

Branfil Newsletter 2nd February 2024

Dear parents and carers

With children spending 20% of their time in school playing outside, our engagement with the OPAL programme (outdoor play and learning) has maximised children’s learning each day (for more information about OPAL please see our website: <https://branfil.com/curriculum-and-learning/opal/>).

Children now have access to a wide variety of activities throughout their lunch time including: sand pit, wet play, mud kitchen/messy café, woodland area, tyres and crates, scooters, music and role play, small world, creative activities, den building, ball games, climbing wall, log frame, reading area. Children speak very positively about their experiences at lunch times and we have fewer behaviour incidents as a result of their engagement in play which suits their needs.



In order to continue to expand our offer, and maintain what we already have, we really need your help please.



Loose parts are resources that children can move from one area to another and use in creative ways to facilitate different kinds of play, or any material that a child can manipulate for playful purposes. We aim to have 4 for every child! These inevitably get worn out or broken over time so we need a constant supply.

The flyer above can be accessed at the bottom of this newsletter or through this link - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IR4nhVpd0PahNNVDtDiiFdxMXVKEKUn/view?usp=sharing>. This has some information about loose parts needed, with a focus on the upcycled rather than the natural ones presently.

Please see if you have any of these items at home. Alternatively, if you know anyone who has a business

that may be able to help us, please let us know so we can send them a letter.

Any loose parts can be delivered to the office; alternatively, if you have multiple large items, please contact the office to arrange a suitable drop off point and time.



Thank you in advance for your support with providing items to support your child’s play. We hope that you will be able to join us for a session later this term to see the children thoroughly enjoying our OPAL provision.

Kind regards

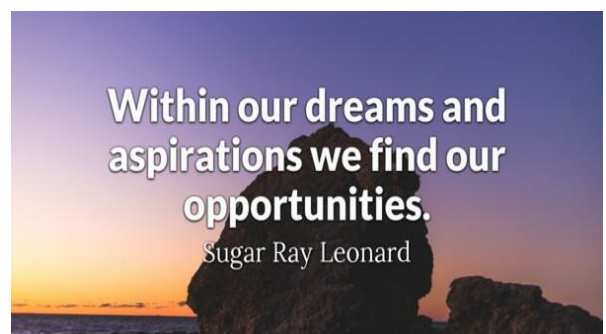
Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

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.

Children's Mental Health Week 2024



Children's Mental Health Week 2024 will take place from 5–11 February 2024. This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'.

My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. During Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, wherever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters".

The wellbeing committee have organised a selection of activities for all classes to take part in during the week that will support the children's wellbeing.



If you feel that you need help supporting your child with their mental health, there are some helpful resources on the following websites:

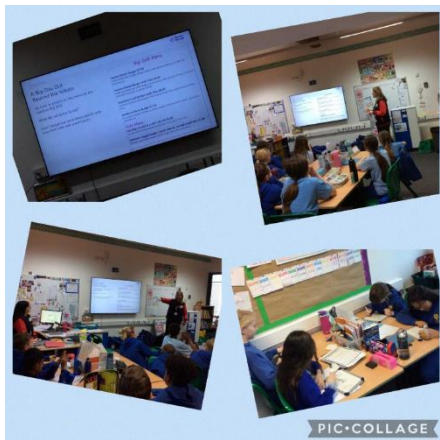
<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/childrens-mental-health-week/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/information-for-parents/>

Year 6 – HSBC Workshop

Year 6 enjoyed a workshop from HSBC. The session explored how easy it can be to get 'carried away' spending money through not considering all the added extras involved in a day out. The children had the opportunity to plan a day out to see their team play and look at what choices they could make to keep in budget.



Young Voices at the O2 Arena

The choir joined thousands of school children to form a choir of 7985 on Friday 19th January at the O2! They did an amazing job singing a range of different songs, performing alongside incredible artists, such as; MC Grammar, Nandi Bushell, Natalie Williams and the incredible Urban Strides. The whole day was a delight and the children represented Branfil brilliantly. We are already looking forward to next year's concert.



