

Newsletter 13th November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

At Branfil, we consider reading to be the key to your child's success. Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book that they are given in school. Reading is happening all the time during lessons and around the school. It is taught in specific reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

You can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. **Reading to, and with, your child**

every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school: a report from the Oxford University Press highlighted that "children who read outside of

school are **13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age**".

The report offers six tips for reading with your child at home, including:

- Making time to read every day
- Choosing different types of books
- Taking turns to read
- Talking about the book- asking your child questions
- Paying attention to the language
- Enjoying reading!

It also suggests that you can create a home environment that encourages a love of reading by:

- Reading yourself – it does not matter what it is: newspaper, magazine, cookery book, poetry, novel...
- Talking about what you are reading
- Giving books as presents

Values Based Education

This month we are celebrating our school value Tolerance. In school we have been talking about the importance of not only tolerating people who are different to us, but also accepting and celebrating those differences and the things which make us unique. We have also talked about things which should not be tolerated in our school community: bullying, discrimination, littering, being impolite, standing by and watching someone else be unkind. Please help us by discussing these issues with your children at home and check they know what they should do if they see something in school which we shouldn't tolerate.

'Tolerance and celebration of individual differences is the fire that fuels everlasting love.'

Tom Hannah

- Encouraging your child to carry a book at all times – they will never be bored!
- Having a family bookshelf or a bookshelf in your child's room
- Continuing to read aloud to older children so you enjoy books that are more complex together.

You can find more information about 'getting children reading' through the Book Trust website:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips>

If you need further help to know how to support your child with reading, please contact the class teacher via the year group email.

Happy reading!

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

**JUST A REMINDER – NEXT FRIDAY
20/11/20 IS AN INSET DAY.**

CHILDREN MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL!

Reading Bingo

Your child should have brought home their Reading Bingo sheets now, along with a letter of explanation. Please encourage your child to achieve the challenges set and earn the rewards after reading, and responding to, 5, 10, 15 and 20 books.

To clarify, we are not sending home Reading Response books currently, so children should complete their response tasks in their own way and send photos or electronic files of their tasks to their teacher via the year group email.

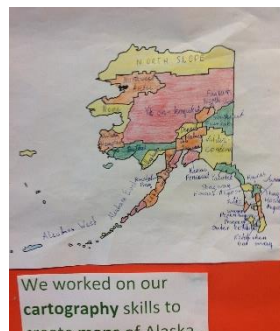
Core Values Competition

The Arts Council have decided that the Values art competition winner for Freedom is Megan from 6 Hornbeam for her fantastic sculpture of a person deciding which road to take, which she linked to choosing where to go in life. The Arts council were impressed that she had chosen to use sculpture to show this and that a lot of time and effort must have gone into creating this. There were lots of other great entries such as a sketch of Nelson Mandela and a quote of his link to freedom.



Excellence in the Arts Award

Szofia in 5 Alder won last week for her amazing hand drawing of a map of Alaska, which is currently on display in the classroom. The detail is awesome.



This week, Mrs Hanson nominated Reggie in 2 Beech for his amazing artwork on 'Continuing the Painting'. He really used his imagination to complete his artwork and his painting looked fantastic.



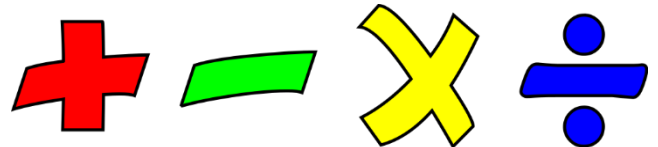
Odd Socks Day – Monday 16th November

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week. To celebrate this, next Monday is going to be Odd Socks Day. It is an opportunity to encourage children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes them unique. All children have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school to help raise awareness of bullying.

Family Maths Toolkit

Family Maths Toolkit is a resource designed for parents/carers and children to enjoy everyday maths activities together (Y1-5). This is usually sent home each half-term but, instead of additional pieces of paper going back and forth, all the activities are now saved on our website (Home Learning tab and then Family Maths Toolkit tab).

Have fun with maths!



Miss Bain

Mini Market July 2020

A BIG "THANK YOU!" to our year 6s who left in the summer term. They organised a range of games including: guess the name of the pig, a football shoot-out, a virtual quiz and many more fun activities. They raised £187 for NHS Charities. A fantastic achievement - well done!

Miss Bain

Online Tutors – Keeping Children Safe (LGfL) Guidance for Parents & Carers

Every year, private tutors help children catch up with missed work or address areas they are struggling with, or with extra-curricular activities like music. Lockdown has led to major growth in this area, especially online, and this is expected to continue with further bubble and possible school closures.

Anyone can set up as a tutor and there are no registration procedures. They don't even require an Enhanced DHS check. To help parents, LGfL has prepared a leaflet supporting parents to select the right tutor, establish clear rules and help the child understand what they should know too.

