

Branfil Newsletter 22nd March 2024

Dear parents and carers

When issues are raised in the wrong way, it can cause upset for all involved so I would like to remind you of the correct procedure to follow.

Please bring any matter of concern to the immediate attention of your child's class teacher, either in person at the end of the day as you pick your child up or through the year group email. All staff want to resolve any issues immediately so your child looks forward to being in school – please give them the chance to do that. Sharing negative issues on social media does not help your child and often makes a situation worse.

If you still do not feel that your concern has been resolved, the next step is to speak to your child's Year Leader – again, please make contact on the playground or through the year group email. Urgent issues can of course be raised by telephone alternatively.

Any issue that needs further support to resolve will be passed to a member of the leadership team and contact will be made, usually by telephone initially, often followed up by a meeting in person.

In the unlikely event that a resolution has not been found by this point, then we have a comprehensive Complaints Policy (available on the website), explaining what to do next.

Thank you in advance for your support in working in partnership for the benefit of your child.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

Staff Update



Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Cullender on the birth of Archie Frederick Craig Cullender. Archie arrived on Saturday, 9th March weighing 8lb 6oz.

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 **RESPECT**.

In our learning community we respect ourselves, each other and the environment.

Maths Competition (TTRS) for Years 1 - 6

Which house will score the most points?

Good luck everyone! 🎸



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

09:00 25TH MARCH 2024 - 15:15 12TH APRIL 2024

* ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE *
PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE * THE WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PUPIL * ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR FULL DETAILS AND RULES *

- House Competition.
- Which house will score the most points?
- The top three pupils from each class will score points for their house.
- First place = 3 points
Second place = 2 points
Third place = 1 point

Results will be announced after the Easter Holiday.

Reception - 100th Day of School Celebration



Reception had a wonderful time celebrating our 100th day of school. We had lots of activities to complete and prizes to be won. We even played party games and had cake!



Year 1 Multi Sports Festival

The Year 1 children had a great time at Upminster Infant school on Thursday 13th March. Along with two other schools they refined their sports skills through five different activities, each focusing on a different skill. All of the children gave 100% effort to each activity and had great fun in doing so too!



Infant Music Festival

Year 1 visited Hacton Primary School to sing in the Infant Music Festival that was attended by the Mayoress. The theme this year was 'All About Me' and the children sang beautifully. They were absolute stars and performed brilliantly. Well done year 1!



Year 6 Making Choices Workshop

Year 6 enjoyed taking part in a 'Making Choices' workshop. There were some drama activities involving decision making and the children even had fun dancing to different styles of music.



Choir sings at Little Gaynes Rest Home

The choir performed some songs at Little Gaynes Rest Home last week. All the residents and staff loved hearing the children sing and they sounded amazing. They learnt all of the songs by heart and represented Branfil incredibly well. They've already booked us in for another visit before Christmas. Well done choir.



Shakespeare Theatre Company Visit

We were so lucky to have the Young Shakespeare Theatre Company visit us this week to perform A Midsummer Night's Dream. Year 5 got to act along with the professionals as they were immersed in the Shakespearean comedy.



Year 6 also enjoyed their performance. What a fantastic and fun afternoon! A very enthusiastic start to our Shakespeare unit.



Science Week

Children had great fun with Science Week and all classes took part in Mrs Lemon's STEM Challenge. There were quite a few paper aeroplanes flying around!



February Values Art Competition

February's Values Art Competition was all about celebrating Chinese and Lunar New Year. The challenge was to create a dragon to celebrate the start of the Year of the Dragon. The Arts Committee were really impressed with all of the entries and the amount of detail that had gone into the designs. They have voted, and the winner for February is Meliha in 3 Hazel.

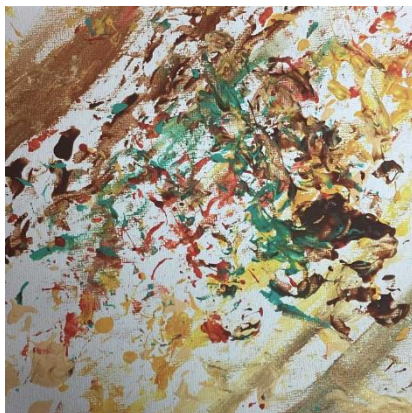
The Arts Committee thought Meliha had put a huge amount of effort into creating her colourful dragon and the other elements of her picture, which really make it feel like a celebration. Well done Meliha!