Year 3 Trip to Colchester Castle

Year 3 had a fantastic day at Colchester Castle and really added to their knowledge and understanding of the Roman invasion.



Year 6 Tag Rugby

Well done to the nine year 6 children who represented Branfil at the Havering Tag Rugby competition on Thursday. Battling muddy pitches and cold weather, they showed great determination, team work, sportsmanship and progress. Although not securing a win, they proved to be worthy opponents in all four games. Well done to Jude, Ben, Noah, Bailey, Mila, Lois, Mylee and Rebekah with a special mention to our 3-time try scorer, Blake!



Excellence in the Arts



Last week's Excellence in the Arts winner was Billy B for his very impressive card sculpture of a Mayan temple, inspired by Year 6's current history

topic. Billy's careful attention to detail has enabled him to make a fantastic representation of one of the world's ancient wonders, well done Billy!

This week's winner is Ava in 4 Rowan. Ava has been inspired by nature to create this bold and vibrant painting of tulips. Instead of using a paintbrush to paint the flowers she has used a fork, which has been very effective! Well done Ava, this wonderful painting can help us all look forward to Spring!



Fines for lost phonics books

We have recently purchased a large amount of Book Bag Books to help your children practice their reading skills at home. These books are fully decodable and match your child's phonics book. Sadly, some of these books have already started to go missing. To help us replace books when they go missing and enable all children to receive a book to take home, we will now be issuing fines. It will be £1:50 for the paper phonics book and £3.50 for the Book Bag Book.

We thank you for your support and understanding.

Mrs Robinson (Phonics Leader)

Patron of Reading Update

We are so grateful that we have opportunities for our children to work with authors and we have been incredibly fortunate to have had Chrissie Sains as our Patron of Reading at Branfil over the last few years. However, as Chrissie is continually producing more fantastic quality texts, and becoming better known as an author, she is finding it harder to visit us and we want to make sure that the children are benefiting from regularly seeing an author face to face. With this in mind, we are lucky to be able to welcome Naomi Joslyn as our new Patron of Reading. Naomi will be working alongside the reading ambassadors, hosting workshops and sharing her books with the children too – we are very excited about getting to know Naomi better [see Naomi's newsletter attached at the end].



We would like to thank Chrissie for all her hard work and time at Branfil throughout the years. She has successfully motivated and inspired our pupils as readers and writers, leaving a real legacy at Branfil. We will look forward to working with Chrissie for the last time on World Book Day, later this term.

Book Look (Y1-6)

We hope you can join us on Thursday 8th February between 3.15-4.00pm to look at your child's work with them, prior to the All About Your Child meetings. Please collect your child after school as usual then enter the school at the front of the building, through the hall, to go to your child's class.

Internet Safety



Knickers



We keep spare clothing in school in case any child has an 'accident'. We have lots of boy's pants but we are in need of girl's knickers please. If you have any spare knickers in excellent condition then please send them in to the office.

Remember that if your child does come home from school in a different set of clothes, the items need to be returned to school washed and ironed. Thank you.

X / Twitter

Please follow us @BranfilPrimary to see life at Branfil.



Polite reminder



The school car parks are for staff and visitors use only and **should not** be used by parents/carers. Please do not use the staff car parks to drop off or pick up your child(ren).

The safety of our pupils is paramount and this puts them at risk.

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

Happy Birthday!

Delilah, Stanley, George, Amy, Miles, Teddy, River, Skye, Sid, Lacey, Bailey, Joe, Blake, Isla, Lenny S, Lenny T, Lyla, Reid, Savannah, Owen, Katie-Scarlett, Thea, Aleksandra, Harry and Maisy.



