

Branfil Newsletter 28th March 2024

Dear parents and carers

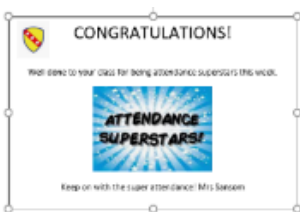
It has been a short but intense half term where everything that normally fits into a six week half term has been squeezed into four weeks and four days – with Ofsted as an extra, just to top it all off! I would like to thank the staff team who continue to smile and do their very best for all of our pupils, despite this additional pressure. I am sure they are looking forward to a break now, and I hope you are too. I wish you all a lovely Easter holiday; I hope you are able to spend some quality time with family and friends.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher



We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 15th April at 8.35am

Spring Term Attendance Winners



Each week, all classes who achieve at least 97% attendance receive a 'certificard', which is displayed on the classroom door; at the end of each term, the class with the most certificards are awarded with extra outdoor play time.

Well done to 5 Hawthorn who have won a certificard 7 times over the Spring term (2 of which were for 100%).

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.

Cumulative House Points for Spring Term



Tylers – 444 points



Pages – 426 points



Belhus – 407 points



Cely – 426 points

Congratulations to Tylers!

Lead Learners for Spring Term

One Lead Learner from each class, nominated by their teacher, was awarded a certificate and badge in our special Lead Learner assemblies. A big "well done" and congratulations go to:

<u>KS1</u>	<u>KS2</u>
Remy - Acorns	Essie - 3 Hazel
Amelie - Conkers	Freddie - 3 Maple
Louie - 1 Lime	William- 3 Oak
Eddie - 1 Pine	Rosie - 4 Birch
Oliver - 1 Willow	Blake - 4 Larch
Rola - 2 Beech	Ernest - 4 Rowan
Ava - 2 Cedar	Eva - 5 Aspen
Dulcie-Mae - 2 Holly	Reid - 5 Hawthorn
	Amelia - 5 Alder
	Henry - 6 Acacia
	Logan - 6 Chestnut
	Kayden - 6 Hornbeam

Year 5 visits to Gurdwara

Over the past week Year 5 have had the pleasure of visiting Barking Gurdwara to learn about Sikhism. We got to see the 5Ks, observe people praying and even have a special reading from the Guru Granth Sahib.



Year 1 Food and Nutrition Project

In Year 1 this week for our DT 'Food and Nutrition' project, we have been designing and making a healthy fruit kebab. We tasted familiar and unfamiliar fruits as well as learning how to handle and work with knives safely in a cooking environment. Some of us thought it was the best day ever tasting our yummy healthy treats!



Excellence in the Arts

This week's winner is Sadie in 6 Chestnut. Sadie has created this stunning landscape painting using acrylic paint. Her careful use of colour, tone, shadow and brushstrokes have created this amazing painting that wouldn't look out of place in any gallery. Well done Sadie!



Weekly Attendance Awards!

25.03.2024 – 28.03.2024

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



4 Birch, 4 Larch and 5 Aspen.

Happy Birthday!

Dulcie-Mae, Jakob, Tami, Keaton, Kaci, Tilly, Mia, George, Deano, Henry, Thomas, Robert, Blake, Nicholas, Alexia, Tillie, Ryan, Joseph, Joshua, Arthur, Patrick, Donnie, Sonny, Violet, Grace, Mehar, Donkarlas, Molly, Timothy, Fletcher, Asia, Ben, Hendrix, Alexandra and Arlo.



