

Newsletter 5th November 2021

Dear parents and carers

I am delighted to announce that Chrissie Sains, author of 'An Alien in the Jam Factory', is now Branfil's **Patron of Reading**. She will be promoting reading for pleasure for all of our pupils, supporting one of our key improvement priorities for 2021-22.



Chrissie is a lively, passionate, engaging author who has another two books that will be published shortly: a sequel to 'An Alien in the Jam Factory' and one that she is co-authoring with CBBC star Cara Mailey.

This morning, Chrissie has led assemblies for all year groups so the children and staff can start to get to know her. She has many exciting ideas about events, workshops, online content etc to help the whole school community embrace the joy of reading. Mrs Cullender (reading leader) and I will be working closely with Chrissie to make plans, so watch this space for more information over the coming weeks!

Happy reading 😊

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Respecting our neighbours

When parking near the school we would ask that you **do not park across resident's driveways**, preventing the person from exiting or entering their property. We are still receiving complaints from residents; this behaviour by a small minority is giving Branfil Primary School a bad name in our local area. Please treat our neighbours with courtesy and respect.

Remembrance Poppies

Poppies will be on sale next week.

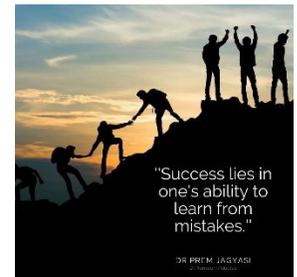


EVERYONE LEARNING TOGETHER

Vision for 2021-2026

Branfil is a vibrant learning community where we nurture lifelong learners who embody our school values and make a positive contribution to the world.

Adults and children feel valued and love learning together. Everyone thrives and achieves personal success through being happy, safe and confident learners, who ask questions, take appropriate risks, learn from their mistakes and seek help when needed.



Our value this half term is **EXPLORE**. In our learning community, we are curious, we ask questions and we learn from our mistakes.

Donations of books

On Friday 17th December, we will be hosting a book sale in school for the KS2 children. Due to the generous amount of money that has been raised through fundraising events, and donations from parents/carers, we were able to buy a significant number of new books for our library and classrooms; our children are thoroughly enjoying these. Therefore, we will be selling the older, duplicated books that we no longer have the space for. If you have any books that you would like to donate towards our book sale, then please hand them in to the office. Any donations would be appreciated.



Thank you, Mrs. Cullender

Children in need



We are having a non-uniform day on Thursday, 18th November in aid of Children in Need. Children are asked to wear something yellow and bring in a donation of £1.

MOTH Physical Theatre Company

Year 5 and 6 were visited by MOTH physical theatre company today. We came face to face with EastEnders of the past in an interactive and engaging show!



Through an exciting mix of puppetry and physical theatre we heard the stories of three real people who made their mark on London's East End: Suffragette Minnie Baldock, Sri Lankan immigrant and philanthropist Kamal Chunchie and trade union leader Ben Tillett.

Excellence in the Arts Award



The Excellence in the Arts Award this week goes to Eadi in 5 Hawthorn. Eadi created a painted clay sculpture of puzzle pieces that connect to form a heart. Not only

did Eadi show our value of love, but she also talked eloquently about the decisions she had made as an artist. In great detail, Eadi explained how each puzzle piece represented facets of someone's personality and how exploring colour, texture, and shape allowed her to do this.

Miss Ansell was truly 'wowed' by her intentionality and how sophisticated her thought processes were as an artist. Great art teaches us something and we all learnt from Eadi.

One-way system



Please follow our one-way system when collecting your child at the end of the day. This ensures that we can get over 600 children safely off the premises with the right adult.

All About Your Child meetings

The second set of All About Your Child meetings will be held on Monday 8th November, 3.30-6.00pm. If you haven't already booked your appointment please contact the school office and they will be able to book the appointment for you.



Twitter

Please follow us @BranfilPrimary for daily updates about school life, competitions, information etc.



