

Community Newsletter

12th January 2024

Dear parents and carers

Welcome to our fortnightly community newsletter. You will receive the usual fortnightly newsletter



with all the school news next week. This one will focus mainly on any additional news in the community that may interest you. Following parental feedback, I hope that these new arrangements will make all of the useful information that we provide easier to digest!

Please see the first 'article' about the National drive to improve school attendance. The average school attendance for primary schools in Havering is 94% - slightly higher than the national average of 93.7%. At Branfil our attendance is currently 95.4%, however, this includes 14 pupils with attendance under 75% and it is still not as high as our target.

In addition we are trying to tackle lateness. Any lateness over 30 minutes has to be recorded as a U on the school register, which is an unauthorised absence. Every minute lost means the children are losing out on learning, and this can have a major impact longer-term: *"Being just five minutes late each day adds up to three lost school days [over a year]; being 15 minutes late is the equivalent to 10 lost days."*

Attendance Matters



Please help us by ensuring your child attends school unless they are too unwell to do so, and arrives on time each day.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Major National Drive to Improve School Attendance

There is a national drive to improve school attendance. The campaign strapline is **"moments matter, attendance counts"**. Messaging for the communications have been developed from research into parental attitudes, as well as two local authority pilots at the end of 2023. Campaign messages aim to primarily reach those parents and carers whose children are taking preventable odd days of absence – or "avoidable absence" – rather than children who face greater barriers to attendance, such as those with long term medical needs or special educational needs and disabilities.

The campaign seeks to **influence parents and carers' views** on the importance of school attendance. They aim to reassure parents that the NHS and Chief Medical Officer say it is appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.

For more information, please follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-national-drive-to-improve-school-attendance>

Information, resources support for your families



SEN and disability: Children and parents have a range of rights regarding SEN and disability. The charities Independent Provider for Special Education Advice (IPSEA) and the Disability Law Service advise families to their legal rights in this area.

- <https://www.gov.uk/courts-tribunals/first-tier-tribunal-special-educational-needs-and-disability>
- <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/>
- <https://dls.org.uk/>
- <https://www.haveringsendiass.co.uk/>

Havering Schools and Education News

Please follow the following link for various school and education news from Havering Council.

https://www.havering.gov.uk/news/2006/schools_and_education



Warm Coats Initiative Havering Libraries

All Havering libraries have introduced a Warm Coats Initiative this winter. They have adults and children's coats that anyone can pick up for free, no questions asked. They have a coat rail in each library where people can come in, try on and take home. Last year it was trialled at Rainham Library and 70 coats were given out in total.



If anyone has any donations of good quality, warm, clean and undamaged coats that these will be very welcome, just please ring up your local library before dropping off as we are unsure of how many donations they will be getting.

Poster attached further on in the newsletter for more details.

Forest School volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help support us during our Forest School sessions. The support of volunteers from our school community is vital in helping us to provide this great experience for the children at Branfil. Volunteers can include parents, carers and extended family members. Please note

that all volunteers will be required to have an up to date DBS check, which can be arranged via the school office if needed.



Responsibilities for volunteers at Forest School include helping to get resources ready for the session, supporting children with activities and helping to pack away at the end. The sessions are lots of fun and it is a great opportunity to spend some time in the great outdoors, it is worth noting that Forest School goes ahead whatever the weather!



We are looking for volunteers to support us with the following sessions:

- Tuesday afternoons from 1pm-3pm
- Wednesday mornings from 9:30am-11:30am
- Wednesday afternoons from 1pm-3pm

If you or a family member would like to volunteer please email Mrs Ferguson at forestschool@branfil.havering.sch.uk and let us know if you have a current DBS check or if you would like details about how to obtain one.

School Nurse Drop In Session

The school nurse will be doing another drop in session for parents. This will take place on Monday 5th February at 3pm - 4pm.

School Nurse



If parents/carers wish to make an appointment to discuss any health concerns they may have with their children, please call the Office to book a slot, on a first come first served basis.

Poster attached further on in the newsletter for more details.



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



Warm Coats Initiative

WE HAVE WARM WINTER COATS AVAILABLE FOR FREE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN AT ALL OF OUR HAVERING LIBRARIES SO COME ALONG AND PICK UP ONE FOR YOURSELF.

KEEP IN MIND WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF MORE SO IF YOU HAVE WARM, GOOD QUALITY COATS TO DONATE PLEASE RING UP YOUR NEAREST LIBRARY BEFORE DROPPING OFF.



/HavLib



@HaveringLibrary

www.havering.gov.uk/libraries



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

School Nurse Drop-In's

SCHOOL NURSE: Kathryn Price

HELLO, MY NAME IS KATHRYN. I AM YOUR SCHOOL NURSE.

I WILL BE HOLDING REGULAR DROP-IN SESSION IN **BRANFILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**.

SESSIONS ARE FOR PARENTS/CARERS TO DISCUSS ANY HEALTH CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR CHILD SUCH AS:

- HEALTHY EATING
- REVIEW CARE PLANS
- SLEEP AND BEHAVIOUR
- ILLNESSES
- TOILETING
- EMOTIONAL WELLBEING



Tel: 0300 300 1635



Email: Kathryn.price@nelft.nhs.uk



NELFT Havering 0-19 Children's Services



www.nelft.nhs.uk



NHS Foundation Trust

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:/...../..... MF

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	SILVER £56 per month <input type="checkbox"/>	GOLD £89.50 per month <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single ensemble £16.50 per month
Not available at Centre			<input type="checkbox"/> 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

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