

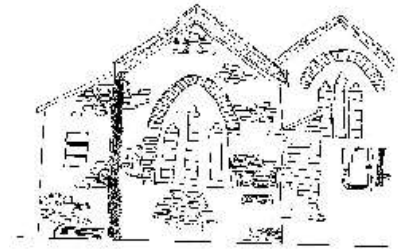
**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 13 / 14 10**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014**



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a lovely holiday and the storms didn't cause too much disruption.

I would like to give a warm welcome to a new member of staff. Sasha Jones an "old" girl of the school, will be working mainly in class 1 over the coming months. Please help to make her feel at home.

The children will be bringing their topic plans for the term home today. The teachers have some really exciting activities planned. If you can help in any way please speak to the staff. As part of the Olympic Legacy, funding has been given to all schools to help develop sport. Within our federation we are using part of this funding this term to develop gymnastics teaching. Starting from 16<sup>th</sup> January, a unit of gymnastics teaching will begin, run by the Devon PE Adviser, and will take place over a course of Thursdays at the Village Hall. Broadhembury children will be joining us for this, and as well as having some very high quality gymnastics teaching the pupils will join together for some joint topic and literacy work. At the end of the unit of work there will be a gymnastics performance for parents.

We are going to begin having an extra time to meet together as a school every Friday afternoon. Parents and other family members are invited to join us in Class 1 at 2.55 every Friday where the children will talk about some of the learning they have been doing during the week and show some of their work. The Branscombe Wave awards will also be presented at this time. Sharing Assembly will begin next week on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. I hope you can join us.

Next Saturday evening the Branscombe Wassail will take place. This is being organised for the village by school and we could really do with some parent support in all sorts of ways. More information is included below, please let us know if you can help in any way.

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

**Key Dates:**

Mrs Gray will be in school in the morning on Monday and Friday next week.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January** - PTFA Cake sale

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January** – First Sharing Assembly 2.55pm

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January** – Wassail, 5.30-8pm in Branscombe.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February** – Branscombe Pantomime: *Two Hoods are Better than One* (Details below)

**Admission/Transport Arrangements Consultation**

Devon County Council consults on all aspects of its admission arrangements including Published Admission Numbers so that parents, school staff and governors and representatives of the community without a previous interest in admissions have an annual opportunity to review arrangements and make comments and suggestions for improvement. They are consulting all interested parties on the proposed admission arrangements for 2015-16. They are also consulting on the Education Transport Policy 2014-15.

The consultation is hosted at [www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements) where there are links to various documents which make up Devon's proposed arrangements and links to schools' own proposed policies. The consultation will run from 2 January to 28 February 2014.

**PTFA Cake Stall**

The first cake stall of the term will take place this coming Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, with Nicola and Caroline providing cakes. After this, cake sales will be on the first Monday of each month. Thank you to all who have offered to make cakes, Caroline will be producing a rota for the next few months.

**Godly Play Club**

This new club begins on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January and is available to Class 2 children.

Further information and permission slips are being sent out today. Permission slips must be returned to Wendy as soon as possible via the school office.

**Branscombe Pantomime: *Two Hoods are Better than One***

This will be taking place at the Branoc Hall on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from the Post Office and cost £5 per adult and £2.50 per child. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the PTFA have very kindly offered to pay for all the children to attend. They will be sitting together at the front along with some parent helpers. If you would like to be a parent helper and sit with your child(ren) at the front please get in touch with the PTFA (unfortunately parent helpers will need to pay the entrance fee). Please make sure to return the permission slip (already sent out) by next Friday if you would like your child to attend.

**Absences From School**

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please call the school on the first day of absence so that we do not become concerned that your child has not arrived at school. In addition to this we will need you to provide a written explanation for our school records. If a letter is not received we will send out an absence form for parents to fill in. Any written confirmation (letter or absence form) must contain details of the nature of the illness, rather than general terms such as "unwell". Absence forms must be returned to school within a week, otherwise an unauthorised absence will be recorded. Thank you.

### **Gardening Club**

During the recent bad weather the school greenhouse sustained some damage. The Gardening Club have requested help to repair this. If you are able to offer some time and your skills to them please get in contact as soon as possible.

### **Dentist Visit to Class 2**

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January Ben Pearson Dentistry will be visiting Class 2. Further information and a permission slip will be given out today, and must be returned before the 20<sup>th</sup> January in order for your child to take part. The children will need to bring in their toothbrushes on the day.

### **Sidmouth College Talk**

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 3.15pm Kenny Duncan, Principal of Sidmouth College, has kindly agreed to come and talk to Year 4 and 5 parents about the College. If you would like to attend please fill in and return the permission slip (attached) so that we can gauge the level of interest. The talk will only take place if parents are interested in attending.

### **Fund Raising for Philippines**

As you will already know Sheleen's son Dominic decorated their house in Christmas lights in order to raise funds for the Philippines appeal. He and Sheleen would like to thank everybody who generously gave money to enjoy the lights. £79.54 was raised, and will be sent to the Red Cross Philippines Disaster Fund.

### **Percussion sessions – Class 2**

Class 2 will be having percussion lessons on Friday mornings for 5 weeks, starting on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Wassail**

Due to popular demand we have decided to host a village wassail, much like the one that the school took part in a couple of years ago. The event will start at 17.30 in the Bakery Orchard where we will sing the Wassail song that the children composed in 2011 and carry out some of the traditional wassail activities. We will then walk through the fields to the school orchard at Manor Mill before returning to the Branoc Hall for refreshments and some circus skills activities that we have organised for the children. On the evening please come dressed appropriately and bring torches, pans and wooden spoons in order that we can make as much noise as possible.

We would love as many people as possible to join us at the event and if you can help in any other way that would be great too. The children will be doing some apple related craft activities on Friday afternoon and we should be grateful if you would bring in the following before then: **1 litre plastic bottles, clear glass jam jars** (parents please bring these into school so that children aren't carrying glass).

It would be great to have your contributions of apple cakes and goodies to share in the Branoc Hall after the event. Please bring these to the hall between 5 and 5.30 on the evening. In order that we can get some idea of the number of people that will be attending we should be grateful if you would complete and return the attached slip as soon as possible.

**Wassail - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 5.30 -8pm**

We \_\_\_\_\_ will be attending the village wassail on  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

I / We \_\_\_\_\_ would like to help out with craft activities on  
the afternoon of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

I / We \_\_\_\_\_ will contribute some cakes.