Contact with teachers

A reminder to parents/carers that they can contact their child's class teacher by using the following emails:



ash@branfil.havering.sch.uk
fir@branfil.havering.sch.uk
elm@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year3@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year4@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk

Your email will be answered within the teacher's working hours only.

School start time

A reminder that the back and front gates are open between 8.40 am and 8.50 am for children to arrive in school.

Any children who arrive after this time will receive a late mark. The minutes late, and reason for lateness, have to be entered onto our registration system, and the office staff will also ask for your child's lunch requirement – this can all mean a delay (especially if parents/carers have not consulted the menu in advance). This then means your child is even later getting to class, meaning that they miss some essential early morning work. We therefore encourage parents and carers to ensure that children arrive promptly, whilst the gates are open.

Absent from School

If it is not possible to arrange a medical appointment, including doctors, dentist or hospital appointments, outside the school day, please send a copy of your appointment by text or email to:

attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk.

This is necessary in order for the absence to be authorised. Please email in advance of the appointment to ensure that the teacher is aware and your child/children are sent to the office ready for you to collect.

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. Please do not just say your child is unwell as we need to record a reason. 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-19 case, **please remember to inform us again when you receive the PCR test result.** Remember to arrange a test/tests for anyone who is displaying any symptoms that may be COVID-19 related.

Informing Us About Positive COVID-19 Cases

Under the new government guidance, if your child tests positive for COVID-19 then they must remain off school and follow instructions from Track & Trace. Please inform the school in the usual way, either by email or ringing the office. Please also email: covid19@branfil.havering.sch.uk.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed and you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals 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/onlinefor ms/free-school-meals.aspx#details>

Second Hand Uniform



Our Branfil pre-loved uniform shop is open for socially distanced collections. You are able to purchase items of second hand uniform from Suzanne Lock, who 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.

The Friends of Branfil Quiz Night

Please support The Friends of Branfil by booking the adults only quiz night on Friday, 12th November 2021. Details on the leaflet attached.





Pupil of the week

5th November 2021

Ava, Robyn, River, Bleu,
Betsy-Lu, Harley, Alexander,
Alfie, Maisy, Bella, Lexie,
Harry, Bella, Soraia, Archie,
Izabella, Emilia, Albert,
Harry, Jayda and Luke.



Weekly Attendance Awards!

01.11.2021 – 05.11.2021

The Attendance Cup was won by Reception Ash class.



Happy Birthday!

Albert, Ralphie, Poppy, Jessica,
Harley, Olivia-Rose, Callum,
Abdul-Haleem, Emmy, Poppy,
Olivia, Markus, Loanne, Coraline,
David, Chloe, Emanuel and William.



Birthday Sweets & Treats

Due to health and safety reasons, we are no longer able to distribute sweets or treats in school to celebrate children's birthdays. Please do not put your child's teacher in a difficult position by asking them to do this.

Dates for your Diary

Monday, 8 th November 2021	Flu Vaccinations Catch Up
Monday, 8 th November 2021	'All About Your Child' Meetings 3:30-6:00pm
Thursday, 18 th November 2021	Non-uniform day for Children in Need
Friday, 19 th November 2021	INSET day
Friday, 3 rd December 2021	Children's Christmas Bazaar
Monday, 20 th December 2021–Monday, 3 rd January 2022	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday, 4 th January 2022	INSET day
Monday, 14 th February – Friday, 18 th February 2022	Half Term
Monday, 4 th April – Monday, -18 th April 2022	Easter Holidays
Tuesday, 19 th April 2022	INSET day
Monday, 9 th May – Thursday, 12 th May 2022	Year 6 SAT's
Monday, 16 th May – Friday, 20 th May 2022	Year 6 Residential trip to Gilwell Park Activity Centre
Friday, 27 th May	INSET day
Thursday, 21 st July 2022	School finishes usual time
Friday, 22 nd July 2022	INSET day



The Friends of Branfil

QUIZ NIGHT

Adults Only!
Friday 12th November
7:30pm - Main Hall

£5 per ticket!
Book online:
friends.branfil.com

Fresh, new rounds - fancy your chances?

