

Newsletter 29 March 2018

Dear parents and carers,

Since the last newsletter the Governors have been busy. The Resources, Site and Buildings committee have carried out a Health & Safety inspection of the school and grounds. Fortunately, no serious concerns were identified so we feel confident that the school remains a safe place for the children and staff.

Referring to my comments in the newsletter on 9th February regarding possible additional funding from the Local Authority (LA), regrettably this has turned out not to be anywhere near as much as we had hoped. The LA, like most educational organisations, are feeling the financial pinch. In view of the low level of financial assistance the LA have been able to provide they have agreed to our proposal that the school should apply to reduce its intake at Reception from 3 to 2 form entry. If successful this will make it easier for us to balance the books. There will be appropriate consultation and we will be providing further information in due course.

Following their successful elections as parent Governors, Mrs. McWilliam and Mrs. Beckley have attended their first Branfil Governors' meeting. We welcome them aboard and hope they have a fulfilling and rewarding time working on behalf of the school.

Finally, we have a new Chair of Governors. Mrs. Whittle felt unable to continue in the role due to family and work commitments so, following consultation with all the Governors and the LA, Mrs. Julie Deacon has been co-opted onto the Governing Body and has agreed to act as our as Chair. Mrs. Deacon is a very experienced Governor, having been Chair at Engayne Primary School for many years. We welcome her as well and we hope she too has a rewarding time acting on behalf of Branfil pupils and parents.

Tony McDonach, on behalf of the Governing Body

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.

Happy Easter!

As we reach the end of another busy, eventful, positive term I would like to thank the staff, pupils, governors, parents and carers for the great team work which ensures we continue to offer our children a broad, balanced curriculum supported by many additional activities and experiences. I am grateful to be part of such a strong community that always keep our pupils at the heart of everything we do. I wish you all a very happy Easter and a lovely holiday. We will look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 16th April.



Mrs Sansom
Headteacher

Dates Reminder

Thursday 29 March- school closes normal time for Easter break

Monday 16 April – school reopens normal time

Thursday 3 May – school closed INSET (polling station)

Monday 7 May – School closed May Bank Holiday

Book Looks

We are holding book looks for all classes from Y1 to Y6 on Thursday 19 April 3.45-5.00pm. We are hoping that this time will enable more working parent/carers to come along who will then be able to look around the school at the same time and see our new areas e.g computer suite, library, music room.

Reception stay & play dates are listed individually on the term dates below.

Havering Rotary Quiz

On Wednesday 28 March our general knowledge quiz team of Dacia Waterman-Cook, Oliver McLarens, Tobeche Chesa & Olivia Norgate won the quiz with a four point lead. They played against St Josephs and Gidea Park and are now through to the final. A big thank you to the Havering Rotary Quiz and the effort our team put in.

Year 4 Egyptian Day

This term Year 4 have been very busy learning about the Ancient Egyptians. On Wednesday the children and staff had great fun dressing up as Egyptians and getting hands on with lots of exciting activities. The children made delicious flat breads, designed and painted Egyptian headdresses, sculpted a sarcophagus out of clay and wrote their names in hieroglyphics. Thank you to all Year 4 parents and carers for making this day so memorable by organising your child's costumes. The teachers were amazed!

Mrs Lee



Year 2 Music Festival

On Monday 19th March Year 2 had a very exciting morning! Four other schools' Year 2 classes came to visit us to participate in the Infant Music Festival. The theme of this year's festival was 'On the Move' and the children worked hard for several weeks prior to the festival to learn lots of songs all about transport. As well as singing, some children played percussion instruments and one of the songs was even accompanied by kazoos! The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and they all represented Branfil



brilliantly with their fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the morning. The Year 2 team would like to express a big thank you to Mrs Campbell, Mr Edwards and Mrs Wall for helping the children to learn the songs so well and for organising the morning so the festival ran smoothly.

Miss O'Toole

Sport Relief

We raised nearly £500 thanks to all your support.

"For Sport Relief week, Branfil had lots of different activities to complete in our Daily Mile such as celebrity walk and flossing and much more.

On Friday our school dressed up in sporty clothes and walked like a celebrity. It was a really fun week and we were all active".

