

Newsletter 15th January 2021

Dear parents/carers

Having now had two weeks of our remote learning offer in place, I hope that you and your child have adapted to the situation and managed to find a daily timetable that works for you. With our families in such different circumstances regarding capacity to support home learning, in relation to access to devices, adults working from home or out of the house and availability of bubble childcare, we know that we cannot fully meet everyone's needs at this time. Some families want more live sessions, some want less; some families want more content, some want less. Please be reassured that we are meeting the government's expectations for remote learning and offering the best provision possible.

From the feedback that we have received, we feel that we are meeting the needs of the majority of our families and we are constantly reviewing our provision and making minor amendments to improve it further. It is a challenge to meet the needs of both the children in school and those at home but I feel that our staff team have really risen to this challenge, showing their commitment to doing their best for our pupils once again. Thank you to those of you who have taken the time to thank our staff for the great job that they are doing – those messages have been really appreciated.

If you are finding it difficult to know how best to support your child with their learning, or their mental health, during this lockdown, please contact the school via your child's teacher and we will do everything we can to support you. We want your child to continue to enjoy their learning.

I hope you enjoy some quality family time this weekend.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Celebration Assemblies

Children can see my recorded Celebration Assembly every Friday. This is posted on all Google Classrooms for children to access at home. Enjoy!

Values Based Education

Trust

This month the school value which will be celebrating is Trust. It is arguably one of our most important values and it plays a crucial role in the success of our school and its community. Trust is belief in the ability, truth or reliability of something or someone and it is the cornerstone of good relationships. At Branfil we are passionate about building these relationships with parents and carers, children and all staff members at the school. We hope to show on a daily basis that we can be trusted by being able, honest and reliable and in turn we look to instil these characteristics in the children of Branfil. This month let us all try to be more trusting in order to build strong relationships and also try our best to show we are worthy of trust, as this will surely lead to even greater outcomes for our children and ourselves.

'I believe the greatest compliment in the world is trust.'

Jennifer McAlister

How to repurpose your Xbox or Playstation into an educational machine

Information on this is available on our website under Home Learning/Covid19 Remote Learning

Increased data allowances on certain networks

As previously advised, the DFE are working with some mobile companies (EE, Sky Mobile, Smart, Tesco Mobile, Three and Virgin mobile) who are offering free temporary increases to their data allowances. Full details can be found on our website (Letters, Additional Data Offer).

If you are interested, please email the required details to: office@branfil.havering.sch.uk and we will submit the request to the DFE.

We have also been supplied with some Vodafone SIM cards with free data. Parents can email requesting one to: office@branfil.havering.sch.uk.

Adapting to Home Learning

During remote learning young people will be spending more time at home than usual - with their families, and on devices. As your family may be spending more time at home and finding new ways to access education, stay in touch and have fun, here are some top tips to help you protect and support your child with their online lives.

1. Now is a great time to make a family agreement

A family agreement is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet, and how to behave positively online.

2. Have a conversation

Young people may already be thinking about new ways they can use the internet to socialise, play together or get creative, participate in sport, or help each other out, and they might want to use different online tools for the first time.

3. Set up or review your parental controls and internet filters

Parental controls are designed to help protect children from inappropriate content online. These controls can be used in a number of ways, e.g. to help ensure that your children access only age-appropriate content; to set usage times; and to monitor activity.

4. Get creative

Have you found a great way to enable your children to socialise with their friends, or share home-learning activities, or have you used the family agreement to try something new as a family

BBC Bitesize to be free for BT and EE Customers

Customers using BT Mobile, EE, and Plusnet Mobile can use BBC Bitesize content from the end of January without eating into their data allowance.



Oxford Reading Buddy

You will be receiving information from the Oxford Reading Buddy separate from this week's Newsletter. This will enable you to access the ebook library.



First News

We are offering free access to our newspaper for a limited period of time, to help parents and children during school closures.



First News is a weekly newspaper aimed at 7 to 14-year-olds. We report the news in an age-appropriate and non-scary way that gets children engaged.

We cover issues which are relevant to children and which specifically affect them. Inside you'll find a mix of world news and UK news, but also loads of fun stuff, such as entertainment, games, animals, sport and puzzles.

Even at the moment not all news is bad and we passionately believe there are lots of positive stories out there. We love to cover the nice news too and celebrate what is good about the world.

To access the latest issue go to: <https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/free-downloadable-issue/> and simply enter your email address. You will then be given an access code that you can use each week to read the latest issue of First News on a tablet, phone, laptop or desktop.

NSPCC

Help your kids safely navigate the online world. Come to the NSPCC's **FREE** online safety webinar.

Date: Thursday 21st January
Time: 5pm (the session is 45 minutes long)

NSPCC
Learning

The session will be led by Anna Collishaw-Nikodemus from the NSPCC. Anna is a Local Campaign Manager for the NSPCC and has been delivering online

safety workshops and presentations for parents for several years, as well as supporting local communities with online safety advice and support.

Zoom link and details to follow at the start of next week!

