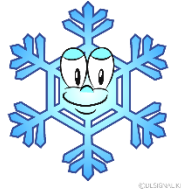


**Branfil Newsletter 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear parents and carers

With the cold weather this week, we have been reviewing our plans to deal with possible snow this winter. We will always aim to stay open if possible, however, we do have to undertake a risk assessment if we have snow to ensure that the site can open safely, including whether we have sufficient staff on site to supervise the children.



In the event that the school has to close, we will aim to communicate this decision to you as early as possible through the following means:

- SchoolComms email and text message
- Pop up notice on the school website
- OpenCheck:  
<https://opencheck.adept.education/default.aspx>
- Time 107.5 FM (radio station)

Please refer to these sources rather than ring the school.

If you have not received an email or text message, and there is no message on the website or OpenCheck, then we remain open.

Kind regards

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

**An Amazing Achievement**



After a long round of auditions, then months of rehearsals Rosy from 5 Aspen finally made her West End debut in the cast of Matilda in early September playing ‘Amanda Thripp’. This is a dream come true for her and she is loving every second of being part of such an amazing musical.

With over 5 shows a week, commuting into London every day is a lot of hard work, but I think her smile says it all in this picture.

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.



Our value this term is **ASPIRE**. In our learning community we aim high, and keep learning and developing.

**Internet Safety**

Children and young people are bound to spend lots more time on devices since Covid. **DON'T FEEL BAD** – lots will be schoolwork or healthy ways of catching up with friends or having fun. There are many ways to keep them safe, healthy and happy.

**Don't worry about screen time, aim for screen quality**  
Scrolling through social media isn't the same as making a film or story, or Skyping Grandma. Use the Children's Commissioner's 'Digital Five A Day' to plan or review each day together.

**Check the safety settings are turned on**  
Whether it's your home internet, mobile devices, consoles, apps or games, there are lots of settings to make them safer. The key ones are – can they chat to strangers, can they video chat or 'go live', are their posts public? **Internet Matters** has hundreds of guides to parental controls.

**Get your children to show you their apps and games**  
You don't need to know all about the latest app or game, but if your child shows you what they are doing and with whom, you'll probably see if it's appropriate or not. Remember 18 games are not more advanced – they are harmful to children! For parent guides to apps, including recommendations for Kidsafe apps and video platforms, search for **Common Sense Media** or **NSPCC's NetAware**. And why not download the **BBC Own It** app!

**Year 6 Design Technology**

Year 6 LOVED making scones in Design Technology.



Watch out Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood!

**Years 5 and 6 Road Safety Drama**

Year 5 and 6 have taken part in a drama-based workshop. They learnt about road safety, travelling independently near roads and the importance of improving local air quality.



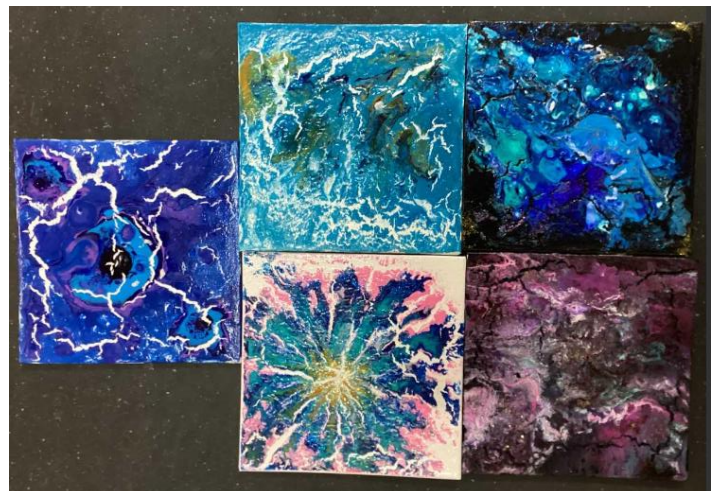
**December Values Art Competition winner**

December's Values Art competition was inspired by Picasso and challenged children to create a collage of something that they loved. Whilst there were many great entries, Saoirse in 1 Willow wins this month's prize with her bold and colourful turtle collage. Saoirse carefully thought about the colours she wanted to use for her collage and even used recycled materials, as well as making her turtle 3D! Amazing collage Saoirse, well done!



**Excellence in the Arts**

Our first Excellence in the Arts award winner for 2024 is Grace in 3 Hazel. She has used acrylic paints and a pouring technique to create these amazing pieces of art. Grace also gave her paintings some great titles such as 'Cosmic Storm' inspired by how her paintings turned out. Great art Grace!



This week's winner is Ruby-Rose in Acorns. Reception have been challenging themselves this week to get really creative with their model making and Ruby-Rose has made this wonderful octopus, who she has named Orangey! Ruby-Rose demonstrated patience and perseverance with her model, painting it one day and the coming back to complete it the next, she then thought about how she could make it even better by adding more details like a brain and smiley face. Well done Ruby-Rose!



