

Dear parents/carers

As we come to the end of another busy term, we need to say goodbye to Mrs Deborah Weston, who has been a governor at Branfil for 20 years, 8 of which have been as Chairperson. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank Mrs Weston for her amazing commitment to ensuring Branfil has given hundreds of children a great start in life. We wish Mrs Weston all the very best for the future.

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Deborah Whittle as the new Chair of the Governing Body. Mrs Whittle is an experienced governor who has a wide range of skills and knowledge which will benefit the Governing Body. Mr Derek Moody continues as Vice Chair for the Governing Body and he is looking forward to supporting Mrs Whittle.

I wish you all a very happy Easter break.

Mrs Sansom, Head teacher

Homework

We will not be setting homework for the holiday since we feel it is vital that the children (and you!) have a good break. However, please continue to hear your child read regularly and help them to learn their number/bonds/multiplication facts.

Book Looks

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent survey. The vast majority of you prefer the book looks as they are currently: once a term, in the morning.

Residential Trip for Year 6

Following feedback from the survey, the Governing Body are considering venues closer to home and for a reduced number of nights for the current Year 5 cohort. We will let you know once a decision has been made.

Premier Sports After School clubs

Premier Sport clubs starting after Easter are now online and available to book. Simply type in the school postcode RM14 2LW to find out the clubs being offered in school. Book online at www.premiersport.org or call 01953 499040.



Decorated Egg Competition

What a fabulous egg-stravaganza! What cracking designs! It was obvious that the children had lots of fun painting and decorating their eggs.

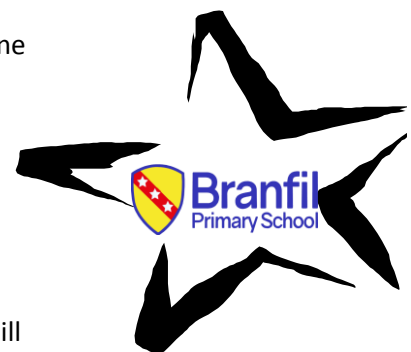
You can see our winners from each class in the Yellow Advertiser.

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 2017 Lead Learners!

Billy Persue
Daniel Ashiru
Bella Monk
Jenna Littlechild
Alice Tsui
Maisie Pullinger
Jessi-Ann Joscelyne
Poppy Mason
Theo Laronde
Stanley French
Max Lever
Madeline Dennis
William Baxter
George Briggs
Ella-Louise Cornhill
Oliver McLarens
Casey Schafer
Reece White
Tommy McCrindle



Parent/Carer Teacher Meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent teacher meetings; it is always a pleasure to see so many parents/carers and know that our pupils have strong support from their families.

Inspiring our children

Miss Cumming, Miss Evenden and Miss Kemp, in Reception, have got a team of 9 together to run 10Km at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 1st April to raise money to develop Branfil's Early Years outdoor learning environment. Please show your support by sharing their page, making a small donation or volunteering to help take part in the practical work of transforming it.

Visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Branfil-reception>.

Thank you

Get Creative

Havering Adult College is getting involved in the BBC Get Creative campaign this year and will be running over 30 creative workshops for FREE on Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th April 2017.

Get Creative is about celebrating all things creative and getting people involved. With their teachers, the students have developed over 30 workshops that range from art, photography, multimedia, cookery, French patisserie, family learning and so much more and all the workshops are free to all adults who would like to attend.

For more information about each of the Get Creative workshops, please call on 01708 434955 or visit the website www.haveringadultcollege.co.uk.

Egyptian Day

This term Year 4 have been very busy learning about the Ancient Egypt. Last week the children, staff and parents 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 collars, sculpted Ankh symbols out of clay, constructed pyramids out of their own choice of materials (including Maltesers!) and enjoyed many other fantastic activities. Thank you to all Year 4 parents for making this day so memorable by organising your child's costumes and pyramid building materials. The teachers were amazed!



Mrs Lee, Miss Oakley and Miss Pearce

Year 5 Tower Bridge

Year 5 had a wonderful visit to Tower Bridge last week. They asked lots of interesting questions about the history of the bridge and how it operates. They learned about the everyday life of the workers on the bridge and along the Thames. Well done 5 Alder and 5 Aspen!