Pupil of the week

28th March 2024

Evie - Acorns
Betsy - Conkers
Charlie - 1 Pine
Lacey - 1 Lime
Betsy - 1 Willow
Logan - 2 Cedar
Sultan - 2 Beech
Teddy - 2 Holly
Milo - 3 Hazel
Danny - 3 Oak
Lottie - 3 Maple
Gabriela - 4 Birch
Octavia - 4 Rowan
Mason - 4 Larch
Ben - 5 Alder
Mohamed - 5 Aspen
Lenny - 5 Hawthorn
Aria - 6 Hornbeam
Ben Wheeler - 6 Acacia
Jack - 6 Chestnut



X / Twitter

Please follow us
@BranfilPrimary to see life at
Branfil.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY		
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	
Wednesday, 17 th April 2024	Year 3 Author event: James Sellick	
Thursday, 18 th April 2024	OPAL Parent/Carer Event for years 2 and 5	
Friday, 26 th April 2024	Year 1 & 2 Mixed Football Festival	
Wednesday, 1 st May 2024	Year 5 & 6 Cricket Event	
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, 20 th May - Friday, 24 th May 2024	Year 6 Fun Week (non Gilwell pupils)	
Thursday, 23 rd May 2024	Wesak (Buddha Day)	
Monday, 27 th May – Friday, 31 st May 2024	Spring Half Term	
Tuesday, 4 th June 2024	Whole School Photos	
Wednesday, 5 th June 2024	Year 5 & 6 Quad Kids	
Thursday, 6 th June 2024	Year 4 visit to Rainham Marshes	
Saturday, 8th June 2024	Friends of Branfil Summer Fair (change of date)	
Monday, 10 th June 2024	Year 4 MTC Test period	
Monday, 10 th June	Phonic Screening week - year 1	
Monday, 10 th June 2024	New Intake Reception parents/carers meeting & Child Stay & Play	
Monday, 17 th June 2024	2 Holly to visit the Windmill (TBC)	
Tuesday, 18 th June 2024	Year 5 visit to Nuclear Races	
Tuesday, 18 th June 2024	Year 6 Citizen Event (TBC)	
Wednesday, 19 th June 024	Naomi Joslyn in school - writing workshops	
Thursday, 20 th June 2024	Reception visit to Barleylands	
Wednesday, 26 th June 2024	Naomi Joslyn in school for book signing and parental workshop	
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 Parents Assembly 2:30-3:00pm	
Tuesday, 9 th July 2024	Years 1 & 4 OPAL Parent Event	
Wednesday, 10 th July 2024	Years R, 3 & 6 OPAL Parent Event	
Thursday, 11 th July 2024	Years 2 & 5 OPAL Parent Event	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (continued)	
Monday, 15th July 2024	Conkers Parent Assembly 2:30-3:00pm
Tuesday, 16th July 2024	Year 6 Production - class TBC
Wednesday, 17th July 2024	Year 6 Production - class TBC
Thursday, 18th July 2024	Year 6 Production - class TBC
Friday, 19th July 2024	Rock Steady Band Concert
Friday, 19th July 2024	Year 6 Mini Market
Tuesday, 23rd July 2023	Year 6 Leavers Disco
Wednesday, 24th 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

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel this needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nosonline.org.uk](https://www.nos.org.uk) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Mindy Alford designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They are provided, training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and skills to improve their settings from inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personal is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Your chance to have your say on our work: the Big Listen is live.



On 8 March, Sir Martyn Oliver set out his ambition for Ofsted to be a modern, world-class inspectorate and regulator – fit for purpose and trusted by parents, by children and by you: the professionals we work with.

As part of this, Sir Martyn launched [Ofsted's Big Listen](#). The Big Listen is a wide-reaching and comprehensive effort to hear from the full range of professionals and providers Ofsted works with, as well as the parents, carers, children and learners Ofsted works for.

Sir Martyn has been clear that he wants to rebuild your confidence in Ofsted. And the confidence of parents and children, too.

The Big Listen will run for 3 months. It includes an open online consultation, as well as surveys and focus groups carried out with parents, professionals and children by independent organisations. We will also gather views directly at events and meetings.

Please do take some time to [give us your feedback](#), and encourage and support your teams to do the same. Please encourage your pupils to take part and support them to do this.

Both online surveys will close on 31 May 2024.

- [Access the adults and children's consultations](#)
- [Read more about the Big Listen in our press notice](#)
- [Read more about the children's consultation in our press notice](#)



Friends of Branfil news: March/April 2024

Your newsletter about our PTA!

