

Newsletter 8th September 2023

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back to everyone who is joining us for another year at Branfil and a very warm welcome if you are new to our Branfil family. The children have all returned with a positive attitude, raring to go for another busy term, and our staff team are looking forward to 'everyone learning together' once again. We already have lots of plans in place to enhance the children's learning, as you will see on the Diary Dates towards the end of the newsletter, with many more being organised (the Diary Dates are updated on each fortnightly Friday newsletter so please check regularly).

For parents and carers of children in years 1-6, please note that each teacher will be leading a meeting next week, in their classroom, where you will hear key messages about the year to come (see dates). We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

We look forward to working in partnership with you over this year, ensuring your child has the best possible experience at Branfil. Please remember, if you have any questions, concerns, feedback or information to share, your child's class teacher is the first point of contact, via the year group email.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Meet the Senior Leadership Team



Mrs Sansom

Headteacher



Mrs Gunthorpe

Deputy Headteacher



Mrs Metcalfe

**Assistant Headteacher
and SENCO**

Vision for 2021-2026

EVERYONE LEARNING TOGETHER

Branfil is a vibrant learning community where we nurture lifelong learners who embody our school values and make a positive contribution to the world.

Adults and children feel valued and love learning together. Everyone thrives and achieves personal success through being happy, safe and confident learners, who ask questions, take appropriate risks, learn from their mistakes and seek help when needed.

LOVE
EXPLORE
ASPIRE
RESPECT
NURTURE



Contacting the school

Please be aware that if you contact the teachers during the school day they cannot be expected to read and respond to your email since they will be teaching. The teachers may check their emails during their lunch break, however, this is not a school expectation and they will not always have time to reply.



If you are emailing anything to do with attendance, e.g. illness or appointments, this must be sent to attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk.

If you are emailing regarding a different collection time or arrangement, only let the teachers know if you are able to inform them before 8am on the day. After this time, please email office@branfil.havering.sch.uk. Please note, if the person collecting your child is on the pickup list you do not need to inform the school since they will be released to anyone on this list.

Contact with teachers

A reminder to parents/carers that they can contact their child's class teacher by using the following emails:

acorns@branfil.havering.sch.uk
conkers@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year3@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year4@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk
year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk



School Library



We are really pleased with how our school library is coming along. The children are thoroughly enjoying the space and love taking books out to share with their adults at home. Unfortunately there are still a number of books outstanding, some of which have been outstanding for a very long period of time. Many parents/carers have kindly offered to replace lost books, but in some circumstances, this is either not possible because the book is so old and out of print, or we already have several copies. We have made the decision to set a 'fine' of £5 for any lost books. This way we can decide if we want to replace it, or put the money towards new books that we don't have. We hope that you can support us in this decision, so that the children can continue to explore the wide range of high quality texts that we have in our school library. Thank you.
Mrs. Cullender

X / Twitter



Please follow us @BranfilPrimary to see life at Branfil.

PE Days

Please see below for the days that the children will be required to come into school wearing their PE kit:



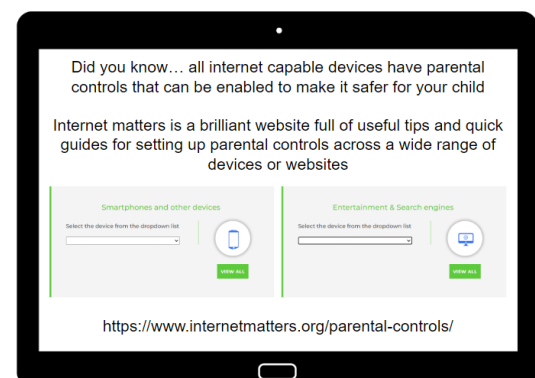
1 Lime	Monday and Friday
1 Pine	Tuesday and Wednesday
1 Willow	Monday and Wednesday
2 Beech	Tuesday and Thursday
2 Cedar	Tuesday and Thursday
2 Holly	Tuesday and Thursday
3 Hazel	Wednesday and Thursday
3 Maple	Wednesday and Thursday
3 Oak	Wednesday and Thursday
4 Birch	Wednesday and Thursday
4 Larch	Monday and Friday
4 Rowan	Thursday and Friday
5 Alder	Tuesday and Friday
5 Aspen	Tuesday and Friday
5 Hawthorn	Tuesday and Friday
6 Acacia	Monday and Friday
6 Chestnut	Monday and Wednesday
6 Hornbeam	Tuesday and Wednesday

Swimming

4 Birch will be having swimming lessons this term, on Wednesdays. A letter has gone out this week with all the information. Pupils should still wear their PE kits on this day.



Internet Safety



Nut Free School



Just a reminder that we are a nut free school due to severe allergies and therefore no nut products are allowed.

