

Newsletter 7th
September 2018

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to Branfil to those of you who are newly joining us and welcome back to those of you who are already part of our Branfil family. I hope that you had a happy, positive summer break and that your children are refreshed and raring to go! We have been really impressed with the great start that the children have made; they have embraced their new classes and teachers with great enthusiasm. I feel confident that we're in for another busy, exciting and successful year which will be enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.

This first newsletter has reminders and information to help you to make a good start to the year. You will also receive a paper copy of our dates for the year today.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Staffing update

There have been a number of new staff who have joined us this term. A full updated staff list will be available on our website.

We are pleased to announce Mrs Campbell has given birth to a beautiful baby girl! Ivy Campbell was born on the 31st August.

New Reception/office Area

In the first week of the holiday we were informed that the work to improve our main reception area, funded by Havering LA, could start. This was unexpected but very welcome. It has meant that our office and premises teams worked exceptionally hard to ensure everything was ready to start again on Wednesday. Thank you for your patience whilst we get everything up and running.

Values Based Education

Our value for September is 'Happiness'. At Branfil we encourage our children to be positive, resilient and enjoy school. This month we will be focussing on what they can do to make themselves and people around them happy. Research shows that happiness, compassion and kindness are the products of skills that can be learned and enhanced through training, thanks to the neuroplasticity of our brains. Most people think that if they become successful, then they'll be happy. But recent discoveries in psychology and neuroscience show that this formula is backward: happiness fuels success, not the other way around. When we're positive, our brains are more motivated, engaged, creative, energetic and resilient. So don't worry, be happy!

Meet the Teacher meetings

The first Meet the Teacher meetings will take place on:

- Tuesday 18th September for Y1, Y2, Y3 between 9.00 am -9.30am.
- Thursday 20th September for Y4, Y5, Y6 between 9.00 am – 9.30 am.

These meetings will be held in individual classrooms this year (parents to meet in the main hall first). The meetings are to inform parents of the general class information for the coming year. Individual parent consultation meetings will take place later in the term (please see dates sheet).

Morning Access Arrangements

Parents who access the school through our back gate are reminded that these are locked from 8.50am. If you plan to leave through this exit after dropping your child off please ensure you do so promptly as these gates will be locked and you may have to return through the school to exit through our main gate.

3 June 2019

New Houses

Our new house names are now Belhus, Pages, Tylers and Cely. We have chosen these forests as they are all local to our school. The house names reinforce the idea of each child being a leaf on our class trees, which together make a beautiful wood, emphasising that every child is an important part of the Branfil Family.



Pupil Premium, Free School Meals and grant towards uniform

Where parents are entitled to pupil premium the school receive extra funding and if your child is in KS2 your child will also receive free school meals which is a significant weekly saving.

As a thank you to any parents who apply for and are awarded pupil premium will also get a 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>

Uniform

A reminder of our school uniform for 2018/19. Full details can be found on our school website.

Key Stage 1 and 2 Children

Winter

- Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan
- White shirt/blouse/polo shirt
- Grey/black trousers
- Grey pinafore dress/skirt
- White or grey socks/tights (no leggings)
- Black school shoes or black trainers. Trainers must be all black (including soles) with no logo. High heels or boots and footwear must be suitable for climbing and running.

P.E.KIT

- Branfil blue T-shirt
- Blue shorts
- Black plimsolls
- Dark blue or black tracksuit or similar warm clothing for cold weather
- Trainers (for outdoor use)
- Long hair to be tied back

No jewellery is allowed in school with the exception of stud earrings and watches.

Small hair accessories are allowed but please ensure these are blue and white.

Book Bags

We would like to politely remind parents that children are allowed one key ring on their book bags. This is so that book bags can fit easily into a box to be stored during the day.

Water Bottles

Can all parents of children in Y1 – Y6 please provide their children with a named water bottle each day.

Inset Days 2018/19

29 October 2018

7 January 2019