Please check Google Classroom for details of this month's competition.

Excellence in the Arts

This week's Excellence in the Arts award goes to Delilah in 2 Cedar. She has made this fantastic canvas at home and she used a range of household items to create her different marks. When asked about her choice of colours, Delilah said her choices were inspired by Forest School. Great creativity Delilah!



Year 1 Sportshall Athletics

This week we attended the Year 1 sports hall athletics competition. It was a fantastic event where the children rotated around seven different activities, using their skills to score as many points as possible. The children were a joy to take along and were cheering each other the whole way through. Even though they didn't win the competition, the children all loved taking part and representing Branfil.



St Patrick's Day Festival - Sunday 17th March

Willow from 4 Birch and River from 2 Beech performed at the Mayor's St Patrick's Day festival in Trafalgar Square. 13,000 people attended the festival. Willow and River performed Irish dance and a piece from River Dance. It was a huge achievement and an amazing opportunity for them.



sQuid Accounts

As it is the end of the financial year, we ask that all parents/carers log into your sQuid account and pay any balance due. Thank you.

Penny Wars



Just a reminder that the Penny War is in progress. Please see the leaflet further on in the newsletter. There are collection boxes for every House to add money to. The House with the most points at the end of the two weeks will win extra playtime for every year group in the winning house.

Red Nose Day



We celebrated Red Nose Day last week and raised £227.35. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great cause.

Reminder to parents and carers

Please remember to bring things like water bottles, lunches, PE kit etc. when you drop your child off in the morning. We are finding an increase in the number of items being dropped off at the school office. While we will always attempt to get belongings to the pupils as quickly as possible, the busy nature of the school office sometimes prevents this.



Dogs - reminder

No dogs are allowed on the school site.

Please do not leave your dog unattended while you collect your child from school - some children are frightened of dogs and it can cause distress for them. Also, while your dog is left unattended, children may approach and you are responsible for how your dog reacts.



Please do not stand with your dog near the school gate. This can cause congestion and some children have allergic reactions when near dogs.

SchoolComms Payments

Please remember to check your SchoolComms account regularly for any contribution requests for school trips.



X / Twitter

Please follow us @BranfilPrimary to see life at Branfil.



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!

Rosie, Archie, Eva, Lexie, Jake, Nicole and Benjamin.



Weekly Attendance Awards!

11.03.2024 – 15.03.2024

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



Acorns, 1 Lime, 1 Lime, 1 Willow, 2 Holly, 3 Hazel, 4 Larch, 4 Rowan and 6 Hornbeam.

Pupil of the week

15th March 2024

Poppy - Acorns
Daisy - Conkers
Liam - 1 Pine
Fred - 1 Lime
Joe - 1 Willow
Sam - 2 Cedar
Rola - 2 Beech
Summer - 2 Holly
Zachary - 3 Hazel
Max - 3 Oak
Erin - 3 Maple
William - 4 Birch
Mehtar - 4 Rowan
Hunter - 4 Larch
Niamh - 5 Alder
Damon - 5 Aspen
Jadyn - 5 Hawthorn
Ben - 6 Hornbeam
Albert - 6 Acacia
Aria - 6 Chestnut



Weekly Attendance Awards!

18.03.2024 – 22.03.2024

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



2 Holly, 3 Hazel, 4 Larch, 5 Aspen and 6 Hornbeam.

Pupil of the week

22nd March 2024

Margo - Acorns
Harry - Conkers
Addison - 1 Pine
George - 1 Willow
All of 2 Cedar
Hudson - 2 Beech
Thea - 2 Holly
Sienna - 3 Hazel
Alissa - 3 Oak
Sonny - 3 Maple
Poppy - 4 Birch
Joshua - 4 Rowan
Kyla - 4 Larch
Ruby - 5 Alder
Lucie - 5 Aspen
Nicole - 5 Hawthorn
Elise - 6 Hornbeam
Billy - 6 Acacia
Louie - 6 Chestnut