Water Bottles

Please remember to send a named water bottle into school with your child each day. This should be plastic, reusable, approximately 500ml capacity (so it will fit into our carry crates) and clearly labelled with child's name and class. Only plain water is allowed.

Tickers Children's Watch

Tickers children's watches are not suitable for use in school. For safeguarding reasons, children are only allowed to wear standard watches that do not have the ability to take photographs or film, and cannot be used to access the Internet.



No Pushchairs in the school building

Please be aware that no pushchairs are allowed in the school building for health and safety reasons. We request that the pushchairs are left in the reception area and any babies or toddlers are carried through the building. This applies for all events, including book looks.

School start time

A reminder that the back and front gates are open between 8.35 am and 8.45 am for children to arrive in school.

Any children who arrive after this time will receive a late mark. The minutes late, and reason for lateness, have to be entered onto our registration system, and the office staff will also ask for your child's lunch requirement – this can all mean a delay (especially if parents have not consulted the menu in advance).

Absent from School

Appointments should be made outside of school hours. If it is not possible to arrange a medical appointment, including doctors, dentist, opticians or hospital appointments, outside the school day, please send a copy of your appointment by text or email to: attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk.

This is necessary in order for the absence to be authorised. Please email in advance of the appointment to ensure that the teacher is aware and your child/children are sent to the office ready for you to collect.

Please remember to contact the school when your child is absent on a daily basis. You can either email: attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk or telephone the school on 01708 225186 and **press option 1 if you wish to leave a message.** Please leave your child's name, class and reason for absence. Please do not just say your child is unwell as we need to record a reason. If you wish to speak to a member of the office staff, please hold on the line and your call will be answered.

Reminder – pick up times

Please can all parents and carers ensure that they enter the playground via the front or back gate at the correct times.

Reception – 3:10pm
Year 1, 2 and Year 3 – 3:15pm
Year 4, 5 and 6 – 3:20pm



These staggered times help to ensure that the children leave school safely at the end of the day. Please remember to enter the playground at the designated time, line up in front of the correct class and once you have collected your child leave via the one way system. If you have more than one child to collect, please wait at the back of the playground until the next time slot. Managing the exit of all our pupils safely requires careful planning and organisation. By adhering to the times you are supporting us to maintain safe routines. Thank you.

Authorised and Unauthorised Leave

We strongly recommend that holidays are not taken during term time since these cannot be authorised. For any other planned absence, in the event that this cannot be avoided, a formal request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, before the absence. A leave of absence request form **must** be completed, assessable from the school office or by emailing: attendance@branfil.havering.sch.uk. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for leave of absence.

Only the school, within the context of the law, can approve absence, not parents or carers. The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances' (this does not include family holidays, weddings or birthdays).

The local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from the school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

If issued with a fine, or penalty notice, each parent must pay £60 within 21 days or £120 with 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority. If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice. [O:\Primary\Attendance\Authorised and Unauthorised Leave.pdf](#)
[..\Attendance\Holiday Forms\Q & A Penalty Notice Fact Sheet V2.pdf](#)

Raising Money for Hot Meal for non-privileged members of our community

Can you help icanyoucantoo CIC raise £15000 to fund icanyoucantoo's 'Hot Meals' initiatives throughout 2023/24, which support non-privileged members of our community.



Please donate to their JustGiving Crowdfunding Page: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/icanprovideshotmeals?utm_term=74eWvaykN

Information from icanyoucantoo, an organisation that has supported some of our families over the last few years:

What started as an immediate response to a toddler dying in our local community has turned into a whole operational programme that grows bigger and better every time. Since we began, we have provided +20,000 hot meals and +10,000 hygiene products to +1,500 individuals – predominantly women and children – all made possible through +500 individuals who've generously volunteered their time during the Christmas and Easter school holidays, when we know household budgets are stretched the most.

To date, we have relied on (and are very thankful for!) kind one-off donations and fundraisers from our supporters and network to make it all happen...but with demand ever-increasing, food prices rising, and our burning desire to support as many people as possible driving us...we need to create more certainty around our resources. Namely, money.

So, Team icanyoucantoo are rolling up their sleeves to hit the road! In September 2023, we are entering two teams into our first ever running and cycle events to fund our Academic Year '23/24 Hot Meals initiatives:

- Sunday 3 Sep - The Big Half, London 🏃 - with team icanyoucantoo expertly captained by our very own Kuda Mika
- Sunday 10 Sep - London to Brighton bike ride (55m) 🚲 - with team icanyoucantoo expertly captained by Nilesh Dosa.

Weekly Attendance Awards!

06.09.2023 – 08.09.2023

The following classes won the Attendance Superstar Certificate for excellent attendance of over 97%:



3 Hazel, 4 Rowan and 6 Hornbeam



A special 'well done' to 2 Cedar, 2 Holly and 6 Chestnut for 100% attendance.