Spelling Bee

The spelling bee has been a huge success. We have raised over £3000 which will go towards modifying the school library. I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and carers who sponsored their children.

The following children took part in the inter school event at Engayne Primary School.

Alfie Ware
Harry McLarens
Freya King
Ben Goodman
Lauren Affleck
Lily May Rabey
Zaynab Lindsay
Ben Townsend
Zarah McDaniel
Elizabeth Jones
Alexa Rugless
They were a credit to the school and although we didn't win overall, the children enjoyed the experience.
Mrs Stevenson



Science Week

In school last week we celebrated National Science Week. Every class enjoyed developing their curiosity and scientific skills through exciting lessons their teachers had planned. Some classes even worked on larger projects throughout the week. It was great fun!
Miss Pearce

Girls' football - St Mary's v Branfil

"It was a great experience which we will never forget. We are through to the semi-finals although it did not come easy. We had to up our game in the second half to win 2-0. Thankfully Elizabeth and Faith scored one goal each. However most of the thanks goes to Miss Bain and the parents for their amazing support. THANKS MISS BAIN FOR BEING A TOP COACH!"
Freya, Jolie, Sophie, Faith, Elizabeth, Molly, Rosie, Maizy and Gabrielle.



Parent/Carer volunteers required

We are currently in need of a parent/carer to come in regularly on a Monday morning for 30 minutes approx. to help with washing the KS1 fruit. Please ask at the office if you are interested.

Also if any parents/carers are able to help occasionally in a classroom with reading, crafts etc please see the office.

You will be required to have a current DBS in place to do either of the above.

Boys Football

A fantastic couple of weeks for the Year 6 boys' football team! You'll find an article on them in this weeks' Romford Recorder celebrating their win at Crystal Palace last week, where they won gold in the London Youth Games final. Here they represented Havering and competed and triumphed against 32 other London boroughs. An incredible achievement indeed!

This week, the boys were in action again, in the league quarter final play off, where they beat Harold Wood an amazing 12-0 with some superb goals!

Tag Rugby Festival

On 29th March a group of Year 4 children took part in the Tag Rugby Festival at Upminster Rugby Club: Jessica Drew, Dominic Wilkins, Chay Woodhall, Lily Slay, Joe Warrington, Tymon Zwirko, Oliver Cossington, Evie Denison, George Goodey, and Alice Ritchie.

After winning three games and drawing two they progressed through to the semi-finals. Through sheer hard work, passion and commitment they went on to

win their group, unfortunately losing the final to Oakfields 5-3.

They were a credit to our school and should be extremely proud of all their hard work and achievement... Well done Branfil!

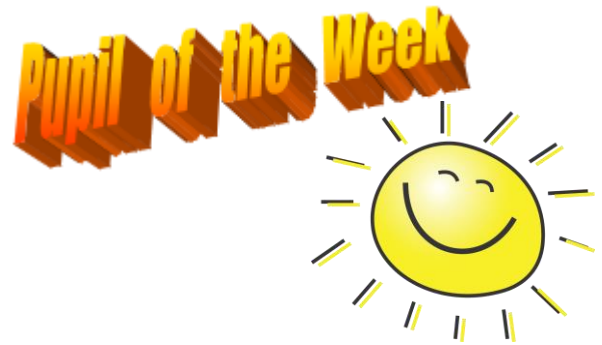


Comic Relief, Red Nose Day

We had a fun filled day for Comic Relief. School Councillors organised class competitions to choose their best jokes with winners performing them in celebration assemblies. A group of Year Six girls raised money from their charity stalls at lunchtime and with your kind donations from the non-school uniform and fancy dress outfits we managed to raise an amazing £1175.50.

“On Red Nose Day we held a charity fundraiser for Comic Relief. Altogether we managed to raise a grand total of £110. Thank you for supporting us and helping save peoples lives”

Alexa Rugless, Tolu Sule, Hannah Walby, Evie Dennerley, Beatrice Izard, Molly Elsom and Freya Long.



