40 – 8.50 am whole school
Tuesday 4 – Friday 7 June	Arts and Culture week
Tuesday 4 June	Year 1 Flamenco dancing workshop
Thursday 6 June	Year 4 Indian dancing workshop
Thursday 6 June	Quads Kids Final – Yr 5 & Yr 6 – Hornchurch Stadium (Time TBC)
Thursday 6 June	Year 3 Chinese dancing workshop
Friday 7 June	Year 5 American dancing workshop
Friday 7 June	Year 2 Samba dancing workshop
Mon 10 Jun – Fri 14 June	Phonics Screening week Yr1 & Yr2

INSET DAY for 2018/19 Term – 3rd June 2019

INSET Days for 2019/20 Term (agreed by Governors): 4th, 5th, 6th September 2019, 6th January 2020, 20th April 2020