

## Newsletter 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents and carers

We have loved seeing all of our children back in school this week. It has made me really happy to hear the sound of children laughing and playing together again. I hope your children have enjoyed their first week of the new school year and that you feel confident about their return to school.

Thank you for your patience and support as we have developed a system for drop off and pickup which ensures that we can get everyone in and out safely. I have appreciated the feedback from many of you, which has helped us in making decisions. Now our system is in place, please help us by only arriving during your child's designated time slot, not early, to avoid congestion outside on Cedar Avenue. From Thursday next week, our new Reception families will be joining us full time so it is especially important that parents and carers of Year 1 children do not arrive early please.

It is clear that one of our main challenges this term will be managing children and staff who are ill. There are obviously many germs and viruses around over autumn and winter so please do not assume that someone has coronavirus when they are not in school! We need everyone to strictly follow the government guidance set out in our Home School Agreement (sent home at the start of this week):

- Child with symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste ) to self-isolate for 10 days and have a test as soon as possible
- Other members of the household (including any siblings) to self-isolate for 14 days from when child first had symptoms, unless testing shows a negative result
- Family to self-isolate for 14 days when returning from countries on the government's quarantine list.

We will undoubtedly have children needing to learn at home at times, whilst self-isolating or waiting for test results, so our introduction of Google Classroom

### Values Based Education

This month our school value is Happiness and what a wonderfully appropriate value to start our school year with. This week all the staff at Branfil have been incredibly happy to welcome back all of our amazing children to school. This has been a challenging year in a variety of ways for our school due to the global pandemic which we are still very much in the midst of and seeing the smiling faces of children in our classes, corridors and playgrounds again has certainly given us all a welcome boost! Happiness is definitely infectious, so if you are feeling happy, make sure you let everyone know it and spread a bit of happiness in the world.

'Don't worry, be happy.' Bobby McFerrin

later this month will support this. Staff members may need to work at home too, for similar reasons – please do not assume that absence means they have coronavirus! We will aim for consistent cover during any staff absence but this may not always be possible due to our staff not being able to keep moving between bubbles (classes/year groups). We will do our very best for the children at all times, whilst working under difficult, restrictive conditions.

If you or your child need additional support during this unprecedented time, please contact a member of staff via the year group email or the school office email/phone.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

### Staff Update

We warmly welcome the following staff to Branfil:

- Mr Starkey, Miss Simon and Miss Ansell as class teachers
- Mrs Lemon as Year Leader
- Mrs Rayat and Mrs Gillan as specialist teaching assistants
- Miss Abrahams and Mrs Allen as Midday Assistants.

## **Contact with teachers**

A reminder to parents/carers that they can contact their child's class teacher by using the following emails:

[elm@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:elm@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[fir@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:fir@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[ash@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:ash@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year3@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year3@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year4@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year4@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk)

## **School bags**

Children must **not** bring a school bag in with them. They can use a named book bag and essential items can be carried in it e.g. hand sanitiser, hand cream.

## **Stationery**

We encourage children in Years 2-6 to bring in their own pencil case and stationery.

Pencil cases must be plain, traditional style with a zip top, approximate maximum size 20cm x 15cm. They can contain: HB pencils, black and red biro (no roller ball or gel pen), colour pencils (maximum of 12 colours, no felt tips), rubber, 15cm ruler, sharpener (with collector for shavings), glue stick. No novelty items please.

Your child will be asked to keep larger pencil cases and unnecessary items at home, following our risk assessment.

## **Reporting Attendance**

You can now report attendance by email as well as by phone: [attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk). You can use this email to report any absence before 8.00am each morning.

We would also encourage parents/carers to use this email address to inform us of any medical appointment your child may have. Please ensure you send evidence of the appointment (for example

photograph of a text or email copy of the letter) via the email: [attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk). If you have to collect your child early from school and/or have a different adult (who is not on your child's pick up list already) please email: [attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk) before 2.30pm.

## **ParentPay contact via the school**

Parents/carers, please be aware that if you change your email address you must change this on Parentpay as well. We can change our details on SIMS, however, this will not update Parentpay so you need to log in and change it yourself please.



## **Free School Meals**

If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for Free School Meal please see the link below to apply.

If your child is in R or KS1, you do not currently pay for school meals, but the school would still be able to get funding if you apply for free school meals. If your child is in KS2, you would save a significant amount of money if your child is entitled to free school meals.

As a thank you to any parents/carers who apply for, and are awarded, pupil premium, they will also get a one off grant of £50 towards school uniform to be used at the school suppliers. To apply is very simple: <https://my.havering.gov.uk/pages/onlineforms/free-school-meals.aspx#details>

## **School Car Park**

Only parents/carers with a school permit are allowed to park in our school car park. A permit may be issued on presentation of a blue disabled badge to the office staff.

Please do not use this car park without a permit – it causes congestion, potential damage to cars and stress to staff members.

### **Safer Streets**

This Local Authority scheme, to support social distancing over the next 6 months, will start towards the end of this month. Cedar Avenue will be pedestrianised between 8.00-9.30am and 2.00-3.30pm. More details will follow shortly.

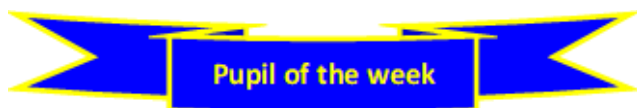
### **Meet the Teacher and Parents Consultation meetings**

We are planning on merging these two meetings this term and hold them by telephone before the half term break. More details will follow shortly.

### **Statutory Tests**

The Department for Education are planning for the early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile and all existing statutory key stage 1 and 2 assessments to This includes the:

- end of key stage 1 and key stage 2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- phonics screening check
- year 4 multiplication tables check



Jenson, Rosie, Sonny, Casey, Jayden, Amrita, Lily-May, Jasmine, Nicole, Mazid, Frankie, Daniel, Mithil, Callum, Harry, Daniel, Millie, Lily.

### **Happy Birthday!**

Charley, Harry, Harry, Mohamed, Jay, Josh, Finley, Michael, Kamran, Ewan, Lola, Henry, Amie, Minnie, Zac, Israel, Millie, Rishi.



**HAVERING CAMHS:  
PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM**

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL:  
COPING WITH THE 'NEW NORMAL'**

**FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS/CARERS**



**DATE : MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**TIME SLOTS AVAILABLE: 10 AM OR 6 PM**

**DURATION: 60 MINUTES**

**BOOKING via EVENTBRITE:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/back-to-school-coping-with-the-new-normal-workshop-21-september-2020-tickets-119620408863?aff=ebdssbnonlinesearch>

**PLACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**



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