

Newsletter 6 October 2017

Dear parents and carers

At Branfil, we believe in working in partnership with parents and carers for the benefit of our pupils. We welcome feedback and value your views so we have decided to introduce a **Parents' Forum** to support this open communication.

Q. How often will it be held?

Once a term:

- Friday 17th November 9.00-10.00am
- Tuesday 27th February 2.15-3.15pm
- Tuesday 15th May 5.00-6.00pm

Q. What is it for?

- Discussion about whole school issues that will help the school to improve further
- Answer questions that parents/carers may have about the school
- Consult parents/carers about current issues or developments to gauge parental opinion

Q. What is it NOT for?

- Discussion about issues that are child or class specific – these need to be addressed with the appropriate members of staff

Q.. Who will be there?

- Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher
- Governors
- Parents/carers

Q. How will it be organised?

- Letter sent out 2 weeks in advance requesting questions to be submitted at least one week in advance
- Informal seating arrangements
- Questions previously submitted answered
- Refreshments available
- Answers posted on the website for those who are unable to attend to access.

Social Media

Please share your feedback with us in person or by email/letter to the office rather than sharing your views with others on social media where we may not see them and we cannot offer a response. We want to work in partnership with you and social media can be a barrier to this.

Anti-Bullying Policy

At Branfil we have few incidents of bullying; where bullying does occur, we follow our school's anti-bullying policy to deal with the issue (this can be found on our website). Following recently updated guidance from the Department for Education, we are currently reviewing this policy and will consult with parents and carers once a draft has been written.

Maths Home Learning

We have already had lots of positive feedback from children and parents/carers about our new approach to maths home learning. Please see the maths section on the school's website for supporting information and speak to your child's teacher if you still have any questions about our new approach.

Year Group Information

You can now access your child's weekly learning objectives, home learning and photos of them at work via their year group page on the school website. Paper copies of this information will no longer be sent home.

Reading Scheme

Our younger children are learning to read through our new reading scheme, Oxford Reading Tree. Children progress through different colour bands as their knowledge and confidence grow. You can find out more about the scheme by visiting Oxford Owl (www.oxfordowl.co.uk) where you will also discover lots of information to help you support your child at home: free e-books and resources, top tips and fun ideas, games and activities.

We hope to see you there!

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

School nurse

Our school nurse, Denise Ellis, will be doing a drop in session on Wednesday 11 October at 3.00pm. If you have any concerns and would like to have a chat with the nurse please let the office know or just come along to the session. There will be further dates in the year to be confirmed.

Fundraising and Leaflets

As a further means of fundraising we will distribute leaflets from business and clubs – providing they make a donation, in advance, to our school funds. Please be aware that although any such leaflets come home via the school we are in no way endorsing any of these companies and would advise that you check carefully the qualifications and safeguarding arrangements of any clubs that you may be interested in.

School Times

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Start: 8.50-9.00am children enter their classroom

Lunch: 11.50am-1.00pm for Reception;

11.50am-12.50pm for Years 1-2

End: 3.25pm

Years 3-6

Start: 8.40-8.50am children enter their classroom

Lunch: 12.20-1.20pm for Years 3-4;

12.30-1.30pm for Years 5-6

End: 3.30pm

Safety at collection time

When waiting in the playground at drop off and pick up times please ensure that your younger children do not swing on the rails along the slope by the new build and run up and down the steps to the platform or run across it.

Staff are reminding all children that the slopes are for access only and that rails are not play equipment.

Please note that the doors from the platform and by the year 3 corridor are for children only and that parents/carers need to enter school by the office door if necessary.

Thank you to everyone who is now leaving via the back gate promptly so it can be locked at 9.00am.

First £50 Uniform Grant Issued

We have now issued our first Uniform Grant as a thank you for a **new** successful application for Free School Meals. This entitles the school to Pupil Premium.

Pupil Premium is a route by which the school can get additional funding for any child who is entitled to Free School Meals. Although all children in Reception to Year 2 currently received their meals free of charge, the school is only able to access additional funding if the parent/carer actually qualifies for free school meals on the grounds of income. For children in Year 3 to Year 6, qualification will mean a saving on the daily cost of a school meal. The school will get additional funding even if your child chooses to have a packed lunch. It is eligibility that qualifies the school for extra funding.

You can quickly check whether you are eligible by entering your name, date of birth and national insurance number on the following website: <http://www.fsm.lgfl.net> or apply directly on the Havering website

<https://my.havering.gov.uk/Pages/OnlineForms/Free-school-meals.aspx#Details>.

Please contact the office and let us know if you are granted free school meals so that we can arrange the voucher.

If you need any advice or help with applying one of the ladies in our office will be happy to help.



22 September

Cherry Van Schevensteen, Sam Anderson, Oliver Evans, Daniel Coleman, Macey Thompson, Ben Wheeler, Holly Willingham, Casey Read, Max Beckley, Amber Ash, Evie Murray, Hazel Slay, Eadi French, Layla Said.

29 September

Nisa Mutlu, Ruby Parker-West, Amy Bennett, Kai Smith, Daniel Ashiru, Aliyah Prince-Ward, William Exley, Irene Giacci, Isabelle Prior, Zachary McMahon, Mylee-Rae Payne, Mylee Porter, Alissa-Mae Little.