### 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](mailto:acorns@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[conkers@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:conkers@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year1@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year2@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year3@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year3@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year4@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year4@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:year5@branfil.havering.sch.uk)  
[Year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk](mailto:Year6@branfil.havering.sch.uk)

### X / Twitter

Please follow us @BranfilPrimary to see life at Branfil.



### Happy Birthday!

Nonso, Jack, Jesica, Bleu, Isaac, Pearls, Remy, Jaxson, Tadhg, Louie, Rhylee, Rosy, Avianna, Lucie, Rupert, Jamie, Halle, Freddy, Betty, Bethany, Reggie, Max, Evie D and Evie P.



### Year 2 Online Reading Platform

Year 2 are currently trialling an online reading record platform to show all the fantastic reading that is occurring at home. Thank you to all the parents and carers in Year 2 who have accessed this so far. The children really enjoy uploading voice recordings, images and comments on the books that they are sharing at home.



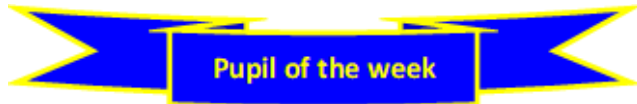
## Weekly Attendance Awards!

### 08.01.2024 – 12.12.2023

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



Conkers, 1 Willow, 3 Hazel, 3 Maple, 3 Oak, 4 Rowan, 5 Hawthorn, 6 Chestnut and 6 Hornbeam.



### 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Frankie - Acorns  
Alice – Conkers  
Ronnie - 1 Pine  
Henley - 1 Lime  
Ivy - 1 Willow  
Joshua - 2 Cedar  
Evelyn - 2 Beech  
George - 2 Holly  
Riley - 3 Hazel  
Max - 3 Oak  
Rhylee - 3 Maple  
Marni-Rae - 4 Birch  
Aidan - 4 Rowan  
Francesca - 4 Larch  
Jess- 5 Alder  
Vinnie - 5 Aspen  
Joe - 5 Hawthorn  
Kieron - 6 Hornbeam  
Mavis - 6 Acacia  
Logan - 6 Chestnut



## Weekly Attendance Awards!

### 15.01.2024 – 19.01.2024

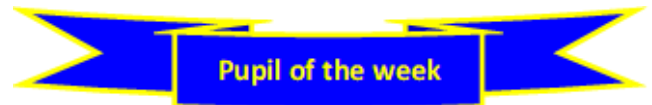
The following classes won the Attendance Superstar Certificate for excellent attendance of over 97%:



1 Willow, 3 Oak, 4 Rowan, 5 Hawthorn, 6 Acacia and 6 Chestnut.



A special 'well done' to 5 Hawthorn and 3 Oak for 100% attendance.



### 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Louis - Acorns  
Archie - Conkers  
Louie - 1 Pine  
Morgan - 1 Lime  
Isabelle - 1 Willow  
Ariana - 2 Cedar  
Olivia - 2 Beech  
Sylvia - 2 Holly  
Laura - 3 Hazel  
Courtney - 3 Oak  
Meharwan - 3 Maple  
Ginevra - 4 Birch  
Tilly - 4 Rowan  
Willow - 4 Larch  
Lily-May - 5 Alder  
Eva - 5 Aspen  
Aleksandr - 5 Hawthorn  
Rose - 6 Hornbeam  
Henry - 6 Acacia  
Freddie - 6 Chestnut



Tuesdays, 23 <sup>rd</sup> , and 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 6 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024	Year 1 Library Club 3:30 – 4:00pm
Thursdays, 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024	Year 1 Library Club 3:30 – 4:00pm
Wednesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Year 3 visit to Colchester Castle
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Reception Skipping Workshop
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Online Safety Day Parent/carer virtual workshop with The 2 Johns 8.00-9.30pm
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School nurse drop-in 3-4pm (call the office to book a slot)
Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Year 2 visit to Upminster Park
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Year 1-6 Book Look for parents/carers 3.15-4.00pm
Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	All About Your Child Meetings
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024	February Half Term
Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Year 5 Greek Day
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Year 2 visit to Call of the Wild
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Red Nose Day
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Year 5 and 6 - Young Shakespeare Theatre Group
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Easter Break
Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Year 6 SATs week
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Year 6 Residential to Gilwell Park Activity Centre
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday, 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	Spring Half Term
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 5 visit to Nuclear Races
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Reception visit to Barleylands
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Break up for the summer break

**Inset days for 2024-25**

Mon 2nd and Tues 3rd Sept 2024

Mon 6th Jan 2025

Mon 21st & Tues 22nd July 2025