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

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

Highlights:

March was a busy month for fundraising with several events:

- Mothers day sale
- Easter Egg Roll Games
- Pre-love Uniform sale
- Tuck shop after school
- Adventure island ticket sale (still online for £18 online, RRP £30) Pick up from Pin Ups during half term after ordering online

Thank you to everyone who participated in raising funds for these events and our helpers for running them!



Upcoming Events

Summer Discos -
2nd July and 4th July

Year 6 leavers Disco -
Tuesday 23rd July

Summer Fayre -
Saturday 8th June

Products available:

Available to buy on our website now:

- Pre-Loved Uniform
- Adventure Island wristbands continue to be available online for collection from Pin Ups Salon, Gidea Park or school office on request.



The Outdoors Project - Havering arrives at Branfil!

Hello! We're The Outdoors Project - Havering, and we're thrilled to be running a new after-school club at Branfil, every Thursday from 25th April, for children in Y1 - Y6. We're on a mission to get children outdoors, whatever the weather, all year round! We run a different, engaging theme each week, ranging from bushcraft to Nerf. All our sessions encourage team building, friendship and communication skills and, most importantly, are lots of fun!

Lots of families will know us already from our popular holiday club (voted the Best Holiday Club in the Mums Guide to Romford Awards), but if you don't know what we do, please check out our website at: www.theoutdoorsproject.co.uk/havering. We'll look forward to meeting you soon!



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Tuesday Classes
3.15 - 4.15

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AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

SUMMER TERM '24 BOOK NOW



FUN, EXERCISE, FRESH AIR & DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES EVERY WEEK

NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THIS TERM INCLUDE:

CHARLIE & CHOCOLATE FACTORY
HULA HOOP FACE & OCTO BALL
WATER NERF BATTLES
CIRCUS SKILLS
RANDOMISER: SPLASH EDITION
MARSHMALLOW FLUFF BISCOTTI TREATS
FLIP THE FLAG NERF
BUSHCRAFT & BOTTLE ROCKETS
THE KEY INGREDIENT: LOTS OF FUN!

WATCHING CHILDREN'S
CONFIDENCE GROW &
NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORM
AT OUR CLUBS IS ONE OF
THE MOST REWARDING
THINGS WE DO.

BRANFIL
PRIMARY SCHOOL
THURSDAYS 3:10 - 4:20PM
YEARS 1 - 6

CLUB RUNS 25TH APRIL - 11TH JULY 2024
TOTAL COST: £82.50 / 11-WEEK TERM

The
Outdoors
Project

MORE INFO & BOOK: WWW.THEOUTDOORSPROJECT.CO.UK

HOLIDAY CLUBS - BIRTHDAY PARTIES - SCHOOL WORKSHOPS - AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - SAPLINGS PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

OFSTED REGISTERED & CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED



Dear Parents,

Kids With Bricks After School Club at Branfil Primary School

We are pleased to be able to offer our Kids With Bricks after school club running from **3.15-4.15** every **Wednesday** for **11 weeks from 24th April 2024**. This club is open for **Years 1-6** and there are a maximum of 30 places available. The club is organised, administered and supported by Kids With Bricks Ltd, an external provider who deliver after school clubs across the whole of the UK.

As well as completing a range of exciting educational challenges, students will have the chance to work both individually and to work in teams.

As an added bit of fun, students from the club will also take part in a weekly inter-school competition where parents can vote for their favourites and points are won for the national leader board.

BOOK ONLINE!

The club costs £3.99 +VAT per child per session and is paid for termly in advance. All club places are reserved and paid for online. Just go to www.kidswithbricks.com to book your child's place.

***Tickets sales LIVE on Wed 13th March at midday!**

Any problems please contact us on 01633 383211 or bookings@kidswithbricks.com

Kind regards,

John Gallacher





GREAT VALUE!
FROM AS LITTLE AS £5 PER SESSION

 **HOLLOWAY COACHING LTD**

SUMMER TERM
Branfil Primary School
Before & After School Clubs



COME & JOIN US!

Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian,

Come and join us this Summer term where children will learn and develop new skills whilst engaging with other children in social and fun activities. Our clubs are suitable for children of all ages and abilities and are based around having fun and keeping active!

Our coaches are fully qualified, DBS checked, hold a first-aid certificate and have attended a child protection course.

Some term prices may change due to bank holidays and inset days

Find a Before or After School Club that suits you! - [BOOK YOUR CLUB HERE >](#)

- > FOOTBALL
- > ARTS & CRAFTS
- > GYMNASTICS
- > BASKETBALL
- > ARCHERY
- > **NEW** MULTI-SPORT

FIND OUT ALL BOOKING INFORMATION HERE >

CONTACT US

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Speak

LIKE A NATIVE

AFTER-SCHOOL SPANISH CLUB

WEDNESDAYS

YEARS 1-6

3:15-4:15PM

Get 2 FREE Activity Packs
and a session-by-session
break-down with your booking

Learn through play & games
and language immersion



*Club subject to minimum booking numbers



For details and bookings, use
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www.speaklikeanative.com/work

[Click here](#) to find
out more about
our method and
play a game

Thames Chase also have:

29th and 30th March, and 1st April - Meet the Easter Bunny. Decorate an egg-tastic wooden Easter photo frame to take home with you, meet the Easter Bunny and take your photo with them. You will also receive an Easter gift from the Easter Bunny.

2nd April - Decorate your own box for Easter treats to go in. You can be as creative as you like, with these lovely wooden boxes. Join our education volunteers and let your creative juices flow.
Suitable for all ages, children must be accompanied by a parent/carer at all times.

Thames Chase Crafty Wednesday



Wednesday April 3rd and April 10th
10.15am-11am and 11.15am-12noon

April 3rd

Book on to our half term crafty Wednesday sessions. During these sessions there will be 4 crafts to choose from on the day: Egg box daffodils, box decorating, mosaic making and cress seed planting.

April 10th

Quilling, book mark making, spring crowns and butterfly wing creations.

The sessions are suitable for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Tickets are £3 per child and are non refundable.

Call the Thames Chase Visitor Centre to book: 01708 642970



For more information call 01708 642970 or visit the Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS.
Email: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk
Website: www.thameschase.org.uk
Thames Chase: Charity no. 1115627 Company no. 5687558.



Thames Chase Spring Clay Creations



Tuesday April 9th
10.30am-12.30pm

Spring has sprung at the Thames Chase Forest Centre and we have a hands on craft session for you! Let your imagination run wild with our air-drying clay craft session. You can make an Easter bunny, leaping lamb or spring chick. Maybe you will make a mythical creature...the possibilities are endless!

Please wear old clothes to the session as you may get messy!

Tickets are £3 per child and tickets are non-refundable.

Children are to be accompanied by an adult at all times.

This fun session is suitable for all ages

Call the Thames Chase Visitor Centre to book: 01708 642970



For more information call 01708 642970 or visit the Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS.
Email: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk
Website: www.thameschase.org.uk
Thames Chase: Charity no. 1115627 Company no. 5687558.





Thames Chase Spring Fayre



Sunday, 21 April 2024
10am – 3pm

Join us for our annual Spring event.

Celebrate spring and the heritage of our local landscape at Thames Chase Forest Centre

- **Rhythm & Balls Juggling and Circus Workshop**
- **That Bubble Man**
- **Rumford Morris Men**
- **Orchard blossom walk 11am-12pm (suggested donation £4 per person)**
- **Craft and Heritage stalls**
- **Food and refreshments available at The Forest Centre Cafe**



For more information call 01708 642970 or visit the Thames Chase Forest Centre, Pike Lane, Upminster RM14 3NS.
Email: enquiries@thameschase.org.uk
Website: www.thameschase.org.uk
Thames Chase: Charity no. 1115627 Company no. 5687558.



Essex Fire Museum Open Days

Sunday 31st March 2024

Tuesday 9th April 2024

Sunday 28th April 2024

10.30am to 4.00pm

(Last suggested entry time: 2.30pm)



Visits must be pre-booked via:

museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

**Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS**