

Newsletter 13th December 2019

Dear parents and carers,

As I am sure you are all aware, at Branfil we see reading as the key to children's success, both now and in the future. We promote reading at every opportunity and look at how we can inspire reluctant readers to pick up a book regularly and develop a love of reading. I was therefore delighted to introduce the children to Lola in our assemblies today. Lola is a Pets As Therapy (PAT) registered dog, owned by Mrs Woods, and she is part of the READ 2 DOGS scheme which gives children a private opportunity to practise and enjoy reading, away from their peers, to an audience that will enjoy the experience as much as the child does. PAT dogs are specially registered dogs who normally visit in hospitals, hospices, care homes etc. Lola will remain on the lead and under control at all times. A member of school staff will support the sessions and will be present throughout. The READ 2 DOGS programme is designed to give pupils opportunities to increase their confidence and enjoyment in reading. We will have space for a small number of pupils to read their chosen book to Lola each week over half a term, as well as having a chance to get to know Lola as the weeks progress. Letters will be sent out shortly to the first group of children to engage in the reading programme and we are also looking at opportunities for Lola to work with many more children over time.



Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Nut products in School

Please ensure you do not send your child into school with any products that contain any type of nut as we have children with severe allergies.

Values Based Education

Appreciation

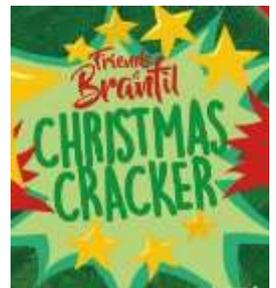
As we prepare for Christmas, a time when we traditionally offer gifts and cards to loved ones, it is appropriate that our school value should be Appreciation. However during this period of Advent, let us show the people we care about how much we appreciate them not by breaking the bank or filling giant stockings to the brim, but instead through our words and actions. Let us help our children appreciate the little things in life: a smile, a compliment, giving time to help someone. As these are the things which can truly make the biggest difference.

'As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.'

John F. Kennedy

PTA Christmas Cracker Event

A huge thank you to our hard working PTA who organised and hosted a fantastic Christmas Cracker event on Saturday 30th November. This event helps raise a huge amount of funds for our school and we are all very grateful for the time and effort many parents and carers took to organise this event. Thank you also to all those parents/carers who also came along and parted with all their hard earned cash in aid of our school!



CD recording update

Thank you so much for everyone that bought a CD; we sold over 245 copies of the CD and raised over £350 that will go towards the school- amazing!!

Year 3 Sewing

On Wednesday 11th December, Year 3 carried out their D&T day which was focused on sewing. During the morning session we planned what we wanted our purses or wallets to look like and what materials we would be using. We then practised our sewing skills before putting them to the test and creating our own purse or wallet based on our original design. The children all worked amazingly well and supported each other. Thank you to the volunteers who helped us.



Christmas Dinner for the children will be on Wednesday 18th December. Children and staff are invited to wear a festive hat for the occasion. We are organising a Christmas table decoration competition for Christmas dinner day (letter was sent out last week). If you would still like to book a Christmas dinner for your child please email office@branfil.havering.sch.uk as soon as possible.

Friday 20th December will be the class party days. Children will be allowed to wear non-uniform and we encourage festive outfits! Board games can be brought in for the children to play (no electronics please). Teachers will be asking for a £1 donation for Class Christmas Parties to cover refreshments and prizes. Please give this to your child's class teacher or year leader on the playground by **Friday 13th December**. Thank you for your support.

Reception Christmas Concert

The Reception Christmas Concert was a huge success, the children had a wonderful time and we are very proud of them all. Thank you to all of those who came along to support the children; we hope that your decorations look wonderful on your tree!



History Open Museum

The children worked really hard on their class museums. They were able to display all the work that they had completed relating to their history topic. The children were able to see everyone's work and learn about the different history topics covered. Also, this year, parents and carers were able to see the children's work – we hope you enjoyed this.

Primary Live Concert



On Monday 2nd December, twenty seven musical year 6 children who play an instrument went to watch a music concert at the Queen's theatre. The concert included a range of songs from Christmas to film music (Harry Potter) and some of our pupils even tried out a bit of conducting. Well done to all children on the trip who made it so enjoyable.

Christmas Notices

Our Christmas post boxes are now in use for the children to send their cards. Please ensure your cards are labelled with the children's first names and class.



Little Learners Nursery visits



On Thursday 5th December, eight children from Year 6, who are in the choir, assisted with the nativity at Little Learners, a nursery near Upminster Bridge. They learnt a number of songs and actions and performed brilliantly, supporting some very nervous 3 and 4 year olds they had lots of fun meeting and playing with them. Well done Year 6!

Six Year 6 children had the opportunity to visit Upminster Little Learners Nursery to design and create Christmas decorations and cards. They were impeccably behaved and it was commented on how



polite and well mannered they were. The children, both from the nursery and Branfil, thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Merry Christmas everyone!

