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**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS’ PRE-SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER 5 - 20/21**

**Friday 5th February 2021**



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the February edition of our Newsletter. Although not all of the children have been in school this half term, we wanted to share some of our learning with everyone both at home and at school. For those of you who haven’t been in school we hope you are all well and are managing to enjoy your home learning. As always if you have any problems, please do get in touch with us.

The children in Class 1 have been working particularly hard this term both at school and at home. Mrs Finn would like to thank all our parents for their help and support with the children’s home learning. January has been a busy and exciting month full of hard work and exciting activities. The children have loved their new topic, Dinosaur Planet, and in the classroom a Dinosaur Museum has been set up, which the preschool children have been using as part of their role play games. There are many fossils and curiosities displayed as well as a gift shop which has enabled the Year 2 children to practise their money skills, as part of their Maths topic. The children have also made salt dough fossils and their own dinosaur world with a variety of materials and resources.

In English, the class have made their own dual-voice page about their chosen prehistoric creature, based on the text, *‘Dino Dinners’ by Mick Manning*. Mrs Bartlett and Mrs Finn were very impressed with the technical language used and how the children have adapted a text map to follow the format of *‘Dino Dinners’*. Currently, Class 1 are learning how to write biographies and have been finding out about Amelia Earhart’s brave record breaking achievements. It has been impressive to see how committed the children have been to practising their spellings on the online Spelling Shed programme. The class have become quite competitive to achieve the ‘Royal Bee’ status! Keep it up children, as this will greatly help your writing skills.

In Design and Technology Class 1 have been creative, designing and making their own sock-o-saurus. It has been wonderful to see the photographs of these achievements on Google Classroom.

The teachers have been mindful, particularly in the current climate, that it is important to promote and protect the children’s mental well-being, so have been planning appropriate daily activities. The Class 1 children have enjoyed reading *‘The Invisible String’, by Patrice Karst*, about the unbreakable connections between loved ones. It has been great to hear about some of the ways the children are developing their own interests and keeping themselves occupied, while being mindful of their mental and physical health during lockdown.

Next week, Class 1 will celebrate Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9th February by considering this year's theme: *'An Internet We Trust: Exploring Reliability in the Online World'*.  The children will take part in a range of activities to develop their knowledge and thinking further.

The children of Class 2 have continued to work hard, whether at home or at school, over the past few weeks. A highlight has been their work on the books, *'How to Be a Viking'* and *'How to Train Your Dragon'* by Cressida Cowell, which inspired the children's own writing of stories about a character that develops through a challenging adventure. The children's stories were set in a diverse range of contexts, from an Anglo-Saxon castle to an ordinary school classroom, and saw their characters developing in a range of ways. Building on last term's work on describing a setting, this project focused on character description and linking the plot carefully with the way they wanted the character to develop. The children have worked hard to develop their use of punctuation and an increasing range of sentence structures, adapting sentences from the text models they have been reading to help them practise phrasing their ideas in different ways.

The Class 2 children have now begun a new sequence of work, based on two books which purport to educate readers about dragons: *'Dare to Care: Pet Dragon'* by M.P.Robertson and Sally Symes and *'Dragonology: The Complete Book of Dragons'* by Dugald Steer. Both books are written in the style of an information text and enable the children to develop their writing in a more formal style, while enjoying the imaginative, fantasy element of the subject matter. Following the half-term break, the children will be challenged to write their own text in a similar style about a subject that captures their interest and imagination.

It has been good to hear some of the ways the children in Class 2 are developing their own interests and keeping themselves occupied, while being mindful of their mental and physical health during lockdown. From learning to knit, online guitar lessons and daily bike rides, to caring for their pets and joining in with Joe Wicks online workouts; the children seem to have been keeping busy and active, while also completing a wide range of lessons on Google Classroom or in school. In their topic work about the Anglo-Saxons, the children have been making Anglo-Saxon inspired jewellery and creating their own 'virtual museums'. They have learnt about why King Alfred was called 'the Great' but Ethelred was 'the Unready' and they have begun to investigate how the origins of many British place names go back to Anglo Saxon times. This week, the children also began to learn a little about Branscombe in Anglo-Saxon times. Meanwhile, in their Daily Dashboard sessions, the children have been learning about the rivers of the U.K.

