

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November,  
2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware various schools within the locality and nationally have had to close classes or bubbles or sometimes whole schools in recent weeks. There will be a combination of reasons for this. Clearly some will be due to pupils or staff actually testing positive for COVID. From speaking to other head teachers recently, some of the closures are due to members of staff having to self-isolate because of family members testing positive, others being asked to self-isolate through the Track and Trace initiative, and many simply waiting to receive their test results.

We are very pleased that thus far, disruption has been very limited and we have not had any pupil or staff member test positive. However we are certainly not resting on our laurels, and recognise that despite our best efforts the situation may change.

As we have entered a new national lockdown this week can I urge you to continue to work with us in ensuring everyone's safety. Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying COVID symptoms. If your child displays or develops symptoms whilst at school we will be contacting you and asking you to collect them. Please be aware that the taxis linked with the local authority transport department will not be able to bring your child home if they have COVID symptoms. Therefore, please consider beforehand how you would bring your child home in these circumstances. You will appreciate that as it is not appropriate for the taxis to transport a child in that situation, neither would it be appropriate for school staff to do so.

The other potential scenario we would ask you to think through is if in the coming weeks we need to close a class or bubble or whole school for one of the reasons noted above. We would of course want to give as much notice as possible but as we all know that is not always an option as the virus spreads as it sees fit. This is all very uncertain and unsettling, however I would strongly urge you to make contingency plans should things evolve.

Obviously we all hope that Brantridge can remain open for all children. Be assured, we are taking the recommended precautions and approaches, but all of us being ready should there be an issue has to be a good thing.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts.

Neptune class are very excited to announce their new business enterprise - a café! The boys have been busy developing their business plan and they are now ready to open for business. They will be providing a range of hot and cold drinks and snacks (all freshly baked by the boys). The café will be open every Friday from 11am to 11:30 where a drink and a cookie can be bought for 50p, pretty good value I'm sure you'll agree. Also the café will be compliant with current social distancing guidelines. If your son would like to buy a drink and a snack, please make sure he has 50p to bring into school on Fridays.

Gio de Lucia.

## Mercury

Mercury have had a positive start back to Brantridge. They have been working hard on planning their newspaper articles. The newspaper articles are very nearly ready to publish - watch out for the news about an alien invasion! In maths, they have been focusing on sharing and division. We have been working on comets and finding out how they are produced. Mercury have enjoyed their PE lesson - working and playing together with balloons and (swimming pool) noodles.

## Saturn

This week we started the week with a lovely walk around Staplefield, the boys are really enjoying this and it helps to put us on a great start for the week. We began looking at the art work by Karen Rose as we work towards creating our own batik work, we experimented with wax and paint to see how it resists. In maths we are learning to tell the time by playing 'What's the time Mr Wolf?' and making the times on our own mini clocks. This was so much fun. We took it in turns to be the wolf and set the time for everyone to copy. In English we continued our learning using colourful semantics and the structure of sentences and building them using pictures and then having a go at writing some. In science we continued our investigations of light and the boys looked for patterns in how shadows can change. We learned about the history of Bonfire night and who Guy Fawkes was. We then created our own firework pictures.

## Pluto

This week Pluto have been learning about nouns and verbs in English through reading, writing and Kung Fu. Several members of the class have graduated to blue belt this week, which is excellent. In Maths we have been making cardboard clocks and playing Time Bingo to help us learn to tell the time.

We have been baking cupcakes together as a team in Food Tech and created a wonderful display for the entrance to our classroom in Art.

It has been a period of readjustment after the half-term break and we hope to continue settling back in to our routines next week.



## Titan

We have had a very busy first week back! We have focused on Grammar in English this week, with a different focus each day, for e.g. determiners, adverbials, relative and possession pronouns. We have also started a new class reader, *George's secret key to the universe*, which was written by Stephen Hawking and his daughter Lucy; the boys are really enjoying this book.

In Maths, we have focused on shapes, symmetry, drawing shapes following instructions as well as using protractors correctly to measure angles.

In Science, we have started a new topic, plants and their habitats and related to this, we will be looking at how we can help our planet and the environment in our Geography lessons.

In PSHCE we will be exploring feelings and emotions, as well as why it is important to be yourself and be unique.

The children loved the Planetarium workshop that we had on Wednesday and some said it was the best day of their lives!

