



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents,

Every Friday afternoon after your son has been collected from school we have various staff training sessions.

A significant amount of the training this term has been led, and will be led, by two of our therapy Regional Leads – Corrine Morgan (Regional Lead - Occupational Therapy) and Emily Rackstraw (Regional Lead – Speech and Language Therapy). The input thus far has been very beneficial encouraging staff to reflect on the language used in the classroom and around the school as well as the sensory environment.

Last Friday we were considering how the language we use helps pupils' access the curriculum more effectively, and how we can best help our pupils to use and develop their own language skills. Corrine Morgan was developing our thinking about the sensory needs of our pupils and how we can best address these in the classroom environment.

This seems an opportune time to remind you that next Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January the school will be closed for further staff training.

On this occasion the Behaviour and Administrative team will remain at Brantridge for internal staff training whilst the Education and Therapy teams will attend training at St Dominic's school. One of the sessions which some of the staff will participate in on Friday is 'Mental Health First Aid'. This is an area of training which will be invaluable to our staff as it enables us to support children and colleagues in what is becoming an increasingly common challenge for us as a society. Support in this area can only be a good thing as we do all that we can to ensure the wellbeing of the young people in our school.

I trust you have an enjoyable weekend.

Yours Sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

Principal

## **Pluto:**

Pluto have had a reasonable week. In English they have been writing poetry and have enjoyed creating an acrostic poem about winter and a rhyming poem about their chosen animal. In Maths we have been practicing our times tables and learning different methods for multiplication calculations. In Science the boys learnt that carbon dioxide is what makes drinks fizzy and they enjoyed carrying out an experiment to test how fizzy different drinks are. They all helped pour and weigh the drinks for the experiment. The boys loved another gym session and have started working towards their next badges.

## **Mercury**

This week the boys have had a good week in class. In Maths we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes, learning about the different names of each of these shapes and being able to identify the difference between them. In English we have been focusing on our describing words and looking at how we can add detail to our sentences. In Art this week the boys have been making Roman shields and seemed to thoroughly enjoy making them, coming up with their own ideas and designs of what they could include on them.

**Neptune:** This week, the boys have shown a solid understanding of maths and really impressed visitors to the classroom with the progress they made within the lesson and their engagement in their learning. In PSHE we started to look at consent and what that means. In history we are learning about the Tudors, this week we looked at King Edward VI, the young king - the boys were interested to learn he was only 9 when he took the throne. In science we looked at muscles in the body. Transition continues to be an ongoing discussion with lots of concerns and questions to address that, naturally, all of the boys have in Neptune.

## Saturn

The boys in Saturn have had to deal with a lot of change this week; we have had a boy on assessment, as well as the class teacher being away for a few days. All boys tried their best to cope with this. In maths, they have learnt about place value and how to use their knowledge to solve problems and puzzles; in English they have worked on their reading comprehension, phonics and spellings. They have also had to choose the correct 'wh' word to go in questions. In Art, they have all started designing and making roman shields as part of our Romans topic.

## Titan:

This week, Titan have enjoyed reading some adapted fairy tales. They have attempted to plan their own twisted version of a well-known story. The boys have been looking at co-ordinates and symmetry in Maths; they have had great success with this area of learning. The class has continued to look at settlements; specifically choosing the best location to start a settlement. The boys have gained some understanding about Hadrian's Wall. They have continued their time trials of obstacle courses involving a range of skills.

**Mars:** The boys continue to really impress me with their collaborative learning, sharing knowledge and understanding and peer assessing in an incredibly supportive and caring manner. All the boys at some point have given peer feedback and praised someone else's work, showing a deep understanding of the learning and fantastic social skills. We started creating our "desk chariots" this week too which have started taking shape and are going to be spectacular. Well done Mars!

## Brantridge Weekly - Roll Of Honour!

### TOP OF THE LEAGUE

Jayden, Isaac, Billy, Joe



### TITAN

### MARS

King of the Credits

Jayden

King of the Credits

Felix

Star of the Week

Billy

Star of the Week

Tom

### SATURN

### PLUTO

King of the Credits

Charlie

King of the Credits

William

Star of the Week

Alfie

Star of the Week

Toby

### JUPITER

### NEPTUNE

King of the Credits

n/a

King of the Credits

Joe

Star of the Week

n/a

Star of the Week

Jamie

### MERCURY

King of the Credits

Leo

Star of the Week

Riley

Most improved: Kyle

## Therapies:

The whole school has been targeting 'Show Support' this week in our Social Communication Programme.

This target is to encourage your child to be supportive of their peers, through use of their language and actions.



Next week the Social Communication Programme will be focusing on 'A chance to choose'. This is to help our pupils to be able to make decisions.

# Outdoor learning

This week in outdoor learning we have been following the whole school topic of ancient civilizations, and we've been designing our own ancient coins out of clay. The weather held out for us on Tuesday but Thursday was rather chilly so we made our coins inside before playing team building games in the woods.



## Safeguarding:

### Talk PANTS and Stay Safe

In our assembly last week, all of our pupils engaged in a NSPCC session about staying safe. Our pupils had the opportunity to learn about ways to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse through child-friendly activities. Talking PANTS regularly with your child is a great way to refresh their knowledge on how to keep themselves safe:

### The PANTS rules

**P** RIVATES ARE PRIVATE

**A** LWAYS REMEMBER YOUR  
BODY BELONGS TO YOU

**N** O MEANS NO

**T** ALK ABOUT SECRETS  
THAT UPSET YOU

**S** PEAK UP, SOMEONE  
CAN HELP

The pupils also had a chance to meet the online mascot for the NSPCC PANTS rule, "The Pantosaurus." There is a great video online which you can watch with your children at home that explains the PANTS rule through a song with input from The Pantosaurus. The link is pasted below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lL07JOGU5o>

You can also find a number of other useful resources to talk through with your children at home on the NSPCC website.

Have a lovely weekend!

Robert Chowns

Regional Lead for Safeguarding