

Newsletter 1st April 2021

Dear parents and carers

As we come to the end of the spring term, we can certainly look back and say that it was an unexpected challenge, one that Team Branfil has really risen to:

- Our teachers adapted swiftly to leading their class' remote learning, mastering Google Classroom and many apps to successfully support our children to continue to learn during lockdown
- Our support staff worked flexibly to offer personalised support for children both in school and at home
- Our pupils developed their independent learning skills and a greater ownership of their work, with the majority still making good progress regardless of where they were learning
- Our families continued to support our children whilst dealing with a range of personal challenges that the pandemic brought.

Ultimately, we are now back together again, sharing our experiences of the last few months and supporting each other to move forward positively once again. Thank you for your continued support throughout this time – it is really appreciated by us all.

I hope that you have a really lovely Easter break, enjoying some quality family time together.

Kind regards

Mrs Sansom
Headteacher



Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Cullender back following her maternity leave.

Values Based Education

This month at Branfil we are celebrating our school value Honesty. During this month it is important for us to recognise and praise honesty because it is such an important quality to have. We know that no one is perfect and that sometimes people make mistakes. Being able to be honest about these mistakes often takes a lot of bravery and this is another quality we should promote to our children. As adults we need to model honesty and also apologise when we make mistakes to show our children it is the right thing to do. After all, honesty is the best policy!

“Truth never damages a cause that is just”.
Mahatma Gandhi

Red Nose Day

Thank you for helping us to support Comic Relief. We raised £699.50. We hope the children enjoyed being ‘Hairlarious!’



School Uniform

Our school council represents the voice of all of our children across the school. They have recently told us that they would like to continue with one of the changes that we have had to implement during the pandemic.



The governors have therefore listened to our pupils' voice and decided to permanently change our uniform policy so children will wear their PE kit to school on days when they have PE lessons. Some of the advantages to this are: saving lesson time since children will not have to change twice for each PE lesson; remove the need to store thirty PE bags for each class; reduce lost clothing.

Please see the attached updated uniform list for September 2021 at the back of the Newsletter.

Excellence in the Arts Award

The winner for Excellence in the Arts last week was Finley in 4 Larch.

The Excellence in the Arts winner this week is Natalia in 1 Willow for independently designing and making her hand puppet in DT this week. She was nominated by Miss Quinn.



The Values Art competition winner this term is Lara in Year 6. Lara made a lovely collage of a woman that inspires her, Billie Eilish. We celebrated the Caring value this month and Women's History month.

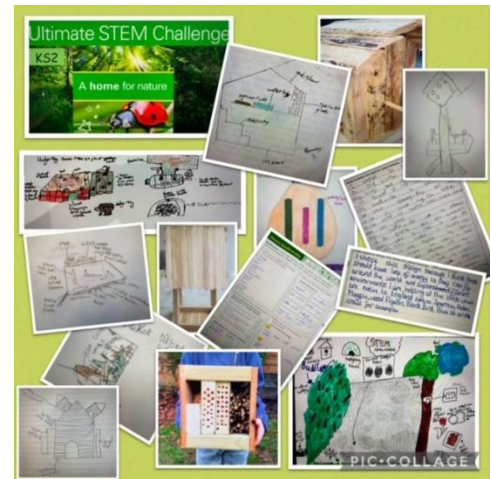


Supporting physical and mental health

We have reviewed our COVID-19 risk assessment and are now able to have year group bubbles when the children are outside, due to the very low risk of transmission when outdoors. This means that we can now extend lunch times so the children will have half an hour outside to play together every day. They will still be encouraged to be mindful of maintaining social distance, where possible, and they will not share equipment.

STEM Challenge

Many children in KS2 have taken part in our Ultimate STEM Challenge during their home learning. There were fantastic entries that showed a great understanding of biodiversity and the importance of protecting plants and animals. The task was to design a home for nature that could improve the biodiversity of your local area.



Well done to our winner in 6 Hornbeam who provided such detailed ideas.



We look forward to seeing a new theme for the next STEM challenge. Let's continue to develop our science, technology, engineering and mathematics!

Lead Learners for Spring Term

KS1	KS2
Leonel, Elm	Sadie, 3H
Savannah, Ash	Freya, 3O
Laura, Fir	Lily, 3M
Betty, 1P	Evie, 4L
Isla, 1W	Rhea, 4B
Brody, 1L	Lilah, 4R
Oliver, 2H	Jahmai, 5AS
Zachary, 2B	Harry, 5H
Rosy, 2C	Rhys, 5AL
	Tilly, 6A
	George, 6H
	Ewan, 6C

Cumulative House Points for Spring Term



Tylers – 5 points



Pages – 10 points



Belhus – 10 points



Cely – 15 points

Congratulations to Cely!

Labelling Uniform to enable return of lost items

Please ensure you put your child's first name AND surname on all uniform clothing items and drinks bottles, using a fabric or permanent marker. This will enable staff to be able to return lost items. We have many items in our lost property with no name on, so we cannot return them to their owners. Thank you for your help.

Urgent Contact for Positive Cases

Please continue to use this email to report Covid cases throughout the Easter Holidays.

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.

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.

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.



Abacus Breakfast and After School Club

Abacus has spaces at both the Breakfast and After School Club.



For further information please visit their website at www.abacusafterschoolclubs.com or contact Sharon Williams or Kayley Harrington on 07903 7087641.

