

## Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear parents and carers,

It is lovely to share with you the recent successes of some of our older pupils:

Year 6 girls' football team are through to the London Youth Games, representing Havering.

Year 5 & 6 hockey team are also through to the London Youth Games, representing Havering.

Year 6 team are through to the semi-finals for the Havering Rotary Quiz.

You can read more details about these events below.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all three teams the very best of luck for the next stage in their adventures.

We will keep you posted!

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

### Year 6 Girl's Football Tournament

On Thursday 6th February the girls' football team headed off to Noak Hill Sports Complex along with 27 other schools.

Each school was put into a pool of 7 teams and played 6 matches. Branfil played



Crowlands, Langtons, Ardleigh Green, Mead, Brady and Clockhouse. We won 5 of our 6 matches - scoring a total of 17 goals and only conceding 4. This fantastic start meant we qualified for the knock-out stage.

In the quarter-final we played St Mary's and won on a penalty shoot-out – it was nail biting stuff! The semi-final was against Harrow Lodge and we won 2-0. It was then the final against St Joseph's; they scored first but

### Values Based Education

#### Love

Our school value this month is Love. It is a word which evokes many emotions and will make each of us think of the people and things which are most important to us in our lives. Loving and being loved are basic human needs which everyone deserves. So this month let us all try to spend more time doing the things we love with the people we love as this surely is the key to leading full and happy lives.

'You give a little love and it all comes back to you.' The cast of Buggy Malone

'Love is a many splendored thing. Love lifts you up where you belong, all you need is love.'  
Christian, Moulin Rouge

this didn't deter us and we came out the winners with a 2-1 score line.

The girls' showed amazing teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day and were worthy champions. Here's to representing Havering at The London Youth Games in March!

Huge congratulations to: Maddie, Winnie, Ruby, Milly, Mia, Molly, Kara, Lailah and Caitlin.

A big thank you to all our supporters and 'taxi drivers' too!

Miss Bain

### Year 5 & 6 Hockey at Coopers

The Year 5 and 6 hockey team took part in this year's Havering Quicksticks Hockey Tournament at Coopers on Wednesday 12th February. They demonstrated great



teamwork throughout the afternoon, both on and off the pitch, during their pool games. After all the results were collected, we found out we had got into the quarter finals and played against Rise Park. It was a great game but Branfil demonstrated some seriously skilful passes which enabled them to get through to the semi-finals where they were up against Engayne. The team were able to pull it out the bag, scoring some impressive goals from the halfway line. In the final we met Harold Wood Primary School and, although they put up a very hard game Branfil pulled together as a team and managed to hold onto the lead right until the end. Amazing passing, tackling and attacking skills were evident throughout the afternoon. The Branfil team are looking forward to representing Havering at the London Youth Games 2020.

Miss Bessant

### **Year 6 SATS Meeting**

For those parents/carers who missed the SATS meeting there is a copy of the presentation on our Letters and News section on the website.

### **Living Eggs**

This week Year 2 had an egg-citing delivery! On Monday, each class had 10 chick eggs delivered. They started off in the incubators where they slowly hatched one by one. On Wednesday morning we came in to the arrival of chicks! We now all have 10 healthy chicks in each class. The children have been very excited and are enjoying watching them grow.



### **Mental Health Week**

Last week was Children's Mental Health week and, to celebrate, Branfil have been 'Brave'. In class, children learnt that the bravest thing to do sometimes is to ask for help when we are not feeling ourselves. Also, year groups paired up for a session to find out new ways of

coping when we are struggling such as mindfulness colouring, breathing exercises and animal therapy. In PE, classes learnt how yoga can help us relax and clear our minds so that we can think clearer. For our Friday celebration assembly, classes presented their learning from the week, including what they have learned about well-known figures who had shown bravery, such as Paralympian Ellie Simmonds and astronaut Neil Armstrong.

### **Fourth Plinth Competition**

This year, Branfil will be taking part in Fourth Plinth Schools Awards competition. It's a chance for our pupils to get creative and produce an artwork inspired by commissions for Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth. Winners will be invited to a special presentation at City Hall, with all winning entries displayed in an exhibition in late spring.

Entries can be in all art forms including drawing, painting, sculpture, collage and digital designs. There's no limit to the number of entries from each school and both group and individual entries are welcome. Entries must be submitted to Mrs Cullender, no later than the 6th March 2020. (Mrs Cullender will be submitting and uploading all entries made by pupils at Branfil.)

For more information visit:  
[www.london.gov.uk/imagination](http://www.london.gov.uk/imagination)

### **Reading Bingo**

Well done to Emily in 3 Oak and Mira in 6 Hornbeam for being the first two children to complete their reading bingo. They will be receiving a golden ticket and a certificate in celebration assembly for reading and responding to 20 books this academic year. There is now a new reading bingo that will be available for each year group in KS2 linked to genres of books. We will expect children to read texts at their level to be able to complete the tasks.

