

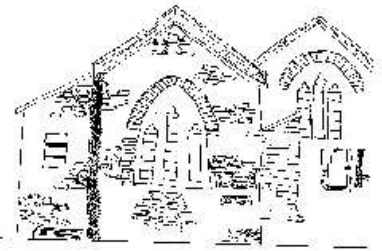
BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 10/11 11
Friday 26th November 2010



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents

We hope that you found the Safe Internet training on Wednesday night useful, I certainly did. Please do continue to remind your children of the issues that were covered in the class workshops, particularly about not sharing personal information on line.

Thank you to those who attended the Parent Forum, it is always useful to hear your views and particularly encouraging to know that things we are planning in school, such as swimming and the residential trip, were some of the areas you wanted to raise. We will provide detailed notes about the things that were discussed in next week's newsletter, and in particular we will try to update you on the matters relating to PE funding cuts which were in last week's newsletter.

At the Parent Forum it was decided that, for environmental reasons, instead of the children sending individual Christmas cards this year we will have a tree in the foyer where each child can hang a special card to the whole school. A donation in lieu of cards may be made to a charity that the children will select.

We are busy in school preparing for all the Christmas fun! The dates of all our events are listed below. Please do put them in your diary. If you can help in any way with any of the festivities please talk to a member of staff.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

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

Sidmouth Garden Centre

Sidmouth Garden Centre are operating their Christmas Tree Voucher Scheme again this year. Each voucher presented (when you buy a tree) earns the school £2.50. Please find some vouchers attached which you can also pass on to family and friends. Contact Nicola in the office if you need any more vouchers.

School Funding

As we all could anticipate the coalition government are making huge changes to the way schools are funded. The full details of which are yet to be finalised but we do know that a large proportion of our budget will be based around the number of parents who claim Free School Meals. To benefit from this, 17% of our parents need to be claiming for Free School Meals. Our figure at the moment is approximately half of this. We feel that the problem with this method of assessing the need for funding, is that some children who may be eligible for free school meals prefer to bring a packed lunch and therefore do not claim. If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits please, please, please speak in confidence to Mrs Gray or Nicola so that we can help you to process your claim. Your child doesn't then need to actually order the free meal but it will help hugely with our school funding.

You are entitled to free school meals if you receive any of the following:

Income Support (IS)

Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)

Child Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMR&C) of less than £16,190

Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)

Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit

Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

Milk

We have been given an opportunity to take part in a subsidised school milk scheme. If you choose to take part you sign up directly with the scheme and then milk is delivered to school for your child. Leaflets will be sent home with all children but if you have any further questions please ask Nicola.

Christmas Dates

A few dates for your diary - further details will be sent out nearer the time.

Branscombe Village Fair - Saturday 4th December at 2pm in the Village Hall

Christmas Play - Tuesday 7th December at 6pm. The dress rehearsal will be at 1.15 and parents with young children are welcome to attend if they would like.

Christmas Dinner provided by St Nicholas' Kitchen - Wednesday 8th December.

Community Carols & Mince Pies - Monday 13th December at 2.15pm at school.

Branscombe School Christmas Dinner at Village Hall - Wednesday 15th December.

Christingle Service - Wednesday 15th December. 6.30pm at St Winifred's Church.

Break Up for holidays - Friday 17th December

PTFA

Thank you for all the hard work that went into the Pub Quiz last night. It was great fun even if the headteacher/administrator team didn't win! It raised a wonderful £168.00.

Jam jars are still needed for the Village Fair which takes place next weekend. This is an opportunity for the school to have a stall at a community event so please help us support the community by contributing some decorated jars. The jars can be filled with anything, but some good examples are sweets, hair bands, small toys, pencils.

On the 16th December the PTFA will be holding the Mum's (and Dad's) Christmas Lunch at the Mason's Arms. The lunch will be at 12.30. Let Lynley or Caroline know if you are coming (by 3rd December please).

The PTFA need contributions of mince pies for the Nativity on the 7th December and the Community Carols on 13th December. Also, if anyone has any prizes (however small) that can be used for the raffle that will be held at the Nativity on the 7th December please bring them in to school.

The cake stall will be held on Friday 3rd December after school. Angie and Judie will be doing it this time.