

Newsletter 5th March 2021

Dear parents and carers

As we head towards all of our children returning to school on Monday, I wanted to thank you all for the support that you have given your children over the last eight weeks of home learning. You have been doing such an amazing job, helping your child to be in the live sessions on time, complete and upload work each day, respond to feedback and hopefully still enjoy their learning through this challenging time. The vast majority of our pupils have continued to make progress, developing independence and ownership of their learning too. I hope that they will now return happily to school to learn with their friends once again – I imagine most of you will be happy to see them return too!

Please do read the information that was sent out earlier this week about our reopening arrangements and familiarise yourselves with the timings of the day again, which are the same as they were in the autumn term. The Questions and Answers document is on the website if you need clarification of any aspects of school life at the present time.

We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back on Monday – see you all again then!

Mrs Sansom
Headteacher

PLEASE NOTE – Monday 19th April is NOT an INSET day as previously stated in the Newsletter and all children are expected in school. Thursday 6th May is an INSET day.



Parent Consultation meetings

Thank you to those of you who made the time yesterday to speak to your child's class teacher. If you did not manage to then please contact the teacher, via the year group email, to arrange a time as soon as possible.

Values Based Education

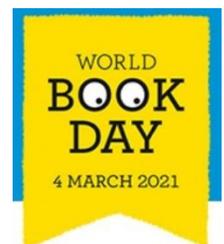
This month at Branfil we will be celebrating our core value of Caring, and with all children being welcomed back to school next week, Caring could not be a more appropriate value for us to focus on over the next four weeks. As a school, we take pride in the care we provide for all our children and we encourage them to take care of themselves and each other. Caring means showing kindness and consideration and it is really important that, over the coming weeks, we take time to show each other these qualities. It will be a challenge for children, parents and staff to get back into school routines again so let's try to all show each other care and remember that we are all a part of Team Branfil. Working together and caring for each other, we can achieve anything!

Some people care too much, I think it's called love.

~ Winnie the Pooh

World Book Day

Children and staff certainly appeared to enjoy our World Book Day activities yesterday. It was lovely to see our younger children dressed as their favourite book characters and sharing their book recommendations. Our Y3-5 children were very lucky to enjoy live sessions with Mitch Johnson, author of 'Kick', and Chrissie Sains, author of 'An Alien in the Jam Factory', while Y6 will meet with Catharine Bruton, author of 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria' and 'Another Twist in the Tale', next week.



Do remember to spend the £1 WBD book vouchers that were sent out, by email, before half term and enjoy reading!

KS1 Children – Fruit

Fruit deliveries **will** be resuming for KS1 children on Monday 8th March.



All School Milk (Coolmilk)

The decision has been made **not** to resume milk deliveries until further notice. We will review in the coming weeks/months.



School Lunch Menu

The menu is the same as before lockdown and starts at week 1. This has been sent out again via ParentPay and is also on our school website.

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>



Havering Young Carers



Havering Young Carers service is open to children and young people aged 5-18 who live in Havering and care for a family member with a long term condition, physical illness, mental health, substance misuse or learning difficulties. Support can vary from 1:1 support session with a support worker, access to workshops and activity days.

1:1 Young Carer Support Sessions with a Support Worker

Havering Young Carers service provides 1:1 support to young carers. These visits usually take place in school or in the community. These 1:1 sessions give the young carers a safe space to talk about their caring role and any feelings that come with that role. During the 1:1 sessions, the young carers caring role is monitored to make sure that they are not undertaking any inappropriate caring, as well as to make sure that we are offering adequate support.

Young Carers Workshops

Young carers are also invited to attend Young Carer Workshops at a venue in Romford which are held every other week after school. These workshops are a great way for young carers to meet others who are in a similar position to themselves and also provide respite from their caring role at home. These workshops can include opportunities for children and young people to play games, complete creative activities and engage with visitors. Some of the activities have an educational focus e.g. Fire Safety or Nutrition (to ensure the Young Carers have tips and knowledge that can support them in their caring role at home) and at other times they will be focussed on the general wellbeing of the child or young person.

