

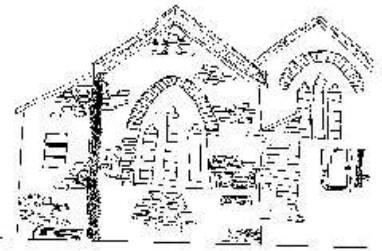
BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 11 / 12 09
Friday 11th November 2011



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents,

The children attended the Remembrance Service today at the war memorial. Class 2 read some very moving poems and the children planted the crosses and laid a wreath. As always, I was very proud of how respectful the children were.

It was lovely to see so many families at the Bonfire Party on Saturday night. The youth group had done a brilliant job organising the evening. The food was delicious and the bonfire and firework display was spectacular.

You are probably aware that several unions are taking industrial on Wednesday 30th November. Members of staff at Branscombe will be supporting their unions and taking strike action on this date. Unfortunately, this will mean that school will have to close on this date. Many parents will be able to testify to the conscientious and caring nature of the staff at our School and will understand how loath we are to disrupt children's education, for a second day this calendar year. We take our responsibilities as teachers very seriously. However, the proposed changes in the teachers' Pension Scheme are so drastic that we are concerned not only for own situation but also for those just joining the profession or considering entering it. We appreciate that it may be necessary to adjust or adapt the present pension plan in the light of the current economic situation, but we feel that the scheme has been downgraded to such an extent that it goes well beyond any measured response to the present financial stringencies, even allowing for changes in life expectancy. Most of us have never considered such action until this current issue and the headteacher's union has no history of striking at all.

God bless and we hope you have a lovely weekend.
Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Branscombe School.

Key Dates

Mrs Gray will be in school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week.

Saturday 12th November - Baby & Toddler Group Jumble Sale in the Village Hall at 2.30pm.

Monday 14th November - Trip to Clip 'n' Climb for years 2,3,4,5,6.

Monday 14th November - Deadline for EcoArt Christmas Card orders

Tuesday 15th November - Parents Evening.

Monday 21st November - Class 2 Dental Hygiene session.

Monday 21st November - deadline for Puffin Book Club orders.

Saturday 3rd December - Branscombe Village Christmas Fair at the Village Hall.

Monday 5th December - Christingle Service 6pm at St Winifred's Church.

Thursday 8th December - Christmas Play at Branscombe Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Friday 9th December - Christmas Theatre trip for the whole school. See below for further details.

Monday 12th December - 2.45pm Parent Forum meeting

Wednesday 14th December - Children's Christmas Dinner at Branscombe Village Hall.

Friday 16th December - last day of the Autumn Term.

Thursday 5th January - return to school after Christmas.

Costumes for Christmas Play

The children are already working hard preparing for the Christmas Play. We have some interesting costumes to make this year and really need some help. If you are interested in a bit of creative costume making then speak with Mrs Crawford.

EcoArt Cards

You should all have received your sample Christmas Cards. We thought that they looked absolutely excellent this year. If you do wish to make a purchase then please ensure that your orders are returned to the office **before the 15th November**. This is a strict deadline to ensure that all cards get printed and returned in time.

Christmas Theatre Trip

We have organised for the whole school to attend a performance of *We're Going on A Bear Hunt* at the Northcott Theatre on Friday the 9th December. The children will travel by coach to the performance in the morning and return to school for lunchtime. The PTFA have kindly agreed to subsidise the trip and therefore we ask parents for a voluntary contribution of £5 per child. Please note that if we do not receive sufficient contributions then the trip may have to be cancelled. Please complete the slip below and return it to the office.

Driving

Please could we remind parents and anyone collecting children from the school to drive with due care and attention around the village. There have been concerns recently about the speed of some drivers. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Parking

It is imperative that parents DO NOT park in the passing bay at the back of school - even for 5 minutes. It blocks access to our neighbour's drive which is in constant use. It also makes deliveries to school and to our neighbours difficult. Most importantly it is not a safe place to drop off children. Our school travel plan asks that parents park in the Village Hall and walk children up the school path, which was built specifically for this purpose, therefore ensuring the safety of children.

Cake Stall

Thanks to Claire and Judie for running the cake stall this week. They raised £25. The next cake stall will be held by Louisa and Jo on Monday 5th December.

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Thank you to members of the school council who ran the stall and to parents who supported it. They made over £16.

PTFA meeting

We were pleased that people had expressed an interest in attending the next PTFA meeting and have scheduled a date of Friday 25th November at 9am. Please return the slip below if you are able to make it. If you would like to be involved but find it difficult to attend at this time of day please note this on the slip. If we do not receive enough interest the meeting will be cancelled and we will of course let you know.

Clip and Climb

Children in years 2,3,4,5 and 6 will be going to Clip 'n' Climb on Monday. Please ensure that you return the SOE3 form on Monday if you have not done so already. Children will need to bring trainers, tracksuit bottoms, long sleeved top (t shirt material), coat for travelling in and a packed lunch. Children will need to be collected from Branscombe Village Hall at 4pm.

Parent Forum

Please note a change in date. The next meeting was meant to be on the 12th December; however this will need to be changed. It will be either the Tuesday 13th or Wednesday 14th December and we will let you know as soon as possible. The parent representatives are as noted below. There is currently a vacancy for Reception, if you are interested please speak to Nicola or Mrs Gray.

Year One - Nikki

Year Two - Judie

Year Three - Claire

Year Four - Jo

Year Five - Amanda

Year Six - Carolyn

PTFA

I _____ will be attending the PTFA meeting on Friday 25th November at 9am.

Theatre Trip

I give permission for my child _____ to attend the trip to the Northcott Theatre on Friday 9th December. I enclose a voluntary contribution of £5.00.

Signed _____