

## Newsletter 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are enjoying your Easter break, despite having to stay at home. We felt that it was important to continue with our fortnightly newsletter to keep you in touch with the school community during this unusual holiday period.

Hopefully, our Easter activity sheet has given you some great ideas for themed activities that you can undertake with your child(ren) if you find yourselves at a loose end. Please send in photos (to [office@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:office@branfil.havering.sch.uk)) so your teachers can see what you have been doing.

On behalf of the staff and governors at Branfil, I wish you all a healthy, happy Easter break.

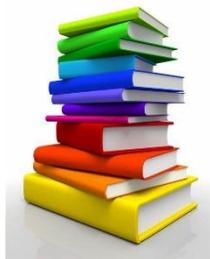
Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

## Goodbye and good luck

This term we say goodbye to two staff members who are leaving us. Mrs Brewis from 3 Maple who is leaving to take up a full time class teacher position at her son's school. Miss Brewis will be missed by her class and her colleagues. We also say goodbye and good luck to Miss Bessent who is leaving to explore other career opportunities. She has been at Branfil since September 2018, leading Year 3 and PE across the school; she will be missed by the whole school community.

## Home Learning Resources

During this period of closure, teaching staff will still be working, either in school or from home. They will keep the school website updated with fortnightly home learning packs, including activities and links for families; you will find these home learning packs under the new School Closure Home Learning page (see side tab on the left hand side of our home page). The packs for the first two weeks of the summer term will be available from Friday 17th April. We will also add information received from other sources that you may find useful to support your child's learning.



## Values Based Education

It seems that so often our school value is incredibly pertinent to what is happening in our school and the world around us during the month we celebrate it. This month our value is '**Courage**' and I have no doubt that the courage of all members of the Branfil community will be tested over the course of April. During this strange and unprecedented time, courage will take many forms for many different people - from the amazingly brave work of our NHS and emergency services workers, to the courage of our elderly and vulnerable family members who may have to stay isolated.

Let's all take the time this month to think about how being courageous ourselves can help make a difference during a difficult time for everyone. Maybe this month courage means being able to stay indoors, or being able to do our home learning without our parents/carers asking us, or maybe it simply means making the right choices at the right times. I hope you all stay safe and have an enjoyable month with wisdom in your heads and courage in your hearts.

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

— **Winston S. Churchill**

## Key Worker Day Care

The school has remained open to provide essential day care for key workers. It will continue to remain open over the Easter period. We are very grateful to you all for only using this service as a complete necessity. Many of you are emergency workers, but have managed to juggle things so that you either do not need the service or you are keeping your need to the absolute minimum – thank you for this. The fewer children in school, the fewer staff are required and this all helps with reducing the number of people who have to leave their homes.

### Help and support with Maths during school closures

We realise during this difficult time that some parents/carers may not feel confident when working with their children on maths activities. The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics has a dedicated area on its website (which will be updated regularly) to help support parents/carers during this school closure period. Please see the website for further details including video tips, learning games and lots more coming soon.

[https://www.ncetm.org.uk/resources/54432?utm\\_source=NCETM%20Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=09c3bba146-national-newsletter-easter-2020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_13f8d631f4-09c3bba146-222666281](https://www.ncetm.org.uk/resources/54432?utm_source=NCETM%20Newsletters&utm_campaign=09c3bba146-national-newsletter-easter-2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_13f8d631f4-09c3bba146-222666281)

### Branfil Twitter Page

In order to stay in contact with you and your children and provide them with some daily fun, members of staff will be putting videos, messages and challenges onto our Twitter account each day.

If you have Twitter but don't already follow us then please do:

@BranfilPrimary

If you don't have Twitter yet then maybe you could start a family account with which to follow us with your children and get involved with some of the things we will be using it for including:

- Regular messages from our Headteacher and SLT
- Miss Bain's Monday Maths Madness
- Mr Fielder's Tuesday Teaser
- Miss Philpot's Funky Friday Fun

And much much more!

Best regards,

Mr Fielder

### Fun daily exercise

We encourage you all (children and adults!) to take part in Joe Wicks daily P.E. workout. Joe says, 'With the schools closed and with us all spending more time at home, it's more important than ever that we keep moving and stay healthy and positive. Exercise is an amazing tool to help us feel happier, more energised, and more optimistic.' The workouts are suitable for all ages and don't require any equipment. You just need to tune in to his YouTube channel at 9am each morning for a 30-minute, fun workout:

[www.youtube.com/thebodycoachtv](http://www.youtube.com/thebodycoachtv). If you haven't tried it yet, give it a go next week! You can also find Joe on Twitter - @thebodycoach.

### Mrs White's Reading Challenge

Can you find as many synonyms for the word said in one of your books?

Practice, memorize and learn a poem off by heart every week. Perhaps you could facetime some of your family (grandparents or aunts and uncles) and perform your poem for them live!

### Miss Bain's Maths Challenges

Have a go at these and then make similar ones for the people in your house to try or email them to the office for Miss Bain to complete!

**1** Yasmin has a large blue square piece of paper.  
She cuts out a 4 cm x 4 cm square from the centre.



The area of the blue region is 65 cm<sup>2</sup>.  
What is the length of the large blue square?

**2** Work out the value of each symbol.

$$\triangle + \star + \diamond = 100$$

$$\triangle + \diamond = 67$$

$$\star - \diamond = 18$$

1 Here are 3 number patterns.

0	5	10	15	20	30
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27	37	57	67	77	87
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32	30	28	26	22	20
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What is the sum of the three missing numbers?

2 Work out the value of each symbol.

$$\triangle + \triangle = 18$$

$$\triangle + \diamond = 30$$

$$\star - \diamond = 10$$



Jessica in 1 Lime doing her maths.



Arthur from 1 Willow playing hangman with his Mummy.

## Jokes to keep us all going

**Why is the obtuse triangle always so frustrated?**

Because it is never right! 😊

## Happy Birthday!



Mithal, George, John, Fletcher, Ernie, Alexandra, Lily, Ruby, Ekkam, Eleanor, George, Dean and Ben.

### **1 Pine, 1 Lime and 1 Willow**

Every newsletter we will be focusing on a year group and showing pictures and examples of your home learning. Well done to all our Year 1 children for keeping up the good work at home!

Damon in 1 Pine weighing his cars.



Mabel happy with her finished fish tank!



Betty learning about different flags.

Oliver practicing his handwriting.



Joe in 1 Lime reading his Oxford Owl books online!

Zachary in 1 Lime had fun making a parrot:)



Ernie having great fun baking a cake!



Minnie in 1 Pine writing a story about her favourite animal – a panda!



Harry in 1 Pine with his fabulous rainbow painting for our wonderful Key workers.



Amrita with her wonderful Easter egg pictures.