

# BRANTRIDGE BULLETIN



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

## Dates for your diary:

- Bank Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021
- Half Term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021
- INSET day: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that your child has settled back into school well after the Easter break. A particular welcome to those of you whose children have joined Brantridge this week

This half term the children will be focussing on Japan as a topic area and work in the various curriculum subjects are linked to that. As you know we try to start each topic with a wide range of exciting activities to gain the children's interest and then try to build on that.

So this week classes have been creating Japanese style dragons as well as other art projects linked to Japan including cherry blossoms, koi and The Great Wave by Hokusai. Some classes have even had a go at writing Haikus.

After the children left on Thursday, each class has exhibited their work in a central area of the school putting their work and everything they have created on display. This morning classes will take it in turn to look at what the other classes have done, and the morning will end with classes performing their 'dragon dance'.

Hopefully the whole morning will expand both the children's knowledge and enthusiasm about the topic.

Have a good weekend,

Dafydd Roberts

## Mercury

We have had an exciting start to the new summer term. We have dived into our new topic head first, The Olympics! We have discovered where the 2021 Olympics are being held and learnt about the culture and life of Japan and Japanese people. We have created a Japanese Dragon out of cardboard and we have learnt a dance which we are going to perform to the school. We have also created some Salt Koi fish and a cherry blossom tree for a big whole school display. The class have got stuck into Gardening this term. We have a new flower bed in the garden so we have planted some onions, garlic and potatoes. We also drew using oil pastels the waves of Kanagawa, we tried to include Mt Fuji in our drawings.



## Mars

Mars Class have had a really busy 1<sup>st</sup> week back in school after the Easter break. We have started our new topic The Olympics so we have begun by learning about Japan which is where it should be held if it goes ahead.

We started by learning facts such as where in the world Japan is, how many islands and some other information such as mountains, food and some of the language. We then learned the Japanese creation myth which we re-told in cartoon scripts.

We have completed lots of fun art activities such as creating a cherry blossom branch where we researched blossoms then mixed different tones to paint the flowers which we cut out. We learned about one of Japan's most famous artists- Hokusai and the created art in his style to make our own versions of The Wave. We did lots of investigations into hot and cold colours which we then used in our own work. We used wax relief techniques to create texture and painted with water colours.

We had great fun creating our own life sized dragon to use in our performance on Friday but before this we wrote play scripts to tell a story about a shogun stealing the dragon's egg. We also wrote Haiku which we really enjoyed and then performed these to the group.



## Pluto

Konichiwa,

This week Pluto have been enjoying the Japan-related activities which links with this terms topic. We have been learning about earthquakes and the boys were fascinated by the sources of erathquakes and the machines that measure earth tremors. We were inspired to build a seismograph from cardboard to illustrate the Richter scale and how the earths vibrations are measured. This will be on display for all to see in the Brantridge Expo in the dining room. We learnt about koi carp and made some beautiful salt paintings of these amazing fish which will also be on display.

We sampled some Japanese cuisine in our Japanese feast on Wednesday, some of us got very good at using chopsticks. The crowning glory of our exploration of Japan has to be the dragon that we decorated and will be dancing under in a procession on Friday lunchtime.



## Saturn

We have had a great first week back. We have welcomed 3 new boys to the Saturn team so we have spent a lot of the week getting to know each other. We have introduced the new topic, 'who let the Gods out' which will focus on the Olympics and Ancient Greece. As such we have looked at Japan where the summer Olympics should be held this summer. We found out how to count to 3 in Japanese and how to say hello. We have been working hard to get our Japan themed work ready for the exhibition. We are very proud of the salt dough koi carp we made.

## Galaxy:

Goodness me what a wonderful and busy first week back. With the sun on our backs, we played and shared beautifully the swing in the woods, respecting the area and the space we were required to use. The most fabulous thing this week has been the willingness of the boys to engage positively in their morning folder work. They have been so engaged and willing to start and complete their work independently as well as asking for help when they needed it. There have been big changes in regards staffing across the class and these have also been met with resilience and positivity.

We have followed designated footpaths in our walking activity, showed how to adjust our helmets and chose the correct bike size in bikes and scooters, continued with our music appreciation and cooked some glorious cookies; demonstrating patience and good listening for most of the long session. Well done Galaxy!

## Neptune

What a busy first week we have had in Neptune class! Our topic for this term is Japan and we have immersed ourselves in everything Japanese this week.

Because Japan lies within the Ring of Fire, we have been able to use this fact to introduce plate tectonics. We used hot chocolate to demonstrate this and to show how continents were formed. The boys learnt about tsunamis and how they occur and they constructed a model to demonstrate this.

We learnt that cherry blossom season is a big part of Japanese culture so our walk this week was a cherry blossom walk.

The boys have worked together to create a dragon for our dragon festival on Friday. There will be a prize for best design and best dragon dance. I am fully expecting us to win at least one!! We also researched animals from Japan and wrote up fact files about them.



