

Newsletter 16th July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As you are no doubt aware, from Monday, most of the current national restrictions relating to COVID-19 will cease. For schools, our current risk assessments will continue until the summer holiday so next week we will be operating as we have been all year. Please continue to wear facemasks and maintain social distance on the school premises so we can hopefully complete the year with all classes in school.

From September, we will be operating under a new risk assessment. This follows HSE guidance (which is based on government guidance but may not be exactly the same) due to be published on Monday 19th July. We therefore have to wait until next week to finalise our plans and procedures for next term. I will let you know the details, including start and finish times for the school day, by the end of term.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding throughout this unusual year.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Reminder - 'Break the Rules Day' Friday 23rd July

Children can be sponsored for the number of school rules, from the following list, that they will break:

- No crazy hair or dye
- No face paint or festival glitter
- No silly dancing/walking
- No back to front/inside out clothes
- No squash in water bottles
- No nail polish
- No silly hat indoors

This will be a fun way to end a very unusual year, whilst raising money to continue to update the books available to our children. In September, each class will choose new books, up to the value that their class raised, to ensure that they feel excited and motivated to read.

If your child would like to join in but would prefer not to get sponsorship, a minimum donation of £2 is required please. Payment is through ParentPay –

Values Based Education

Value of the month: Cooperation

As we begin to look forward to the further easing of COVID restrictions this month, and the increased possibilities for fun and adventure over the summer holidays, it is important to reflect on what an important role cooperation has played in the successful running of our school during the last 18 months. The cooperation that our children, staff, parents and carers have shown in difficult and ever-changing circumstances has been a testament to what a fantastic community Branfil is and one which we should all feel proud to be a part of. Positive relationships are at the heart of cooperation and as a school, we always look to strengthen the relationships between all members of our community in order to make the school the amazing environment our children deserve. Let us take this opportunity in July, therefore, to be thankful for the cooperation shown by others and explain the value of it to our children.

'The most powerful force ever known on this planet is human cooperation.'

Jonathan Haidt

please be aware that it will look as though you can only pay £2 initially but, when you click on the item, you can then enter the amount of sponsor money that has been collected.

Thank you in advance for your support with this fundraising activity. Please do emphasise to your child that the rules on the list are the ONLY ones that can be broken on the day!

Annual Reports

Your child should have brought home their annual report on Tuesday. If you have not received this, please let the class teacher know through the year group email.

Please complete the reply form and return to the class teacher, via your child.

Sports Day

After a number of rescheduled Sports Days, all children have now attended their events and competed to win their house the trophy. The results will be announced next week and the winning team awarded with the trophy.



Star Reader



Children who have read at least five times every week this term, and recorded this in their reading records, are considered to be our Star Readers.

This term's Star Reader reward will be a non-uniform day in the final week of term. Star Readers will receive a sticker in their reading records with more details.

Lost Property

Any clothing in lost property will be on display on the grass outside the school office before and after school from Tuesday next week. It will be displayed in size order. Can you please remain aware of social distancing while looking for any lost property.

Any uncollected lunchboxes or PE bags will be outside with the other lost property. Please be aware any lunchboxes or drinks bottles not collected by the end of term will be disposed of.

A reminder that all sweatshirts should be labelled with PERMANENT MARKER or proper clothes labels to reduce the amount of unloved items in lost property!

New Intake Stay and Play Sessions

Over the last two weeks, it has been wonderful to see the new Reception children in school. We have enjoyed meeting them all and hope that they have enjoyed being able to see where they will get to come and play in September.

Excellence in the Arts Award

Ekkam has been nominated for her detailed drawing of a dragonfly. Ekkam worked incredibly hard during the art lesson. She was focussed and determined and therefore produced a wonderful piece of artwork. What a talented artist!



Mrs. Cullender would like to nominate 1 Pine for their fantastic Paddington reading rivers. It seems that every single child has made one - what a fantastic amount of effort!



Year 6 - Tfl STARS Virtual Presentation

Year 6 really enjoyed the Tfl STARS Virtual Presentation. It was interesting, informative and useful. A special thank you to William for his engaging and humorous delivery.



