

Newsletter 8th February 2019

Dear parents and carers,

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week, with Tuesday being specifically focused on online safety through Safer Internet Day. This focus links to one of our school improvement priorities for this academic year: to empower pupils to make choices that will enhance their resilience when meeting the challenges of everyday life, in and after school. Our aim is to support pupils to understand that their mental health is as important as their physical health and to feel empowered to speak openly about any mental health needs that they have so we can provide, or find, appropriate support for them, in a timely manner.

I strongly encourage you to talk openly with your child about their mental health and help them to understand that this fluctuates, often within a very short space of time, which is completely normal. We need to break down the barriers that stop people talking about mental health issues in order that we can safeguard our pupils effectively.

Please do not hesitate to let a member of staff know if you feel your child needs support.

I hope you have a happy, relaxing weekend.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Second hand uniform sale



There will be a second hand uniform sale every other Friday in the playground at the end of the school day. The next sale will be on 15 February at 3.15pm.

Safeguarding

There is a new document under our safeguarding section on our website which is aimed at helping parents/carers understand the sexual development of children aged 5-11. This useful document also helps parents/carers know what is age appropriate and other behaviours which may not be appropriate.

Values Based Education

Our school value this month is Simplicity.

'The greatest ideas are the simplest.'

- William Golding, The Lord of the Flies

Medical Tracker System

As you may now be aware, we are using Medical Tracker to record all our reported first aid incidents. When your child has been involved in any first aid incident you will receive an email informing you of the issue. These emails will replace the slips sent home in book bags with the children. Please do not be alarmed if you receive an email stating your child has been in first aid. If the accident/injury is significant, or we feel your child is sufficiently unwell to be sent home, we will call you as well as sending an email.

Smart Watches in School

An increasing number of children are coming to school wearing smart watches. These are not allowed as they are devices that can accept texts, calls and take pictures. If your child is found wearing a smart watch they will be required to take it to the office where it will be kept for the remainder of the day.

Year 1 and Year 2 Athletics

Some children from year 1 and 2 attended the Indoor Athletics competition on Tuesday 5th February. They all took part in a variety of throwing, jumping and



running events. Over the past few weeks, they have

been working hard to develop their skills further and worked really well as a team against other schools. They were also awarded a certificate for demonstrating great passion throughout the morning.

Red Nose Day Sales

We will be selling Red Noses in the office from Thursday 7th March ready for Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March. Red Nose Day will be a non-uniform day.



Restorative Justice

Thank you to all those parents/carers who attended our restorative justice workshop. We hope you found the session informative. The school are using some of the techniques to help with the restorative process with our children. We thought it may be useful for you to ask the following questions when working to resolve conflict at home: -

- What happened?
- What were you thinking?
- What were you feeling?
- Who has been affected?
- What do you need now?

Year 1 and 2 Road Safety Workshop

On Friday 8th February, Year 1 and 2 were visited by a character called Dogsworthy to help them to learn about crossing the road safely. He helped the children to learn about different types of crossings and the steps to follow to cross the road safely. The children had a great time learning a 'Stop, Look, Listen' song and made up some great moves to go with it!

Young Voices

On Monday 4th February, 40 of the children from Year 3-5 went to the O2 for the



Young Voices concert. After lots of excitement and rehearsing, the children performed in a choir of over 8000 children from all around the country. They had learnt the words and actions to over 15 songs. They were also joined by famous singers: Tony Hadley, Sharlene Hector (lead singer of Basement Jaxx) and Beau Dermott (15 year old winner of Britain's Got Talent). Well done to our wonderful choir; you made Mrs Sansom, the staff and your families so proud by performing so brilliantly!

Year 6 Girls Football Tournament

Yesterday the girls' team went to Noak Hill Sports Complex to take part in a 7-a-side tournament.

In the group stages, they won 3 matches, drew 1 and lost 1. There were great goals from Evie and Amy. Fantastic defending by Lily-May and superb saves from Megan. There were some great shots on target from Rosie and Ella-Louise. Matilda, Layla and Emily played with skill and determination throughout. All of these things meant we won the group stage and found ourselves in the quarter final.

We beat Harold Wood in the quarter final and then had to play Rise Park in the semi-final. It was 0-0 at full time and penalties followed. Rise Park were the eventual victors.

All the girls were an absolute credit to Branfil - your team spirit will stay with me for a long time! Thank you all for a great day.



Miss Bain

Music Time

Havering Music Service are advertising creative music making for children with Special Educational Needs. These sessions support musical, creative and social interaction. Play, create and improvise together using instruments that everyone can play!



When: Saturdays during term time
10am – 11am – for children with SEN
11-12pm – for children with PMLD and their parents/carers

Cost: 37.50 for a half term of 5 sessions

For more information and booking contact 01708 450 313 or email gary.griffiths@havering.gov.uk

Mental Health and Wellbeing at Branfil

This week, we have been celebrating Children's Mental Health week, run by a charity who we have been working with over the last year – Place2Be. This year's theme has been Keeping Healthy; Inside and Out. We have explored that even though healthy eating, exercise and sleeping well can make us feel good physically, they can also improve our mental health. During the event, the pupils have had assemblies, participated in activities in class and bought in things that make them happy for Show and Tell.

If you would like to find out more about the work of Place2Be, please visit their website at; www.place2be.org.uk



1st February

Charlie N, Reid W-W, Billy B, Kayden P, Sienna A, Luca H, Reggie D, Leo I, Lewis M, Tilly B, Charlie R, Holly G, Hazel S, Maggie F, Louis B, Macey T, Joseph W, Jack A, George G, Oliver P.

8th February

Matilda P-A, Isobel W, Vinnie C, Archie M, Soraiya A, Damilola A, Daisy B, Ruby P, Finley L, Amelia C, Miruna, Isabella J, Ruby G, George C, Phillip S, Jackson L, Harris C, Oliver P, Amelia F, Ella-Louise C.

Upcoming dates in the next fortnight

Tuesday 12 February	Hockey Tournament at Coopers School for Yr 5 and Yr6
Wednesday 13 February	Parent Consultation meetings 3.30pm -7.00pm
Fri 15 February	Road Safety Production in school (am) for Yr 5 & Yr6
Friday 15 February	School finishes normal time for Half term holiday
Monday 25 February	School reopens 8.40 – 8.50 am whole school
Thursday 28 February	Yr 1 Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers – 9.00am – 9.45am – Main Hall
Tuesday 5 March	Ash Class Stay and Play
Wednesday 6 March	Elm Class Stay and Play
Thursday 7 March	Fir Class Stay and Play
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day

INSET DAY for 2018/19 Term – 3rd June 2019

INSET Days for 2019/20 Term (agreed by Governors): 4th, 5th, 6th September 2019, 6th January 2020, 20th April 2020