

Branfil Newsletter 8th March 2024

Dear parents and carers

We need your help please.



Our children love their lunchtimes now we have such a wide variety of play opportunities for them to engage with, through our OPAL provision. We do need a huge amount of resources for almost 600 children to play with though, and we need to keep replenishing them as they get worn out or broken.

Please keep sending in any of the items previously requested, but we particularly need the following:

- Tarpaulins for den building
- Natural loose parts: stones/pebbles, rocks, shingle, wood chips, bark, shells, wood cookies, logs
- Boats/kayaks – real ones that children can play in
- Clothes pegs
- Shower curtains with interesting scenes/backgrounds
- Pots, pans, baking tins, large wooden and metal spoons, hand whisks
- Slide top – the plastic part of a garden slide, which can be added to a pile of tyres to make a slide.



Please bring any items to the school office (for large items, please contact the office first to arrange a time to deliver them).



We also need some volunteers to look on Facebook Community pages for certain items since staff are not able to do this during the day and most items are snapped up immediately they are posted.

If you feel you can help with this, please let us know via the school office and someone will get back to you to discuss it further.

Thank you in advance for your support with this – the children can only have great lunchtimes with your help.

Mrs Sansom, Headteacher

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.

Staff Update

Mrs Cullender and Mrs Galvin are both starting their maternity leave. We wish them all the very best as they eagerly await another addition to their families.



We give a warm welcome to Mrs Lawrence who will be teaching 2 Beech for the rest of the academic year and leading the Year 2 team.

Further warm welcomes go out to Mr Clarke (no relation to Mrs Clarke, Y4 teacher!) as our new Site Manager, and Mrs Elsworth, a Teaching Assistant in Years 2 & 6.

Reading sponsored event.

Starting on Friday 8th March, each year group has been set the challenge to pop as many coins into their year group plastic jars as possible, to raise money for an outdoor reading area. The year group which has the most amount of change by the end of the term will then have their chosen books purchased for their class libraries!

Please support this fantastic opportunity for the children to be able to raise enough funds for an outdoor reading shed to enjoy reading during their lunchtimes. Thank you. Mrs. Cullender



World Book Day



We celebrated World Book Day in style this year, with a visit from our previous Patron of Reading, Chrissie Sains, as well as completing fun filled activities based on books by authors from all around the world. Mrs. Cullender and Miss Fitzakerley also introduced the fantastic sponsored event we are holding in school to raise funds for our OPAL reading area.

We hope you have fun spending your £1 book vouchers in the shops over the next few weeks and we look forward to the children sharing their new purchases. Happy Reading!



Year 4 Church trip

On Wednesday, Year 4 visited Upminster Baptist Church as part of their learning about religious celebrations in RE. They were able to learn about communion, how the church helps the wider community and even went into the baptism pool. What a great way to consolidate their learning!



Year 5 - Ancient Greek Show

On the 29th February, children took part in our epic Greek Day! We were visited by the Freshwater Theatre Company who performed an amazing time travelling performance.



SATs Meeting - Year 6

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the SATs information meeting last week.



The PowerPoint has been uploaded to our school website. Click on the NEWS tab, then Newsletters and Letters; under the Letters tab you will see the document - Year 6 SATs PowerPoint 2024.

Red Nose Day



We are celebrating Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief on Friday, 15th March. It is a non-uniform day and children are able to wear something (or everything!) red. We are asking that children bring in a donation of £1 or you can donate directly by clicking on the QR code.



Children in Year 2 are on a school trip on Red Nose Day, and they need to wear school uniform for that, so they are invited to wear red on Thursday, 14th March instead.

Polite reminder



The staff carpark should not be used for dropping off to clubs in the mornings or for collections after school. This is a health & safety issue as children should not be walking in the middle of the carpark. It is also causing congestion issues with staff trying to get in while parents are trying to leave, and vice versa.

Also, please use the path when collecting your children from Abacus.

Help us to keep the site safe.

Excellence in the Arts

Last week the award went to Lenny in Conkers. Lenny is very creative and spends lots of time making all sorts of models and pictures. He really impressed the Reception adults with this wonderful painting of a rainbow. Lenny experimented with colour mixing and made some fantastic shades to use on his painting and then decided to add some extra details of sticking the leaves on the bottom. Amazing art Lenny!



This week Mr Edwards nominated Emily M in 4 Rowan for her glockenspiel playing. Mr Edwards said Emily always works very hard in music lessons and this week was no different. Very early on in the lesson she played the piece they were learning, on her own, whilst others in the class were saying how tricky they thought the piece was. This inspired and gave confidence to her classmates and the performance at the end of the lesson was excellent.



Well done Emily, an excellent performance by an excellent role-model.

