

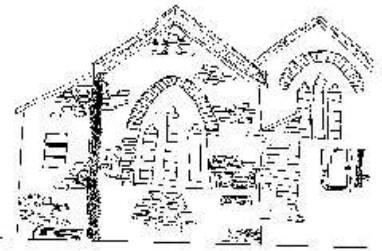
BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 10/11 03
Friday 24th September 2010



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents,

Although parents are always welcome to come and chat about any concerns or share happy comments about their children we do recognise at times you may want to come and talk something through at a quieter time without the children around. You can of course phone the school office to make an appointment with the class teacher or headteacher but before I went on maternity leave I did try to make myself available to parents at 9am on Friday mornings. This is still the case, so if you wish to join me for a coffee on a Friday to share ideas or discuss concerns then I am here most Friday mornings. Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Branscombe School.

Fun Day Stalls

Class two ran very successful Fun Day stalls on Wednesday. They raised over £32 which was brilliant. As a class they have chosen to donate this money to the Devon Air Ambulance Trust in memory of Mr Ken Langton, our school neighbour, who sadly passed away during the summer holiday.

Give Poverty the Boot Sponsored Walk

On Wednesday 20th October between 1 and 3pm the whole school will be doing a sponsored walk with Lucy from the National Trust. As part of our topic this term about 'ourselves' we have been talking about healthy eating and linking this to growing vegetables in the school allotment. We will also be talking to the children about how some countries find it more difficult to grow crops than we do. The sponsored walk will therefore be raising money for Farm Africa www.farmafrica.org.uk. Farm Africa provides the training and support that poor rural communities need to identify and implement appropriate solutions to many of the key problems they face. Families are directly supported to help work themselves out of poverty through improved ways to manage their crops, livestock, forests and access to water. The theme for our walk will be 'wellies' to link with their Give Poverty the Boot campaign! So over the coming weeks the children may be involved in some fun wellies activities! If you have any old wellies please don't throw them away they may be useful to your child or others over the next few weeks! During the walk Lucy will be showing the children autumn nuts and berries. The route will be similar to that of sponsored walks around Branscombe in previous year. Parents and friends of the school are welcome to join us on the day. In the mean time we would be really grateful if you could do your best to get sponsors for the walk. We have attached a sponsor form to this newsletter.

Bikeability

A reminder that some children in class 2 will be taking part in bikeability training next week. Those in the appropriate age group have already had information and permission slips. Bikes will need to be brought to school on Tuesday morning and can be kept at school until Friday.

Rag Bags

Thank you to all those that filled a 'Rag Bag' at the end of last term. We have recently received a cheque for £37 from the Rag Bag team!

Money Coming into School

We have noticed an increase recently in the frequency of small amounts of money being left on Nicola's desk in the office. In a busy school office it is very easy for notes or small amounts of change to get misplaced, particularly when Nicola is only part time. If you are sending money into school, please use one of the small reusable plastic wallets we supplied to parents some time ago (some more are on order and will be distributed shortly) or a normal envelope making it clear who the money is from, what it is for and how much money has been sent into school. Thank you so much for your assistance with this.

School Coats

A reminder that sample coats are available to look at in the school office. They are reversible hooded coats, waterproof one side, fleece the other with reflective strips on them. They will cost £16.50.

Lyme Regis Town Band Music Tuition

We have been sent information from the Lyme Regis Town Band about their training programme that they run for people of all ages. They have several young members and would like to welcome more. Trainees are provided with an instrument and training materials and there is no charge for tuition. The lessons take place on Thursday evenings at Axminster Methodist Church Hall from 7.30pm to 8.00pm. There is a poster about this in the school notice board and more information in a letter in the school office.

Asthma

A reminder that parents whose children who carry asthma inhalers in school, either all the time or just when they are suffering particularly badly, need to fill in a new medical form. Please see Nicola in the school office.

Community Cohesion

Last term we asked for parents help with an audit we were carrying out into Community Cohesion, that is how the children are learning about and taking part in activities linked to their school and village community, Devon community, UK community and global community. Staff and governors were also asked to take part in the audit and we have now collated the results and drawn up an action plan. We are always looking to improve our links with the local community and so much thought has gone into that element of the action plan but the children's understanding of the UK Community was an area that we also feel needs addressing. Some of the ideas from the action plan are shown below. If you feel you can help in any way with the ideas mentioned please talk to a member of staff.

School and local community level:

- Plan more activity action afternoons
- Widen the activities and responsibilities of the school council
- Make greater use of the school website to promote curriculum projects, linked to community cohesion
- Work with the Branscombe Project and local residents to produce an illustrated record of War Memories with local people

- Invite local residents to a Harvest Soup afternoon when children will serve soup they have made using local produce
- Have Christmas Play tickets available in Post Office to encourage villagers to attend
- Work closely with the new National Trust Community Warden to extend the range of opportunities for school and to develop the children's knowledge of local environment
- Make enquiries about pupils becoming 'Mill Guides' during the summer months
- Extend the range of visitors from the local and wider community (including faith representatives) to enrich children's learning

Devon community level:

- Plan a topic about famous Devon County Customs, involve the National Trust where appropriate
- Make more use of Video Conferencing facilities to communicate with schools around Devon
- Plan a topic about charities when local, national and global charities are a focus
- Make a link to a Devon School in an urban area

UK community level:

- Increase our library resources, visual aids and ICT material to more strongly reflect diversity in the UK
- Develop the curriculum (in particular the Arts and Historical, Geographical and Social Understanding) to greater reflect diversity in the UK
- Make more use of Video Conferencing facilities to communicate with schools around the UK
- Plan a topic about charities when local, national and global charities are a focus

Global community level:

- Arrange a meeting with governors who have links in Kenya and Thailand to create a structured plan to develop the existing links with these two countries and with Ghana where our 'adopted' child lives
- Plan a topic about charities when local, national and global charities are a focus

PTFA

The last cake sale made more than £20. There are a couple of people who have outstanding cake debt! Please pass your money to Lynley or Caroline. Due to football starting next Friday, the cake stalls will now take place on Thursdays, with the next one scheduled for Thursday 7th October with Louisa and Jo doing the cakes.

Thanks you to those who attended the PTFA meeting on Wednesday 22nd September. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer posts are all up for renewal. The next meeting will be held at 3pm on Thursday 7th October (just before the cake stall), so if you are interested in taking on one of these roles make sure you are there. A number of people will be required to be present to ensure that any vote is legitimate so please come along if you possibly can.

A mini Christmas Fair is being planned; more details to follow.