Dacia Waterman-Cook & Nancy Surridge

School Council Trip

On Wednesday 28th March, the School Council visited the town hall to learn more about the role of a Mayor. They met the deputy Mayor of Havering, Dilip Patel, who gave them a tour around the Council Chamber, Committee Rooms and the Mayor's Parlour. Children were able to ask questions, try on their gowns and pick up the extremely heavy mace- with gloves of course!

Their behaviour was commended by the Mayor himself and they really represented the school well.

Miss Philpot

Design and Technology Easter Competition

We had an excellent selection of entries for our exciting Easter design and technology competitions. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to our winners!

Year 1/2 - vehicle design for a crème egg.

1st prize – Eadi French

2nd prize – Layla Howarth

Year 3/4 – packaging design for a crème egg.

1st prize – Poppy Mason

2nd prize – Jack Persaud

Year 5/6 – packaging design to safely drop an egg.

1st prize – Archie Pigott

2nd prize – Oliver Pullen

Grapes in packed lunches

Please ensure that if you supply grapes in your child's packed lunch they are not whole as this can lead to a choking hazard.

Thank you

School Crossing Patrol

Our resident lollipop lady who patrols at the top of Gaynes Park Road will not be at her post due to other commitments on the following dates:

30 April – PM

15 May – 25 May

18 July – PM



School Nurse

Our school nurse, Denise Ellis, will be doing drop in sessions on Wednesday 23 May & Wednesday 18 July. She is here for anyone who has any concerns about their child and would like to discuss them with her.

Squid school meals system

As you are aware our new system is up and running and proving successful so far. However, if you know that your child is coming in to school late for any reason the catering staff have requested that you call the office and order your child's meal by 10.30am to ensure they are able to have a school meal.

From 10.30am if you have not pre-ordered you will need to bring a packed lunch in from home.

If you have more than one child it is also essential that you put funding onto the accounts of each child please.

Parent Forum Meeting

At our next parent forum meeting, which is on Tuesday 15 May 5.00-6.00pm, we will be discussing the 'restorative justice approach'.

The school will be following this approach to handling differences, issues or disagreements so all staff are being trained on using this system to discuss any minor issues that may arise. A restorative approach enables the school to resolve conflicts, improve behaviour and develop well-rounded individuals. More detailed information about this approach can be found on the website under the parent forum notes dated 24 November.

Climbing Wall adjacent to Garwood Court

You may have seen works being done to this area over the last week or so. The climbing wall has been 'mothballed' since the new building, and particularly Garwood Court, was constructed due to unsafe and uneven surfacing. Using a ring-fenced grant which is available only to increase pupils' activity levels, we have had the surface levelled and a new safety surface installed. Over the Easter holiday the site staff will be clearing the last of the debris from the area and also tidying the enclosed woodland area beyond the climbing frame to give an additional area for play. Following a final safety inspection during the holidays we hope to be able to timetable the climbing wall, and woodland area, for use by all classes as well as at lunchtimes.

As a future project, when funds allow, we would like to install a tarmac path from the new gate to the climbing wall. As always if you have any contacts with a builder who might want to volunteer for this we would love to hear from you!

Lead Learners

Each term one child in each class is identified by their teacher as being a role model for others. The parents, carers and family of this term's Lead Learners were invited to our special assemblies held this week to see their child presented with a certificate and badge. The certificates have then been displayed outside the main hall so when you are next in school, please do have a look.

Congratulations to the spring term 2018 Lead Learners!

Reception & KS1

Cara Vincent, Ben Wheeler, Oliver Lancaster, Chloe Ernest, Henry Collard, Frankie Jackson, Finley Newstead, Joseph Shirley, Eddie Waters

KS2

Holly Bradbury, Ruby-Mae Smith, Millie Pannell-Spiers, Oliver Greening, Caitlyn Biddle, Abby Cole, Joshua Watts, Emily Kemp, Lily-Mae Rabey, Bobby Lang, Alfie Outram.

Reception donation

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Wingate for their kind donation of new felt tip pens and colouring pencils for Reception. The children will very much enjoy the new resources.

Mobile Phones



A reminder to parents/carers that mobile phones are not allowed to be brought to any school/PTA event that is held on school premises. This is a safeguarding issue and if your child does need to bring a phone to school this will have to be kept in the school office.