Additional Activities and Events

Havering Young Carers service also organise fun events for during the summer holidays (e.g. visits to the zoo, bowling or outdoor adventure park) and host

celebrations such as a Christmas Party. Families can keep in touch with what is on offer through the Havering Young Carers monthly newsletter.

To find out more, families can visit the Young Carers' Website at <https://www.imago.community/Children-and-Young-People/Havering-Young-Carers>. Families can refer themselves directly to this service using the simple online referral system on this website. If you require any support to access this, please contact Miss Pearce via the school office (office@branfil.havering.sch.uk or 01708 225186).

Free On-line Concert tonight for young people aged 11-25

The Council has joined forces with LifeLine Projects to organise a fantastic online concert for young people aged 11-25 in Havering as part of our mental health awareness campaign, #BeNicetoYourNoggin.

The event is called "Positivity Breeds Possibilities" or #PBP2021 and is happening **tonight**, between 5:30pm and 7:30pm, with live performances from MOBO award-winning artist, Guvna B and gospel, rap, and hip-hop artists Nick Brewer, Happimusic and KXBA.

There are up to 1,000 free tickets available via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/positivity-breeds-possibility-2021-tickets-142405184741>

Please see the poster at the back of the newsletter.

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.

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.



Pupil of the week

At school

26th February 2021



Dominic, Ava, Elizabeth, Ava-Rose, Rhys, Darcy and Alfie.

5th March 2021

Zaniah, Chloe, Skylar, Archie, Lewis, Ruby and Evie.

Home Learning

26th February 2021



Eva, Jamie, Harry, David, George, Charley, Cathrine, Joe, Niamh, Simona, Rebekah, Vinny, Casian, Logan, Chloe, Harry, August, Eddie, Oliver, Connor and Lola.

5th March 2021

Jayden, Esme, Lola, Eliana, Isabella, Alfie, Damon, Ananya, Olivia, Darcy, Dolcie, George, Daniel, Emilia, Liam, William, Loredana, Fedor, Megan, Harrison and Ruby.

Happy Birthday!

Sonny, Aaron, Jacob, Lennie, Ruby, Alfred, Evie, Nancy, Connor, Elise, Kingsley, Joe, Jessica, Darcy, Joseph, Stephen, Sienna, Milena, Aurora, Jack, Ollie, Lilah and Lydon.



Monday, 8 March 2021	School re-opens for all pupils
8 – 12 March 2021	Science Week
Friday 12 March 2021	Virtual Farm Visit – year 2
15-19 March 2021	Shakespeare Week
Friday 19 March 2021	Red Nose Day
Thursday 1 April 2021	School closes normal time for Easter Holidays
Monday 19 April 2021	School reopens 8.40am-8.50am whole school
Monday 3 May 2021	BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday 6 May	INSET DAY
Tuesday 18 May 2021	Photographer in to take Class Photos
Friday 28 May 2021	School closes normal time for half term holidays
Monday 7 June 2021	School reopens 8.40am-8.50am whole school
Friday 23 July 2021	School closes normal time for the Summer Holiday



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 22nd April 2021 at 9.00am- 1.00pm.

If you would like to book a 15 minute virtual meeting with Trevor and Chance, please e-mail Miss Pearce at office@branfil.havering.sch.uk who will organise a drop-in on your behalf.

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



PBP
2021
Positivity
Breeds
Possibility



Guvna B



Nick Brewer



Happi Music



@Kxba

Positivity Breeds Possibility

Friday 5 March 5pm – 6pm via zoom

Join **Guvna B**, **Nick Brewer**, **Happi Music** and **@Kxba**
for a free live online concert
in partnership with **#BeNiceToYourNoggin** and **SWITCH Minds**



Dara, 16
SWITCH Minds
ambassador

Watch the exclusive performances and be a part of an important conversation between the artists and other local young people on mental health

Limited spaces available – visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/positivity-breeds-possibilities-2021-tickets-142405184741> to book your place now.
Visit www.havering.gov.uk/benice toyournoggin for mental health support and advice