## Neptune

Our first week back and we have managed to pack quite a bit in. The highlight of the week was the visit from a planetarium where the boys experienced flying through space and over each of the planets. They also saw what a black hole looked like which was exciting. We have moved on in maths to subtracting with exchanges involved - which is tricky but we are mastering it. In English, we are developing a spooky Halloween movie, which the boys have storyboarded, recounted to the class and we have had a go at acting them out. I must say I have been very impressed with their ideas and I look forward to us producing the stories into movies. We have been busy preparing our class enterprise - a café. The boys have been busy baking for it and we put our measuring skills into practise by making sure we have social distancing marks on the floor (which required great team work). We have managed to squeeze a couple of walks in this week and we spotted some enormous fungi and raced leaves in a little stream which was really good fun. The boys explored the idea of mutual respect and tolerance in our PSHCE lesson by learning about Marcus Rashford's campaign.

## Mars

A good first week back in Mars class. We have been working hard to learn about biographies. We have looked at example texts and drawn out the features and created a writing pattern to follow to help us with our independent writing.

In maths we have been consolidating column subtraction, we are still finding exchanging a challenge and we will return to this in the future.

We have also learned about biomes. First we looked at the different types of biome, we then researched where some famous astronauts come from and the researched the biome of their country- creating powerpoints to collect our images and facts. We will use these to help us next lesson when we create dioramas. We played dodgeball in PE which was lots of fun.

## Galaxy:

An incredibly resilient, calm and respectful week at the top of the stairs this week. The boys have shown some superb respect and kindness towards each other, sharing, listening to staff and following staff instruction without issue or hesitation. The boys have been making marble art out of shaving foam and paint which looks amazing and is 3D until it dries right out. Fishing was a slow start and a cold, breezy, but we stuck it out and landed 5 lovely carp. As we increase the amount of literacy and maths the boys engage in, they have responded very positively to formal and informal learning episodes. Music was marvellous- lots of exploring and experimenting; expressing happy, sad, scary sounds as well as different animals. Well done Galaxy, keep it up.

## Pupil reporters

We are encouraging our pupils to write news reports on exciting things that happen in school. This has been so popular we have had 5 articles already. Please take a look at these on our website home page <https://brantridgeschool.org/>. Once you have opened one news report you can then click on the month to see the other articles. Keep checking back for more exciting articles. These are our first reporters:

Joshua- Galaxy brownies, Harry R- Alien landing, Daniel – Golf, Pluto- Halloween spooktacular and Ronnie- Planetarium visit.

# Awards of the week

Saturn		Mercury	
Being Kind award	Callum, Aaron	Being Kind award	Charlie
Being respectful award	Callum, Freddie, Freddy	Being respectful award	Riley-John, Floyd, James
Being your best award	Freddie, Freddy, Callum, Toby	Being your best award	Floyd, Morgan
Pluto		Mars	
Being Kind award	-	Being Kind award	Alfie
Being respectful award	-	Being respectful award	Blake
Being your best award	-	Being your best award	Blake
Neptune		Titan	
Being Kind award	Ewan	Being Kind award	Daniel
Being respectful award	-	Being respectful award	-
Being your best award	Ewan, Theo, Ronnie, Jacob	Being your best award	Joshua, William
Galaxy			
Being Kind award	Aaron, Theo		
Being respectful award	Ryan		
Being your best award	Riley, Aaron		



## Outdoor Learning

This week we have been learning about comets. We have been making pinecone comets which involved learning how to tie a basic overhand knot to make the wool 'tail' of the comet. We also thought they looked a bit like fireworks when we threw them.

Some of the boys also enjoyed making a mud kitchen takeaway restaurant and a camp complete with a swing.





# Autumn LUNCH Menu

DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish! 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	<b>Meat Free Monday</b> Macaroni Cheese	Beef And Vegetable Stew	Lamb Madras With Steamed Rice	Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding	Fish Finger Or Bacon In A Baguette	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes Baguettes Fruit
And to go with	Peas & Sweetcorn	Mashed Potato Green Beans	Cauliflower & Spinach Bhaji	Roast Potatoes Broccoli Swede	Chips	
Pudding	Medley Of Melon	Raspberry Yoghurt	Apple Sponge & Custard	Rice Pudding	Ice Lolly	