Join Us for Fun, Raffles and
Team Prizes!

Bring your own drinks and snacks!

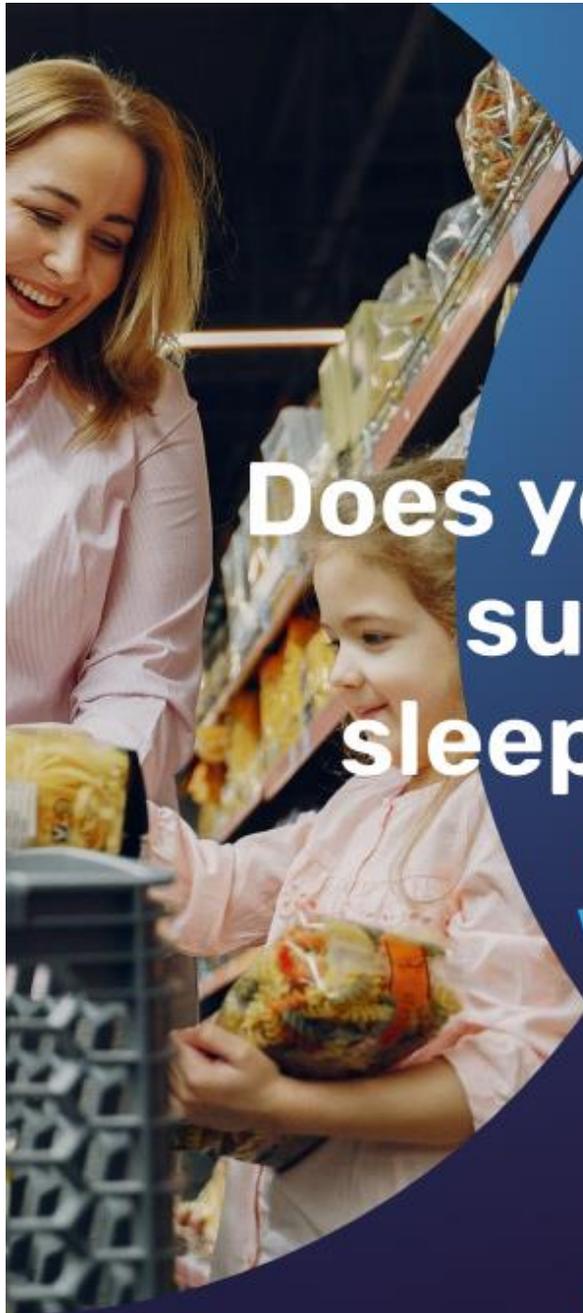




Branfil
Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs N Sansom

Cedar Avenue, Upminster, Essex. RM14 2LW
Phone: 01708 225186 Web: www.branfil.com Email: office@branfil.havering.sch.uk



the
national
sleep
helpline

**Does your child
suffer with
sleep issues?**

**Do you struggle
with your child's
bedtime?**

**Will your child
not sleep in
their own bed?**

WE CAN HELP

03303 530 541
Available Sunday - Thursday 7pm - 9pm



Around 50% of children will have a sleep issue at some point*

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE?

In partnership with Furniture Village, The Sleep Charity has launched a brand new National Sleep Helpline to ensure that everyone has access to high quality, evidence-based advice.

HOW CAN THE NATIONAL SLEEP HELPLINE HELP YOU?

- Run by a team of specialist trained sleep advisors
- Offer you some practical strategies and recommend services that could help
- Ensuring you understand how sleep plays an important part in your child's mental health and wellbeing
- Listen without judgement and help you decide what next steps are right for you
- Empower you with sleep knowledge so you can understand why your child might not be sleeping well and how that can change

03303 530 541

Available Sunday - Thursday
7pm - 9pm



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Furniture
Village