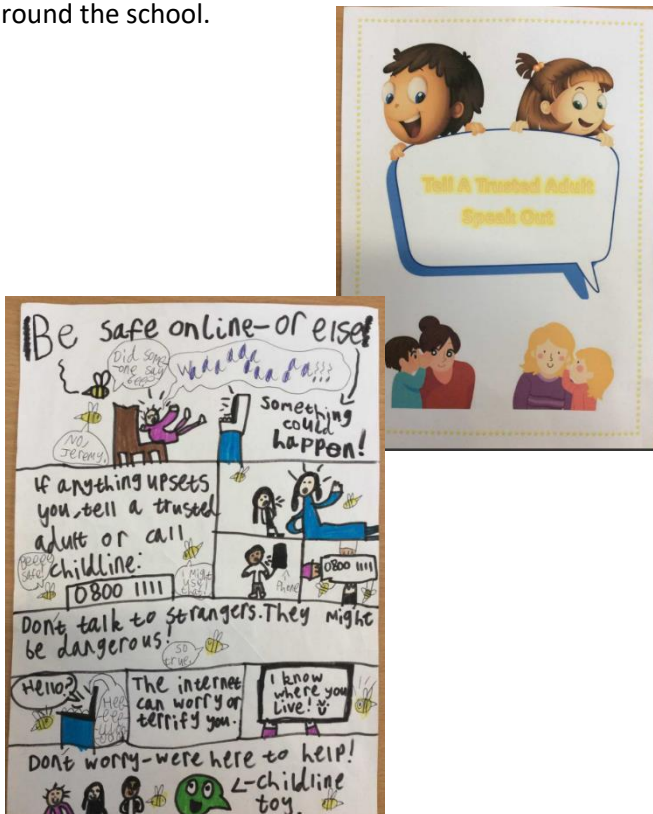
Values art competition

Just before the February half term the Arts Committee voted for the winner of January's Values Art Competition. The competition challenged you to use music as inspiration to create an abstract piece of art in the style of Kandinsky. The Arts Committee were really impressed with all the entries and enjoyed reading about the songs that had inspired the works of art. The Arts Committee voted for Joshua H in 3 Oak as they loved his bold, vibrant painting which makes great use of colours and shapes, inspired by Sky Full of Stars by Coldplay. Amazing art Joshua!



Online Safety Competition

Congratulations to our Online Safety Poster competition winners, Summer in 2 Holly and Mimi in 4 Larch. Their posters were fabulous and will be proudly displayed around the school.



Internet Safety



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!

Albie, Henry, Elise, Kingsley, Joe, Darcy, Joseph, Sienna, Milena, Maryam, Mavis, Ollie, Kieron and Millie.



Book Sale



A big thank you to everyone who purchased books yesterday. We raised an amazing £81.27 which will be used to purchase more books for the library.

Weekly Attendance Awards!

26.02.2024 – 01.03.2024

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



2 Holly, 4 Birch, 4 Rowan, 5 Aspen, 6 Acacia, 6 Chestnut and 6 Hornbeam.

Weekly Attendance Awards!

04.03.2024 – 08.03.2024

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



Acorns, 3 Hazel, 3 Oak, 5 Hawthorn, 6 Chestnut and 6 Hornbeam.

Pupil of the week

Pupil of the week

1st March 2024

Ronnie - Acorns
Toby - Conkers
Bella-Rose - 1 Pine
Jude - 1 Lime
Tilly - 1 Willow
Callum - 2 Cedar
Charlotte - 2 Beech
Peculiar - 2 Holly
Emmanuel - 3 Hazel
Finley - 3 Oak
Fraser - 3 Maple
Zahra - 4 Birch
Amelia - 4 Rowan
Jenson - 4 Larch
Bella - 5 Alder
Maximus - 5 Aspen
Amber - 5 Hawthorn
Olivia - 6 Hornbeam
Holly - 6 Acacia
Noah - 6 Chestnut



8th March 2024

Millie - Acorns
Ruby-Rose - Conkers
Evangeline - 1 Pine
Romee - 1 Lime
Amelia - 1 Willow
Evan - 2 Cedar
Valentina - 2 Beech
Zachary - 2 Holly
Olivia - 3 Hazel
Lexie-Mai - 3 Oak
Jake - 3 Maple
Harry - 4 Birch
Ernest - 4 Rowan
Marian - 4 Larch
Regan - 5 Alder
Josh - 5 Aspen
Stacy - 5 Hawthorn
Harjot - 6 Hornbeam
Emily - 6 Acacia
Aina - 6 Chestnut



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11th-15th March 2024	Science Week
Monday, 11th March 2024	Choir going to Little Gaynes Care Home
Thursday, 14th March 2024	Infant Musical Festival – Year 1
Thursday, 14th March 2024	Year 2 – Red Nose Day (since out of school tomorrow)
Friday, 15th March 2024	Year 2 visit to Call of the Wild
Friday, 15th March 2024	Red Nose Day
Thursday, 21st March 2024	Year 5 and 6 - Young Shakespeare Theatre Group – A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Friday, 22nd March 2024	5 Alder to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Monday, 25th March 2024	Friends of Branfil – Easter Egg Roll Games
Tuesday, 26th March 2024	5 Hawthorn to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Thursday, 28th March 2024	5 Aspen to visit Gurdwara in Barking
Friday, 29th March – Friday, 12th April 2024	Easter Break
Monday, 13th May – Thursday, 16th May 2024	Year 6 SATs week
Monday, 20th May – Friday, 24th May 2024	Year 6 Residential to Gilwell Park Activity Centre
Monday, 27th May – Friday, 31st May 2024	Spring Half Term
Tuesday, 18th June 2024	Year 5 visit to Nuclear Races
Thursday, 20th June 2024	Reception visit to Barleylands
Saturday, 6th July 2024	Friend of Branfil Summer Fair
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