



The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 21
Friday 18th May 2018



Branscombe Waves

Kieron: for a dramatic improvement in Times Table Rock Stars tests.

Mason: for being consistently friendly, helpful and kind to others.

Annabelle: for trying hard in phonics lessons.

Ben: for his positive attitude towards learning.

Dear Parents,

In our topic work the children have been learning about the different functions of each part of a plant. They have made beautiful drawings of a tree in blossom and have labelled its parts. We have also continued with our May Day preparations.

In Literacy the children have written their invent stories for the end of 'The Tiny Seed' learning journey. They used their own story maps to support them in their writing. The Reception children have been busy writing labels and sentences about illustrations from 'The Tiny Seed'. They have used their sound knowledge to make phonetic attempts at spelling.

In Maths this week, the children have been learning about position, direction and movement. They have been following instructions such as 'move 5 steps to the side' or 'walk forward 2 steps and then to the left 3 steps'. They have also taken turns to give each other instructions on how to move.

The Little Explorers went on a nature hunt, to look for materials that they could use to make a tree collage. They have also been enjoying the good weather by spending time painting pictures in the outdoor learning area.

The Year 6 children have approached their Key Stage 2 SATs tests this week with an admirably calm attitude, and have been heard to say that they found them less burdensome than they had expected. They especially enjoyed some breakfast treats brought in by Miss Prince on Wednesday morning, before sitting two Maths tests! In their absence, the Year 3 and 4 children have been practising identifying verbs in sentences and have become quite expert in distinguishing between phrases and clauses. They have also practised using a thesaurus to investigate synonyms and have discussed the different meaning or emphasis these might bring to a sentence. Towards the end of the week they have begun to develop descriptive phrases, attempting to use a wider range of adjectives and verbs to describe animals and how they move.

In their Science learning this week, the children reviewed the functions of different types of teeth and began to relate this to the different diets eaten by various animals, considering the question, "What can we learn about the diet of animals from looking at their teeth?" In next week's lesson, they will follow this up by looking at food chains and drawing food webs. Meanwhile, in their PSHCE work, the children have practised creating a menu for a day's meals, using a healthy balance of foods from different food groups.

The week ended with a wonderful celebration of the Royal wedding. Having researched and learned a little more about various members of the royal family, the children made bunting to decorate the area for their party, which reflected some of the things they had learned about the different royals. They enjoyed preparing a range of 'finger foods' for the party, including traditional Yorkshire puddings with small slices of roast beef, 'red, white and blue' fruit kebabs, and wedding-themed biscuits. The event was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of a busy SATs week and we are grateful to those who contributed to the party food, and joined us at the end of the day, to share our celebrations.

In Collective Worship this week, the children began to reflect upon the Pentecost story in more detail. Monday's worship involved an animated retelling of the story, in which the children re-enacted the experience of the disciples in the story, and rushed outside from an upper room to tell people what they had experienced. Then, as they thought about the theme of "Waiting", the children hung doves on the worship tree, to represent the presence of God's Holy Spirit with them, especially while they are waiting for things to change. On Wednesday, the theme was "Receiving" and the children wrote prayers on flags about changes they would like to see in their own lives or in the world around them. On Thursday, the theme was "Telling" and the children used candles, to reflect on how one flame is lit from another, and how good news can be passed on. In Friday's worship, on the theme of "Doing", the children learned about how the disciples stepped out in courage and began to see miracles performed. They considered how they might 'step out' of their comfort zone and do things for others. Next week, the children will consider the remaining themes of "sharing" and "growing" and will have the opportunity to use the reflective areas that have been created in the course of this project, to pray and reflect quietly on their own or with others. Alongside this Pentecost project, the children have been writing prayers for the Church of England's current "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer focus. They were encouraged to think about people and places in need of hope and a better future, and they wrote prayers for children around the world who are affected by the issues of poverty, illness or war. These prayers will be taken to Exeter Cathedral where, at 6.30pm on Sunday 20th May, there is to be a special "Thy Kingdom Come" beacon service and prayer event, which all are welcome to attend.