Health & Safety

Under no circumstances should snap bangers be brought into school. If your child does have these at home please oversee their use and do not allow them to be aimed at or used around people or animals.

Please ensure your child does not bring into school any type of slime, floam or other substance. We have a number of pupils in school with allergies to ingredients used in these substances and they should not be in school.

Cycle Training

Would you like to receive free cycle training for your child? If so please contact Andrada Jichici on 07718 325 816 or andrada@cycleconfident.com

Alternatively, you can book directly on the Cycle Confident website (following the simple steps below): <https://cycleconfident.com/sponsors/havering/>

1. Register on the website (quick process) cycleconfident.com

2. Click on "Courses"

3. Click on "Family cycle skills"

4. Click "Book" and complete the online form

Once your request is received you will be allocated a local trainer. The trainer will then contact you to discuss any training requirements and confirm a date, time and location for your free sessions.

Sessions are 2 hours each and each child can have 2 sessions (4 hours) free of charge (possibly more if required).

This is a great opportunity for your child to learn to ride a cycle confidently on two wheels (ditch the stabilisers) or travel safely on a cycle (bikeability).

Don't miss this fantastic offer!

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

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.



16 March

Mylee Porter, Isabel Thompson, Rhys Cornhill, Hunter Seaton, Jensen Bott, Tiana Corsan, Amy Manester, Phoebe Norgate, Dylan Edgeler, Jack Marchington, Milly Jones, Alissa Patterson, Ashton Bone, Ben Townsend, Elin Morozov, Teddy Stanbridge, Morgan Paul, Sahib Ghuman, Charlotte Embery, Connor Woods.

23 March

Jude Hewitt, Heath Butt, Teddy Martin, Tadas Kondrotas, Lilly-Anne Bowers, Finley Langley, Amaia Borges-Clark, Eloise Naylor, Milly Watts, Luke Kemp, Brandon Whittlesey, Chay Woodhall, Rylee Green, Ben O'Meara, Quency Martin, Hayley Philpot, Thomas Beckley, Charlie O'Meara, Owen Monk, Elise Dunne.

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/>

Summer Term Dates	
Thursday 29 March	School closes normal time for Easter break
Fri 30 – Fri 13 April	Easter Break
Monday 16 April	School reopens 8:40am KS2 & 8.50am Reception & KS1
Wednesday 18 April	4 Larch swimming begins
Thursday 19 April	Year 1 – 6 Whole school Book Looks 3.45 -5.00pm
May	Y2 Assessment month
Wednesday 2 May	Reception visit to Thorndon Country Park
Thursday 3 May	School closed – Polling station
Monday 7 May	School closed – May Bank Holiday
Tuesday 8 May	School Photographer – Class photos
Wednesday 9 May	Ash class stay & play 9.05am
Thursday 10 May	Elm class stay & play 9.05am
Friday 11 May	Fir class stay & play 9.05am
Mon 14 May –Thur 17 May	Year 6 SATS
Mon 21 May – Fri 25 May	Year 6 Residential visit to Gilwell Park
Tuesday 15 May	Parent Forum meeting 5.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 22 May	2018 new intake meeting 5.00- 6.00pm
Wednesday 23 May	Year 5/6 visit to Stubbers Activity Centre
Friday 25 May	School closes at normal time for Half Term Break
Mon 28 – Fri 1 June	School Closed Half Term Break
Monday 4 June	School re-opens 8.40am KS2 & 8.50am Reception & KS1
Mon 11 June – Fri 15 June	Phonics screening Y1 & 2
Tuesday 12 June	KS2 Sports morning 9.20am If cancelled due to bad weather – alternative date Tuesday 26 June
Wednesday 13 June	Y6 visit to Upminster Methodist Church ‘Life Path’
Wednesday 20 June	Reception & KS1 sports morning 9.30am If cancelled due to bad weather - alternative date Wednesday 4 July
Friday 13 July	Annual reports sent home
Monday 16 July	Year 6 play : dress rehearsal
Monday 16 July	R & KS1 Lead Learner assembly
Tuesday 17 July	KS2 Lead Learner assembly
Tuesday 17 July	Y6 Leavers’ production 7.30pm
Wednesday 18 July	Y6 Leavers’ disco tbc
Thursday 19 July	Y6 Mini Market
Friday 20 July	School closes at normal time for summer break