

Dear parents/carers

6 September 2017

Welcome back to those of you who are already part of the Branfil family or welcome for the first time to those who are joining us. I hope you have all had a happy holiday and now feel ready for another busy school year. As well as having a break, staff have been busy planning and preparing for the new year to ensure that your child settles into his/her new class quickly and is excited about the learning ahead.

Following monitoring and evaluation last term, plus detailed feedback from parents/carers, staff, governors and pupils through questionnaires and face to face conversations, we have identified our priority areas for development this year. These ensure that we continue to move towards our vision of being a centre of excellence within Havering. Several areas have already been dealt with so we have many exciting new things to tell you about:

- New **computer suite** with 30 PCs (part funded by Friends of Branfil) to enable whole classes to be taught the computing curriculum effectively
- New **fiction and non-fiction libraries** (part funded by Friends of Branfil) to support all of our children to develop a love of reading
- New **Oxford Reading Tree reading scheme** for Reception and Key Stage 1 (Y1 & 2) – children will work their way through colour-banded books as their reading develops
- New bronze, silver and gold **colour-banded books for confident, fluent readers** who have completed the reading scheme and are able to choose their own books independently, with some guidance
- New **expectations for reading** – children should read with an adult at home for 10-15 minutes at least 5 days a week then record this in their new reading records
- New **spelling scheme** – children in Y2-6 will systematically learn spelling patterns and rules then keep a log book of their own spellings
- New **maths scheme of work** based on pupils developing a real mastery of maths
- New **arrangements for teachers' PPA time** (planning, preparation and assessment time: every teacher is entitled to 10% of their teaching time out of class each week) – during this time the children will be taught music by Mr Edwards, and he will also take them to the library, art and design technology by Mrs Dower and religious education by Mrs Smith
- New **Parent Forums** each term to enable parents and carers to ask questions and make suggestions to help the school to improve further
- New **Governing Body newsletters** to ensure you are kept informed about the important work that the governors do on your behalf
- New **year group pages on the website** to ensure you know about the work your child is doing and anything you need to know to support them at school.

Staff and governors are also writing a detailed School Improvement Plan with targets relating to leadership, quality of teaching and learning, attainment and progress in reading, writing and maths. Once this plan has been finalised by the Governing Body, it will be shared with you all.

It promises to be a really exciting year for Branfil, with plans that will ensure that the school continues to move onwards and upwards. As always, I welcome your feedback about all aspects of school life so please talk to members of the staff team in person or send a letter or email; your feedback helps us to offer a better educational experience for your child.

I am sadly not able to be in school for the first few days of term due to my treatment. I hope to be back next week when I really look forward to seeing you and your child again.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sansom

Headteacher