



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was good to see so many of you on the last day of term at our Open Afternoon. Thank you for coming. I trust that you found the afternoon enjoyable and that the meetings you had with various members of staff, profitable.

This term our Behaviour Team have set up a system where emails are sent to you as parents if your child has achieved 94 credits that day. For each session (lesson, break, lunch) in each day your son is awarded various number of credits for their engagement during that session. During the course of a day, it is possible for your child gain up to 99 credits. (Those of you who had children here last academic year will remember that we had a similar system with our previous Management Information System.)

If your son has achieved 94 credits not only will you receive this email from Mr de Lucia's team, but your son will also receive an acknowledgement 'ticket' during breakfast the next morning.

Next Friday sees the first of our School Council meetings for 2019. As you will know from previous correspondence our School Council is made up of one representative from each class who meet regularly to discuss their views as to what is working well in the school and what they feel could be improved. The information from that meeting is then shared with the school's Leadership Team. On other occasions the Leadership Team will ask the School Council their views on a given subject in order to gather pupils' views. You may have seen the display board relating to the School Council when you visited in December, which contained the minutes from their recent meetings.

This being the first Bulletin of 2019, let me take this opportunity to wish you a 'Happy New Year'. During this year ahead, please do let us know if you have any questions or concerns about your son's schooling as we work together for the best possible outcomes for the children.

Yours Sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

Principal

## Pluto:

This week Pluto have enjoyed reading and performing poems in English. They learnt how to use expression, actions and rhythm to help engage the audience. The boys' especially enjoyed the poem Louder where they could really express themselves and shout. In Maths this week we have learnt what the inverse means and how to use the inverse to correct addition and subtraction calculations. The boys enjoyed their first gym session I was really impressed with the way they had a try at everything and listened to the instructor well.

## Mercury

This week the boys have had a good week in class. In Maths we have been focusing on our fractions this week, working out what a half and a quarter of a whole number is. In English, we have been focusing on fairy-tale stories. The boys seemed to enjoy learning about this and were able to retell the story of Little Red Riding Hood. The pupils also started their new topic this week, Ancient Civilisations. This week the boys looked at the the story of Romulus and Remus, and enjoyed learning about the history of Rome.

**Neptune:** In Maths this week we have been looking at shape, some of us identifying properties of 3D shapes and others using formulae to calculate area. In English we have taken a short break from Macbeth and looked at ways of extending sentences to give them more impact. In RE we have moved on to learning about Islam and the 5 pillars of their faith. The boys have shown a keen interest in PSHE, in particular, this whole academic year and moving forward we will be focussing on Relationships and Sex Education. This week we looked at positive relationships and some of the boys did find this quite a thought provoking lesson as it highlighted a lot of issues around what to look for in a friend and what being a good friend looks like. Transition is always at the forefront of their minds and we are having lots of discussions to support the boys as best we can at this stage in their education.

## Saturn

The boys in Saturn have had a very successful full week. In English they have had to write a description of a Roman soldier and all the boys were very excited about it, especially as they realised that our new topic was Romans. In Maths we have looked at place value and counting to 100, recognising numbers and ordering numbers. In our History lesson we talked about the Romans and the Roman Empire; the boys were very excited and asked lots of questions on this topic. In Science we looked at materials and the use of different types of materials. Overall, a great start to the term and an exciting one for the boys!

## Titan:

Titan class have had a really positive first full week back to school after the Christmas holidays. The boys have been attempting to identify and use expressive vocabulary and powerful verbs. In Maths, the class have been developing their understanding of multiplication and division problems. In PE, the boys have been designing and making obstacle courses; these have been designed to enable them to enhance a range of skills. We have started our ancient civilizations topic by reading about the Roman Empire and reasons behind selecting certain locations in which to settle.

**Mars:** A really exciting week starting in Mars, and what a start it was. The boys have showed a superb attitude learning and excellent resilience towards the changes that have taken place. We have been exploring Roman times this week, in particular- the extremely dangerous and exciting sport of chariot racing. We investigated what designs of wheels they used and the mechanics behind axles and wheels; creating our own examples of working wheels and axles out of Lego. Well done boys. Keep working hard.

