



The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 21
Friday 27th April 2018



Branscombe Waves

Ian - Well done for a marked improvement in handwriting and presentation - demonstrating hard work and perseverance.

Rupert - Well done for being an excellent self-manager; working independently and managing distractions to complete tasks set to his best ability in the time given.

Annabelle - Well done for enthusiasm and effort in her reading and writing – and for lots of valuable contributions to our topic project.

Tom - Well done for consistently showing respect for staff by listening attentively in class and group work.

Dear Parents,

To celebrate St George's Day on Monday, Class 1 enjoyed hearing the mythical legend of St. George and The Dragon. The children sequenced the story together, roleplaying key scenes as they retold the legend. Later in the day our EYFS children made their own red roses to wear on their collar, whilst Key Stage 1 pupils thought about how St. George may have felt slaying the dragon and saving the maiden in the story, writing diary entries from his perspective to explore this further and share their thinking.

In their topic work the children have been learning about environmental sustainability and how we as a school can work towards being greener. On Wednesday, the children reviewed the ways in which we as a school already try to be green and lessen the footprint that we leave on the environment. They visited our African garden plot and were reminded of the benefits of composting, before making posters to persuade members of the local community to create similar composting stations in their own gardens.

Inspired by hearing about the miracle of 'The Tiny Seed', which Eric Carle conveys in his text of the same name, the children in Class 1 have also begun choreographing dances, and composing music to represent the amazing journey from flower pods bursting and dispatching their seeds on the wind (the air-borne seeds are subject to myriad disasters through the perils of the seasons) to becoming mature flowering plants.

On Monday, Class 2 enjoyed sharing their homework about what it means to be English. They noticed some common themes among their ideas, as well as some more unique suggestions. During this week, the children have followed this up by writing a humorous set of instructions about "How to be Typically English".

Meanwhile, in this week's Computing lesson, the children were challenged to consider what the Internet actually is and how search engines work. They discussed how to search effectively for information and applied this knowledge by searching for facts to support this week's theme learning about life in Ancient Egypt. The children chose to research a wide range of areas of life,

from food, homes and clothing to games, jobs and entertainment. They then compared the Ancient Egyptian way of life to modern life and considered what has changed and what has stayed the same. For example, some children were interested to discover that while the Ancient Egyptians ate many of the same meats as people today (such as pork, beef, duck and goat), they also ate some unusual forms of poultry, such as heron and even pelican meat!

In this week's Science lesson, the children of Class 2 began to consider the question, "Where does all that food go?" by identifying some of the parts of the digestive system. This linked quite well with the children's learning about the Ancient Egyptian custom of mummifying dead bodies, as they had noted, in explaining the mummification process, that this involved the removal and separate storage of organs such as the stomach and intestines. Later in the term the children will examine further how food is broken down. They will also learn about the functions of different teeth and revisit the topic of healthy eating.

Across the Federation over the next few weeks and months, you may notice an increased emphasis on explicit teaching in the classroom about how to maintain positive mental and emotional health, and the impact of the daily choices we make, on our feelings and state of mind. This began this week in Branscombe School, with a focus on ten top tips for maintaining good mental health. This list, which we aim to display in the classrooms and regularly refer to, includes such as things as eating a healthy diet and keeping well hydrated, taking breaks from work, talking about our feelings and doing things to help others. Class 2 began to explore this list this week by exploring the question, "What is 'Mental Health'?" using animations, stories and videos. Over the next week, the children will be challenged to keep a tally of the list of 'ten daily helpful habits' to monitor how regularly they are doing these things during an average school day.

The children in Class 1 have also made an excellent start in their thinking mental health, using those key 'Ten A Day', by making posters to raise the profile of these important habits. The children thought about how, going forwards, they themselves will ensure that they are getting their ten a day. This enabled them to present suggestions for others to do the same. Next week the children will be making mobiles using logos for each of the ten habits, to display in the classroom, as well as our outdoor learning area, as a helpful reminder for them to take care of their mental health. If you have any questions about our 'ten a day' please come and talk to a member of staff.

We say goodbye to Miss Harvey-Jones today as she goes off for her maternity leave. We wish her well over the coming weeks and months and we can't wait to have a cuddle with the baby when they visit us. Many of you have met Mrs Harvey this week. She will be teaching the class during the maternity leave and the two teachers have spent lots of time together this week discussing planning and assessment so that there is a smooth transition for the children. Mrs Harvey is very much looking forward to her time at Branscombe.

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: Why is a healthy mind important?

Class 2: What do you think is meant by the term "mental health"?

What can you do to protect your own mental health and how can you help to support the mental health of others?

Key Dates

Spring Term 2018

7th May- May Day Bank Holiday

14th May - KS2 SATs Week

24th May – May Day Celebrations, last day of term

25th May - Non Pupil Day

28th May –1st June - Half Term

Free School Meals

As part of the new universal credit system, that is being rolled out across the country, the criteria for claiming free school meals is changing. This may mean that previously ineligible children, now qualify for free school meals. In addition any child who qualifies for free school meals will then be eligible until 2022, regardless of circumstance, and without the need for reassessment. We are therefore encouraging all parents to go online at

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals> and check their eligibility. As well as you as a family gaining free meals, school gets extra money into its budget for every child who is entitled to free school meals. So please check your eligibility and apply if able.

Beer Blazer

This popular annual fun run, organised by Beer Primary School, will take place on 20th May 2018, in Beer, East Devon, over 'Grizzly' territory- fields, tracks, cliff tops and open common. The race will start at 10.30am from Pecorama, Mare Lane, Beer, EX12 3NA. Over the past 3 years we have had a team of runners from Branscombe School, and we would like to repeat this again, this year. The 1 mile fun run costs £2 to enter. The Beer Blazer Facebook page is BeerBlazer (without a space), and the online entry form is at <https://www.fullonsport.com/event/beerblazer/profile>

Collective Worship Activity

This term we have been focussing in school on the value of Friendship. 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.



FASCINATING FACTS

Friendship Bands

Friendship bracelets are usually handmade and given to a special **friend**. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your **friend** put in to making it.



Raksha Bandhan

One special type of **friendship** bracelet is a Rakhi. Each year, normally in August, many Hindus mark Raksha Bandhan. The festival is a celebration of family life and in particular the relationship between brothers and sisters. They remember and talk about special times together, and think about loyalty, closeness, trust and their everlasting **friendship**.

- Traditionally sisters tie a sacred thread, a Rakhi, on to their brothers' wrists.
- In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.
- Celebrations continue throughout the day with gifts of sweets and special food as families enjoy the time they share together.