Euro 2020 Football Competition

We were kindly donated a replica Euro 2020 football by Mr Payne earlier this month so we ran a competition to decide who would win the football. Everyone had the opportunity to design a new football kit for the Branfil team and we were not disappointed! From the 366 outstanding entries, one runner up was chosen from each year group, with one overall winner securing the football as their prize! Well done to; Cooper in Reception, Harry in year 1, Mila in year 3, Bonnie in year 4, Heath in year 5 and Amber in year 6 who were our runners up. And a big congratulations to Antonia in year 2 who designed this brilliant kit and was chosen by the Payne family as the overall winner!



Year 5 - Author Visits

This week, Year 5 were lucky enough to have two authors visit! Half of the children in year 5 met with Jennifer Killick, author of 'Crater Lake', and the other half met with Chrissie Sains, author of 'An Alien in the Jam Factory'. All of the children had a great time discussing stories and using their imaginations with these two fantastic authors.



Year 6 Children

All children in Year 6 are able to wear their Leavers' Hoodie when in school next week, instead of their school jumper. They should still wear the rest of their uniform with it please.

Juniper Summer Reading Adventure



The Juniper Summer Reading Adventure offers schools and their families a set of free digital reading badges, specially designed to encourage

wider reading and reading for pleasure during the summer break. It is simple - once your child reads a book of their choice, their parents can reward their effort with a digital badge, making reading fun!

Book Chat: Reading with your child

Book Chat is the informal interaction that accompanies quality reading to and with children, developing children's language and comprehension and nurturing a love of reading.



This link has a fantastic resource to support Book Chat: <https://ourfp.org/supporting-rah/book-chat-reading-with-your-child/>. It comprises three short films and support materials to help parents, families and carers read books conversationally and creatively to children. Working with Macmillan Children's Books, the films use a selection of their picture books and a poetry collection to support families with reading to different ages of children. The films model relaxed interactions through the use of open questions, comments and prompts to initiate Book Chat and enable parents and children to share the pleasure of reading together.

Parents' guide to safeguarding in out of school settings

If any parents and carers are looking for childcare providers and other out of school settings during the summer holidays, the government published a voluntary code of practice for out of school settings. Please see link below for the leaflet about the code.



The parents' guide is also available in several community languages (links are at the top right of the web page).

Download the 'Guidance for parents and carers' here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings>

Wild World Heroes – Summer Reading Challenge 2021

The Reading Agency and libraries are excited to introduce Wild World Heroes, Summer Reading Challenge 2021; a celebration of nature and action for the environment, in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund UK.



During the summer holidays children aged 4-11 can sign up at their local Havering library from 10th July, then read any six library books of their choice to collect special stickers and rewards along the way – all for FREE. This year only two library visits are needed, one to pick up a pack and a second to return a completed Book Review sheet in order to receive a medal and certificate. Parents and carers will be discussing books and giving out stickers to their children.

Visit <https://www.havering.gov.uk/events/20039/libraries> for our free Summer events.

Summer of Reading for KS2

It's a summer reading challenge from The Week Junior with some great prizes to be won.

<https://theweekjunior.co.uk/summerofreading>



Free summer learning support

At Branfil, we want our children to enjoy a relaxing and fun summer with their families and friends. However, we are also aware that many of our parents may want to continue to support their children with their academic learning due to the impact of COVID over the last year. If you would like your child to have access to additional learning materials and online lessons during the holidays, Oak National Academy will be providing free summer learning support. Oak National Academy, endorsed by the government, is offering online lessons for key units in English, Maths and Foundation subjects as well as resources to support mental health and creativity. To find out more please visit:

www.thenational.academy/summer-learning-support



Second Hand Uniform

Branfil pre-loved uniform shop is open for socially distanced collections. You are able to purchase items of second hand uniform. Suzanne Lock is operating entirely Covid friendly. She asks that you text her your orders and she will then put the items in a box outside her house for collection. Please message Suzanne on 07773910611 or via the Branfil Primary Preloved Uniform Facebook page.



