



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
5- 21/22
Friday 14th January 2022**



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, it is lovely to see the children again. We hope you all had a restful Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year. At the end of last term, we were pleased to welcome so many parents back into the playground to share some of the children's learning with you.

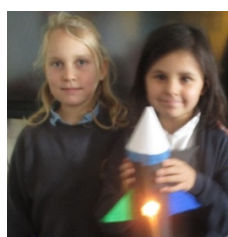
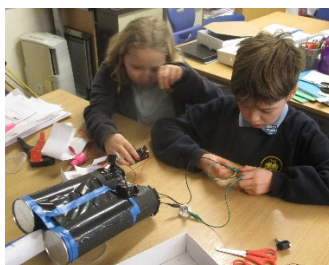
Class 1 were really busy in the lead up to Christmas. They were proud to present and talk about their learning about London, especially showing off their amazing London landmarks.

Class 1 have started the New Year with much enthusiasm for our new topic '*Street Detectives*'. They are looking forward to finding out about Branscombe and how it has changed over the years. We are lucky to have so many interesting historical buildings so close to school. Class 1 will be going on a couple of local walks to find out about the amenities and identifying manmade and natural features. They will also be looking at their own homes, identifying different features and comparing old and new buildings.

Class 1 will also be looking at how people's occupations have changed over the generations. Please could the children bring in some photos or copies of their family and their occupations over the generations or email them into the office: admin@branscombe.devon.sch.uk by next week.

Class 1 will also need to have wellies in school this term to use on walks and in the field. Another reminder is for children to wear plenty of layers as windows and doors will be open in all weathers to increase airflow in the classroom. Thank you.

The children of Class 2 worked hard in the last few days of term to complete their work on their Design and Technology project, combining their structural model-making skills with their understanding of electric circuits. They worked in pairs or trios to design and make a model rocket using electricity to make it light up or make a sound - or both! The children developed their skills of problem-solving and collaboration as well as their technical abilities, with some impressive results.



This term, in their topic entitled *'Revolution'*, Class 2 will be learning about some of the significant technological advances and social reforms that took place during the reign of Queen Victoria. The children will be learning about a range of Victorian inventions and developments, including changes in travel and transport, such as the growth of the railway network and canal systems in Great Britain. As they explore what life was like for rich and poor in Victorian times, they will also learn about some of the inventions that have made our own lives a whole lot more comfortable, such as electric light bulbs, the automobile, photography, sewing machines and postage stamps - to name a few! They will learn more about what life was like for rich and poor in Victorian times and learn about some significant Victorians.

In the first Literacy sequence of this term, Class 2 will be exploring how a diary or journal style of writing can be used to tell a story in an entertaining way and also how it can be a useful source of historical information. The children will be reading extracts from Queen Victoria's own diary and later, writing journal entries in role as a Victorian person. In their homework, Miss Moss would like to encourage the children to experiment with keeping their own journal and recording their own thoughts and feelings on a regular basis. In their Science work in the first part of the term, Class 2 will learn more about light and shadows, while in their Computing work, they will explore the development of photography and practise manipulating images using computer technology. Later in the term, in their Art work, Class 2 will focus on William Morris and practise printing motifs in different ways, including the use of photographic paper. Meanwhile, in their Music lessons, Class 2 will be learning to read music as they begin to play simple tunes on the recorder. Again, Miss Moss would be grateful for support in encouraging the children to practise this skill at home between lessons. Class 2 will also explore what life was like in the local area, including learning more about the prominence of the lacemaking industry. In Design and Technology, the children of Class 2 will practise the traditional skill of embroidery.

It has been lovely this term to welcome our new Head of Learning, Mrs Tubbs. She is quickly getting to know the children and staff and is keen to get to know parents too. She has written this message to you all...

'It has been a really busy first couple of weeks back for all of us! I have really enjoyed getting to know all the children - they, along with all the staff, have made me feel very welcome. We have already been on a trip with the Year 3 and 4 children, and had a donation of some bulbs and gravel from Combe Garden Centre for our Key Stage 1 classes' science learning- thank you to them. A little bit about me- I live in Seaton, my family and I keep bees and myself and my husband have a dog called Luna. I look forward to meeting all of you- so please come and introduce yourself!'