Queen's Hospital Visit

On Friday, we took twenty children to perform in the foyer of the Queen's hospital singing a number of different Christmas songs. Our visitors to the hospital loved the choir and Branfil Choir raised nearly £180 in donations for the hospital in just 30 minutes. The staff enjoyed the choir so much they have been ask to return on the 19th December! The choir behaved amazingly and were so



polite and kind when approached by some elderly patients at the hospital.

Year 3 Colchester Castle

On Monday 2nd December 2019, Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic day out at Colchester Castle.



Throughout the day, the children were able to apply lots of their Roman knowledge during workshops they took part in. We had the opportunity to look at artefacts in the museum and even used the chariot simulator which the children really enjoyed. All three classes got to experience going down into and exploring, the castle vaults and hearing different stories from The Roman and Iron Age Times. All children behaved perfectly throughout the day and it was a great way to end our Roman topic. Thank you to our parent helpers as well for supporting the trip.

Havering Indoor Athletics 2019

A selection of children from year's 3-6 took part in this years Havering Indoor Athletics Competition held at Hornchurch Sports Centre over 27th and 28th November. The children all



took part in two field and two track events each. They were able to build on their previous skills and training and apply this into a competitive setting. All children enjoyed the lively and competitive spirit of

the event and represented the school really well. Great work to all.

Pupil Premium, Free School Meals and grant towards uniform

Where parents are entitled to pupil premium the school receives extra funding. 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 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>

Excellence in Art Award

Our winner for the week ending 6th December was –

Mithil in 4 Larch won the Excellence in the Arts award for his excellent xylophone playing and being able to read music. Mr Edwards was very impressed with him. Well done!



Core Values Competition winner



Simran in 5 Alder created a wonderful painting related to Peace. It linked with her religious beliefs and explained how her God shares the message of peace.

Operation Encompass



The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and the Metropolitan Police Service. This project is known as Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass is the notification to schools that a child (under 18) has been exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident. This will ordinarily be done by the start of the next school day.

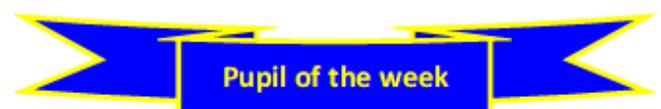
Operation Encompass will ensure that a specially trained member of the school staff, known as a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), is informed. In our school this is Mrs Sansom. The DSL can then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to ensure the wellbeing of the child.

The school will be able to make provisions or adjustments to assist for any difficulties experienced by the child, or the families involved.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial to all those involved.

Reading Sponsorship

Thank you to everyone who supported your child with our recent reading sponsored event. Please send all sponsorship money into your class teacher by the end of term. All money will be spent on ensuring our pupils have access to the most up to date books.



School Closure in the event of bad weather

In the event of extreme weather conditions, should the decision be made to close the school, we will notify parents/carers as early as possible, either the evening before the closure or very early on the morning of the closure. Notification will be in the following ways:

- Parentpay text message
- An announcement on the school website – www.branfil.com (at the top of the page)
- On LGFL OpenCheck - Select LA = Havering and Branfil School.
https://opencheck.atomwide.com.
Download the Parentcomm: mobile app for free notifications to your Android or IOS phone.

6 December

Octavia S, Stefan S, Harry R, Alexander B, Minnie B, Emanuel M, Katie-Scarlett D, Vinny P, Cara V, Casian P, Liam H, Darcy F, Lexie B, Jack T, Jason W, Winnie T, Phillip S, Joseph W.

13th December

Bobby T, Owen V, Blake B, Gracie O, Freddy A, Paige W, Maksim G, Ben W, Ernie F, Albert F, Sanjeyan J, Lydon C, Gregory S, Daniel G, Sophie T, Freddie S, Rio P, Harrison C, Michael H, Isla P, Jackson L

Monday 16 December	Y2 Christmas Play 2.15pm (by Ticket only)
Monday 16 December	Year 1 Victorian Workshop
Wednesday 18 December	Christmas Lunch (Children can wear a festive hat)
Wednesday 18 December	R & KS1 Lead Learner assembly 9.00am (by invitation only)
Wednesday 18 December	Y1-3 Star Reader reward; Movie Magic
Thursday 19 December	Choir to Queens Hospital
Thursday 19 December	Y4-6 Star Reader reward; Movie Magic
Thursday 19 December	KS2 Lead Learner assembly 9.00am (by invitation only)
Friday 20 December	School finishes normal time for Christmas holiday – (non-uniform and class party day – festive outfits encouraged!)
Monday 6 January	INSET DAY
Tuesday 7 January	School reopens 8.40am – 8.50am whole school

DUE TO PRIOR NOTICE OF ANOTHER ELECTION ON THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2020, THIS IS NOW REPLACING THE PLANNED INSET DAY ON 20TH APRIL 2020. THIS NOW MEANS THAT AS THE EARLY BANK HOLIDAY IS ON THE 8TH MAY THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR 2 DAYS – THURSDAY 7TH MAY AND FRIDAY 8TH MAY.

NEW INSET Days for 2020/21 (agreed by Governors):

3rd and 4th September 2020, 20th November 2020, 4th January 2021, 19th April 2021.