

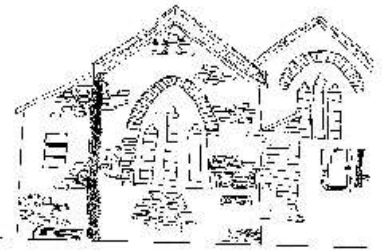
**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 11 / 12 24**  
**Friday 16th March 2012**



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents,

Thank you to those parents who attended the consultation meeting on Monday evening. I hope you found the evening helpful. Amanda Bentley, our Chair of Governors, has written a summary of the meeting which you will find attached.

If you have any questions during the consultation period please don't hesitate to ask. You can do this by seeing myself or Amanda Bentley at school or emailing [chair@branscombe.devon.sch.uk](mailto:chair@branscombe.devon.sch.uk).

We are all very much looking forward to community fortnight which starts next week. Please have another look at the timetable below to see if you can support us in any way with the activities planned. There may be days when the children need wellies or non uniform - this is now included in the table too. Please keep bringing in the plastic bottles for the greenhouse construction. I should be around for a bit on each day during the fortnight as I don't want to miss out on all the fun!

God bless and we hope you have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Branscombe School.

**Key Dates**

**Monday 19th March** - start of Community Fortnight - further details below

**Wednesday 21st March** - Easter Garden competition

**Thursday 29th March** - Church Service at St Winifred's Church at 2.45pm. All welcome.

**Friday 30th March** - Class 2 trip to St Nicholas Priory for Tudor Day

**Friday 30th March** - last day of term

**Monday 2nd April - Monday 16th April** - Easter Holidays

**Tuesday 17th April** - return to school after Easter Holiday

## Community Fortnight

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Walk Around Branscombe</b>  <b>Sensible walking clothes and shoes needed and a waterproof coat</b>  We will be sketching landmarks which will be printed onto a tea towel to sell around the village. <i>All parents welcome to join us for the walk.</i>	<b>Eco Day</b>  <b>Sensible gardening clothes and shoes will be needed and a waterproof coat</b>  We will be building our plastic bottle Green House and doing general gardening jobs around the school - <i>all parental help welcome.</i>	<b>Church Links Day</b>  <b>Waterproof coat will be needed</b>	<b>Cookery Club Day</b>  Local chefs will be working with the children.  <i>Tea Party in the Afternoon - parents and friends of the school welcome</i>	<b>School Council Activity Day</b>  The school council will launch a fundraising idea. <b>Please could all children come dressed as the colour of a smartie</b>  KS2 Visit to Broadhembury Primary School for Music afternoon
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Celebrating our links with Broadhembury</b>  This will include video conferencing between schools.	<b>Polish Day</b>  To celebrate our links with Poland	<b>Focus on Ghana</b>  To celebrate our links with Ghana and our sponsored child Grace.	<b>Parent Activity Day</b>  <i>We would like parents to join us for all or part of the day to help produce group collages of things we have achieved during the week.</i>	<b>TUDOR TRIP</b>

### Class 2 Music Afternoon at Broadhembury Primary School

We have been invited to join Broadhembury for an afternoon of musical activities. A music consultant is visiting the school and we are sure Branscombe children will benefit too. The cost of the coach will be covered by school. The children will leave after lunch and return to school for 3.15pm. Please fill in the attached SOE3 form for the visit.

### **Garden Centre Visit**

We would like to say a big thank you to Darren at Sidmouth Garden Centre for all his help yesterday when a few children went to buy some plants. We have saved up the vouchers we have won for our allotment competitions as we wanted to revive our sensory garden. Children who had shown a particular interest in the garden - Chloe, Autumn and Jake visited the garden centre to choose the plants. They found Darren to be very interesting and they learnt that aloe vera goes very mushy in time! Some of the plants they bought were: Saxifraga Pixie - a pretty pink flower for 'sight', various herbs for 'taste and smell', and heckenfee for 'touch' as it is prickly. They have saved some vouchers as they want to buy some grasses to 'hear' the wind through.

**Pub quiz** - The PTFA will be running a pub quiz at the Mason's Arms on Thursday 26th April at 8.30pm. The cost will be £2 per person with teams of up to 5 people. All money raised will go to PTFA funds to help provide activities, events, trips etc for the children.

**Easter Garden Competition** - The PTFA are running a competition for children to make an Easter Garden in a box no bigger than a shoebox. The gardens must be in school by 9am on the morning of Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The competition will be judged by Hilary our vicar.

### **School Meals - Lucky Easter Cookie**

On Friday March 30th children to have booked a school meal will be given a lucky cookie. If the cookie has a lucky number on it then that child will win a Cadbury's Cream Egg. School meals are £2.05 per meal, payable in advance.

### **Flock - National Art Project**

We mentioned some time ago that children in Textile Club were making sheep to contribute to a National Art project. The project still needs about 1500 sheep to reach their target. We have included instructions so that you can make some at home if you would like to. The project supports the Campaign For Wool so ideally the sheep should be made from wool or yarn with some wool content.

## Summary of Federation Consultation Meeting

Please find below a summary of the meeting – thank you to all those who attended.

Present at the meeting were governors from both schools, including Angela Crawford and Nicola Bullock, a representative from the LA and a representative from the Diocese as well as myself and Katie Gray.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Katie Gray addressing the following points: Why we looked for a partner school in the first instance; what were the Governing Body's criteria when looking for a suitable partner; why have we chosen to consult on a Federation; what benefits have come about from the Management Partnership and what further scope would there be if we federated.

After the presentation parents were asked if they had any questions or issues that they would like to raise. The main discussion points are listed below.

- Finance – we discussed the school's 3 year budget plan; this had been looked at in detail by the Finance Officer the previous week and showed that by continuing a partnership with Broadhembury we would have a healthy balance at the end of the 3 year period.
- Interaction between schools – it was requested that we have more opportunities for the schools to meet up, particularly in the coming summer months. Some joint events are already planned including Broadhembury joining Branscombe at May Day. It was noted that should the schools federate then future planning can ensure that suitable shared events can take place. It is also hoped that the savings made will mean that the school could cover the cost for transport or at least subsidise it.
- Celebration – it was suggested that there could be a joint celebration day should the Federation go ahead and the possibility of the 2 PTFAs joining forces was discussed.
- Distance between schools – one parent queried why we had not chosen a school closer to Branscombe; governors from both schools had been keen to have a small amount of distance between partnership schools to avoid children choosing 1 school over the other. It was also necessary to find a school which had either an Acting Head or a Headteacher who was leaving. One parent noted that distance is not a problem if planning is done properly.
- Similarities between the schools – one of the obvious benefits of being partnered with Broadhembury is that it is very similar to Branscombe in size, ethos, etc. Both schools have a class with Reception-Year 2 children meaning two Key Stages in a class and this is very unusual – it is beneficial to both Class 1 teachers to have another member of staff with whom to plan/discuss.
- New Resources – the Management Partnership has enabled the school to purchase new resources including a Reading scheme aimed at boy's reading specifically. Parents were particularly pleased with these.
- Science Events – now being part of the Honiton learning community has enabled Katie Gray to organise science visits from Simon Maplesden of Honiton Community College. Parents also expressed that they were pleased with these opportunities.