

## Newsletter 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear parents and carers,

As we head towards the end of 2018, I have been looking back on our website and newsletters; we can certainly say that we have had a busy, eventful, successful year here at Branfil. I feel really fortunate to be part of such a happy, supportive school community where the children are genuinely at the heart of everything we do.



As we head into 2019, I wish you all a peaceful, joyful festive season, filled with family, friends and fun. We will look forward to seeing you back on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, refreshed and raring to go again!

Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

## Christmas Celebration Assemblies

The children have been lucky to have Sarah Harris from Upminster Baptist Church lead some of our recent assemblies. She has helped the children to understand the true meaning of Christmas.

## PTA Christmas Events

Thank you to the Friends of Branfil who have worked really hard in the run up to Christmas. The Xmas Bazaar was a fantastic event enjoyed by and all the children, parents/carers and staff. A huge thank you to them for also organising the Children's Bazaar and the Christmas Movie Nights too. These events really help with our fundraising and the children love them.



## Year 2 Christmas Play

The Year 2 team would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents/carers who came to watch our play. All of the children were amazing and made their teachers so proud. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we all did!

## Values Based Education

This month's school value is **Thoughtfulness** and as we prepare for the festive season - a time shared with family, friends and loves ones – there could not be a more appropriate time for our focus to be on thinking of others and their needs. Let's all try to do one thoughtful act each day this month, and be thankful for those who are thoughtful towards us.

## Thank you from the Choir Team

A massive thank you to all of the children and parents who have given up the past 2 weekends attending Christmassy choir events - getting us all in the festive mood. So many people have commented on how brilliant the choir sounded and just how many of you were part of it. If it wasn't for your fantastic support then the choir wouldn't have sounded as amazing as they did. We are wishing you a very Merry Christmas and hope that the children are learning the words for Young Voices in preparation for the concert on the 4th February.



Miss Philpot, Music Leader.

## Reception Christmas Production

Our Reception children performed beautifully in our Christmas Concert. Ash class were sheep and shepherds, Fir were stars and Elm were kings. The children sang lots of wonderful Christmas carols. Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended.

### **Year 1 Victorian Big House Day**

On Tuesday 18th December, Year 1 came to school dressed as Victorian children. Thank you to all the parents who had made such an impressive effort to create or source costumes. The children had a great time getting hands on with artefacts and acting out the jobs that would be completed in a Victorian house. In the afternoon, we discovered Year 1 was full of talented performers. The children worked in groups to perform acts that would have been performed in a Victorian Music Hall. We were lucky to have lots of help from parent helpers and would like to say a big thank you to them all.

### **Book Pledge**

We have had a wonderful selection of books donated to the school. All the children who brought them in have put their special label inside and were given house points as a way of saying thank you. The books have been shared amongst classes and will be placed in the library after Christmas for others to read. If you would like to donate a book, please pop in to Swan Books, Upminster and say you are from Branfil.

### **Baubles Competition Winner**

Congratulations to Lawson T in Ash Class who was a finalist in the Liberty Shopping Centre 'Design a Bauble' Competition.



### **Traffic and Parking Issues**

In recent weeks we have had a number of issues regarding parking and dangerous driving along Cedar Avenue. A parent has given us an email address to enable parents/carers who are concerned about parking in the area to share their concerns with Havering Council.

If you have concerns we would appreciate you emailing Havering Council which will help them to see the issues experienced by parents/carers every day: [schemes@havering.gov.uk](mailto:schemes@havering.gov.uk)

We contacted them ourselves and their response is below:

*"There are parking issues around schools during drop off and pick up time at all roads near to schools around the borough. We are trying to manage this as best that we can with the resources that we have during what is the busiest part of the day for parking enforcement.*

*With regards to the installation of a PSPO at this location, currently we do not have funding to install any further PSPO locations in the borough. Until funding is sourced we will only be enforcing the 4 schools that we are currently enforcing as part of this scheme".*

### **Branfil Bulletin**



The Branfil Bulletin is our school newspaper and is now on sale for 50p. The school reporters have worked really hard to write and edit the paper with help from Mr Grant. Pick up your copy from the school office.

### **Staffing Update**

We welcome Mrs Stevenson back from maternity leave to teach 1 Pine.

Mrs Wilson will be reducing her hours in the school office until she retires in May 2019 therefore we welcome Mrs Norden who will be joining the office staff in January 2019.

Goodbye and good luck to Mrs Betts, our Speech and Language TA who will be replaced by temporarily Mrs Galvin from January 2019 until we appoint a permanent replacement.

### **Maths Sponsored Event**

We raised an amazing £1481.20 and we've improved our times table knowledge too!

Thank you for your generosity. I will look forward to purchasing exciting maths resources/equipment for the children in the New Year.

Miss Bain, Maths Leader.

### **Medical Tracker**

From January we will be using Medical Tracker to record and monitor injuries, first aid and medication administration. If a minor injury occurs you will be notified by email to the first contact listed on our system. We will continue to telephone you should there be a significant head or other injury. You will also receive email notifications when your child has any medication in school. As this is a new system we welcome your feedback and we will be monitoring the effectiveness of new system.

### **Online Safety Workshop for Parents and Carers- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from 2-3pm.**

You are invited to attend an online safety workshop for parents and carers on Monday 14th January from 2-3 pm. This engaging session will be run by an expert from The South West Grid for Learning (SWGfL), part of the wider UK Safer Internet Centre. You will find out many hints and tips to help your child stay safe online and when using the latest apps, websites and gadgets. There will also be an opportunity to ask the workshop leader any questions you may have about your child's online activity.

### **Rocket Fund visualiser fundraising project**

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to the Rocket Fund crowdfunding project so far. This project is being run to help us raise money for some much needed visualisers for our classrooms. So far we have raised an amazing £795!

However, we are aiming to raise £928 so still need your help. If you are able to make a donation or share our fundraising project page then please do:

<https://rocket.fund/p/branfil2018/>

Thank you!

Miss O'Toole, Computing Leader.

### **Squid Account Top Ups**

Please could you ensure you regularly top up your Children's Squid accounts online. The office are spending an increasing amount of time chasing debts from some parents who are not topping up their accounts regularly.

### **Social Media**

When you enrol your Child at Branfil Primary School you are asked to sign the rules regarding Responsible Internet Use. Recent speculation on social media regarding staff is unhelpful, dangerous and is taken extremely seriously. The rules for responsible internet use are not just for our children and I would take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of part of the document signed which reads:

"All parents/carers are invited to join staff in setting a good example for our children by not:

Using social media sites to make derogatory comments or posting photographs which could bring staff into disrepute, including making comments about pupils, parents/carers or other staff members, the senior leadership team, governors, local authority or wider community".

Thank you for your support with this.

### **Restorative Justice at Branfil Primary**

You may have seen some signs up around the school regarding our Restorative Justice Parent Workshop which is taking place on 30th January at 9am-11.30am. The workshop covers a range of reflective activities, encouraging parents/carers to consider the impact of their current parenting styles and behaviours. This will enable parents/carers to develop new skills needed to restore and rebuild positive relationships by reducing future conflict. Please come and join us.

## Restorative Parent Workshop



FOR: Parents & Carers

DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

FOCUS:

- Models of intervention and disputes
- Using restorative language and questions
- Transform the Parent-Child Relationship
- Developing positive connections
- develop key listening skills
- Ability to connect with feelings and needs being expressed.

TIME: 9am – 11.30am

LOCATION: Branfil Primary School.  
Cedar Avenue,  
Upminster.  
RM14 2LW

## Mental Health and Wellbeing at Branfil

Over the last few weeks, we have been celebrating Kindness at Branfil. Pupils have been making pledges to participate in kind activities and have been earning stickers from Mr Fielder as a reward. Scientists have discovered that being kind to others releases chemicals in the brain that make ourselves feel good too, so why not continue this at home?

If you follow this link, you will find some ideas for how you and your family can spread a little kindness over the festive period.

<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day>

## Lead Learners for Autumn Term

Congratulations to all our Lead Learners this term:





### KS1

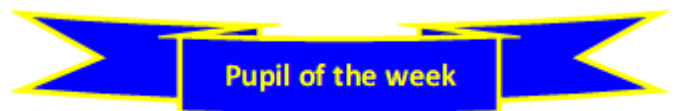
Ferne C, Elizabeth J, Harry J, Nicole B, Toby OB, Mylee-Rae, Tommy W, Albert F, Bonnie T.

### KS2

Megan B, Luca F, Loredana M, William E, Kieran P, Lexie B, Layla F, Louis G, Milly J, Poppy S, Megan H, George B.

## Current House Points

	Tylers – 36 points
	Pages – 35 points
	Belhus – 36 points
	Cely – 33 points



## **7th December**

Tilly C, Dolcie R, Ruby M, Aadit, Bonnie T, Jensen B, Cherry V-S, Alissa-Mae L, Darcy F, Connor W, Serine E, Ava R, Rose H, Amy B.

## **14th December**

Ollie P, Bethany R, All of 2 Cedar, All of 2 Holly, All of 2 Beech, Harry F, George S, Jenson M, Kayden P, Tadas K, Sonny H, Joshua Y-S, Harry J, Joshua B, Ben H, Oliver P, Jessie L.

**Dates for the New Year**

Monday 7 January 2019	School closed – staff training
Tuesday 8 January	School reopens 8.40 – 8.50 am whole school
Tuesday 8 January	Reception height and Weight Measurement – ASH Class
Monday 14 January	Parents Information session on Safer Internet Use (2 – 3pm)
Tuesday 15 January	Reception height and Weight Measurement – ELM Class
Tuesday 22 January	Reception height and Weight Measurement – FIR Class
Thursday 24 January	The Royal Shakespeare Company workshop for Yr 5 and Yr 6

**INSET Days for 2019/20 Term (agreed by Governors): 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020**