Have fun reading!

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. All classes will have a focus book and will complete some fun activities throughout the morning. In the afternoon the children will be listening to stories read by different teachers. We would like all children to bring in a small cushion, blanket or teddy to snuggle up with whilst they are listening to the stories being read. These should be brought into school that morning.

We would also like children to design a shoe box scene from one of their favourite stories. More details about this can be found attached and on the school website.

### **Havering Rotary Quiz**

On Tuesday, four Year 6 children had the opportunity to visit St. Albans Primary School to take part in the Havering Rotary Quiz. They played against two other schools, taking part in a Maths round, book characters round and, the trickiest of them all, a 'riddles' round. Our children were incredibly polite, showcased fantastic teamwork and thanks to their extra revision at home... they won! They are now through to the semi-finals. Well done team!



### **Reading Well for Children**

The Reading Well Agency have launched a recommended Key Stage 2 booklist. The list is made up of books which explore a range of topics from anger, anxiety and worries, to jealousy, bullying, daily life and mindfulness in order to support mental wellbeing and encourage health literacy.

Although this booklist is aimed at Key Stage 2, they are for varying reading ages (some 0+), to encourage parents to read to their children as a family in order to have time to reflect together. Also, at the back of some books are helpful tips for parents. The books can be found at local public libraries nationally and borrowed for free (with no fines for late return).

We have put the reading list on the school website and you can find more information at; [www.reading-well.org.uk](http://www.reading-well.org.uk).

### **Car Parking in Garwood Court**

An increasing number of parents/carers are driving and parking in our staff car park to drop off children at Abacus breakfast club. Please do not drive into this car park and park respectfully in Cedar Avenue in the morning when taking children to Abacus.

A reminder that only staff members and those parents/carers who have a permit are allowed to park in Garwood Car Park. Please do not park in the car park unless you have been authorised to do so.

### **School Start Times**

A reminder to parents/carers that the gates to the school are closed at 8.50am. Our year leaders will now be ringing a bell at 8.49am to signal that our gates will be closing and that children should be on their way to class and parents/carers should be leaving the playground. Our year leaders and the senior management team need to close our gates promptly as we have commitments in class and school. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Using Cutlery in School**

We would like to encourage parents/carers to work with children to practice using a knife and fork at mealtimes to support the use of them here at lunchtime. We are working to encourage younger children to cut up their own food and use a knife and fork.

### **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.

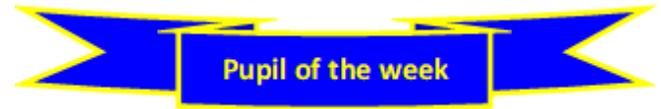
To apply is very simple:

<https://my.havering.gov.uk/pages/onlineforms/free-school-meals.aspx#details> or telephone: Sally Delaney, London Borough of Havering, 01708 433929 – please have your National Insurance Number to hand when you phone.

### **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](http://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 phone.



### **7<sup>th</sup> February**

Daniel K, Ginerva M, Blake L, Eliana L, Mila C, Henry P, Billy S, Freya B, Noah McL, Reggie D, Johnny B, Lennie O, Freddie W, Izabella K, Miruna C, George C, Ruby S-L, Holly B, Stanley P, Louis G, Evie M.

### **14<sup>th</sup> February**

Joshua L, George M, Mason O'D, Joshua R, Amrita R, Benjamin M, Ruby W, Claudia G, Sienna A, Isabella S, Cezar O, Billy P, Cherry VS, Quadell S, Olivia B, Charley S, Jorge DFT, George O'M, Mira Z.

### **Excellence in the Arts Award:**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> February**

Izabella in 4 Rowan for her interpretation of a landscape in the style of the Fauve artists.



#### **14<sup>th</sup> February**

Kamran Said in 2 Holly for his drawing of a crowd of children in a playground. He worked very hard on it and listened well to feedback.

<b>Monday 24 February</b>	<b>School reopens 8.40am – 8.50am whole school</b>
Tuesday 25 February	Young Shakespeare Company Workshop Yr 5 & Yr 6
Tuesday 3 March	Ash Class Stay and Play 9.00 -9.50am
Wednesday 4 March	Elm Class Stay and Play 9.00 -9.50am
Thursday 5 March	Fir Class Stay and Play 9.00 -9.50am
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
Monday 9 March – Friday 13 March	Science Week
Monday 9 March – Friday 13 March	Sports Relief Week

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

**NEW INSET Days for 2020/21 (agreed by Governors):  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**