

Welcome to Reception



Beginning school is a major event in the life of a four year old. There will be lots of new things to learn and of course you will want your child to be prepared for this important event and to settle quickly. We aim to make it a happy and memorable experience and hope this booklet will provide you with all the information you need to ensure your child gets off to a positive start.

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Contact Information

Address: Branfil Primary School, Cedar Avenue, Upminster, RM14 2LW

Telephone: 01708 225186

Email: office@branfil.havering.sch.uk or newintake2023@branfil.havering.sch.uk

School Website: www.branfil.com

Key Contacts

Headteacher: Mrs N Sansom

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs N Gunthorpe

Assistant Headteacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo): Mrs N Metcalfe

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs N Sansom

Chair of Governors: Mrs S Beckley

Preparing Your Child for School

How can I help prepare my child for school?

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible, even if this means taking a little bit longer to get ready. Get them to practise: putting on their jumper/cardigan and taking it off independently; putting on their coat and fastening the zip; putting shoes on (trying to get the correct shoe on the correct foot).
- Help your child to learn how to peel fruit independently, for example: oranges, bananas etc. Practice eating a whole apple (not sliced).
- Encourage your child to hold a knife and a fork when eating their food and introduce them to cutting soft foods.
- Encourage your child to drink from an open cup and to carry a plate with food on it.
- Talk to your child about table manners and how to behave when in the dinner hall (only eating from their own plate, sitting on bottoms, trying new foods).
- Get your child used to a routine of an early bedtime and waking up at a reasonable time so you all have a stress free morning before school.
- Prepare your child to use the toilet independently. Are they confident to use the toilet and wipe on their own?
- Talk to your child and teach them about using public toilets - making sure they are fully dressed before leaving the cubicle, closing the cubicle door, the need for privacy and washing hands.

What can I do with my child before they start school?

- Engage your child in many different experiences: painting, drawing, cooking, constructing, jigsaws, counting etc.
- Let your child explore and play with pencils, felt tips, crayons, paints, play dough, scissors.
- Share stories, books and rhymes, reading daily to them.
- Count things and share objects out.
- Talk to your child all the time, let them understand and learn wonderful vocabulary.
- Name familiar things and discuss what they see around them.

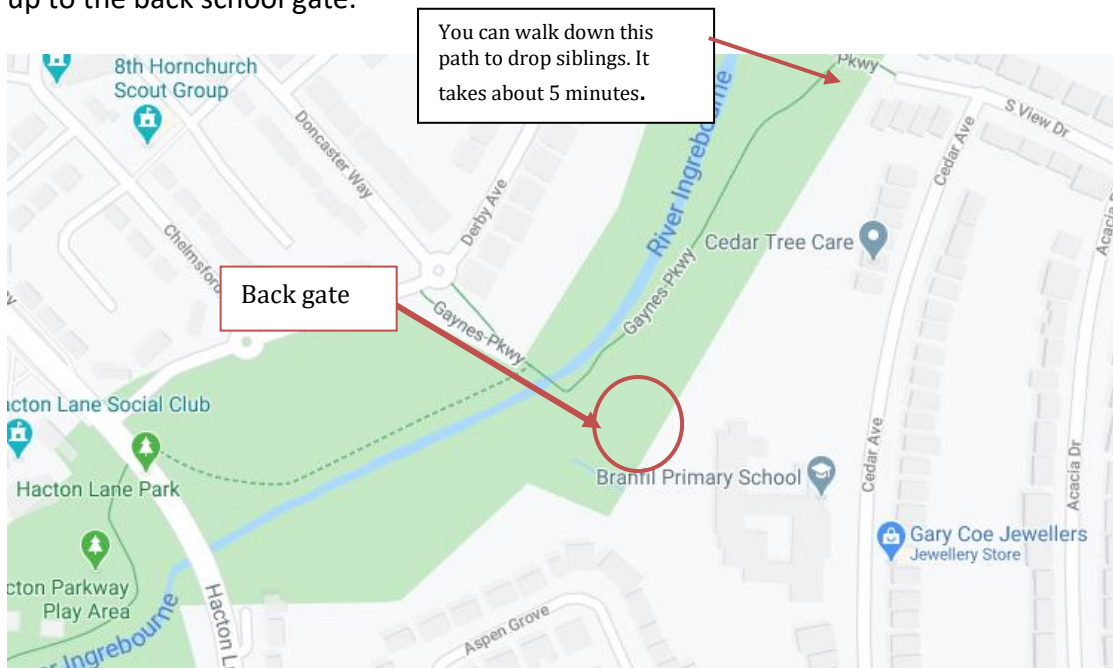
Important dates:

Friday, 26th May	Paperwork submission deadline
Monday, 19th June	2:00pm-3:00pm Parent/carer and child stay and play

Monday, 3rd July	2:00pm-3:00pm Child stay and play, parent/carer meeting
by Monday, 17th July	You will receive an email with child's groups and home visit appointment slot
6th/7th/8th/11th/12th September	Home visits You will be visited by your child's teacher at home. You can state preference of day/am or pm in your welcome pack.
Wednesday 13th September	Stay and play in your child's group: Group 1: 9.00am-10.00am Group 2: 2.00-3.00pm
Thursday 14th and Monday 18th September	Group 1 children 9:00am-2:45pm
Friday 15th and Tuesday 19th September	Group 2 children 9:00am-2:45pm
Wednesday 20th September	All children start full time 8:40am-3:05pm

Stay and play sessions and induction days

The Reception children will use the back entrance to the school from the 19th June until they start full time on 20th September; this can be accessed through the park. The nearest road is Derby Avenue. Parents/carers can park nearby and walk through the park, across the bridge and straight up to the back school gate.