As you know the Covid cases across Devon are beginning to rise and Branscombe has had a few cases this week. Please keep testing your children regularly if you can. We will do our best to keep open in the normal way but if staff become poorly and we are unable to source supply cover (as you can imagine supply staff are in great demand!) we may need to join classes for sessions or indeed, as a last resort, close a class and move to remote learning. Please be assured that if this becomes necessary it really will be because we have tried every option and feel that we can't open safely. Please keep your eye on the home page of the website for urgent messages about school closure.

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 Month

Class One: Which buildings are new and which buildings are old in Branscombe?

Class Two: What details about your everyday life could you record that might be interesting or even surprising to children in future generations?

Key Dates – Spring Term 2022

20th January – Special Census Menu.

24th January – Key Stage 1 Coordination trip, for some of Class 1.

25th January- Key Stage 2 Trip to Tiverton Museum (provisional date).

31st January - Flu immunisations.

7th February- Futsal at HCC, Trip for some of Class 2.

8th February- Safer Internet Day.

10th February- Key Stage 1 Trip (provisional date).

Branscombe Waves

Class One:

Sophia – for amazing perseverance in story writing.

Zach - for fantastic story writing based on Town mouse and Country mouse.

Class Two:

Lily - for persevering to complete a high standard of written work.

Grace - for great effort and concentration when writing and when designing and making a rocket.

Drop off and Pick up

Please can all Parents and Carers remember to keep 2 metres apart at drop off and collection time. This is important for all our safety to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Adults and teenagers should wear masks outside the school gate. Thank you for your help with this.

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed as a result of the Covid-19 crisis your child may have become eligible for free school meals. This will also bring extra funding to the school, which will be used to help your child. For an instant decision or to learn more please go online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>.

Reception Applications

The deadline for applying for a place in Reception for next September is Saturday 15th January. This should be done online. Please recommend our school to any friends who may be looking. We are happy to give tours to prospective parents. Please ring 01297 680339 to book.

Census Day

Thursday 20th January 2022 is school census day. On this day we would like as many children as possible please, to choose lunch from the menu. The more children who opt for a school lunch on census day, the more money the school is given to spend on the pupils. Therefore, we would ask that you share the menu with your child and encourage them to choose a school dinner for that day. There is a special farming theme and any child that chooses a school meal that day can come to school dressed as a farmer! There is a separate menu being sent home for this day. Thank you for your help.

Wellbeing

There has been much press in recent months about children's mental health. As part of our drive to support this we are going to include something each month in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If you have any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.

After the Christmas break it has been lovely to see the children return to school. However, for some children, returning to school can be a worrying time, full of uncertainty and anxiety. As a parent, you always want to do the best to reassure your child and to ease their worries. Dr Barnardo's have developed some coping strategies to support children if this is a difficult time.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/support-hub/back-school-strategies-coping-feelings>

[Back to school: Strategies for coping with feelings | Barnardo's](#)



Grounding techniques. A grounding technique is a coping strategy for managing intense feelings and emotions. These techniques help to 'ground' us, which means they help us to notice the present moment we are in. www.barnardos.org.uk

Collective Worship Activity

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

God's Special Promise

The world that God had made was a beautiful, colourful place – brimming with life and bursting with good things. It was his precious gift given with all his love. God **hoped** that people would care for it and care for each other but now they were doing just the opposite! They were quarrelling, fighting, and spoiling everything. God saw that there was only one thing to do; to begin all over again.

But God also saw that not everyone on the earth was wicked. There was one man and his family trying to do their best to look after the world and to look after each other and to listen to him. The man's name was Noah. God told Noah to build an ark – a huge, magnificent boat. Noah was mystified because he lived miles from the ocean and was not sure why he would ever need a boat. As word got around about the enormous boat Noah's neighbours made his life miserable with their taunts and jibes. Sometimes Noah was tempted to lose **hope**, but he knew from experience that he could trust God for the future, so he and his family kept on building.

When the work was finally finished God told Noah to gather two of every kind of creature as well as all his family together and set up home in the ark. It took a long time but Noah had to just keep on trusting God. And then the first raindrops began to fall, followed by showers, then torrents and finally floods. On and on it rained for forty days and forty nights. When Noah was beginning to lose **hope** of ever seeing the sun again, the rain suddenly stopped. Noah sent out a dove and when it did not return he knew that the bird had found dry land on which to build a nest. They were safe at last!

And then a wonderful thing happened. God sent a rainbow - a beautiful, colourful bow in the sky. It was a sign of **hope** and promise. The world had been washed clean, and was all ready for a new beginning.

Bible story based on Genesis 6:1-9:17