

BRANTRIDGE BULLETIN



Friday 14th May, 2021.

Dates for your diary:

- Half Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2021
- INSET day: Monday 14th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The school's Governing Body, plays an important role in working with the school's Senior Leadership Team that I mentioned in last week's bulletin, in setting the strategic direction here at Brantridge. Our Governing Body works across three schools – Brantridge, St Dominic's and Grafham Grange. These other two schools, like ourselves, are part of the Orchard Hill College Academy Trust (OHCAT). The message below is one that is being shared today across all three of these schools today:

As you may be aware, Ken Cowdery stepped down as Chair of Governors at the end of last term, after many years' service on the Governing Body at St Dominic's School.

We are delighted to announce that Julian Short has been appointed as the new Chair of our Governing Body. Some of you will know Julian, as he is a parent at St Dominic's and has been a Parent Governor since 2018. Julian is married with three children. He has been a management consultant for over 25 years, with wide-ranging commercial and finance expertise across the corporate, not-for-profit and charitable sectors. He is currently a Partner at KPMG and was previously a Partner at Accenture. Julian lives in the Surrey countryside and outside of work he enjoys spending time with his family and wildlife photography.

Working alongside senior leaders, the Governing Body provides independent oversight of the management and operation of a school, ensuring robust accountability for its educational and financial performance. Julian brings a wide range of skills and expertise from his professional life to the Governing Body and we are very much looking forward to working with him in this capacity.

For further information about who our governors are and the work of the Governing Body, please look at our website, under the first tab entitled 'About us'.

Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Dafydd Roberts

Mercury

In Mercury this week we have been looking at the story Handras surprise. We have created an “English surprise” where we created our own stories with English animals and food instead. In Maths we have been tackling some tricky problems linked with addition and subtraction. In Science this week we have been learning more about our skeleton where we had a hunt to find bones and build our own skeleton. In topic this week we have been learning about earthquake resistant buildings. We conducted an experiment to see how a normal building would compare to a building with a base isolation. We replicated a tsunami and looked at the difference. In P.E we have been exploring more Olympic events where we learned how to throw discus, hammer and shotput.



Mars

This week in Mars class we have been learning about and comparing the social class systems in feudal Japan and medieval Britain. We have had a great time travelling back in time “through the magic mirror” to see what life was like under the Shogunite. We have looked at housing, dress and learned lots of fascinating facts about how people lived in the past, this week concentrating on Japan and next week on life in Britain so that we can compare the two.

In maths we have been learning about quadrilaterals. We have been looking at different shapes and sorting them by their properties.

In geography, we made a tsunami board game that we played as a group to demonstrate our understanding of this phenomenon



Pluto

Konichiwa,

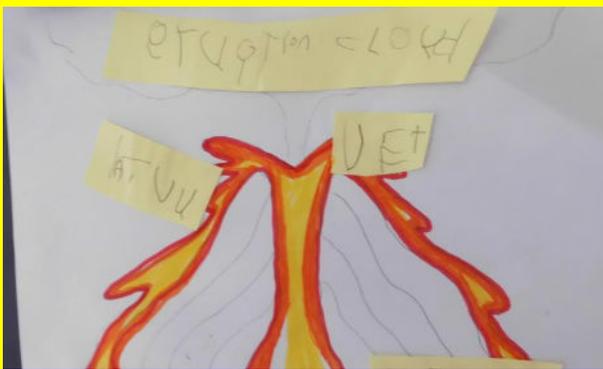
This week Pluto have been enjoying learning about comparisons of number through a game called "Boom™" and use of the "Number Washing Line™". In English we produced some posters to promote healthy eating through persuasive language.

In Art/Geography we learned about Japanese writing and managed to write our own names in traditional Japanese script. Outdoor learning has been very popular with Pluto and the class are raving about the new digging area. We have, of course, been out doing our morning mile every day.



Alfie hanging his numbers on the Number Washing Line™.

