

Newsletter 8 December 2017

Dear parents and carers

Thank you to those of you with children in Years 4-6 who were able to attend the book looks last week. We hope that you found the opportunity useful and informative, giving you a good picture of your child's progress so far this year. In order to accommodate parents/carers who find it difficult to attend book looks in the morning, and to make it easier for those who have more than one child at Branfil, our next book look will be after school. You will be able to see your child's work and also look around the school building to see our new computer suite, library, music room etc. Please see the updated dates for spring and summer terms so you can get the date on your calendar.



I need to take this opportunity to wish you all an early 'Merry Christmas' because I will be going into hospital on Monday for surgery, if all goes according to plan. I have been told that my recovery period will be six weeks so I will hope to see you all again in mid-January ready for a busy, successful 2018 at Branfil.

In my absence Mrs Fisk will deputise for me supported by Miss Sutherland and the rest of the Branfil team.

I wish you all a very happy festive season.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Christmas Concerts

Y1 – Tues 12 Dec @ 2.15pm

Y2 – Wed 13 Dec @ 2.15pm

Reception – Thurs 14 Dec @ 2.15pm

Please remember to bring your ticket with you for entry to the above concerts; only two guests per child will be allowed in due to health and safety regulations.

Preschool children will be able to attend if they are sitting on the lap of their adult. However, please be considerate and leave the hall if they become vocal as it can be very off putting for our performers!

Values Based Education

Our value for December is Appreciation. We will be introducing the value in assemblies over the next two weeks. However, we have already had several examples of appreciation recently which have been shared with the children:

- we received a lovely thank you card in appreciation of the money raised from selling poppies for British Legion;
- one of our pupils was commended by an ambulance crew for her calm and responsible approach in calling them when her Mum was taken unwell during the night;
- our PTA have also passed on their appreciation to all pupils for their excellent behaviour at the Christmas Bazaar in school, "All of the helpers commented on how well behaved and polite the children were. I would especially like to thank the year 6 pupils who were brilliant this afternoon with the reception children they were such a big help and made the afternoon run smoothly." Mrs Leggatt PTA.

Well done everyone, we appreciate you!

Staffing Changes

We are saying goodbye to Miss Clark, (Reception Elm) who leaves us today. Mrs Murphy and Mrs Jones will be the new teachers in Elm.

We welcome Mrs Caffull back from maternity leave; she will be teaching 1 Lime.

Miss Daly (3 Hazel) will be leaving Branfil at the end of term due to relocating to Manchester. We are also saying goodbye to Miss Barnes (5 Aspen) as she takes on new challenges. We wish them both well for their future careers.

From January Mrs Daly (no relation) will teach 3 Hazel and Mrs Regan will teach 5 Aspen.

Mr Maul is recovering well but has decided that the time is right to retire and will therefore not be returning to Branfil to work. He will, however, maintain his link with us by remaining as a school governor so the children will see him in school from time to time.

Congratulations to Miss Kelner who gave birth to a daughter, Ava-Rose, twelve hours after leaving Branfil!

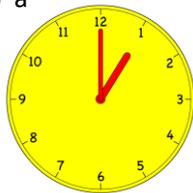
Junior Travel Ambassadors

Hi! We are the Branfil JTAs (Junior Travel Ambassadors) and we would like to encourage you to car share or park and stride. We understand that it might not always be possible to walk all the way to school, but park and stride is a great option for those of you who have a longer journey. We would really appreciate you doing this as it will mean less pollution and traffic around our school. Another option to reduce this is car sharing. You could share the school run with your friends and neighbours to make our school environment less congested and reduce pollution. Remember, your children can will be rewarded for walking at least once a week with a WOW badge (this includes park and stride for at least 5 minutes). Thank you for helping us to make our journeys to school more sustainable in the New Year!

Austina, Ben, Oliver and Evelyn (Year 6 JTAs)

Lateness

Whilst most parents and carers do a good job of ensuring their children arrive at school promptly, we still have a significant minority who regularly arrive late in the mornings. Pupils in Years 3-6 must arrive between 8.40-8.50am with registers being completed at 8.50am promptly. Any child arriving after 8.50am will be issued with a red 'late' card and will have their name recorded at the double doors. This will enable class teachers to start their lessons promptly and reduce disruption to the rest of the class.