17 March

Georgia Fordham, Henry Bradbury, Antonio Filomarino, Millie Baldwin, Harris Chowdry, Alexander Leggatt, Jessie Littlechild, Millie Back, Adam Batts, Macy Sheldrick, Abbey Bryan, Johnny Henson, Callum Cox, Molly Elsom, Niamh Reilly, Kingsley Chen, Lewis Munn, Amber Ash.

24 March

Joshua Watts, Dean Harris, Emily Hampton, Lily Nguyen, Sydney Ballard, Denny Waterman-Cook, Faith Folley, Lewis Green, Thomas Beckley, William McKerrow, Scarlett Paris, Reggie Dean, Eliza Moulder, Beth Vincent, Mary Greenwood, Ruby Summerfield, Ruby-Mae Smith, Austina Zgunaite, Tilly Barrett.

INSET Days for next Academic year

Mon 4 September 2017

Tues 5 September 2017

Tues 2 January 2018

Wed 3 January 2018

Mon 16 April 2018

P.T.A.

We would like to thank our hardworking PTA for their amazing fundraising events this term. We really appreciate the hard work and commitment shown by the PTA members and thank you for supporting them.

We apologise for the clash of events with Red Nose Day/Mothers' Day and the Y6 fundraiser. We will review the charities which the school support to try to ensure there are no clashes from now on – although we have no control over Red Nose Day!

Dates for Diary

Fri 31 Mar	School closes normal time for Easter
Mon 3 Apr	Monday 17 April Easter Break
Tues 18 Apr	School reopens 8:50am KS2 & 9.00am FS & KS1
Wed 19 Apr	Year 3 Verulamium Museum visit
Thurs 20 Apr	PTA Disco FS, Y1 & Y2
Fri 21 Apr	PTA Disco Y3 & Y4, Y5 & Y6
Thurs 27 Apr	Y6 PGL parent meeting 7.00pm
Mon 1 May	School closed – May Bank holiday
Tues 9 May	School Photographer (classes)
Wed 10 May	Reception Thorndon Park visit
8 – 11 May	Year 6 SATS
Thurs 11 May	2 Cedar visit The Old Chapel A.M
Fri 12 May	2 Holly visit The Old Chapel A.M
Tues 16 May	Ash class Stay & Play 9.05am
Wed 17 May	Fir class Stay & Play 9.05am
Thurs 18 May	Elm class Stay & Play 9.05am
Thurs 18 May	School nurse drop in session 2.30pm
Fri 19 May	2 Beech visit The old Chapel
21 – 26 May	Year 6 residential trip to Marchants Hill
Tues 23 May	Year 1 book look 9.05am
Wed 24 May	Year 2 book look 9.05am
Wed 24 May	Year 5/6 Stubbers Activity Centre visit
Thurs 25 May	Year 3 book look 9.00am
Fri 26 May	School closes normal time for half term
Mon 5 Jun	School closed INSET Staff training day
Tues 6 Jun	School reopens 8:50am KS2 & 9.00am FS & KS1
Tues 6 Jun	Year 4 book look 9.00am
Wed 7 Jun	Year 5 book look 9.00am
Thurs 8 Jun	Year 6 book look 9.00am
12 – 16 Jun	Y1 & Y2 Phonics Screening
Thurs 22 Jun	Year 5 Eastbury Manor visit
Mon 26 Jun	Year 1 visit Harold Court Primary – Wigmore Hall Tiger project music session
Fri 7 Jul	Year 5 taster day at Gaynes
Thurs 13 Jul	School nurse drop in session 2.30pm
Fri 14 Jul	Year 6 play: dress rehearsal to Grandparents
Mon 17 Jul	Parathletics event Year 5 /6 Olympic Park
Mon 17 Jul	R & KS1 Lead learner assembly (parents/carers by invitation only)
Tues 18 Jul	Year 6 Leavers' play 7.00pm
Thurs 20 Jul	KS2 Lead learner assembly (parents/carers by invitation only)
Thurs 20 Jul	Year 6 mini market
Fri 21 Jul	School closes normal time for Summer

Mon 4 Sep	School closed INSET staff training day
Tues 5 Sep	School closed INSET staff training day
Wed 6 Sep	School reopens 8:50am KS2 & 9.00am FS & KS1