We have had a fantastic week in Saturn! The boys have really engaged in their learning relating to Japan and the Olympics as a topic. This week we have researched tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanoes. We used mind maps to help us plot our ideas, we became news reporters and delivered a news bulletin on tsunami's and following our volcano experiment we wrote labels for parts of a volcano as a fact sheet. The boys have all worked so hard! In maths we continued learning time and in art we learned how to draw in the Japanese style of manga, which is often in comics and graphic novels. We had some lovely attempts. In science, Saturn 1 were learning the different seasons and had to dress a doll appropriate for the (typical) weather of the season. In Saturn 2 the boys are learning about plants. In PE, the boys learned new skills playing table tennis and volleyball.



Galaxy:

I continue to be so impressed with the social skills these boys are developing. Every day we are seeing boys wanting to interact, play and learn with their peers. These sessions are really starting to become consistently and increasingly positive and productive. We continue to enjoy using the local parks and countryside for our sessions and once again, gymnastics was superb. The boys showing excellent resilience and bravery swinging from the "P" bars and dropping into the foam pit from the high bar. Another record was set in fishing this week, a record 14 fish caught with the biggest weighing in at 9lb12oz!

Looking forward to the end of this half term, it is fabulous to see how many AQA certificates that have been achieved this half term. I very much look forward to our certificate ceremony on the last Friday to celebrate the excellent achievements of Galaxy.

Titan

The children in Titan have had another busy week; we have started a new topic on Maths, area and perimeter for 2D shapes and composite shapes; the children spent some time measuring various things in the playground on Monday then using those measurements, they had to find the area and the perimeter.

In English, we have completed a creative writing task, where the children had to write a diary entry, as well as completing a fact file on a famous Japanese person.

In Science we created a tsunami effect in a tray, where the children could see what happens when a tsunami strikes.

In PSHCE/RE we looked at different types of religious music and the children had to say how it made them feel and what they thought about it.



Neptune

We have packed a lot into this week. For me, the highlight was a lesson we did on the art of compromising. The boys were so engaged and focussed and they undertook the task like professional negotiators!! It was so lovely to see them feeling confident enough to express their wants and then enter into a negotiation with the rest of the group so that everyone's needs were met. We have continued our work on fractions, moving on to finding fractions of amounts. They have used their fraction knowledge to create pasta necklaces, pepperoni pizza, Tshirts and much more. We are continuing to work on our dragon story and the boys have been able to apply some of their new negotiating skills in this activity. In Geography we have worked on compass reading and went out onto the playground to undertake some challenges. They picked up this skill up very quickly. We have had some amazing art work this week where the boys have put everthing they have learnt so far this term in a final 'Great Wave' picture. Thinking about hot and cold colours and perspective. They were all, rightfully, very proud of their creations. Singing lessons have started back up again. Did you realise that your boys can sing like angels? They were completely engaged and joined in all the songs singing beautifully.



Outdoor Learning

In outdoor learning this week we are still learning ways to save the bees, this time finding out how bees need shallow drinking sources, so we have started to create a bee tray pond which will also help other wildlife. To create we dug up stones from the digging area and working as a team some dug, some cleaned and some placed the stones in the area. We also have been taking responsibly for our own and others' safety during digging.



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 children using the app. As with any social network, you have to use privacy settings to limit how much information you and your children are sharing. Because you can post videos immediately without first reviewing or editing them, children 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)

LUNCH 

17th May 2021

Spring Menu

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Everyday
Main	MEAT FREE MONDAY Pasta With Roasted Vegetable & Red Pesto	Jambalaya	Chicken Cacciatore	Montego Pork	Fish Finger Or Bacon in a Baguette	Salad Bar Jacket Potatoes
And to go with	Peas	Sweetcorn	Broccoli & Cauliflower	Caribbean Braised Rice	Chips	Jelly Yoghurt Cut Fruit
Pudding	Semolina	Peach Yoghurt	Lemon Sponge	Pineapple & Mango	Choc Ice	
Supper						

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND ☺