Parking restrictions

Branfil is part of the School Street scheme so there are parking restrictions on Cedar Avenue, and some surrounding roads, between the hours of 8:00 - 9:30am and 2:00 - 3:30pm, making them pedestrian and cycle zones only.

Lunch Time, Milk and Fruit

Your child is entitled to free infant meals until the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2). The school dinner menus are available on the Havering Catering Services website. There will be a red, blue and green option; the green option is vegetarian/vegan and Friday is a meat free day. If your child finds decision making hard, please discuss with them the option they will be having before school.

If your child would like a packed lunch, this is to be brought into school in a container/lunch box, clearly marked with your child's name and class since they are stored on year group trolleys. Each child can bring in his/her own drink but no cans, glass bottles or fizzy drinks please. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies so no nuts, peanut butter, hazelnut chocolate spread or similar foods are allowed. We encourage you to support your child with healthy food choices therefore please send in a balanced lunch with a reasonable amount of food. Please see below for examples and do not send in sweets or large/multiple treats:

Sandwich/roll Piece of fruit One small snack sized treat (raisins, mini cake slice, small bag of crisps etc)	Breadsticks/crackers Cut up vegetables with dip Yoghurt/cheese snack
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Your child will be offered milk during lunch time at school each day. This will be available whether they are having packed lunch or a school dinner.

Every child is entitled to free fruit at school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. We have snacks available during the day for the children to have when they wish. The children need to bring in their own water bottle each day, which needs to be named and **only** have water in. The bottle can be refilled throughout the day if needed. The children will use these same bottles for their drink at lunch time.

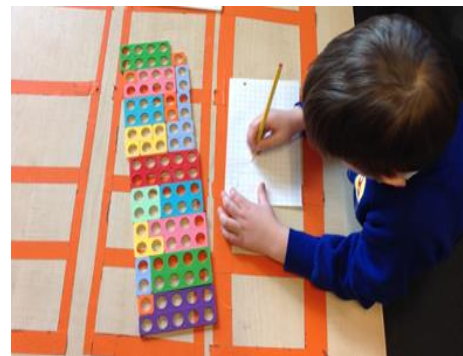
At Branfil, we encourage the children to try new fruits, vegetables and healthy snacks. As part of this we are asking parents/carers to provide a one off, voluntary contribution of £10 for the year. We will then work with a small group of children each week, helping them to budget for, plan and prepare a special healthy snack for the year group. They will go to the shops, buy their ingredients and make snacks for their peers. If you are able to help us in supporting this learning experience for our children, please place £10 in a named envelope and hand it to a member of staff during the stay and play session.

Learning in Reception

Reception is where the excitement begins! Our environment is developed to support all elements of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum as well as supporting the development of the

children's individual interests. We pride ourselves on being an engaging place to help our children become independent learners and learn through their own interests.

The children learn primarily through play and real-life experiences. Our teaching is delivered through a combination of interactions during child initiated learning, whole class phonics and maths sessions and small group guided learning sessions to teach children the skills they need to help scaffold and extend their learning. Their development is tracked through daily observations and child initiated interactions. This information is then transferred into their 'Special Folders', which contains examples of their independent work and focussed observations with parent and teacher input.



Our Setting

Our Early Years setting includes a shared inside and outside space, which both classes access throughout the day, as well as two separate teaching spaces where phonics and focus activities take place. The children have access to use our outdoor water play and the mud kitchen daily as well as use of climbing equipment during their lunch time. They can use our woodwork area and they also have the opportunity to take part in Forest School sessions throughout the year.

Uniform

In Reception, your child will have the opportunity to climb, play in mud, paint, build and more each and every day. Their uniform needs to allow for them to do this comfortably and safely.

Please see a separate information sheet with details of the uniform required.

Things to bring to school

Whilst in Reception, the children will have access to our outside area each and every day, come rain or shine! We have a very well used mud kitchen so the children can get mucky. Please supply your children with a pair of wellington boots and a raincoat/puddlesuit to be kept in school. In the winter months your child should have a hooded coat, but on those rainy days in spring, and when your child is in the mud kitchen or water play area, they will play in their raincoats. Both the raincoat/puddlesuit and the wellingtons need to be clearly named and easy for your child to identify.

Each child will need to have a Branfil bookbag which they should bring to school every day. This can be purchased for £5 (please place in a clearly named envelope) when you attend the stay and play sessions at Branfil. You will also need to show a copy of your child's birth certificate at the stay and play session.

During home visits, we will be happy to collect raincoats and wellingtons boots and store them at school ready for your child's first day.

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years to ensure your child is a happy, successful learner who develops a real love of learning.