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 25 th March 2024	Friends of Branfil – Easter Egg Roll Games
Tuesday, 26 th March 2024	Lead Learner assembly for R & KS1 (by invitation only)
Tuesday, 26 th March 2024	5 Hawthorn to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Wednesday, 27 th March 2024	Lead Learner assembly for KS2 (by invitation only)
Thursday, 28 th March 2024	5 Aspen to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Thursday, 28 th March 2024	Scoofit for years 1 and 2
Friday, 29 th March – Friday, 12 th April 2024	Easter Break
Tuesday, 16 th April 2024	OPAL Parent/Carer Event for years 1 and 4
Wednesday, 17 th April 2024	OPAL Parent/Carer Event for years 3 and 6
Thursday, 18 th April 2023	OPAL Parent/Carer Event for years 2 and 5
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
Tuesday, 2 nd July 2024	Sports Day for years 5 and 6 - 9:30-11:00am
Tuesday, 2 nd July 2024	Sports Day for years 1 and 2 - 1:00-2:30pm
Wednesday, 3 rd July 2024	Sports Day for Reception 9:30-10:30am
Wednesday, 3 rd July 2024	Sports Day for years 3 and 4 - 1:30 -3:00pm
Monday, 8 th July 2024	Acorns Parent/Carer Assembly 2:30-3:00pm
Monday, 15 th July 2024	Conkers Parent/Carer Assembly 2:30-3:00pm
Tuesday, 23 rd July 2023	Year 6 Leavers Disco
Wednesday, 24 th 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



Patron of Reading Newsletter 2



- Reading Challenges
- Read a poem.
 - Share a book about the Easter story.
 - Read a book with a baby animal in it.
 - Find and read a book set in another country.
 - Read a book that was published before you were born.

Easter Edition



Follow this link to find lots of Easter egg designs to decorate.
<https://www.printabulls.com/coloring-pages/easter-coloring-pages/easter-egg-templates-and-coloring-pages/>

Imagine the egg hatches into an incredible creature. What might it look like?



Hi Branfil! I hope you have had a great term. I'm really looking forward to meeting with the reading ambassadors soon and will be coming into school in the summer term. Here are some Easter activities and book recommendations for you.

Naomi Joslyn

Easter Stories



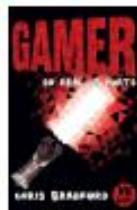
Book Recommendations KS1



Book Recommendations Age 6-9



Book Recommendations Age 9-11



Spring

The wind told the grass.
And the grass told the trees.

The trees told the bushes.
And the bushes told the bees.

The bees told the rain.
And the robin sang out clear.

“Wake up
Wake up

Spring is here!”

—Anonymous



Internet Safety

All National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and teachers with the skills and information they need to help to informed conversations about online safety with their children. Please don't be misled! This guide focuses on our most at-risk children and adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guidance, advice and tips for adults.

ONLINE CONTENT

10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.

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1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.
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2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.
- 

3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age-limit.
- 

4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.
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5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.
- 

6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know you're there to support and advise as well as to help if they need it.
- 

7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.
- 

8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.
- 

9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.
- 

10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @nationalonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @NationalOnlineSafety

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1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - WE DECLARE A **PENNY WAR!**



WHEN: 5th - 16th June

WHERE: Collection Boxes for every House,
near school office opposite the stairs



HOW TO PLAY:

Each house has their own collection box to add money into.

ADD POINTS to your house box by adding
1p, 2p, £1 and £2 coins into this box to win
points.



SUBTRACT POINTS from other houses by adding
5p, 10p, 20p and 50p coins to their boxes to
lose points.



The house with the most points at the end of the
2 weeks,

**WINS EXTRA PLAYTIME FOR EVERY
YEAR GROUP IN THE WINNING
HOUSE!**

POINT SYSTEM:



ADD POINTS	SUBTRACT POINTS
1p = 1 POINT	5p = 5 POINTS
2p = 2 POINTS	10p = 10 POINTS
£1 = 50 POINTS	20p = 20 POINTS
£2 = 60 POINTS	50p = 50 POINTS