Inset days for 2024-25

Mon 2nd and Tues 3rd Sept 2024
Mon 6th Jan 2025
Mon 21st & Tues 22nd July 2025

Weekly Attendance Awards!

Weekly Attendance Awards!

22.01.2024 – 26.01.2024

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



1 Pine, 2 Beech, 3 Hazel, 3 Maple, 4 Larch and 4 Rowan.



A special 'well done' to 2 Beech for 100% attendance.

29.01.2024 – 02.02.2024

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



Acorns, 1 Lime, 1 Willow, 2 Beech, 3 Maple, 4 Larch, 5 Aspen, 5 Hawthorn and 6 Hornbeam.



A special 'well done' to 1 Willow for 100% attendance.

Pupil of the week

Pupil of the week

26th January 2024

Cruz - Acorns
Belle - Conkers
Jahan - 1 Pine
Hendrix- 1 Lime
Tierney-Mae- 1 Willow
Donnie - 2 Cedar
Tadhg - 2 Beech
Lacey- 2 Holly
Jacob - 3 Hazel
Stanley - 3 Oak
Cooper - 3 Maple
Willow - 4 Birch
Rishi - 4 Rowan
Albert- 4 Larch
Olivia- 5 Alder
Deano - 5 Aspen
Elizabeth - 5 Hawthorn
Lyla- 6 Hornbeam
Ben W- 6 Acacia
Ben M - 6 Chestnut



2nd February 2024

Edouard - Acorns
Elsa- Conkers
Ranveer - 1 Pine
Antonio - 1 Lime
Ava - 1 Willow
Harper - 2 Cedar
Poppy - 2 Beech
Kaiden - 2 Holly
Bleu - 3 Hazel
Ivy - 3 Oak
Alfred - 3 Maple
Jack - 4 Birch
Teddy - 4 Rowan
Natalia - 4 Larch
Raffe- 5 Alder
Amelia-Rose - 5 Aspen
Joshua - 5 Hawthorn
Maksim - 6 Hornbeam
Ava-Rose - 6 Acacia
Joshua - 6 Chestnut



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
5 th -11 th February 2024	Mental Health Week
Monday, 5 th February 2024	Reception Skipping Workshop
Monday, 5 th February 2024	Online Safety Day Parent/carer virtual workshop with The 2 Johns 8.00-9.30pm
Monday, 5 th February 2024	School nurse drop-in 3-4pm (call the office to book a slot)
Tuesday, 6 th February 2024	Year 2 visit to Upminster Park
Wednesday, 7 th February 2024	1 Willow Visit to Ingatestone Hall
Thursday, 8 th February 2024	Year 1-6 Book Look for parents/carers 3.15-4.00pm
Monday, 12 th February 2024	All About Your Child Meetings 3:40 – 6:00pm
Wednesday, 14 th February 2024	1 Pine and 1 Lime visit to Ingatestone Hall
Thursday, 15 th February 2024	Book Sale in main hall
Monday, 19 th February – Friday, 23 rd February 2024	February Half Term
Wednesday, 28 th February 2024	All About Your Child Meetings 3:40 – 6:00pm
Thursday, 29 th February 2024	Year 5 Ancient Green Show by the Freshwater Theatre Company
Thursday, 7 th March 2024	World Book Day – Chrissie Sains in school
Friday, 8 th March 2024	Friends of Branfil –Mother’s Day Sale
11 th -15 th March 2024	Science Week
Friday, 15 th March 2024	Year 2 visit to Call of the Wild
Friday, 15 th March 2024	Red Nose Day
Thursday, 21 st March 2024	Year 5 and 6 - Young Shakespeare Theatre Group – A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Friday, 22 nd March 2024	5 Alder to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Tuesday, 26 th March 2024	5 Hawthorn to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Monday, 25 th March 2024	Friends of Branfil – Easter Egg Roll Games
Thursday, 28 th March 2024	5 Aspen to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Friday, 29 th March – Friday, 12 th April 2024	Easter Break
Monday, 13 th May – Thursday, 16 th May 2024	Year 6 SATs week
Monday, 20 th May – Friday, 24 th May 2024	Year 6 Residential to Gilwell Park Activity Centre
Monday, 27 th May – Friday, 31 st May 2024	Spring Half Term
Tuesday, 18 th June 2024	Year 5 visit to Nuclear Races
Thursday, 20 th June 2024	Reception visit to Barleylands
Saturday, 6 th July 2024	Friend of Branfil Summer Fair
Tuesday, 23 rd July 2023	Year 6 Leavers Disco
Wednesday, 24 th July 2024	Break up for the summer break



