

## Newsletter 30th April 2021

Dear parents and carers

I would like to welcome everyone back for the summer term, which I hope will bring with it a greater sense of normality once again, both in and out of school. The children have been enjoying longer lunchtimes once again, now they are able to mix in year group bubbles outside, and we are planning more outdoor activities to support learning.

I do need to caution though, that even when national restrictions ease on, or after, May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>, schools will probably still have to work to a more restrictive risk assessment. It will remain vital that we all continue to wear facemasks and maintain social distance when on the school site. These measures, alongside hand washing, ventilation, testing and vaccinations, will help to ensure that we keep COVID-19 transmission under control. The following Swiss Cheese model makes it clear why all of these measures remain important:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ou88lei-52k>

This does mean that sadly we must continue to plan events that do not include parents/carers for this term. Our sports day will see pairs of year groups having fun on our school field. We are planning for visitors and virtual trips to enhance the children's curriculum throughout this term and we are considering how to mark the end of year without our usual events.

Thank you for your on-going support and feedback, which our staff team really do appreciate.

I hope you enjoy the long weekend.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

**JUST A REMINDER – NEXT THURSDAY,  
6<sup>th</sup> MAY, IS AN INSET DAY.**

**CHILDREN MUST NOT COME TO  
SCHOOL!**

### 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 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

### Travelling to school and college safely

It is likely that the roads and public transport system will be busier than when students returned in March, given other businesses have reopened. Listed below are some ideas that should help to ease the overload and help to maintain our safety during these unprecedented times:



- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey

When you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:

- wear a face covering (unless you are exempt – including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
- social distance where possible
- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

## Face Coverings

Thank you to everyone who is wearing a face covering whilst waiting outside the school and on the school premises. We ask everyone to wear a face covering, unless they have a medical exemption, in order to keep our school community safe.



## Excellence in the Arts Award

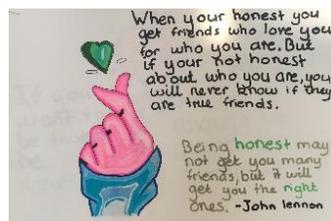
Reggie in 2 Beech won last week's award. He worked incredibly hard and remained very focused throughout the whole art lesson. The mark makings and patterns he created during the lesson proved this too. Well done Reggie!



This week's winner is Eliza in 4 Larch for her excellent entry for the core values competition. It was an incredibly close decision this month and it was felt that Eliza's entry needed to be rewarded. She produced a beautifully drawn storyboard explaining how being honest is the best option. Well done Eliza!

## Core Value Art Competition

This month's winner is Darcy in 5 Alder. Her fantastic 'art booklet' explored the value of honesty in detail. She used shading and tone with coloured pencil and pen. Fantastic effort Darcy!



The new value for May's core value art competition is patience and the style that the children need to work in is pointillism.

## Old Scooters for Reception Classes



Do you have an old scooter, suitable for Reception children, that you are willing to donate? If so, please drop it off at the school office, where it will be gratefully received.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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>

## Pupil of the week

### 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Lexie-Mai, Stanley, Rupert, Coraline, Jake, Henry, Moses, Elizabeth, Ruby, Bailey, David, Zoe, 4 Birch, Aadit, Thomas Penfold, Aidan, Layla, Dolcie Wales, Simran, Tadas and Tino.



### 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Brody, Teddy-Rae, Harrison, Daniel, Darcy, Gino, Lucie, Reggie, Arthur, Ben, Rebekah, Mylee-Rae, Rhea, Tommy, Tommy, Phoebe, Ekkham, Cherry. Ruby-Mae, Max and Lily.



## Happy Birthday!

Jack, Mila, Albert, Harriet, Marni-Rae, Moses, Sophie, Phoebe, Rio, Paige, Billy, Liam, Blake, Noah, Jacob, Eva, Zachary, Harry and Brooke.



**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Monday 3 May 2021</b>	<b>BANK HOLIDAY</b>
<b>Thursday 6 May</b>	<b>INSET DAY – POLLING DAY</b>
<b>Tuesday 18 May 2021</b>	<b>Photographer in to take Class Photos</b>
<b>w/b 24 May 2021</b>	<b>ESFA Schools Football Week</b>
<b>Thursday 27 May 2021</b>	<b>Year 6 - Stubbers</b>
<b>Friday 28 May 2021</b>	<b>Year 6 - Stubbers</b>
<b>Friday 28 May 2021</b>	<b>School closes at the normal time for the half term holiday</b>
<b>Monday 7 June 2021</b>	<b>School reopens for all pupils</b>
<b>w/b 7 June 2021</b>	<b>Arts &amp; Culture Week</b>
<b>Thursday 10 June 2021</b>	<b>Reception - science visitor</b>
<b>w/b 14 June</b>	<b>Sports Days for all year groups</b>
<b>w/b 21 June 2021</b>	<b>Year 6 Secondary Transfer Week</b>
<b>Monday 28 June 2021</b>	<b>Year 6 – TFL safety &amp; citizenship virtual in-school presentation</b>
<b>Friday 16 July 2021</b>	<b>Reception – visit to the park</b>
<b>Friday 23 July 2021</b>	<b>School closes at the normal time for the summer holiday</b>

## Parents Virtual Drop- in Sessions

Trevor Watson is your  
RMN – PMHT Clinician



Chance Brako is your  
STAR Worker



Due To Covid-19 we are currently offering virtual drop-ins session for parents/carers these are for signposting and information regarding emotional health and wellbeing.

You can talk to us about lots of things regarding your child including:

**Worries/ Anger / Emotions/ Sleep/ Bullying/ Coping skills**

Your next drop-in will be Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 9.00am- 1.00pm.

Please contact Miss Pearce via the office ([office@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:office@branfil.havering.sch.uk)) if you would like to book a 15 minute slot.

*You can speak to us about personal information in confidence and we will not discuss this with anyone else without your permission. We would only pass on information in order to protect you or someone else from serious harm. We would always discuss this with you first*

**Note: If your Child already has an allocated CAMHS clinician, please liaise with them about any queries that you have as they will be able to best support**



You may have seen the recent incidents of sexual abuse and harassment by school pupils highlighted in the media.

The **coverage** has shown the scale of harmful sexual behaviour amongst children and young people. While it is a hard thing to come to terms with, about a third of child sexual abuse is carried out by children and young people themselves.

We want to remind you that we are here to support and help you with any concerns about child sexual abuse and its prevention, whether you need advice as a professional, parent or carer.

### Preventing harmful sexual behaviour in young people

We've created a guide for parents, carers and professionals to explain the warning signs, risks and the steps to prevent harmful sexual behaviour in children and young people as well as how to talk about worrying behaviours, if they are already present.



It's got support, advice and information, plus resources and links to useful organisations.

**Take a look** by clicking this link. The leaflet is available to download in both English and Welsh.

### Confidential advice and support

Our anonymous and confidential **Stop It Now! helpline (0808 1000 900)** is available for anyone with concerns about child sexual abuse prevention, including parents, carers and professionals.

Callers do not need to give identifying information, so can remain anonymous. Every year, we speak to thousands of people and give them steps to help protect children and young people from sexual abuse.

If you're not ready to speak yet, you can use our **live chat or secure messaging service**.

You can also follow us and share our information on **Twitter, Facebook** and **LinkedIn**.

Please share our details with your networks to make sure as many people as possible get the support they need to keep children safe.

