

## Newsletter 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Well, here we are, at the end of the autumn term – and what a term it has been!



Thank you all for being so understanding about the recent class closures, often having to be done with no notice, and the change of dates to return to school for some of those learning at home. Over the last fortnight, we have had to deal with more changes to government guidance and the absence of over 25% of our staff team, mainly due to self-isolating. So much of this current situation is out of our control so all we can offer is clear communication as soon as we know what is going on. Your messages of support through this period have really made a difference – thank you.

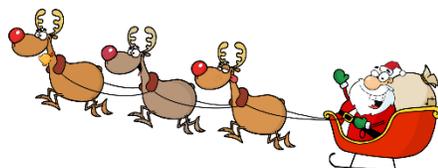
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for being amazing this term. I feel so lucky to work with a team who genuinely want the very best for all of our children – they have remained positive and focused on looking after our pupils, putting aside their own worries and home issues. The fact that we have had such a small number of positive cases in school over the term is testament to how hard all of the staff have worked to follow our risk assessment carefully and minimise risk to our school community.

Lastly, I must acknowledge our fabulous pupils who have dealt with so many changes, and such uncertainty around them, with great resilience and maturity. They have embodied so many of our core values, continuing to focus on their learning despite everything going on around them. I am sure you are very proud of them, as are we.

I wish you all a healthy, happy Christmas break and hope to see you all on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, when we reopen for the spring term.

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Sansom  
Headteacher



### Values Based Education

#### Thoughtfulness

As we prepare for what will surely be a very different kind of Christmas this year, it is very easy to only consider how current circumstances will affect us and our loved ones. This month however, our school value is thoughtfulness and we will be encouraging our children to think about others and the impact we can have on them both in a positive and a negative way. By being more thoughtful, we can all help spread a little happiness and make difficult circumstances that bit more bearable. As a school community we have already shown how thoughtful we can be this month with contributions to local charities and foodbanks, as well as sending letters and artwork to local care homes. Hopefully these thoughtful gestures can inspire many more in the coming weeks and help everyone in our community have a happy and enjoyable Christmas.

‘At little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference.’

Winnie the Pooh

### Notifying about positive COVID-19 tests over Christmas holiday



Please follow the guidance below if your child begins to show symptoms of COVID 19 during the Christmas break:

- Arrange for your child to be tested as soon as symptoms appear
- Do NOT order a home test, but book an appointment at a local test centre so you receive the results quickly
- Notify the school of a positive test for your child, **if the symptoms appeared within 48 hours of them last being in school**, by emailing our dedicated email address:

[covid19@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@branfil.havering.sch.uk) (this will be checked each day until 24<sup>th</sup> December).

Please include the following information:

- o Name of child and class
- o Dates of first showing symptoms, test taken and positive result received
- o Any close contacts other than class e.g. if attend Abacus Before & After School Club
- Follow the contact tracing instructions provided by the NHS Test and Trace **if the symptoms appeared after 48 hours of them last being in school.**
- You do NOT need to notify the school if the test is negative.

Please contact the school if your child will not be able to return to school on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, by e-mail to [attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk) and let us know if this is due to having symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19.

### Branfil Staff Nativity

As we were unable to facilitate normal Nativities performed by our children this year, the staff of Branfil decided to create their own socially distanced Nativity, which can be found on the front page of our school website. We hope you enjoy it and it brings some Christmas cheer to you and your families. Merry Christmas everyone!



### Love Reading

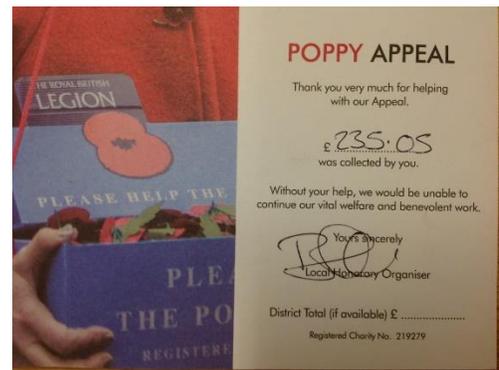
It can be hard to know which books to recommend for your child to read - #BookMatch should help. If your child has enjoyed a particular author or genre of book, take a look at this link where there are book recommendations based on what your child likes: <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/bookmatch>



Don't forget that there are hundreds of e-books available on Oxford Owl for your child to read over the holiday.

### Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal. An amazing £235.05 was collected by our school.



