

BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 06/07 34
Friday 15th June 2007

School Lunches

Thank you so much for the effort that went into the Sustainability Picnic this week. It was lovely to see that so many families had discussed where the food had come from and even managed to use produce from their own gardens in the packed lunches. Dylan, who serves our school dinners, had also gone to a lot of effort to involve the children who had hot dinners on Wednesday. He had worked out the miles each food product had travelled and used the flags of each country to illustrate this to the children. It was clear in assembly the next morning that the children had learnt a lot from the experience.

We have become aware this week that parents are anxious about, what we had intended to be, a 'fun' monitoring of healthy packed lunches. Following our Healthy School Award we were asked to fill in an action plan to make even more improvements. One suggestion was to give stickers once a month for children who had 3 items of healthy food in their lunch box (they can still have less healthy items in their box too!). There seem to have been some mixed messages, for which we apologise. Please be assured that we are not inspecting lunch boxes, or telling the children off for having crisps etc., it is merely a way of promoting an understanding of a balanced diet and which foods are healthier than others. The matter will be discussed with the governors and talked through with the meal time staff and children again. We hope the children will look forward to receiving stickers in the future.

Year 4 Athletics Tournament

Congratulations to all the children who took part in the athletics tournament at Sidmouth College on Tuesday. Finishing in fourth position was a tremendous achievement and we all feel very proud of your success.

Our thanks also to the parents for agreeing to transport the children and staying to give their support.

You were all a great credit to the school, well done!

School Activities

Just a reminder that there are a variety of activities going on over the next couple of weeks. We are sorry that there has been such short notice about these, we had a lot of trouble finding transport and so couldn't confirm dates or costs until very recently.

Please ensure all permission slips are signed and returned to school.

Year 2 – Visit to Farway School on **Thursday 21st** June (there was a slight error with the day, not date, on the original letter!) Please see original letter for more information.

Year 5 and 6 – Please see other letters about Life Skills on 20th June and K'NEX Challenge on 25th June.

School Photographs

Due to the wet weather on Wednesday the photograph has been postponed until next Tuesday. Please ensure the children are in correct school uniform, with a sweatshirt, on Tuesday 19th June. Thank you.

Provisional Dates

We hope to hold Funday on Thursday 12th July.

We will hold a Parents Open Evening on Monday 16th July. This will allow parents to look at the class displays, the children's work and meet their new teacher if appropriate. The evening will also give parents an opportunity to discuss their child's annual report.

Further details to follow.

PTFA

The school would like to thank the PTFA for all their recent fund raising efforts and particularly all the work that went into organising the Summer Ball. The children will really benefit from the money that has been raised.

News from the PTFA

Barn Dance

Unfortunately the PTFA have had to cancel the Barn Dance due to lack of support. A few parents have asked why we booked the dance for a Thursday, this was done simply because the Band and Caller are much cheaper during the week and we wanted to keep the ticket (and other) costs down so that more people would be able to attend. We are sorry for those of you who felt it was too late for younger children.

Summer Ball

Thank you to all that helped with the Summer Ball, it was a fantastic evening and the weather was perfect for the Jazz on the lawn.

URGENT

You will be aware that as a parent/guardian of a child at Branscombe School, you are automatically a member of the PTFA.

As Julie Webb (Chair & Treasurer) and Tracy Cole (Vice Chair) are resigning as of the next School year, we urgently need parents to come forward to take on one of these three voluntary roles. **If we do not have all places filled the PTFA will cease to run. No funds will be accessible as it is against the law to operate with out a committee (no one will be able to sign any cheques with out a full committee)**

Please remember that all the funds raise by the PTFA are purely for the benefit of our children at Branscombe School.

We are currently in the process of topping up each of the classrooms with much needed equipment and this year the PTFA will have spent approximately £6711.00 (including interactive white board) on resources for our school.

These sizeable funds have been raised through events organized by the PTFA and supported by regular helpers, without whose help many of the events would not take place.

If you are not sure what the roles entail and would like to know more please fill in the slip below and hand into the school office. Remember just because you ask does not mean you have committed yourself!

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Yes I would be interested in finding out more about the PTFA.

Yes I **may** be interested in taking on a Committee position

Name

Phone number