



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 09/13**  
**Wednesday 2nd December 2009**



Dear Parents / Carers

**Achievements to Celebrate**

**Branscombe Waves Award:**

Hattie - For being respectful to others.

Daisy Gr. - For working with care and attention.

Fred - for being so helpful.

Branscombe C of E Primary School  
Children's Aims  
We will try to:



**The Branscombe Waves**

**Visit from the Bishop of Crediton**

The children and staff really enjoyed the opportunity to meet Bishop Bob and welcomed him into their classrooms to share their work and ask him questions. The Bishop spent some time with the children in Pre-school who were very keen to show him their dressing up costumes and toy garage with an operational lift! He then spent some time with the children in Class 1 sharing the story of David and Goliath before visiting the children in Class 2 to discuss his role as a Bishop. Photographs of the visit will be published in the next issue of the Sidmouth Herald.

**Book Week: Visit from a local Author**

As part of our book week the children in Class 1 and 2 were visited by the local author Tony Lambert. Tony shared two stories from his book entitled 'Four to Teen'. The children really engaged in the stories and enjoyed the opportunity to meet a children's author in person. The book is available at Paragon Books in Sidmouth and W.H.Smiths. (ISBN 9781849 440080)

**Staff News**

Kirsty Clode, our mealtime assistant will be leaving us at the end of this term to take up a new post supporting an SEN pupil at lunchtimes at St Nicks in Sidmouth. On behalf of the staff and pupils I would like to thank her for all of the help and support she has given to the school and to wish her every success in her new post. She will be greatly missed.

**Mince Pies**

If you feel that you would be able to provide us with some mince pies (bought or homemade) for our Christmas carol sing a-long please let us know. They will be gratefully received!

**Internet Safety**

Last week the children in Class 2 were visited by PC Steve Speariett who came into the school to talk about internet safety and bullying.

**School Meals**

The menu for 16<sup>th</sup> December has changed to a Christmas lunch. Orders for meals on this day should be placed on Monday with the school office together with payment. (1.95 per pupil per day)

**Clubs**

Please note that all clubs finish this week.

**Christmas Post Box**

The Christmas post box will be available for pupils to use from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

**Christmas Lunch cooked at the village hall**

Please could you inform us if your child will be requiring a vegetarian meal for our Christmas lunch on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December? This is will be a non school uniform event.

**Branscombe Village Christmas Fayre**

The PTFA would be very grateful for any produce for their stall at this weekend's Christmas Fayre. Please could these be brought into school by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December?

**Meal Time Assistant**

We have a vacancy for a meal time assistant starting at the beginning of January 2010. This will be a part time post and you will e working from 11:45am to 1:15pm supervising the pupils on the playground and in Class 1 where they have their lunch. The hourly rate for this post will be £6.73 per hour. An enhanced CRB disclosure is required for this post. Devon County Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Please contact the school administrator for further details and an application form. The closing date for applications is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. We would be prepared to split this post so it would be helpful if you could specify on your application form what days you would be available.

**Parent Forum**

Please find attached the feedback from the Parent's Forum that was held in early November.

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

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

From the staff at Branscombe Primary

**Forthcoming events:****Book week - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December we would like the children to come into school dressed as a character from their favourite book.

**Branscombe Christmas Fayre - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

The PTFA will be running a stall at the village Christmas fayre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December between 2 and 4:00pm.

**Christmas Carols and Mince Pies - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 2:00pm we are inviting parents and the local community to join us at the school to sing some of our favourite carols and to savour on some delicious mince pies with a hot beverage. The afternoon will also include a performance by the Pre-school and an opportunity to view the original plans for the school.

**Activity Action Hour - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our Activity Action Hour between 1:15 and 3:00pm. This will be an opportunity for you to come into the classroom and work alongside your child. Pupils in both classes will be making their own Christmas decorations. It would be very helpful if you could send in some tinsel, ribbon, glitter, sequins, anything shiny and glitzy.

**Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

The children will be having their Christmas lunch at the village hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**Nativity Play - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

There will be a full dress rehearsal at 2pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December that will be open to parents with small children and then there will be an evening performance at 6:00pm

**Christingle Service - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

The Christingle Service will be taking place at Branscombe Village Church on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm. All children will have an active part to play in this service. Please could you complete the form attached at the end of the newsletter informing us if your child is able to attend.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - children break up for the Christmas Holiday at 3:15pm.

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**Christingle Service**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm at Branscombe Village Church**

Name .....

Please tick one of the following boxes:-

☐

My child will be able to attend the Christingle Service.

☐

My child will not be able to attend the Christingle Service.

Signed ..... Date .....

Name of parent/ guardian - please print .....

## Parent Forum held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Parental Engagement		Action	Who
☺	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents felt that this had improved this term.</li> <li>They feel that the content of the newsletter is better.</li> <li>Parents now feel that their ideas and opinions are wanted. They particularly welcomed the opportunity of a Parents' Forum meeting.</li> <li>Parents particularly feel that the activity action afternoons are a great idea.</li> <li>Parents welcomed the information leaflet distributed but would like it added to the website.</li> <li>Parents feel that they receive sufficient information from the governing body</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes from this meeting to be distributed to all parents together with details of action to be taken.</li> <li>Parents will invited to contribute items for discussion at the next Parent Forum meeting in the Spring Term.</li> <li>Information leaflet to be added to the school website</li> <li>To consider an activity action afternoon focussing on country dancing as a fun way to bring the whole school community together</li> <li>To ensure that any important governor information is given to parents via the school newsletter</li> </ul>	NS / JH  JH  NS  NS / AC / GF  JH
<b>Perception of the school in the wider community</b>			
☺	Some parents indicated that they had not heard any negative comment for a long time.		
☹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some parents indicated that they continued to hear negative comments about the school, particularly in the Sidmouth area.</li> <li>It was felt that having 4 year groups in Class 2 might be off putting for some prospective parents however, current KS2 parents were positive about the class structure.</li> <li>There is also a general view that the school needs to review provision for sport in school.</li> <li>Discussion focussed on the required ratio of adults to children when attending sporting events and transporting pupils to activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaise with Kevin Moran – Learning Community Sports Coordinator (?) regarding more involvement with local sporting events.</li> <li>To consider use of a local sports hall for one afternoon per week</li> <li>To consider PTFA funding to assist with transport costs</li> <li>To look at raising funds to buy a school minibus.</li> <li>To reinstate the folder containing copies of local press articles.</li> </ul>	NS / AC  NS / AC NS / PTFA PTFA / Parents  NS / JH
<b>Children's Learning – strengths and areas for improvement</b>			
☺	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unanimously rated the level of learning accessed by the children as wonderful!</li> </ul>		
☹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some parents would like to see the children do more sport,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To consider the curriculum and explore options for including more sport in the timetable</li> </ul>	Staff / Governors

A huge thank you to all who attended – I hope you enjoyed the biscuits and cakes. If you have anything you would like to discuss at the next meeting please email Jo Hemery at [hemery@tesco.net](mailto:hemery@tesco.net).