

Branwood Bee



Issue 26
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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

“Don’t just teach your children to read, teach them to question what they read. The value of an Education is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think”.

George Carlin

Form 5 Class Assembly

The Form 5 class gave their assembly this week to delighted parents and the rest of the school. The theme was ‘The Wonderful World of Disney’ which is a passion of Miss Basgers. The class took us on a journey through Walt Disney’s life, achievements and how his vision for a place for families to have fun together was the start of Disneyland. We were also delighted to listen to the children singing some classic Disney songs. Thank you Form 5 it was a delight.



Form 5

Form Five have been working incredibly hard towards their 11+ and entrance exams, next year, so on Friday, we took a break from the pressure and talked about different ways we can deal with any stress, sadness or strong feelings that we experience during this high-pressure time in our lives! All of the children collaborated and wrote this poem!

Report by Miss Basger





KG1

What a super week it was to finish the half term for KG1.

The children thoroughly enjoyed Forest school with its outdoor camping theme and it was a beautiful day too. The children have been working hard with all their classwork this week and have also painted beautiful pictures demonstrating their artistic talents.

The highlight of the week was Sports Day. I was so proud of all the children who were so enthusiastic and had lots of fun. They loved every aspect of the day, especially the ice lollies they enjoyed at the end.

Report by Mrs Coffey



Form 2

Form 2 spent a memorable day out at The Blue Planet Aquarium, continuing their studies about Seas and Oceans. They loved learning more about many types of sea life and are now shark experts after their very informative classroom session and watching the shark theatre where divers fed 6 types of shark, rays and thousands of fish! All of the children had an amazing day and were great ambassadors for the school.

Report by Mrs Jones





KG2

During their final Forest School session of the half term, KG2 used their imagination to pretend that they were camping in the glorious outdoors. They could climb into a sleeping bag or hammock and listen to the sounds around them and then cook breakfast on a pretend campfire. They enjoyed looking for animal footprints, making medals using slices of wood, creating clay animals as well as painting a flag using squashed raspberries. Most of the children chose to roast a piece of raisin bread on the campfire. They were carefully supervised by Emma, remembering to kneel down on one knee, hold the stick at a safe distance, wait patiently and then blow the bread ten times before eating it. What a fantastic experience for us all.

Report by Mrs Boulton



Form 4

Form 4 have been wowing us with their ultra-imaginative reading exploits. We will send out four or five pictures over the next few editions of the Branwood Bee to show you how committed we are to our reading. Keep your eyes peeled everyone.

This week, allow me to present:

Isabel showing us how she just can't put down her favourite book, even when she's on an adventure playground. She thinks that a good book can be just as exciting an adventure!





Mae Muller may have 'written a song', but Grace and her dog Sandy read a book! How they managed to keep their concentration with the eyes of Europe and beyond on them is anyone's guess!



Charlotte has the love of reading running through her veins, so it made sense for her to jog on the treadmill while she enjoyed a chapter of her latest book. There's no doubting her commitment!



When Ahmed's family told him that being engrossed in a good book makes all of your worries float away, he wasn't expecting to find himself ascending in the style of Disney's 'Up' film!



I have had such fun seeing all of your photos, so PLEASE keep them coming my super readers!

Report by Mr Sullivan



Form 1

The highlight of this week was our trip to Blackpool Zoo. During the year we study Dinosaurs in History, animals in Science and The Rainforest in Geography so it seemed fitting to take a trip where we can discover more about these topics.

The day started with an educational session with our guide Joe. He did a wonderful job of teaching the children about why we need to look after the rainforest. They were thrilled when he let them explore crocodile jaws, orangutan hair, penguin feathers and snakeskin - we even got to meet Sticky the stick insect.

The weather was kind to us, so we enjoyed our lunch outside while watching the sea lion show. Throughout the day we observed swinging monkeys, a prowling lion, cheeky orangutans, jumping wallabies, an whole assortment of birds and primates and giraffes munching on leaves.

We were very proud of Form 1 who were excellent ambassadors of our school and behaved impeccably. They had great fun making memories and exploring the inhabitants of the world.

Report by Mrs Houseman



Handball



We have been extremely lucky at Branwood to experience Handball for the first time. Moku, an experienced coach from Trafford Handball Club has been visiting to teach handball to upper school. The children have really enjoyed learning new skills and playing games under the guidance of a handball expert. Whilst watching the children during the final session, I was amazed just how much they have learnt in five weeks. They were defending, attacking, passing and scoring effortlessly. Thank you to Moku and Trafford Handball Club for giving us such a wonderful experience.

Report by Mrs Boulton



Wellbeing at Branwood

Wellbeing is a state where pupils are able to develop their potential, learn and play creatively. Promoting positive wellbeing can help prevent stress and create positive working environments where individuals can thrive. We want everybody in our Branwood community to thrive.

Mental Health goes hand in hand with well-being. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines mental health as 'a state of wellbeing in which the individual realises his or her abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community'

Here at Branwood we have three Mental First Aiders on the team. Mrs Jones, Miss Basger and Mrs Houseman have all completed the accredited Mental Health First Aid course. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an evidence-based,



internationally recognised training course, accredited and certificated by the Royal Society for Public Health. MHFA teaches people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and to provide initial help and support – just like physical first aiders do for people with injuries or physical ill health.

Mrs Jones promotes wellbeing and mental health through sports. It is with her support that we are able to offer such a wide variety of sporting opportunities to the children. Mrs Houseman is working hard to improve the playground and outdoor areas for the benefit of all our pupils, and with the help of Mrs Coffey has been providing Wellbeing Wednesday sessions before school.

As we approach the end of the year, Form Five are preparing of the first set of entrance exams in September. Miss Basger is using poetry to encourage pupils to support each other through the stress of assessments. Her reason for taking the course was to help her develop a better understanding of what happens to a child during stressful situations. Her aim is to use this knowledge to help her promote resilience and coping strategies.

To help celebrate Mental Health week, and to provide our parents with a treat, the PTA kindly supplied fresh pastries along with hot and cold drinks during our Lower School Sports Day. A very big thank you for their generosity and their time.

Lower School Sports Day

The sun was shining and it was a lovely morning to hold our annual Lower School Sports Day. It was lovely to see so many parents and families in attendance. The children all had a very exciting morning and Mr Stockley was a super organiser. A BIG thank you to him and also thank you to the PTA for providing drinks and pastries for the parents. After all their efforts the children were rewarded with an ice lolly. Let's hope we can reschedule the Upper School one soon, which had to be postponed due to the weather.





Eco-School

Eco-Tip of the Week

It's been estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation that if food waste were a country, it would be the third highest emitter of greenhouse gases after the USA and China. If you do have leftover food, see if you can freeze it for another meal or make sure it goes into a compost bin.

On-Line Safety

Here are some useful links for parents on online safety:

[National Online Safety | Keeping Children Safe Online in Education](#)

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.common sense media.org/articles/social-media>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Wellbeing

Here are some useful resources for parents on wellbeing :

[Place2Be Mental Health & Wellbeing for parents](#)

Social Media

Please see more of what we are up to on social media

Twitter - twitter.com/branwoodschool?s=11&t=Q7kv7YPQmKl2GQtX563BSw

Instagram - <https://instagram.com/branwoodschool?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BranwoodPreparatorySchool>

