

Newsletter 6th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Given the main focus of the news at the moment, I wanted to reassure you that we receive daily updates from the Department for Education (DfE) with advice about how schools should respond to the risks around COVID-19. We also receive advice from Havering Local Authority, in line with the DfE guidance. In response to this advice, all staff have been briefed about the importance of hygiene, especially washing hands more, and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. These messages have been passed on to the children too. The DfE have asked us to share the following "simple and effective hand hygiene messages" with our wider community: <https://twitter.com/NHSuk/status/1235112744917049346>.

Earlier this week they also launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows: 0800 046 8687; DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk; opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday).

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our children can still attend school happily and confidently each day.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Sport Relief Non Uniform Day – Friday 13th March

A reminder to parents/carers that next Friday is non uniform day for sports relief. Children are encouraged to wear sporty clothing and donate £1 (donations to the class teacher).

Scholastic book Orders

You child was sent home with a scholastic book order form and world book day voucher this week. If you would like to purchase any booked please return the slip with your order and pay online on parentpay. The deadline for returns is Friday 13th March.

Values Based Education

Hope

This month our school value is Hope. According to Wikipedia, 'Hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large.' Unfortunately it can often be difficult to feel hopeful about the world when we read the news, look at alerts on our phones and watch our televisions. Luckily, as teachers, we get to experience the best form of hope possible every day when we teach. We see the talents, ambitions and capabilities of our children and know that, regardless of how bad the media may portray things, while there are children whose optimism is boundless, there is always hope for the world. Hopefully as adults we can fuel and encourage that optimism so that our children can become positive and solution focused young adults, rather than pessimists and cynics – the world certainly already has enough of those!

'They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.'

Tom Bodett

The Young Shakespeare Company

Last week, year 5 and 6 were treated to an outstanding performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream by the Young Shakespeare Company.

The children found it to be both rip-roaringly funny as well as incredibly engaging and feel certain it will help build their understanding as they go on to study it further through the half term.



Year 3 Hands on Science Workshop

On Thursday 27th February, year 3 enjoyed taking part in their hands on science workshop. The sessions were very informative where the children



learnt all about the major bones, how to keep them healthy and why humans and animals have skeletons and muscles. We also got to explore how to stay generally healthy and the importance of looking after our bodies. We investigated the different food groups' through exciting and practical experiments.



presented their own radio news article, which included interviews with shop managers and members of the public. Everyone came back enthused to do something similar for our own school radio! It also gave us all a better understanding of sustainable fashion. We will let you know when the article will be broadcast as soon as we find out!



Romford Best Before Food Stall

A Havering Resident has started a food waste recycling initiative. She is collecting food from local supermarkets which is past their 'Best By' date and offering it to Havering residents up at St Johns Hall, Pretoria Road, Wednesdays at 6.30pm. There is no cost however donations are appreciated.

https://www.facebook.com/RomfordBB/?ref=py_c
<https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/best-before-stall-1-6405904>

Support for Parents

Google's new Parent Kit have some great resources available where parents and carers can access online guides for digital wellbeing. These guides detail such things as; how to help children stay safer and feel confident in the online world, online quizzes and games to reinforce internet safety messages. These resources can be found at <https://parentzone.org.uk/>

Pupil Premium, Free School Meals and grant towards uniform

Where parents are entitled to pupil premium the school receives extra funding. 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

Radio Branfil News – PC interviews

Last Friday, PC Ian Barrell visited the school to be interviewed by members of our school radio club. PC Barrell answered questions about why he became a police officer as well as explaining his most dangerous and funniest moments since joining the force. We hope this will be the first of many visits from PC Barrell who will keep our children updated with the latest guidance on how to keep safe both in the community and online.



Tune in to our school radio via our website to hear the interview this Friday between 4-5pm.

Journalist Training at the Liberty Shopping Centre

Pupils from year 5 and 6 were invited to The Liberty Shopping Centre and Time FM to take part in a journalism workshop on Monday. With the theme of 'sustainable fashion', pupils researched, wrote and

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> or telephone: Sally Delaney, London Borough of Havering, 01708 433929 – please have your National Insurance Number to hand when you phone.

School Closure in the event of bad weather

In the event of extreme weather conditions, should the decision be made to close the school, we will notify parents/carers as early as possible, either the evening before the closure or very early on the morning of the closure. Notification will be in the following ways:

- Parentpay text message
- An announcement on the school website – www.branfil.com (at the top of the page)
- On LGFL OpenCheck - Select LA = Havering and Branfil School.
<https://opencheck.atomwide.com>.
Download the Parentcomm: mobile app for free notifications to your phone.



28th February

Eliana, Jack, Charley, Michael, Damon, Isobelle, David, George, Alexia, Harriet, Logan, Harvey, Francesco, Francesca, Megan, George, Amelia, Isabella, Harris, Amelie, Kara.

6th March

Teddy, Owen, Joe, Antonia, Arthur, Niamh, Kayden, Isaac, Ansa, Emily, Lee, Dylan, Luke, Harry, Katie, Simran, Joseph, Oscar, Lois, Isabella, Alissa.

Core Values Art Competition Winner for February

Fletcher in 1 Willow for his cubism picture of Love.



March Core Values Art Competition:

Hope using the medium of film. Understandably, this could be a tricky one, so children will be allowed stills from any videos they make or they can create a storyboard which explains their 'film/video' they have made.

Excellence in the Arts Award:

28th February

Ella in 5H for her textile collage.



6th March

Ruby- Mae in 5 Alder for her excellent contribution to the Fourth Plinth competition.

Term Dates 2020

Monday 9 March – Friday 13	Science Week
Friday 13 March	Sports Relief Non Uniform Day (sporty/athletic wear)
Wednesday 11 March	Yr 1 & Yr 2 Mixed Football Tournament at Playfootball (selected Yr1 & Yr 2 children only)
Thursday 19 March	Spelling Bee at Engayne Primary School (selected Yr3 & Yr 4 Pupils only)
Monday 23 March	Dance Festival at Abbs Cross (selected children only)
Tuesday 24 March	Spring Concert
Tuesday 24 March	Easter Assemblies
Wednesday 25 March	Yr 3 & Yr 4 Girls Football at Playfootball (selected Yr 3 & Yr 4 girls only)
Thursday 26 March	Spelling Bee at Engayne Primary School (selected Yr 5 & Yr 6 Pupils only)
Thursday 26 March	Gilwell Park Meeting 5.00pm Main Hall
Friday 27 March	Year 2 trip to Hopefield Animal Sanctuary

DUE TO PRIOR NOTICE OF ANOTHER ELECTION ON THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2020, THIS IS NOW REPLACING THE PLANNED INSET DAY ON 20TH APRIL 2020. THIS NOW MEANS THAT AS THE EARLY BANK HOLIDAY IS ON THE 8TH MAY THE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED FOR 2 DAYS – THURSDAY 7TH MAY AND FRIDAY 8TH MAY.

**NEW INSET Days for 2020/21 (agreed by Governors):
3rd and 4th September 2020, 20th November 2020, 4th January 2021, 19th April 2021.**