

## Newsletter 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have now had a chance to read the Ofsted letter, which is such a positive reflection of our school. We are obviously pleased that the HMI agreed with our self-evaluation that “this school continues to be good” and “safeguarding is effective”. We were particularly delighted to read that “pupils are proud of their school” stating that “the school is a ‘very friendly place to be’, and that teachers motivate them to ‘work hard’ and ‘try new challenges’ including in art, sport and music”. It is also great that it was acknowledged that “leaders and staff place high priority on pupils’ welfare and safety”. I would like to say a huge “thank you” once again to staff, governors, pupils and parents/carers for helping Branfil to be so successful – Go Team Branfil!

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

## Christmas Notices

There is now a Christmas post box. If children would like to send cards to their friends please ensure they put the name and class of the child.



Wednesday 19 December is Christmas Party day at Branfil! The following applies to the day –

- It is a non-uniform day and children are allowed to wear something festive.
- Children are allowed to bring in games (no electronics or anything with high value).
- There will be some party food. We are asking parents/carers to donate £1 to their class teacher for this. Please send this in by Friday 14 December. If you have any allergies or issues regarding certain foods please speak to your class teacher.

## Values Based Education

This month’s school value is **Thoughtfulness** and as we prepare for the festive season - a time shared with family, friends and loves ones – there could not be a more appropriate time for our focus to be on thinking of others and their needs. Let’s all try to do one thoughtful act each day this month, and be thankful for those who are thoughtful towards us.

## Year 5 and 6 Indoor Athletics

A selection of children from year 5 and 6 represented Branfil in the Indoor Athletics competition on Wednesday 28th November. They all



demonstrated great determination and fantastic sportsmanship during the event. Great work to all!

## Year 3 and 4 Indoor Athletics

Some of the children from year 3 and 4 took part in an event at Hornchurch Sports Centre on Thursday 29th November. They represented the school really well and all showed fantastic passion throughout the event. The children encouraged all their team members really well and enjoyed the event.



### Year 5 Science Dome Visit

On Tuesday, Year 5 had a special visit from the Science Dome. It looked very plain from the outside, but once they got inside, pupils travelled millions of light years through space. They visited planets, the moon, stars and even other galaxies. It was a great experience and the perfect way to finish off their learning about Space.



### Class Museum Afternoon

Everyone at school was buzzing about history last week. The children have worked really hard in producing their history work and artefacts. All the school got to show their amazing history work in their class museum: Victorians, The Great Fire of London, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Tudors and World War Two were the museums we explored! Everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

### Driving and parking on Cedar Avenue

There have been reports of people driving along, and up, the pavement of Cedar Avenue. There have also been incidents of anti-social behaviour from parents who are dropping children off. Whilst we are not aware of who is always responsible, we would like to ask all parents/carers to drive considerately when coming into Cedar Avenue. I would also remind parents/carers to drive into Cedar Avenue from Gaynes Park Road and exit Cedar Avenue via South View Drive in order to keep the traffic flowing.

### Year 5 visit to Eastbury Manor

On Tuesday and Thursday this week, Year 5 took the train from Upminster Bridge station to Upney, where they visited a 460 year old Tudor house. They met three Tudors who told them all about life at Eastbury Manor, which was built by the wealthy Clement Sisley. During the day, pupils learnt a Tudor dance, explored the walled gardens, found out about servants and even dressed as rich Tudor children. We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents/carers and staff who helped out – it was a great end to our History unit.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing at Branfil

At Branfil, we understand that Christmas can be a difficult times for lots of families, for lots of different reasons. This time of year can often see changes in pupils' emotions, mood and behaviour so we monitor this carefully, to ensure as much routine, consistency and calmness as possible. However, we also recognise that some events are unavoidable; Christmas plays, decorations, concerts, etc. If you have any concerns, please speak to your class teacher, or visit the following link, which has lots of tips on keeping your children (and yourselves) calm this festive season.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/c/christmas-and-mental-health>

### Veggie Run Christmas Competitions

West Ham United and Havering Catering service are offering some great Christmas Prizes to those children who play the Veggie App and also have a school dinner during December.



Download the app at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/veggierun/id1339059186?mt=8>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mct.veggierun&hl=en>

**Pupil of the week**

**21st November**

**Billy S, Nicole B, Bailey B, Raphie G, MaxB, Liam H, Layla S, Chloe B, Alex F, Edward W, Amber A, Ruby P-W, Bobby W, Matthew F-B, Mira Z, Favour A, Miya P, Joseph T.**

**1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Rachel M, Cara V, Blake J, Keelan S, Daniel A, Oscar H, Sophie T, Sian W, Maisie P, Isabella J, Lily W, Eleni S, Alex M, Layla H, Lailah S, Michel P, Millie B, Teddy S.**

**Upcoming dates in the next fortnight**

Tuesday 11 December	Reception Christmas Concert 2.15pm
Wednesday 12 December	Reception Christmas Concert 2.15pm
Wednesday 12 December	PTA Movie night – Yr 2 and Yr 3
Thursday 13 December	Y2 Christmas Play 2.15pm
Thursday 13 December	PTA Movie Night – Yr 4, Yr5, Yr 6
Friday 14 December	Y2 Christmas Play 2.15pm
Friday 14 December	Christmas Dinner Day
Monday 17 December	R & KS1 Lead Learner assembly 9.00am (parent/carers by invitation only)
Tuesday 18 December	Y1 Big House Workshops – Victorians, in school
Tuesday 18 December	KS2 Lead Learner assembly 9.00am (parent/carers by invitation only)
Wednesday 19 December	Christmas Party Day – non uniform