



The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 6
Friday 20th October 2017



Dear Parents,

On Monday, the children in Class 1 thoroughly enjoyed their first Beach School session of this academic year, in which they learnt about food that is farmed from the sea. With the help of Claire, the children thought about the life of a fisherman, and the journey of seafood to plate. They looked carefully at the body of a fish caught locally, before talking about colour, texture and the function of the different body parts. Following this they cooked a mackerel over the barbecue, and whilst waiting to sample the fruits of their labour, scavenged on the beach for flat pebbles and driftwood to make their own plate of fish and chips! Back in the classroom the children couldn't stop asking 'big questions' and tried to answer some of each other's wonderings. Just why do we cry? And, why do we laugh?

In R.E. lessons this week, our younger pupils have been learning about Christian Baptisms. The class took a trip to the church, to look at the baptismal font, and to enact a baptism using one of the class dolls, in role play. The children were also interested to find out what celebrations were happening around the world at the moment, and have therefore learnt the story of Rama and Sita, before beginning their research into the festival of Diwali. Using sequins and counters, Reception pupils made giant Rangoli patterns and designed their own Diva lamps.

While Class 2's visit to the beach on Monday was sadly cancelled due to the forecast of strong winds, the children worked in the classroom with Claire Graysmark and Miss Moss. Linked to their Science work on materials, the children considered the different uses of the rocks and pebbles on the beach, learning about how the cliffs are eroded by wind and water to make boulders, then pebbles and finally into sand. They watched a video to learn more about how glass is made from sand and then made tea-light holders using pebbles and coloured sand in glass jars. The children thought about rocks as a link to the past and the future, and also considered how rocks can be used as expressions of spirituality, as in the case of Stonehenge or the building of cairns by travellers. They had the opportunity to write their own reflections about stones and pebbles and also experimented with building cairns from pebbles.

Class 2 completed their homework project to make a model of a mosque, and brought in a wide array of different models. The children have worked collaboratively this week to make a class book about their learning in RE this term. The book, entitled, "How Muslims are Inspired by Muhammad" includes different aspects of their RE work this term and has helped the children to link together what they have learned about the life and stories of Muhammad, the Qu'ran, the mosque, the celebration of Mohammad's birthday at the festival 'Milad-un-Nabi' and other ways that Muslims show respect to the prophet. Next half-term, the children will continue their learning on this term's key question, "How should we live and who can inspire us?" by looking at some of the ways that Christians, particularly church leaders, try to follow the example of Jesus.

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

Question of the Week

Class 1: If you were a teacher for the day, what rules might you have and why?

Class 2: Why can't humans walk through walls?

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2017

20th October – Last Day of Half Term
30th October – Non Pupil Day
31st October – First Day Back for Children
6th November – R and Y6 screening & Flu Jabs (see notice below)
14th November - Parents' Evening
4th December – Christingle service (evening)
12th December – Christmas Lunch
18th December – Christmas Play
19th December- Carol singing and end of Term

R and Y6 screening & Flu Immunisations

On Monday 6th November the School Nurse will be coming to measure the height and weight of Reception and Y6 pupils (unless you have opted your child out).

Also, if you requested a flu immunisation for your child in Reception to Year 4, these will be given on 6th November.

Class 1 Outdoor Learning Time

On Mondays Class 1 will be doing outdoor learning time every Monday afternoon. Therefore ALL children in Class 1 MUST have the following in school on Mondays:

- A waterproof coat.
- Wellies.
- A change of clothes (non-uniform, suitable for working outside, and possibly getting dirty).
- Waterproof trousers or overalls if possible.

Water Bottles

Please could all children have a water bottle in school every day. We are increasingly finding that children are forgetting to bring one in, and this becomes a problem particularly when going out and about around the village.

First Day Contact

Please could all parents be aware that they should let school know **by 9am** if their child is going to be absent or late for any reason, both on the first day, and on any subsequent days. Please do this by **phoning** rather than emailing, you can leave a message if nobody is able to answer. If a child does not arrive at school and no message is received, we have a duty to establish a reason for their absence. This week we have received a letter from Devon County Council asking all schools to remind parents to make contact with the school on the morning of any absence and that the school will use the child's emergency contact list in the event of no answer on the parent(s) home, mobile or work phone(s). As a result of a recent incident in another county, DCC advise parents to **ensure that an emergency contact has the ability to gain access to their house** to check all is well in the event that the parent cannot be contacted and this becomes a safeguarding concern.

If school processes fail to locate a pupil then the school will 'Risk Assess' the situation and;

- Telephone the Police using 999 if the child is considered to be at risk of immediate and significant harm or danger
- Telephone the Police on 101 if not at risk of immediate significant harm but where there are escalated welfare concerns
- Continue to try and contact parent(s) and/or emergency contacts if the pupil is not considered to be at any increased risk.

On their child's return to school following an absence, parents must **provide a note explaining the reason for their absence**. If this is not received, we will send home an absence form for you to complete and return to school. Please note that if a written absence note is not received, absences may be recorded as unauthorised, even if you have called us to provide a reason.

Collective Worship Activity

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



READ TOGETHER...

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Zacchaeus was a little man. He was a tax collector and had become rich by making others pay lots of money in taxes to the Romans and to him. He didn't have many friends.

When Zacchaeus heard Jesus was in town, he wanted to see him. But Zacchaeus was short and Jesus was always surrounded by a crowd. So Zacchaeus decided to run ahead of the crowd and climb a sycamore tree. From there he could watch for Jesus. As Jesus drew closer, he held his breath excitedly until Jesus stopped right beneath his tree. Jesus looked straight up at him! "Zacchaeus," said Jesus with a smile, "come on down. I want to stay at your house today!"

Zacchaeus hopped down. "You are welcome at my house, Jesus," he said with a huge grin.

But others grumbled, muttering to each other. "Why does Jesus want to go home with the rich, cheating tax collector? He isn't good enough for Jesus to come and stay at his house."

Zacchaeus heard what the people were saying about him and he wanted to put things right. He turned to Jesus and said, "Master, here and now, I promise to give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone in taxes, I will pay them back four times that amount."

Zacchaeus wanted to turn over a new leaf because Jesus believed that everyone deserved a new start and now Zacchaeus believed it too!

East Devon Countryside events – Half Term

Tree trail, Saturday 7 October to Monday 30 October, The Lookout at Seaton Wetlands
Explore Seaton Wetlands and discover 6 species of tree living on the reserve. Name all 6 using clues and interesting facts provided along the trail. Collect a trail leaflet from the Lookout. Return your completed trail to Seaton Jurassic for a free child's entry to the exhibit. No booking required, £2 per trail. Find out more at wildeastdevon.co.uk

Exmouth Mud Walk, Monday 23 October, 1:30pm to 3:30pm, Exmouth estuary. Wrap up warm and come exploring with the Education Ranger. Dig for Estuarine worms, fish for shrimp and discover what is living in the mud of the Exe estuary! Booking required, £4 per child. Find out more and book online wildeastdevon.co.uk

Bird watching for children, Tuesday 24 October, 2pm to 3pm and 3pm to 4pm Tower hide at Seaton Wetlands. Come and learn about the birds found at Seaton Wetlands, there will be bird spotting sheets and binoculars to borrow. Booking required, £2 per child. Find out more at wildeastdevon.co.uk