## Brantridge Weekly - Roll Of Honour!

### TOP OF THE LEAGUE

Jayden, Felix, Tom



### TITAN

King of the Credits	Jayden
Star of the Week	Matthew

### MARS

King of the Credits	Felix
Star of the Week	Tyler E

### SATURN

King of the Credits	Carter
Star of the Week	Charlie

### PLUTO

King of the Credits	William
Star of the Week	Jacob

### JUPITER

King of the Credits	n/a
Star of the Week	n/a

### NEPTUNE

King of the Credits	Jamie
Star of the Week	Matteo

### MERCURY

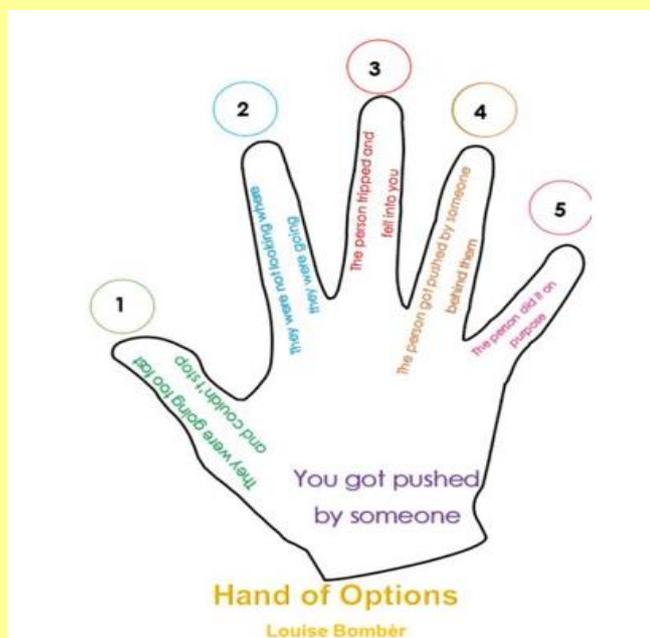
King of the Credits	Leo
Star of the Week	Leo

## Therapies:

The whole school has been targeting **'Your Idea, My Idea'** this week in our Social Communication Programme.

This target supports flexible thinking skills and helps us learn that others have valid and differing opinions.

Our role as adults is to model a narrative of other opinions and to do this in a calm and relaxed way supporting the child to learn. We can do this by using the 'hand of options' strategy. This allows you to talk through five positive motives and intentions that may have been behind whatever caused your child to stress or shame. Your son is likely to have assumed that another the child/person was out to get them or it was the other child/person's fault. This is a possibility but perhaps not the reality. We can support children to have a more realistic view as to what might have happened by talking through the incident together and expanding options. Please see the example below about being pushed.



Next week the whole school has been targeting **'Show Support.'** This target is to encourage your child to be supportive of their peers, through use of their language and actions.

# Outdoor learning

This week in outdoor learning we have been making Roman Coil Clay Pots and having fun digging, playing team building games, bird watching and bug hunting.



## Safeguarding:

### Screen time

To all Parents and Carers,

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) has published guidance for parents and carers on screen time use and the effects of screen time on children and young people. The guidance can be found online by using the link below:

[https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-12/rcpch\\_screen\\_time\\_guide\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2018-12/rcpch_screen_time_guide_-_final.pdf)

The evidence from the review found that children with higher screen time tend to have: a less healthy diet, a higher energy intake, and more pronounced indicators of obesity; more depressive symptoms, although it has been found by some studies that some screen time is better for mental health than none at all.

Recommendations include: avoid screens an hour before the planned bedtime; families should negotiate screen time limits with their children based upon the needs of an individual child.

To support with this growing national issue, your son will today bring home with him a copy of the "Digital Parenting" magazine, which is accredited by the website "parentzone." The magazine contains many helpful tips about all aspects of e-safety and how to incorporate screen time into daily routines in both a safe and appropriate way.

**Have a great weekend!**

**Robert Chowns (Designated Safeguard Lead)**