## Titan

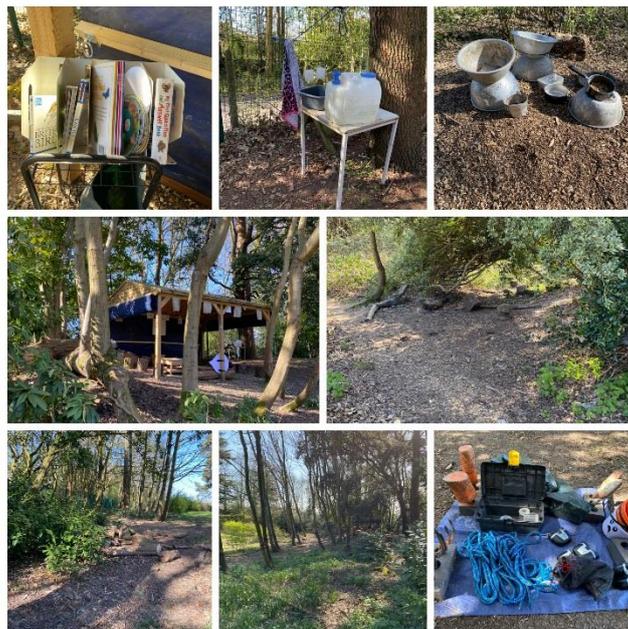
We have had a successful start to the new term in Titan class! We have introduced the new topic for this term, The Olympics, although we are going to focus on Japan for the first half term, then The Olympics for the second half. The children in Titan seemed very excited about the new topic and as part of our WOW starter, the children had the chance to bring their ideas forwards for the design and execution of our Japanese themed projects.

They have taken part in our dragon making art and D&T project, using their own ideas and some materials to develop it, which will be part of a whole school parade on Friday.

The cherry branch that each class has had the chance to design and make, has been another successful project in Titan with all children taking part and contributing towards making the resources for it - it will be part of a whole school cherry tree that will be displayed in school.

## Outdoor Learning

In outdoor learning we have been getting used to being back outside and recalling the rules and familiarising ourselves with the equipment. With lots of shelter building, camps and dens, Team games, discovering and even hammock building



## **Parent/Carer Support Helpline**

To all Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to announce that, in conjunction with YourSpace Therapies, we have arranged a helpline for any of our Parents/Carers to call if in need of additional support during the current challenging times we are all facing. The parent helpline has been a huge success and is highly rated by parents and schools who already use it. The helpline is staffed by experienced specialist child and adolescent counsellors and psychotherapists. Parents can use the helpline for specific concerns and to get strategies, advice and specialist consultations, they can also use the helpline as a signposting service, to self-regulate and as a supportive listening ear.

Brantridge School has been given an allocated slot by YourSpace to their helpline which is on Wednesdays between 13:30 and 14:30pm. This began on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February and will run for five consecutive weeks. Parents/carers can call as often as they would like in these allotted times. The helpline is a confidential service, and we hope that you find it a strong additional source of support over the next coming weeks.

The number to call is 01903 209991, and you will have the opportunity to speak to our assigned School Counsellor Clare Bell.

If you have any questions about access to the helpline, please contact the School Office and ask for Mr Robert Chowns.

## **Safeguarding Information - TikTok App**

To Parents/Carers,

It has come to our attention that a number of our pupils have referenced using the app TikTok since returning from the Easter Break. TikTok is a free social media app that lets you watch, create, and share videos -- often to a soundtrack of the top hits in music -- right from your phone. With more than 100 million users in the United States alone, TikTok has innovative video-editing features, viral dances, and celebrity cameos that make it incredibly popular. And though the app has generated controversy, it can be a fun, creative outlet for tweens and teens (and parents!) when used safely and responsibly.

While much of TikTok is harmless fun, there are real concerns about kids using the app. As with any social network, you have to use privacy settings to limit how much information you and your kids are sharing. Because you can post videos immediately without first reviewing or editing them, kids can upload impulsively. And other issues have dogged the app: reports of online predators using the app to target younger users; an FTC suit for violating children's privacy law; and serious software glitches -- including one that could have allowed the company to collect user data.

We highly recommend that you do not allow your child to have access to this app, or only ensure it is accessed when there is adult supervision at all times due to the dangers listed above. Please see the link below for further safety information:

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

Many thanks

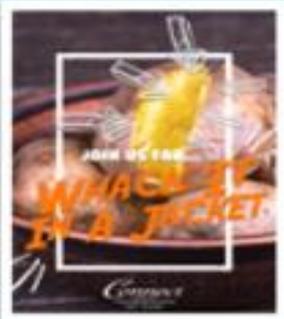
Robert Chowns (Designated Safeguard Lead)



# Spring LUNCH Menu

26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

*DID YOU KNOW? We use Free Range Eggs & MSC Fish!*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	<b>MEAT FREE MONDAY</b> Vegetable Hot Pot	Lasagne		Jerk Chicken	Fish Finger Or Bacon Baguette	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes
And to go with	Green Beans	Broccoli And Cauliflower		Rice & Peas	Chips	Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Pudding	Semolina	Banana & Chocolate Cake		Strawberry Yoghurt	Pineapple Sponge	Ice Lolly
Supper						

*HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND*