Next week, the Class 2 children will also celebrate Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9th February by considering this year's theme*: 'An Internet We Trust: Exploring Reliability in the Online World'*. It is hoped that this learning will kick off with a 'live lesson' on Google Classroom, so both children at home and at school will be able to share ideas about honesty and investigating the reliability of online sources. The children will then take part in a range of activities to develop their knowledge and thinking further.

The following Tuesday (16th February) is Shrove Tuesday. While we will not be able to hold our traditional pancake day races this year, the children will be set a half-term challenge to take part in a few Pancake Day activities; such as seeing how many times they can toss a pancake without dropping it or setting up and undertaking their own 'Pancake Day' obstacle courses. When we return after half-term - whether that be to school or to home-learning - the children will be focusing more of their attention on the Vikings and we will also be preparing to celebrate World Book Day on 4th March.



In honour of World Book Day, we are launching a competition for all Class 2 children to decorate a cardboard tube - whether it be a toilet roll, the inside of a kitchen roll or even a longer one from a roll of wrapping paper - to represent a favourite book or fictional character. As well as winning the prize of a special book, pictures of the winning entries from our school competition will be forwarded to be entered in the competition being run by the Devon Schools Library Service. The rules are as follows:

* The design should be created using cardboard tubes whilst in their original cylindrical shape – that’s the challenge! The tubes cannot be wrapped in paper but it is acceptable to stick things on to create the design.
* The design should represent your favourite book character or book.
* Any size cardboard tube is acceptable e.g. kitchen roll tube, wrapping paper tube.
* Any medium can be used to achieve this e.g. felt tip, ink, paint, collage.

Photographs of your entries should be sent to school by Tuesday 23rd February. Have fun!

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*

**Branscombe Waves**

**Class 1:**

**Rosie:** for settling in well to school for her first week back and her excellent writing about dinosaurs. **Barney:** for a great first week back to school. **Sophia:** for completing her home learning tasks brilliantly. **Zoe:** for super Maths learning at home. **Cara:** for super progress with her reading. **Jake:** for fantastic effort with home learning.

 **Class 2:**

**Dominic:** for friendliness to a new pupil and some great imaginative ideas in Literacy and Art. **Tom:** for working hard at home and completing and submitting work in good time - great 'Beaver' learning behaviour! **Grace:** for making links, especially in her R.E. work. **Beau**: for managing her distractions well, persevering particularly in Maths and for completing some lovely History work about the Anglo-Saxon kings.

**Question of the Month**

**Class One:** Following Amelia Earhart’s advice *“If you want to do something, do it.”* What do you aspire to do or become in the future?

**Class Two:** What do you think would have been the biggest challenges people faced in Anglo-Saxon times?

**Key Dates**

**Spring Term 2021**

15th – 20th February: Spring Half Term.

Friday 2nd – 16th April: Easter Holidays

**Drop off and Pick up**

Please can all Parents and Carers remember to keep 2 metres apart at drop off and collection time. This is important for all our safety to reduce the spread of Covid-19. If possible adults and teenagers should wear masks outside the school gate. Thank you for your help with this.

**Parent Support Assistant**

We are pleased to welcome our new Parent Support Advisor, Cara, to Branscombe School. The role of a Parent Support Advisor has been developed in order to support parents/carers and families to work together and form a partnership that will enable children to thrive both at school and at home. Our parent Support Advisor will be able to provide information, signposting and impartial advice to parents/carers about services that are available to them in the local community and at school. There are leaflets in the School with more information, or you can contact Cara on 07495 540415 or 01395 514823 ext 238. Her working hours are Monday- Thursday 8.30am-4.30pm and Friday 9am-1pm.

**Free School Meals**

If your circumstances have changed as a result of the Covid-19 crisis your child may have become eligible for free school meals. This will also bring extra funding to the school, which will be used to help your child. For an instant decision or to learn more please go online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>.

**Collective Worship Activity**

This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Trust. 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.

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| **Wellbeing***There has been much press in recent months about children’s mental health. As part of our drive to support this we are going to include something each month in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If you have any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.*As the New Year has started, we need to continue to look after not only our physical health but also our Mental Health.  Please see the link below for the NHS website that offers support for families. <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/mental-health-services/cypmhs-information-for-parents-and-carers/>In school we continue to use the '10 a day' choices towards balancing our mental health, please see below. We have shared this with you previously so hopefully they will be familiar to you, it would be really great and beneficial for you to use these ideas as a family to promote positive mental health, particularly at this tricky time.C:\Users\Admin\Downloads\thumbnail_image.png |