Pupil of the week

8th September 2023

Harry - 1 Pine
Ava - 1 Lime
Christopher - 1 Willow
Albie - 2 Cedar
Hudson - 2 Beech
Molly- 2 Holly
Savannah - 3 Hazel
Jamie - 3 Oak
Markus - 3 Maple
Owen - 4 Birch
Isla-Rose - 4 Rowan
Harry - 4 Larch
Elizabeth - 5 Alder
Aidan - 5 Aspen
Matilda - 5 Hawthorn
Blake - 6 Hornbeam
George - 6 Acacia
Kamran - 6 Chestnut



Happy Birthday!

Zachary, Finley, Harry, Harrison, Mohamed, Juanita, Jessica, Michael, Kamran, Enzo, Harry, James, Minnie, Lewis and Rudy.



Respecting our neighbours

When parking near the school we would ask that you **do not park across resident's driveways**, preventing the person from exiting or entering their property. We are still receiving complaints from residents; this behaviour by a small minority is giving Branfil Primary School a bad name in our local area. Please treat our neighbours with courtesy and respect.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, 12 th September 2023	Welcome to Year 6 meeting with parents – 9:00am
Tuesday, 12 th September 2023	4 Birch visit to Pizza Express 9:30am
Tuesday, 12 th September 2023	Welcome to Year 4 meeting with parents – 2:30pm
Wednesday, 13 th September 2023	Welcome to Year 2 meeting with parents – 9:00am
Wednesday, 13 th September 2023	Year 2 Maths Workshops for parents
Wednesday, 13 th September 2023	Welcome to year 1 meeting with parents – 2:30pm
Thursday, 14 th September 2023	Welcome to year 5 meeting with parents – 9:00am
Thursday, 14 th September 2023	Welcome to year 3 meeting with parents – 2:30pm
Monday, 18 th September 2023	Year 4 Viking Workshop
Wednesday, 27 th September 2023	Year 2 Parent Reading and Phonic Workshop
Thursday, 28 th September 2023	Year 1 (year 2 parents if invited) Phonic Workshop for Parents
Monday, 2 nd October 2023 – Friday, 6 th October 2023	Year 5 and 6 Bikeability
Monday, 2 nd October 2023	Harvest Festival Assembly
Tuesday, 3 rd October 2023	Individual Class Photos
Tuesday, 3 rd October 2023	Year 4/5 Multi Sport Festival
Wednesday, 4 th October 2023	School Tours for New Intake 2024 – 9:15am and 1:45pm
Thursday, 5 th October 2023	Yearly AGM 9-10am for new and existing parents
Monday, 9 th October 2023	Year 2 – Creating Pudding Lane – parent event
Tuesday, 10 th October 2023	Year 5 Employment and Engagement Session
Tuesday, 10 th October 2023	4 Larch visit to Pizza Express 9:30am
Thursday, 12 th October 2023	Year 5/6 Cross-Country Stubbers
Thursday, 12 th October 2023	Reception Phonics Parent Workshop
Thursday, 12 th October 2023	Year 1 Maths Parental Workshop
Tuesday, 17 th October 2023	Science Dome for Year 5
Wednesday, 18 th October 2023	Year 1/2 Mixed Football Festival
Thursday, 19 th October 2023	School Tours for New Intake 2024 – 9:15am and 1:45pm
Monday, 23 rd October – Friday, 27 th October 2023	Autumn Half Term
Monday, 6 th November 2023	Flu Vaccinations – session 1
Tuesday, 7 th November 2023	4 Rowan visit to Pizza Express 9:30am (amended date)
Friday, 1 st December 2023	INSET day
Wednesday, 20 th December 2023 – Wednesday, 3 rd January 2024	Christmas Break
Thursday, 4 th January 2024	INSET day
Friday, 5 th January 2024	INSET day
Monday, 19 th February – Friday, 23 rd February 2024	February Half Term
Friday, 29 th March – Friday, 12 th April 2023	Easter Break
Monday, 27 th May – Friday, 31 st May 2024	Spring Half Term
Wednesday, 24 th July 2024	Break up for the summer break



Open Day Tours

4th October 2023

9:15-10:15 or 13:45-14:45

and

19th October 2023

9:15-10:15 or 13:45-14:45

Call us today to book a tour
on: 01708 225186

Our School Values

Love, Explore, Aspire,

Respect and Nurture

Branfil Primary School

Cedar Avenue

Upminster

Essex

www.branfil.com

Follow us on X @BranfilPrimary



Branfil Primary School

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD

- PLANNING IN THE MOMENT**
EARLY YEARS
- SCHOOL PARLIAMENT**
12 COMMITTEES
VOTE
- FOREST SCHOOL**
RECEPTION & KS1
- CORE VALUES**
LEARN
- OUTDOOR PLAY & LEARNING**
OPAL PROJECT
- ARTSMARK**
AIMING FOR PLATINUM
- MENTAL HEALTH HUB**
TRAINED STAFF
- SPECIALIST TEACHING**
ART, MUSIC, COMPUTING, PE

EVERYONE LEARNING TOGETHER



Friends of Branfil news: September 2023

Your newsletter about our PTA!