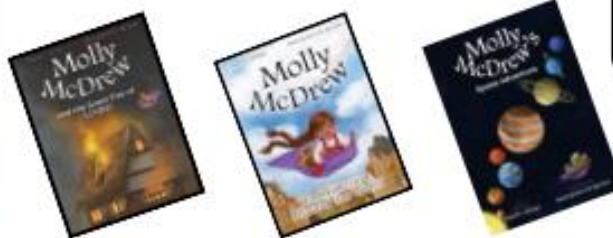
Patron of Reading Newsletter 1



Hi Branfil! I am Naomi Joslyn and delighted to be your Patron of Reading.



It was great to meet so many of you when I came to school to tell you about the Molly McDrew series written for children aged 4-8. I look forward to meeting with the Reading Ambassadors and coming into school to run some workshops.



World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. The Reading Ambassadors are planning ways to raise funds for an outdoor reading shed. What an exciting project and a great place to read. I Can't wait to see it!



Reading Challenges

- Read a book that makes you laugh.
- Share a book with a brother, sister or friend.
- Read your friend's favourite book.
- Read a book by an author with the same first name as you.
- Read a book that was published in 2023.

Book Recommendations KS2

Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



If you have a book you'd like to recommend, let me know and I can add it onto the next newsletter.

www.dotters.co.uk naomi@dotters.co.uk

What are **LOOSE PARTS?**

Loose parts are items that can be used to facilitate different kinds of play, or any material that a child can manipulate for playful purposes.

Natural Loose Parts



Acorns



Grass



Leaves



Logs



Pine Cones



Rain & Water



Sand



Snow



Soil



Sticks



Stones



Wild Flowers



Wood Cookies

Upcycled Loose Parts



Baking Pans



Cake Moulds



Ice Cube Trays



Kitchen Tools



Measuring Spoons



Pots & Pans



Strainers



Baskets



Cable Spools



Cardboard Items



Cones



Containers



Corrugated Pipes



Dress-Up Items



Fabric



Funnels



Milk Crates



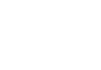
Nets



Old Electronics



Pool Noodles



PVC Pipes



Rolling Carriers



Ropes



Shovels & Spades



Sinks & Tubs



Tarps



Tires & Wheels



Wooden Planks





Friends of Branfil news: January 2024

Your newsletter about our PTA!

Website: <http://friends.branfil.com>

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

Highlights:

Year 6 Leaver hoodies are available to request now.

Please fill in the form here by Monday 19th February:

<https://forms.gle/AuNMKMd3YIbGU73f9>

We need Year 6 Class Reps to help with contacting parents with any queries/issues with the hoodies.

Can you please email friends@branfil.com if you can help out and we will ask if you can kindly add us to the WhatsApp class group

Thanks to all your donations, we are purchasing these for the children to play during all lunch/playtimes to improve on OPAL learning. See Photos below:

Upcoming Events

Year 6 leavers hoodies - Requests due by Monday 19th February

Penny Wars - TBC

Mothers Day Sale - Friday 8th March

Easter Egg Roll Games - Wednesday 27th March

Year 6 leavers Disco - Tuesday 23rd July

Summer Fair - TBC

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.



New OPAL learning toys funded by YOU!