Thank you for all your continued support.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Branscombe CE School

Question of the Week

Class 1: What do you have growing in your garden?

Class 2: How can or should we look after our teeth?

Key Dates

Summer Term 2018

24th May – May Day Celebrations, 1.30pm

25th May - Non Pupil Day

28th May – 1st June - Half Term

13th June – Key Stage 2 trip to the RAMM Museum, Exeter

7th June, 14th June, 21st June, 28th June, 5th July, & 12th July - Swimming Lessons

Sunday 1st July- Exe Valley Challenge

19th July (pm) - Branscombe Summer play

23rd July – Federation Sports Day

24th July – Last day of Term

May Day Celebrations

We will be holding our annual May Day celebrations on Thursday 24th May from 1.30pm. Parents and members of the community are very welcome to join us for what is always an enjoyable event. All the children will need a white t-shirt with them on the day. The boys will wear this with their normal school shorts or trousers, while the girls will wear special skirts that we will provide. Plimsolls will also be needed. I do hope that many of you will be able to join us.

Exe Valley Challenge

We are hoping to enter a federation team in the Exe Valley Challenge walk against the clock, on Sunday 1st July. The event is open to all children in years 2 to 6. A separate letter has been sent home about this. If you would like your child to take part in the walk, please can you let us know by Monday. Thank you.

Sun cream and Hats

As the weather is becoming warmer, the children should have a sunhat with them, and have sun-cream already applied, before they come to school. We are not able to apply sun cream for the children. If children can apply sun cream themselves, please send them in to school with a named bottle of cream, to put extra on during the day (we have noticed that there is now roll on sun cream, which is easy for children to put on by themselves). Please can the children also bring a water bottle with them to school. Thank you for your help with this. **This is especially important to remember on the days that children will be doing P.E lessons, as they can easily overheat in the sun.**

Class 2 Reading Records

In order to promote regular reading at home in Key Stage 2 and to reward those children who do regularly read at home, we are re-introducing reading record books for the older children in the school. We recognise that most of the children in Key Stage 2 are able to read independently and they will be encouraged to take responsibility for recording their own reading each day. However, we would be grateful for parents' support in checking and signing the reading record to verify that the children have completed their daily reading. Please feel free to use this record to communicate with us regarding any questions or concerns you have regarding your child's reading. The reading record, together with the child's current reading book (whether this be a library book, a scheme book or one of their own) should be in school each day and will be checked on a weekly basis. We will be creating a tally chart to record how often the children read, and we will use this to reward those who read regularly. The children should be encouraged to read on a daily basis and each week, they need to complete a short piece of writing about their reading in their reading journals. These will be collected and checked, together with home learning books, each Monday. Thank you for your support.

Beer Blazer

This popular annual fun run, organised by Beer Primary School, will take place this Sunday in Beer, East Devon, over 'Grizzly' territory- fields, tracks, cliff tops and open common. The race will start at 10.30am from Pecorama, Mare Lane, Beer, EX12 3NA. The 1 mile fun run costs £2 to enter. The Beer Blazer Facebook page is BeerBlazer (without a space), and the online entry form is at <https://www.fullonsport.com/event/beerblazer/profile>. We would like to wish good luck to anyone taking part in this event.

Collective Worship Activity

This term we have been focussing in school on the value of Friendship. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together. If the children bring back something that you have done at home linked to the Collective Worship activity, or can talk about a discussion they've had at home linked to it, then Mrs Gray will award them with a new special sticker.



READ TOGETHER...

Through the roof

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four **friends** who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely *had* to take their **friend** Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss.

Wasting no time they carried their **friend** on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their **friend** *must* meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole.

Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his **friends**, Joshua's life was changed forever!

Bible story based on Mark 2:1-12