Urgent Contact for Positive Cases

An 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 check this email regularly and will 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.

Covid Tests

The local authority have had some reports that parents/children are completing LFD tests if they are symptomatic. Can we please remind you that if anyone in the household has ANY of the symptoms of COVID-19, they need to have a PCR test as these tests are more accurate in determining if a person has the virus or is infectious. PCR tests will also identify if the positive case is a variant of concern.

Absent from School

Please remember to contact the school when your child is absent. You can either email: attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk or telephone the school on 01708 225186 and **press option 1 if you wish to leave a message.** Please leave your child's name, class and reason for absence. If you wish to speak to a member of the office staff please hold on the line and your call will be answered. If you are informing us of a possible Covid contact, please remember to inform us again when you receive the result. **Can we remind you that you keep the whole household in isolation if anyone is displaying Covid symptoms.** Then please arrange a test/tests for anyone who is displaying any symptoms that may be Covid related.

If it is not possible to arrange a medical appointment, including doctor, dentist or hospital appointments, outside the school day, please send a copy of your appointment by text or email to: attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk. This is necessary in order for the absence to be authorised.

Year 2 pupils School Meals

Universal Infant Free school meals are only offered to Reception and KS1 pupils.

Once your child goes into year 3 you will need to pay for any school meals. SQuid activation codes will be issued next week and you will need to create an account and ensure funds are available to pay for your child's meal.

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals on the grounds of low income, please apply to London Borough of Havering by following this link <https://my.havering.gov.uk/pages/onlineforms/free-school-meals.aspx#details>.

sQuid

sQuid Please remember to regularly top up your sQuid account and keep it in credit.

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 Holiday Meal Scheme



Havering £ Helps

School Holiday Meal Scheme for Summer

Eligible families can receive £90 per child for meal support over the summer school holidays as part of the COVID Local Support Grant.

More info: www.havering.gov.uk/covid19/mealsupport

Havering Council will continue to fund the School Holiday Meal Scheme for those most in need during the summer holidays. The scheme is a way of providing funds to ensure that eligible families can purchase food over the holidays to replace the meals a child would have received during a school day.

From 9am on Monday 19 July 2021, eligible families will be able to apply to receive £90 per child to support with meals to cover the summer break.

The application window closes on Friday 23 July 2021 at 5pm.

Families who received a payment through the School Holiday Meal Scheme previously DO NOT need to reapply and will automatically receive the funds into their nominated bank account by Monday 26 July 2021. Eligible families making a new application for the summer holidays, who have not received payment via the School Holiday Meal Scheme in the past, will receive payments by Thursday 29 July 2021.



9th July 2021

Violet, Gabriel, Phoebe, Alexandra, Jake, David, Amelia-Rose, Gracie, Albie, Koray, Ben, Mylee-Rae, Eadi, Lee, Finley, Charlie, Morgan, Francesco, Megan, Leyla and Amber.



16th July 2021

Jacob, Danny, Sienna, Emily, Harry, Ethan, Lucie, Lincoln, Matilda, Jasmine, Elise, Ruby, Henry, Muhammad, Dylan, Lexi, Joseph, Georgie, Jack, Holly and Amelia.



Happy Birthday!

David, Seraphina, Charles, Ruby, Frankie, Sadie, Francesca, Millie, Ruby-Mae and Mason.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 19 July	Transition session 2 with the teacher for next year
Wednesday 21 July	Year 6 Leavers' Event 7.00-8.30pm
Thursday 22 July	Transition session 3 with the teacher for next year
Friday 23 July 2021	Break the Rules Day – sponsored event (donations/sponsor money to be paid on ParentPay please) - School closes at the normal time for the summer holiday
Thursday 2 September 2021	Pupils in Years 1-6 return to school
Wednesday, 8 September 2021	Reception children starting half days
Wednesday, 15 September 2021	Reception children starting full time

INSET DAYS FOR 2021/2022
Wednesday 1 September 2021
Friday 19 November 2021
Tuesday 4 January 2022
Tuesday 19 April 2022
Friday 22 July 2022