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>

sQuid

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



26th March 2021

Joshua, Riley, George, Mason, Toby, Gino, Amelia-Rose, Lexie, Elizabeth, Freddie, Ruby, Mylee-Rae, Ralphie, Eva-Grace, Eliza, Henley, Izabella, Amy, Eleni, Amari and Evie.



1st April 2021

Zaniah, Jayden, Seraphina, Teddy, Jack, Evie, Ruhi, Ferne, Charlie, Alexia, Kayden, Ruby, Daisy, Ruby, Phoebe, Max, Nia, Faith, Maggie, Isabella and William.



Happy Birthday!

Soraia, Ruhi, Isabelle, Deano, Thomas, Robert, Blake, Grace, Leo, Alexia, Faith, Ryan, Joseph, Tilly, Maroua, Katie, Joshua, Megan, Farid, William, Arthur, Chiemeke, Ekkam, Sonny, Violet, Mithil, George, Grace, Eleanor, John, George, Mehar, Donkarlas, Fletcher, Dean, Ernie, Ben, Lincoln, Ayodeji, Alexandra, Lily, Holly, Ava-Rose, Ruby, Freya, Emilia, Oliver, Rhys and Simona.



Thursday 1 April 2021	School closes at the normal time for the Easter Holiday
Monday 19 April 2021	School reopens for the whole school (same staggered drop off and pick up times)
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 at the normal time for half term holiday
Monday 7 June 2021	School reopens for the whole school
Friday 23 July 2021	School closes at the normal time for the Summer Holiday



FREE
Online Family Learning
Workshops



Spring Vegetable Pasties
Week commencing 5th April 2021
Using seasonal vegetables, as a family follow instructions on how to make our tasty pasties.

Two Easter Holiday Workshops
Step-by-step photographic and written instructions will be posted to you in good time for you to follow during the Easter school holiday fortnight



Spring Outdoor Treasure Hunt
Week commencing 12th April 2021
As a family, go on an outdoor walk with our treasure hunt sheet and look for signs that Spring has arrived.

Enrol on one or both workshops.

Send in photos of your pasties or your completed treasure hunt sheets.

For each child that submits a photo, a spring based craft kit will be sent to them in the post.

To sign up or for more information call
01708 434955
Last date for telephone enrolment:
Wednesday 14th April 2021

Havering Adult College

School Uniform: Reception (from September 2021)

Your child will have the opportunity to climb, play in mud, paint, build and more each and every day. Their uniform needs to allow for them to do this comfortably and safely.

Winter uniform	
Option 1	Option 2
<p>White polo shirt</p> <p>Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with* or without Branfil badge)</p> <p>Charcoal grey tracksuit bottoms</p> <p>Grey socks</p> <p>Black Velcro trainers (must have black soles, no logos and no lace fastenings)</p> <p>Long hair to be tied back</p>	<p>White polo shirt</p> <p>Royal blue Branfil hoodie*</p> <p>Royal blue Branfil tracksuit bottoms*</p> <p>White socks</p> <p>Black Velcro trainers (must have black soles, no logos and no lace fastenings)</p> <p>Long hair to be tied back</p>
Summer uniform (optional)	Additional items for all year
<p>White polo shirt</p> <p>Branfil blue PE shorts*</p> <p>White socks</p> <p>Black Velcro trainers (must have black soles, no logos and no lace fastenings)</p>	<p>Wellington boots (to be kept at school)</p> <p>Raincoat (to be kept at school)</p>

N.B. No P.E. Kit is required in Reception

*Our uniform is available from **Havering School Wear**:

www.haveringschoolwear.co.uk

160-162 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch RM11 1QH

Telephone 01708 767890

School Uniform: Years 1 – 6 (from September 2021)

Winter uniform	
Non PE days	PE days Children come into school wearing their PE kit
<p>White shirt/blouse/polo shirt</p> <p>Charcoal grey trousers or pinafore dress/skirt</p> <p>Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with* or without Branfil badge; no hoodies)</p> <p>White or grey socks/tights (no leggings)</p> <p>Black school shoes (no high heels or boots and must be suitable for running and climbing e.g good grip on sole, lace up or buckle fastening)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Black trainers (must have black soles and no logos)</p>	<p>Branfil blue T-shirt*</p> <p>Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with* or without Branfil badge) & charcoal grey tracksuit bottoms</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Royal blue Branfil hoodie* and tracksuit bottoms*</p> <p>White or grey socks</p> <p>Black trainers (must have black soles and no logos)</p> <p>Black plimsolls (for indoors)</p> <p>Long hair to be tied back and no earrings to be worn</p>
Summer uniform (optional)	
Non PE days	PE days Children come into school wearing their PE kit
<p>Charcoal grey tailored shorts</p> <p>Blue & white check dress</p> <p>Black or white sandals (no flip flops, sling backs or peep toes for safety reasons)</p>	<p>Branfil blue PE shorts*</p>
Swimming (Year 4 only)	
<p>Swimming costume (no bikinis or tankinis), trunks or shorts (no Bermuda shorts)</p> <p>Swimming cap</p> <p>Towel</p>	
<p>*Our uniform is available from Havering School Wear:</p> <p>www.haveringschoolwear.co.uk</p> <p>160-162 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch RM11 1QH</p> <p>Telephone 01708 767890</p>	