### The Young Songwriter 2021 Competition

Any creative and musical young people are able to enter 'The Young Songwriter 2021 competition'. The entry period is 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate any creative talents and a rewarding activity for the Christmas holidays. It is open to any young people aged 8-18 years of age. Please go to their website for further details [www.songacademy.co.uk/says21](http://www.songacademy.co.uk/says21).



### Presents, cards and good wishes



On behalf of all of our staff, I would like to say a big "thank you" for all of the cards, presents and good wishes that you have so generously given. They are really appreciated.

**E-Card Competition**

Congratulations to Rosie in 1 Lime for her wonderful entry for the E-Card Competition. Apologies that the wrong name was printed against her picture in last week's newsletter. The winning pictures will be sent out to members of our local community who we have worked with this year.

**Rosie – 1 Lime**



**Lead Learners for Autumn Term**

All Lead Learners who were in school on Wednesday were awarded their certificate and badge in our special virtual Lead Learner assembly.

Congratulations to:

<b><u>KS1</u></b> Poppy, 1L Olamide, 2B	<b><u>KS2</u></b> Billy, 3M Aadit, 4R Millie, 6A
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Those children nominated for this award who were not in school, will receive this in January.

**Cumulative House Points for Autumn Term**



**Tylers – 40 points**



**Pages – 31 points**

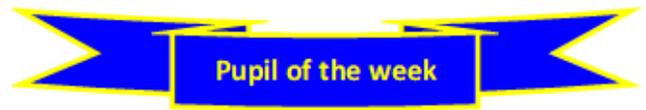


**Belhus – 38 points**



**Cely – 30 points**

**Congratulations to Tylers!!!**



**18<sup>th</sup> December**

Lottie, Donkarlas, Leonel, Rishi, Draya, Charley, Lucie, Reggie, Emanuel, Tilly, Amelia, All of 3 Maple, All of 4 Birch, All pupils in this week! Billy, John, Eleanor, Teddie, The Famous 8, The Acacia crew and Evie.

**Happy Birthday!**

Emily, Amelie, Maisie, Tommy, Oliver, Henry, Grace, Myla, Willow, George, Jessica, Sienna, Natalia, William, Oscar, Jack, Mabel, Henry, Daniel, Luca, Oluwatobi, Robert, Holly, Benjamin, Charlie, Ansa, Julia, Maya, Ben, Mason, Eliana, Ellie-May, Lukas, Brodie, George, Michael, Benjamin, Jason, Alexia, Dolcie, Charlotte, Reuben, Billy, Dylan, Lee, Oliver, Sonny and Jorgie.



**Calendar Dates for 2021**

<b>Monday 4 January 2021</b>	<b>School closed – staff training</b>
<b>Tuesday 5 January 2021</b>	<b>School reopens 8.40 – 8.50 am whole school</b>
<b>Tuesday 9 February 2021</b>	Safer Internet Day
<b>Friday 12 February 2021</b>	<b>School finishes normal time for Half term holiday</b>
<b>Monday 22 February 2021</b>	<b>School reopens 8.40 – 8.50 am whole school</b>
Tuesday 23 February 2021	Shakespeare Workshops for Y5&6
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Thursday 4 March 2021	World Book Day
Friday 19 March 2021	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 30 March 2021	R & KS1 Lead Learner assembly 9.00am
Wednesday 31 March 2021	KS2 Lead Learner assembly 9.00am
<b>Thursday 1 April 2021</b>	<b>School closes normal time for Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Tuesday 20 April 2021</b>	<b>School reopens 8.40am-8.50am whole school</b>
<b>Monday 3 May 2021</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
<b>Thursday 6 May</b>	<b>INSET DAY – POLLING DAY</b>
<b>Monday 10 May – Thursday 13 May 2021</b>	Year 6 SATS
Tuesday 18 May 2021	Photographer in to take Class Photos
<b>Friday 28 May 2021</b>	<b>School closes normal time for half term holidays</b>
<b>Monday 7 June 2021</b>	<b>School reopens 8.40am-8.50am whole school</b>
Monday, 7 June 2021	Art and Culture Catch Up Week
<b>Friday 23 July 2021</b>	<b>School closes normal time for the Summer Holiday</b>



# CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Saint Francis Hospice will collect and  
recycle your real Christmas tree.

## Collection

From all Havering postcodes on  
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th  
January 2021

Register your tree by  
5th January 2021

[www.sfh.org.uk/tree-recycling](http://www.sfh.org.uk/tree-recycling)

All donations  
will help  
local people



Search Saint Francis Hospice

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Saint Francis Hospice is a registered charity number 275913

saint  
francis  
hospice



living with dignity