



BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 10 / 22
Wednesday 3rd March 2010



Dear Parents / Carers

Achievements to Celebrate
Branscombe Waves Award:

Daisy Gr. : for working hard and making good progress in writing.
Hope. : for making hard and making good progress in writing.
Curtis: for making good progress in ICT.
Charlotte R: for making good progress in English and Maths



PTFA Quiz / Raffle

The PTFA will be holding their Quiz night on Friday 19th March 9:00pm at the Masons Arms. You are allowed to have up to four people in each team. The entry cost will be £2.50 per person. Any donations for the raffle will be gratefully received.

School Christmas Cards

On behalf of the school I would like to thank Andrew Lees who very kindly agreed to print the Christmas cards that the pupils designed. We have been successful in raising around £100 for the PTFA.

Unwanted toys

The children in Class 1 would be very grateful for any unwanted toy cars and dolls that are in good condition. We would also be very grateful for any unwanted construction equipment that the children can use during wet break times and clubs.

World Book Day 2010

Thursday 4th March is World Book Day. This is sponsored by National Book Tokens and so each child in the school will receive a token worth £1.00. This can be exchanged at any book store participating in the scheme.

The Grizzly Run

Claire Graysmark will be participating in the "Grizzly" to raise money for the Branscombe Pre School this weekend. She would welcome any further offers of sponsorship. We wish her every success.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed our parent questionnaire. If you have not already done so, please could all completed questionnaires be put in the box in the entrance hall by Friday 5th March.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns, ideas or suggestions.

Best wishes

From the staff at Branscombe Primary

Message from the Governors

A few of you have been asking if we plan to hold another parents' forum this term - Mr Swait and I have planned one for 17th March at 3.30pm. Children will be looked after during their club activities and tea, and cake will be on offer again! Those children who normally attend netball can join another of the clubs on that day so that Claire and Linley are able to attend. We will look at how the school has addressed issues raised at the last forum and I am also hoping that Mrs Gray will be able to attend. I would also like to offer you all the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns that you may have however, in order to ensure the forum is constructive, I would be grateful if you would email them to me before the meeting. My email is hemery@tesco.net.

I also wanted to keep you up-to-date with changes that are taking place with the governing body. You will have noticed from last week's newsletter that we are currently advertising for a clerk to the governors and we will let you know as soon as someone is appointed.

Sandi Clarke, who lives in Branscombe, joined the governing body last term as a Foundation Governor, to replace Father Nick. At our last governing body meeting in February we also welcomed Chris Emerson, who recently moved to the village. Chris is our new Community Governor and replaced Stuart Britton who stood down at the end of the summer term in 2009 due to work commitments. Both governors bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge and in a very short space of time their help has been invaluable.

We have also sent a nomination to the Local Authority for an LA governor (to replace Brian Jones who also left at the end of the summer term last year as he now mainly resides in France) and I will let you all know, via the newsletter, as soon as we hear that our recommendation has been approved. We currently have a parent governor vacancy and we will arrange a parent governor election towards the end of this term. If any of you are interested and would like to have a chat about what is involved then please let me know! Either grab me in the playground or give me a call at home. There are a couple of others who live in Branscombe who have expressed an interest in joining our governing body and I am currently in discussion with them about the best way to proceed. It's wonderful that so many people within the community are keen to support our school.

If any of you have any questions about the work that the governors are doing then please ask. So far this year the focus has mainly been on budgets, new Ofsted requirements regarding safeguarding, monitoring of teaching and learning and reviewing and approving numerous policies! All governors undertake their duties with real enthusiasm and this, together with the staff's hard work and our supportive PTFA means that the children continue to receive a very high standard of care and education.

Jo Hemery
Chair of Governors

Visit to the Bat Caves at Beer : Wednesday 17th March

On Tuesday 9th March we will be visited by the East Devon Ranger James Chubb who will be coming into school to talk to the children about bats. Following this talk all of the pupils at Branscombe have been invited to visit the Bat caves at Beer on Wednesday 17th March between 9:30 and 11:30am. James will be taking us into the caves to see the bats in their natural environment and talk to the children about their habitat, life cycles and issues regarding their conservation. A coach is being laid on for free so this visit will not incur any costs.

On the day of the visit your child should come to school dressed in school uniform. Each child must bring a warm waterproof coat and sensible outdoor shoes as the slopes in the caves can be slippery when wet. The children will be provided with hard hats when underground.

The East Devon Rangers want to make a video recording of our schools visit to the caves, to capture the bats under ground and the children's captivation and joy at seeing the bats up close. They plan to use a professional film unit and make it available as news footage to the BBC, place onto their web-site and make a copy available to our school.

Please could you complete the permission slip at the end of the newsletter and return it to the school office by Friday 12th March.

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Visit to the Bat Caves at Beer

Name of Child: Class:

1. I would like my child to take part in this visit or activity and having read the information provided agree to him/her taking part in the activity described.
2. I consent to any emergency medical treatment required by my child during the course of the visit.
3. I confirm that my child is in good health and I consider him/her fit to participate.

Any relevant information about your child's health

I am happy for my child to be filmed for the purposes mentioned above. Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

My emergency contact number for the day is:

**Signature of
parent or guardian**

Date