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>

Parental Donations

A huge “thank you” to those parents and carers who are kindly making monthly or one off donations to our school fund account. We are using these funds to support various purchases to benefit the children. The photo below shows our lovely new benches which will be great when the children are allowed to socialise together again!



If you do not currently make a donation and would like to, our bank details are as follows:

Acct name: Branfil school fund account

Sort code: 30.14.24

Account number 00976304

Future purchases may include more seating areas and also some additional Chrome books.

Urgent Contact for Positive Covid Cases for children attending school

A new email address has been set up for parents/carers to use when the school is closed (outside office hours) to inform us about a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 for one of our pupils who is in school: covid19@branfil.havering.sch.uk

We will aim to check this email regularly and respond by telephone to the family as soon as possible.

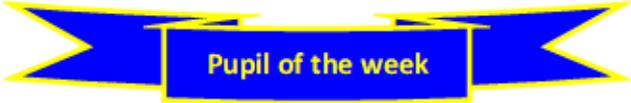
Please do not communicate any other information relating to pupils self-isolating, pupils showing symptoms, family members testing positive etc. since these do not require an urgent response from the school – please continue to communicate about non-urgent issues through the normal office email, attendance email or by telephone.

Please be aware that, where a pupil tests positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should be informed via the office email, but parents and carers should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Lead Learners for Autumn Term

Congratulations to:

<u>KS1</u>	<u>KS2</u>
Fraser, Ash	Billy, 3M
Max, Elm	Simona, 3H
Alfred, Fir	Lukas, 3O
Joseph, 1P	Reuben, 4L
Poppy, 1L	Eadi, 4B
Chloe, 1W	Aadit, 4R
Matilda, 2H	Lewis 5AS
Olamide, 2B	Maisie, 5H
Amrita, 2C	Noah, 5AL
	Millie, 6A
	Simran, 6H
	Charlie, 6C



Pupil of the week

8th January

At school

Fraser, Joe, The Whole Year 2 Bubble, The Whole Year 3 Bubble, Aadit, Quadell and Charlie.

Home Learning

Isabel, Emily, Sonny, Summer, Brody, Gabriele, Maximus, Zachary, Isabelle, Mylee, Freya, Ryan, Lily-Rose, Kol, Henry, Charlie, Harry, Luke, Phoebe, Holly and Olivia.

15th January

At school

Oliver, Dolcie, Tommy, Rachel, Billy, Alfie and Grace.

Home Learning

William, Emilia, Miyah, Mehar, Rosie, Hunter, Vinnie, Alexander, Frank, Emmy, Eddy, Emily, Austin, Bella, Keelan, Phoebe, Teddy, Sonny, George, Oscar and Oliver.

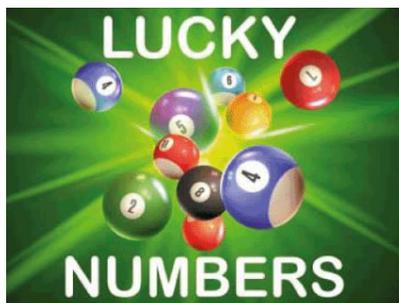
Happy Birthday!

Evie, Jack, Elizabeth, Brody, Jeremiah, Toby, Isabella, Jack, Jessica, Bleu, Isaac, Olivia, Finley, Max, Rhylee, Rosy, Avianna, Lucie, Nikita, Antonio, Jenna, Jamie, Jensen, Halle, Freddy, Leon, Hooria and Betty.



Calendar dates for 2021

w/b Monday 1st February 2021	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 12 February 2021	School finishes normal time for half term holiday for children in school
Monday 22 February 2021	School reopens 8.40 – 8.50 am whole school
Thursday 4 March 2021	World Book Day
Friday 19 March 2021	Red Nose Day
Thursday 1 April 2021	School closes normal time for Easter Holidays
Tuesday 20 April 2021	School reopens 8.40am-8.50am whole school
Monday 3 May 2021	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday 6 May	INSET DAY – POLLING DAY
Tuesday 18 May 2021	Photographer in to take Class Photos
Friday 28 May 2021	School closes normal time for half term holidays
Monday 7 June 2021	School reopens 8.40am-8.50am whole school
Friday 23 July 2021	School closes normal time for the Summer Holiday



Support the school and your PTA by playing our online game: Lucky Numbers! Last month, one lucky winner won over £200 in our Christmas Super Draw. We are extremely grateful to Branfil parent Angela Irons who donated 100% of her winnings straight back to the PTA! Thank you so much!
This month you could win £75 for first place and £25 for second.

All profits will be given to the school straight away to assist in the purchase of Chromebooks. This month we donated £450 - enough to purchase 2 devices. Support the PTA and be in with the chance of winning some welcome pocket money. Play now at friends.branfil.com. Numbers cost £2 each and this month's draw will be made on 31st January at 8pm. Please share with your friends and family. At the moment, every penny really counts!

friends.branfil.com

Also, keep an eye out for details of our family friendly Quiz Night on Friday 26th February - put that date in your diary now!