We know that children are often in the playground so we will ring a bell at 8.40am to remind KS2 children to come into school promptly and 8.50 for KS1 children. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 must arrive between 8.50-9.00am with registers being completed at 9.00am promptly. Please ensure that your child is in class in time for their registration.

If you arrive after 9.00am entrance is only through the front door and you will be asked by the office to complete a late form for our records.

Parent Forum

Notes from our parent forum are now available on the website.

Christmas Dinner

Our school Christmas dinner is on Thursday 14 December. Please remember to buy your tickets on line at Havering Catering Services; the cost is £2.20 for Y3 to Y6 only.

Reception, Y1 & Y2 do not have to provide a ticket as they are provided with government funded free school meals.

Children may bring a Christmas hat to wear at lunchtime.

Poppy Appeal

We are pleased to let you know that through your generosity we raised £263.60 towards the Poppy appeal this year... thank you.



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

Did you see the bus?

This week we were lucky enough to be chosen to have the 'Key to Life' bus in our school. It was there to help us deliver some of the Christianity aspects of RE, enabling the children to engage with their learning in a fun and interactive way. The younger children focused on the Christmas story as the room lit up with stars, while the older children found it thought provoking and were able to recap on their learning and really embed this via games, videos and stories. Overall a great time was had by all!

Miss Briton (RE subject leader)

Christmas cards

There are two post boxes situated by the Year 1 entrance and corridor by the main hall for your child to post their Christmas cards. Please remember to add the class name on the envelope!

Athletics News

On Wednesday 29th November, a team of Year 5&6 pupils competed against 18 other schools in a Primary Sports Hall Athletics competition. Each child participated in 2 track events and 2 field events and overall Branfil came 12th. On Thursday 30th November it was the Year 3&4 team's turn where they finished a very impressive 5th overall. Well done! Both sessions were very exciting and all team members were a true credit to Branfil. All pupils participated with great determination and when they weren't competing they were encouraging their teammates. These core values were recognised by the Havering Sports Collective and Branfil was awarded with a certificate for the value of 'Self Belief'. A fantastic job. Well done!

On Monday 27th November, Branfil's Sports Crew received their 'Champion Training' to develop their leadership skills and provide the crew with lots of fun and exciting ideas. The Sports Crew will be putting what they have learnt into practise during positive play at lunch times and during our 'Change 4 Life' club on a Monday lunchtime.

Mrs Lee

Y1 Victorian Day

On Friday 24th November, Year 1 dressed up as Victorian children and took part in a Victorian workshop. Our school hall was transformed into a 'big house' which included rooms such as a study, library, butler's pantry and scullery. The children role played different roles, jobs and responsibilities to prepare the 'big house' for Queen Victoria's arrival. Polishing the silver was especially hard work! In the afternoon, we found out about Victorian music halls and put on our own performance. Thank you to all the parents/carers for finding or making costumes. Year 1 had a fantastic day!

Pupil of the Week

24 November

Bella Cross, Blake Jellinek, Amelia Plaku, Millie Back, Abby Cole, Daisy Day, Dominic Wilkins, Oscar Clarke, Alan Lin, Callum Rous-Hills, Phoebe Schafer, Alex Fernandes, Imogene Berry, Jack Persaud, David Murphy, Matilda Berry, Julia Corotas, Beth Vincent.



1 December

Feddie Smallman, Joseph Teleki, Simran Kular, Reggie Dean, Ruby-Mae Smith, Maisie Briggs, Ernie Fisher, Darcy Stevenson-Brown, Aimee-Louise Lush, Jack Hignett, Johnny Barrett, Max Tutthill, Eric Pascariou, Henley Owen, Sadie Wyatt, Divine Akingbola, Harry Constantinou, George Goodey, Harry McLarens.

Message from TT Rock Stars

Over the last few weeks our servers have become overloaded at peak times of the day. This has resulted in the site becoming slow and on several occasions, momentarily unresponsive. We are *really* sorry for the frustration and disappointment this will be causing you and the pupils.

We are making updates and adding new things to benefit all pupils.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these times

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/>