You can find out more and download the guidance leaflet here:

<https://safeblog.lgfl.net/2020/10/online-tutors-keeping-children-safe/>

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, a 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 Menu Change

There have been several changes to the dietary information on the school menu. You have been sent this via ParentPay and you can also see it on the school website under the Healthy Eating tab. There are several changes to allergens, as well as carbohydrate amounts, due to ingredient changes from the supplier. This has affected several recipes, such as all sponge recipes and sticky chicken.

Packed Lunches

An **important message** regarding cutlery in packed lunch boxes brought from home. Please



note, no knives or forks are allowed to be brought from home due to Health and Safety reasons. Spoons are acceptable if required. Wooden cutlery can be supplied by the kitchen where necessary.

Staff Update

We say goodbye to Mrs McGovern this week and welcome Mrs Sylvester and Mrs Nicholls to our teaching team.

Staff Vacancy

We would like to have a team of Mid-Day Assistants available to cover for staff absence. It would be for 1 hour – 1 hour 10 minutes per day on a casual basis between 11.50-1.30pm (hours according to staff absence) and could be in any year group.

Please apply via Haverling Jobs go Public website <https://www.jobsgopublic.com/locations/havering>

Book Donations

Thank you so much to everyone who has purchased books from our Amazon wish lists. There have been nearly 200 books purchased so far, which is absolutely amazing! The children will love having access to the most up-to-date books in their classrooms.



Thank you for your generosity – it is so appreciated.

Safer Streets Scheme

The Havering Safer Streets Scheme has started and is running between the hours of 8.00-9.30am and 2.00-3.30pm. There is no vehicular access to Cedar Avenue and part of South View drive during these times unless you have an approved exemption. You will receive a £130.00 fine if you drive down Cedar Avenue/South View Drive during these times.



New Intake 2021

We have an invitation for parents and carers who would like to know more about Branfil before making their decision about where their child will start school in September 2021. Please join us on Monday 30th November, at 10am, via Zoom, for a Q&A session with the senior leadership team. The link is on the new intake page of our website.

Support for Residents

If any families have concerns around care, urgent issues around health and wellbeing or lack of access to supplies including food and medicine please advise them to call the Council's free to use helpline:

- 0800 368 5201

- Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.
- Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 11am to 4pm for emergencies only.
- covid19support@havering.gov.uk

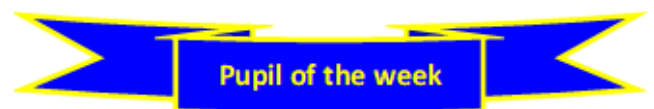
Homestart Request for Homeless Families

Thank you to Suzanne Lock for requesting help for the Charity Homestart who are collecting items of clothing for Homeless Families. Homestart have said Branfil parents/carers have been amazing with their donations so far.

Havering School Uniform Shop

Further to the new Government guidelines/lockdown regarding Covid-19, the shop's plan for the next 4 weeks (or until updated by the Government) is as follows:

They will be open for click and collect orders only. Customers can place their orders online. Orders can then be collected or be sent by post. When you are notified your order is ready, collections can be made between 9-5pm, Monday to Saturday, however this may change. They are unable to offer refunds or exchanges during this period, although their refund and exchange policy will be extended. If you need to place an order through Pupil Premium, please call them to advise of the sizes required.



23rd October

Lucy

6th November

Poppy, Rhylee, Emmanuel, Bobby, Willow, Blake, Aidan, Ferne, Arthur, Kamran, David, Billy, Lilly-Rose, Max, Dylan, Miruna, Helena, Gregory, Noah, Poppy, George.

13th November

Brodie, Danny, Grace, Joseph, Maisy, Henry, Ava, Alexander, Harris, Ansa, Ruby, Rachel, Reggie, Aadit, Izabella, Noah, Francesca, Ema, Grace, Kieran, Nancy.

Happy Birthday!

Markus, Loanne, Coraline, Henry, David, Chloe, Emanuel, Rachel, Osayande, Esme, Leila, Bella, Kyla, Daisy, Jayden.





Parents Virtual Drop-in Sessions

Trevor Watson is your
RMN – PMHT Clinician



Chance Brako is your
STAR Worker



Due To Covid-19 we are currently offering virtual drop-ins session for parents/carers these are for signposting and information regarding emotional health and wellbeing.

You can talk to us about lots of things regarding your child including:

Worries/ Anger / Emotions/ Sleep/ Bullying/ Coping skills

Your next drop in will be Thursday 19nd November at 09:00am-12:45pm
If you would like to book a 15 minute virtual meeting with Trevor and Chance, please e-mail Miss Pearce at office@branfil.havering.sch.uk who will organise a drop-in on your behalf.

You can speak to us about personal information in confidence and we will not discuss this with anyone else with your permission. We would only pass on information in order to protect you or someone else from serious harm. We would always discuss this with you first

Note: If your Child already has an allocated CAMHS clinician, please liaise with them about any queries that you have as they will be able to best support