

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



The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 2- 20/21**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for the second part of the Autumn Term, we hope you all had a refreshing and enjoyable half term break.

Class 1 had a super first half term! Mrs Finn and Mrs Bartlett have been very impressed by how well the children have settled back into class and daily routines. The last week of term was extra special, as Class 1 had a week full of exciting Science activities, as part of the Jubilee Hub Science Week. They began the week looking at images and news reports of the plastic pollution in our oceans, which led on to a science experiment to test how quickly different materials degrade in salt water. The children all made their predictions and decided which materials they were going to test. Bubble making was the next experiment they took part in and they had a lot of fun testing whether or not bubbles are always spherical shapes. Everyone in the class were surprised to find out that they always were, despite the shape of the bubble wand.

In Geography the children have been continuing to develop their map reading skills by following simple maps around school and also using compass directions in P.E. In D.T. they have been using saws very carefully to cut wooden frames for their beach huts. Mr Hughes watched a Monday music lesson and was so impressed by how well the preschool children were able to successfully keep to the beat of a piece of music with their chosen percussion instrument. The children have loved listening to authentic sea shanties and enjoyed adding their own words to change the melody and then perform it to the class.

The Class 1 children have now finished writing their news report about the hut rescue from our class text Katie Morag and are currently working hard at joining their handwriting in addition to using correct punctuation in their sentences.

In Maths the Year 1 and 2 children have started the addition and subtraction unit and have been using part-whole models to partition numbers and show pairs to ten, 20 and even 100! The Reception children have been confidently comparing and representing numbers up to 5 and learning about different 2.D. shapes. Next, they will be exploring repeated patterns.

All children have been reading to a friend in school on a regular basis, in addition to reading to an adult. Please continue to support your child by listening to them read daily. Reception children have now got a reading book with words containing the phonics they have been learning in school. Blending is a tricky skill we will continue to practise at school and will develop the more they practise at home. At this age, rereading the text and repetition helps with fluency and quicker decoding. Enjoying books together will help develop your child's love of reading.

Class 2 have continued to enjoy exploring the Ancient Roman world. In addition to their fantastic homework reports about the Roman army - many thanks to all parents for your support - they have concluded their recent Literacy sequence of work by researching and writing non-chronological reports about different aspects of life in the Roman world.

In Science week, Class 2 completed their series of lessons on raw and synthetic materials by exploring recycling and made their own recycled paper. They linked their work on materials to the Roman theme by completing an investigation into which of the various materials the Romans used for an equivalent to modern day toilet paper - which was the most durable and which the most absorbent. Still working on the theme of materials, the children investigated the materials that were used to make Roman shields and weapons, discussing the properties that made them suitable for their purposes. They then completed a Design and Technology project to make model shields and weapons that would mimic these properties.



The children then related their work in food technology to their learning in Science about the three processes used to transform raw materials into synthetic materials: namely, applying heat, mixing or reacting. They recognised that these three processes are also used in cooking and they investigated different cooking methods (baking, roasting, frying, grilling, boiling and steaming) and how these are used, before using some of these techniques to recreate some Ancient Roman recipes. Working in groups, the children made Roman honey cookies, Roman cheesecake, Roman burgers and Roman flatbread, which they enjoyed tasting! The Roman flatbread was particularly popular.



In their History work this week the children have been learning more about the Celtic queen of the Iceni, Queen Boudicca. They have begun to investigate how she was represented in writing from the time and how she has been represented in Art. Meanwhile in their Music lessons, the children were challenged to work collaboratively in groups to produce a soundscape of a Roman town and then to record their ideas on a graphic 'score'.

Three new Sports Leaders have been appointed from among the children in Class 2: Reginald, Tom and Austin. These children will be working alongside staff and their P.E. coach to develop their leadership skills by helping to develop the repertoire of games children are able to play in the playground.

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:** What are the physical and human features of Branscombe beach?

**Class Two:** In what different situations do you need to take responsibility to look after your own safety and how?

### **Branscombe Waves**

#### **Class 1:**

Oakli - for settling into school with a smile

Zoe - for remembering capital letters and full stops in writing

Ben and Sophia - for super collaborative work in Maths

#### **Class 2:**

Tom - for excellent listening and concentration.

Dominic - for extra effort with Literacy, especially developing his reading and writing.

Isla - for great effort, especially in her writing and also for representing the school in a horse-riding event at Bicton.

Beau - for excellent learning behaviours, listening, taking part and working with good concentration.

Rupert - for improved listening and excellent enthusiasm and participation in lessons.

Austin - for great involvement in lessons and helpfulness to a younger learning buddy.

Reginald - for consistent effort and excellent contributions to support the learning of others.

Corey - for enthusiasm and developing independence in his learning.

### **Key Dates**

#### **Autumn Term 2020**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November- Remembrance Day.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November - School photos.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November - Children in Need.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Anti-Bullying Odd Socks Day.

18<sup>th</sup> November - Flu vaccinations

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Last Day of Autumn Term.

#### **Spring Term 2020**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Children Back to School

15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February - Spring Half Term.