Website: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbranfil/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BranfilPrimarySchoolPTA/>

Highlights:

Welcome back for a new school year!

This year, the committee are looking for new members **URGENTLY**. Please take a look at the 'job roles' there are:

Class Reps role:

- 1 or 2 people from each class to share our news/event information into whatapps groups - THAT'S IT

Small event organisers:

- To arrange and run an event like school disco or quiz night or Christmas Bazaar.
- The core committee members will be supporting and paying for all outlay for the event.
- Manage helpers at events

Core Committee member or Titled role:

- Plan PTA activities and have input as to what money is spent on for school.
- Attend meetings during term time for updates/voting/planning activities
- Manage helpers at events
- Advocate for PTA
- Attend meetings with school heads

If you would like to know more about the roles above or take one up, message us at friends@branfil.com

Thank you from Friends of Branfil

Upcoming Events

Yearly AGM: Thursday 5th October, 9am - 10am

- This meeting for all new and existing parents to attend and vote for your Committee for the upcoming school year.
- To learn more about what the PTA have done and if you would like to get involved!

Products available:

Available to buy on our website now:

- Branfil Water Bottle
- Pre-Loved Uniform
- Adventure Island wristbands continue to be available online for collection from Pin Ups Salon, Gidea Park or school office on request.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbranfil>



Branfil
Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs N Sansom

Cedar Avenue, Upminster, Essex. RM14 2LW
Phone: 01708 225186 Web: www.branfil.com Email: office@branfil.havering.sch.uk

BRANFIL WATER BOTTLE

£4.00 EACH

Available to order now on our website:
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofbranfil/>



Pre-Loved Uniform

ON SALE NOW



**ADVENTURE
ISLAND
WRISTBANDS
ON SALE NOW!**

HMS Havering Music School

- Learn with Havering Music School's dedicated team of specialist teachers
- From primary school age onwards
- Personalised tuition tailored to individual needs and aspirations

MUSIC TUITION

musicschool@havering.gov.uk

<p>BRONZE £33.67 per month 20 minute lesson for group of two</p>	<p>SILVER £56 per month 15 minute individual lesson</p>	<p>GOLD £89.50 per month 30 minute individual lesson</p>
<p>ALL LESSONS INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES</p>		

www.haveringmusicschool.org.uk



How to apply...

Havering Music School – Instrumental tuition request
Please complete one form per child, USING BLACK INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS.

Your child's details:

Name: Date of Birth:/...../.....M/F

I wish to apply for a place
at my child's school: (name of school)

I wish to apply for a place at the Weekday or Saturday Music Centre (tick box here)

School Year:

Please decide which instrument(s) your child would like to learn,
then enter the name(s) of the instrument(s) below

1st choice instrument

2nd choice instrument (optional)

3rd choice instrument (optional)

Current Level: BEGINNER GRADE

Now please decide which package you would like for your child -

BRONZE £33.67 per month **SILVER** £56 per month **GOLD** £89.50 per month **Single ensemble** £16.50 per month

Not available at Centre **Unlimited ensemble** £30.40 per month

Your contact details:

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr:

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Address:

Postcode:

Please send the completed form to: Havering Music School, The Walk, Hornchurch, RM11 3TL

The Council holds personal information about its customers and clients and Havering's residents. All the information about you that we hold is protected under the Data Protection Act 1998. The Act refers to users of personal information as 'Data Controllers' (such as the Council) who must work within the requirements of the Act when receiving and using information about you.

Direct Debit Instruction

Please find below an instruction to request payment by Direct Debits. The total amount of your instrumental lessons will be collected monthly. Please complete the form fully and return it to us by detaching this form, folding and sealing it, and posting back to us.

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the London Borough of Havering will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If you request the London Borough of Havering to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by the London Borough of Havering or your Bank or Building Society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your Bank or Bank Society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when The London Borough of Havering asks you to.
- You can cancel your Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your Bank or Building Society. Written confirmation may be requested. Please also notify us.

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay direct debits

Please pay the London Borough of Havering Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that the instruction may remain with the London Borough of Havering and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.



Full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager.....
Address.....
.....
Postcode.....

Name(s) of the Account Holder(s)
.....

Account Number
.....

Branch Sort Code
.....

Originator's Identification Number

9 5 4 2 7 8

Originator's Account Number
.....

Signature(s)
.....

This section is not part of the instruction to your Bank/Building Society. **LBH use only**

Customer name
Address

Date
Actioned by
FWD to Bank