

## Newsletter 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear parents and carers

At Branfil, we are committed to helping our children to develop the skills needed to cope with our complex and ever changing world. Recently there has been national recognition of the importance of good mental health as well as physical health. We are proud of our pastoral support for any child who is experiencing difficulties, either at school or at home.

To further develop this support, one of our school improvement priorities for this academic year is to empower pupils to make choices that will enhance their resilience when meeting the challenges of everyday life, in and after school.

We are looking to strengthen our provision for supporting children's mental health and have grasped the opportunity, afforded by ring fenced funding, for myself, Miss Sutherland and Mrs Daly to undertake Mental Health Champion training through Place2Be, working with a range of local schools to develop our practice in this area. We will keep you informed about our progress as we work through our action plan this year.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

## Maths Workshops

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the maths workshops this morning. I hope you found it beneficial to see the methods we use for calculations and also had a chance to try out some problem solving and reasoning. I hope you all had fun and it was an enjoyable experience! We welcome feedback about the workshops.

If you were unable to attend today, we will be repeating the same workshops on Monday 8th October at 9-9.45am.

Miss Bain  
Maths Leader

## Values Based Education

### **Freedom**

Branfil's value of the month for October is Freedom. Individual liberty is one of our most important British Values and it is something we champion at Branfil. Each class in our school has a Pupil Voice box which gives children the freedom to share their ideas and suggestions about the school. These ideas are then discussed and acted upon by the school council.

## Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to all parents, carers and pupils who donated food for the Harvest Festival. These boxes were sent on Tuesday to our local Tapestry Centre and will be delivered to local elderly residents. The centre staff were quite overwhelmed by your generosity. The pictures show our wonderfully decorated boxes! Many thanks to those parents who helped get all this food to the local Tapestry centre – we couldn't have done it without you.



### Digital Leaders 'Being Kind Online' Assembly

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September, Branfil's Digital Leaders gave an assembly to KS1 and KS2 about Being Kind Online. Ben, Taran and Tymon from Year 6 and Lilia and Amelie from Year 5 confidently delivered their assembly, including these top tips for being a respectful digital citizen:

- Think carefully about the things you say online, it might not come across how you mean it!
- Ask permission before you share photos of people-if they say no don't share it!
- Don't join in if you see anyone being cyberbullied –report it!
- Post positive and kind comments.

The Digital Leaders also reminded everyone of Branfil's most important online safety message:

**If something online worries you, tell an adult!**

### Year 5 and 6 Hockey Trip

Some of our pupils went to watch the Great Britain Hockey Team v Belgium at the Lea Valley Olympic Stadium. The children and parents had a great time but sadly Great Britain lost 3-2 to Belgium. "The atmosphere and organisation were brilliant especially as the children were able to have a go at hockey skills before and after the event". "It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a live game and on such an important occasion being 30 years since the GB Hockey Team won in the Olympics in Seoul".



### Anglo Saxon workshops

Or year 4 children enjoyed their Anglo Saxon day on Monday. The children all looked fantastic in their costumes. They were able to view some Anglo Saxon artefacts and even re-enacted an Anglo Saxon burial!



### World Values Day

In addition to focussing on Freedom this month, we will also be celebrating World Values Day on Thursday 18th October. Each class in the school will focus on a different one of our 22 school values and will be involved in activities promoting them in order to gain a greater understanding of their importance. We look forward to sharing some of these activities with you on our school website.

### Parking

Please be aware that parents and carers are not able to park in the car park before and after school; we only have enough space for our staff. The only exception to this is where someone has a blue disabled badge which enables them to get a Branfil permit from the office – it does not guarantee a space though.

We continue to have reports of people parking across, and even sometimes on, driveways on Cedar Avenue. Parents have also expressed concern about cars reversing dangerously, putting children at risk. I urge you to park considerately when dropping off and collecting your child.

### School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October to take individual photographs of the children.

If you have pre-school children and wish to have a family group photograph, please come along to the upper hall in the new building with your R-Yr6 children and pre-school children from 8.30 am.

Please note, family groups of siblings from R – Yr6 will be photographed together later in the day as well as being photographed individually.

### School Crossing Patrol

The Lollipop lady will not be at her post on the afternoon of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### Dogs outside school

It has been reported that a child was injured outside the school gates when two dogs were tied up and fighting with each other. I urge dog owners not to leave dogs unattended outside the school gates. I also want to make owners aware that it is their responsibility if a dog is left unattended and is involved in an incident with a child or another dog.

### Sickness and reporting your child's illness

When reporting your child's absence from school please ring and leave a message on the school's dedicated absence voicemail line or alternatively send an email to the office. When ringing please explain the reasons for your child's absence and their expected date of return to school (so we can keep our records up to date).

### Suggestion box

There is a suggestion box located in our new reception area. This is for any suggestions you might have regarding the school. **Please ensure that any early pick up slips and/or collection slips are not placed in here and are handed in straight to the office.**

### Lost Property

There are a large number of coats in lost property which have still not been claimed/collected. These will be donated to a local charity shop if they are not collected by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October.



### **21st September**

**Layla H-F, Toby O, Oliver L, David S, Lewis W, Logan K, Harry A, Luke D, Millie P-S, Oscar C, William E, Alfie W, Jessica T, Max E, George W, Adam B, Poppy S.**

### **28<sup>th</sup> September**

**Simona S, Florrie D, Amaia B-C, Luke K, Henry M, Katie K, Albie W, Callum R-H, Noah B, George A, Poppy M, Maddie D, Sophie B, Lois G, Harley P-S, Cian I, Taran K.**