### **Remembrance Day**

While we regret that we are unable to invite participation from parents and others at this time, the children will be marking Remembrance Day this month by visiting the Branscombe memorial and completing an Act of Remembrance in which they will plant crosses and lay a wreath to remember those from the local community who died in the World Wars. Guidance currently states that school visits can take place currently, however, if guidance is updated prior to our visit to the war memorial we may need to hold our Act of Remembrance in our classes.

### Odd Socks Day

Later in the month, in the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> November, the children will be marking 'Anti-bullying Week' by considering within their classes what bullying is and how we can all be 'United Against Bullying' (this year's theme). To start off the week, we would like to invite the children to participate in Odd Socks Day on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. This is described by the organisers as 'an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!' Why not join us by wearing your most colourful odd socks on that day to celebrate your own individuality and uniqueness?

### Flu Vaccinations

If you wish for your child to have a flu vaccination please make sure that you pre-register your child online at <https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2020/devon>. You may recently have received a letter from NHS England, you do not need to bring this letter into school. As long as you have completed the consent link provided by Virgin Care Services then your child will be vaccinated at the planned school session. Thank you for your help.

### Children in Need

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, the school will be celebrating Children in Need. As part of their learning, the children will be celebrating what is great about being a child and developing their speaking and listening skills. In Class 2, they will do this by preparing and presenting speeches about such topics as '*Why Adults Should Be More Like Children*', '*The Best and Worst Things About Childhood*' or '*Children's Rights*'. In Class 1, the children will be practising giving their teacher instructions on how to do things while wearing a blindfold! The children are invited to wear spotty clothes in honour of Pudsey and we will forward any monetary donations to Children in Need.

### Child Absence

**If your child is unwell please telephone the school before 9am to let us know that they will not be attending. This is a legal requirement.** If your child is unwell with symptoms of Covid-19, they will need a test before returning to school. The school office needs to know each morning which children will be in school so the correct number of school meals can be ordered. If you are running late, but would like a school meal please contact the office to let us know. As a school we legally have to account for pupil absences, to do this we need written confirmation of any absence. We routinely send home absence forms when children are away from school. **If you have any of these forms outstanding, please return them to school as soon as possible. If these forms are not returned your child's absence may be marked as unauthorised.** Spare forms are always available from the school office. We appreciate your help with this.

### X-pplorers Lunchtime Club

We are very pleased to announce that from next week X-pplorers lunchtime club will be restarting. It will be taking place during the lunch hour and will be run by Linda Joy from the Holyford Mission Community. The club will be open to pupils in Reception to Year 6 and will largely be run outside, either on the school field or in the forest school area near the forge. We hope that many of our children will want to take part. For those of you who are new to the school, Linda is part of the Holyford Community Mission, working as their Children & Families worker. She is a qualified teacher and forest school leader with a passion for the "Great Outdoors". Because the club is going to be during the whole of lunch time we would ask that pupils attending bring a packed lunch, or choose the packed lunch option on the school lunch menu. This will enable the pupils in the club to have a picnic lunch outside. They will also need to have wellies/walking boots or similar, and a waterproof coat in school on Fridays.

### Wellies/Alternative Footwear

Please could children in both classes bring wellies or similar to school every day. They are using the field several times a week for their playtime and having alternative footwear in school will prevent muddy footprints around our school.

**National School Meals Week  
9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November  
Join us for a week of special fun meals**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Meat Free Day**

Pizza Margarita or Quorn dog with tomato ketchup  
Served with coleslaw, mini corn on the cob and herby diced potatoes or wholemeal pasta  
Baked syrup sponge and custard, fresh fruit or organic yoghurt

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Favourite school meals**

Organic beef burger in a bun or cheese wheel  
Served with baked beans or vegetable sticks and curly fries or pasta  
Chocolate cracknel, fresh fruit or organic yoghurt

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 National roast dinner day**

Roast chicken & stuffing or Quorn roast.  
Carrots, cabbage, roast or boiled potatoes with gravy  
Jelly and ice cream, fresh fruit or organic yoghurt

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 celebrating local produce**

Westcountry sausages or vegan sausage roll  
Broccoli, swede, boiled or creamed potatoes & gravy  
Pear and apple crumble and custard, fresh fruit or organic yogurt.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Thank you keyworkers**

Mini battered fish fillet or homemade quiche  
Peas, vegetable sticks and chips or wholemeal pasta  
Homemade jammie dodger biscuit, fresh fruit or organic yoghurt.

**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.*

As we go into our second national lockdown it is essential that we look after our mental health. The NSPCC have information and support on their website to help families at this difficult time. Trying new or different coping strategies can help support your mental health and lower stress in a positive and interactive way, the NSPCC have shared some good strategies to try at home. There are also details of where you can access support if you are struggling.

Please follow the link below to the NSPCC website.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/mental-health-parenting/>



## Collective Worship Activity

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



### FAMILY FOCUS Becoming Peacemakers

'Peer Mediation' is a scheme often used in schools to train teams of children who volunteer to help settle disputes in the playground. Some of the guidelines in the training include the following strategies:

- Listen carefully to both sides
- No interrupting
- No accusations
- List problems to be sorted out and then work through them

How do you resolve disagreements in your household? List one 'top tip' from every member of the family.

