

BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 10 / 11 21
Friday 4th March 2011



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents

I hope you all had a lovely half term break. It seems a while ago now, but thank you to all those children and parents who supported the school at the Cathedral Celebration Banner Service which took place on the first Saturday of the holiday. It was a very special occasion to be involved with and to see all the school banners paraded around the Cathedral was a wonderful sight.

I know that several children enjoyed making willow creations with the National Trust over the holiday. Class 2 have also worked with the National Trust this week planting apple trees. To celebrate the millennium, families from the school at the time planted an orchard near to the mill and the apple trees were in memory of loved ones. There is a record of the project in the school and a book of dedication. Over the years some of the trees have died and we had wanted to replace them for a while. Hastoe Housing Association recently donated some apple trees to the school as part of their Hastoe Orchard Project. With the help of the National Trust we have now revived the orchard and a new plan of apple varieties has been added to the orchard's records. The children enjoyed looking at the different tree varieties and even found some of the ones mentioned in their Wassailing song.

Thank you to all those parents who came to parents' evening and to all those who have completed the questionnaires and post it note exercises over the last couple of weeks. Your comments and suggestions have been really helpful and many will be put in place almost straight away. We can certainly inform parents via the newsletter of target areas being covered and class topics. We also liked the idea about extending the 'Christian Values' collective worship themes to include small tasks/discussions to have at home. We will also ask for parent views when we review some key policies within the school. If you have any ideas at any time please do talk to us, don't just wait for the next questionnaire!

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

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

Class 2 Science Trip by Max

Yesterday we went to Honiton Community College to have a science lesson. We discussed the properties of materials, such as, whether they conduct electricity and whether they are magnetic. The teacher put gas into a mixture of water and washing up liquid and put the bubbles on Curtis' hand and set fire to the bubbles, which showed us that because the bubbles had gas in them they were very flammable. It was so exciting that I want to go back to the school right now. In the last experiment Mr Maplesden put ethanol into a plastic barrel and then put a match near the end of the barrel and it ignited, it made the sound of a jet engine taking off.



We would like to say thank you to Mr Maplesdon at the College (and a governor of our school) for inviting us to his lesson and for planning such exciting experiments. Also a very big thank you to the parents that helped with transport. We wouldn't have been able to run the trip without your help.

World Book Day

The children looked great yesterday in their book day masks, we had a parade around the playground in the afternoon. It was also lovely to see so many families at the Bedtime Story Evening. By dressing in their pyjamas and bringing their teddy bears and blankets the children really made the evening special. They listened brilliantly to all the different stories. Our storytellers were Mrs Ubsdell and Mrs Rees, Jamie - a National Trust volunteer, Rev. Nigel Freathy, Mr Tony Lambert (a local author), the Managing Director of NPS South West (the school's property service) and Sheleen and Kevin from the school staff. They read a range of stories and the children have sent them all thank you cards today. Our PCSO Mike McGawley also supported the event and enjoyed listening to the stories.

Royal Wedding

The Branscombe Times

'Wedding Bells Will Ring-in Branscombe'

It was announced today that Prince Kevin of Branscombe and Miss Isobel Wells will marry on the 27th April at 1.30pm. The ceremony will be held at Branscombe School.

Child Absence

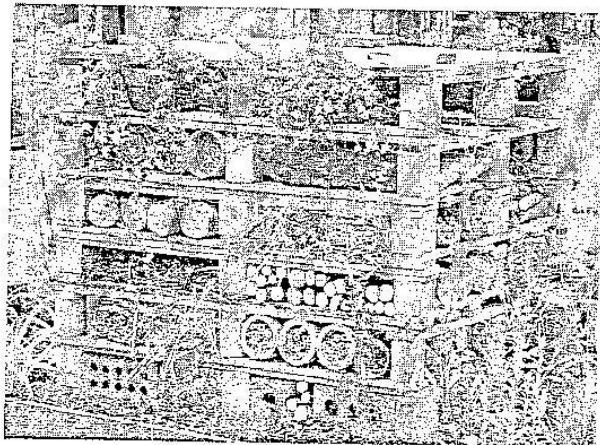
We would be grateful if you could assist us in ensuring our attendance records are kept up to date as efficiently as possible. If your child is absent please phone us on the day so that we know your child is safe and in your care, and then please confirm the reason for the absence in writing to us on the day they return to school. You can use one of the absence forms for this (on website or in entrance hall). If we do not receive written confirmation Nicola will send you a reminder the week following the absence. If we still don't have a response we will, unfortunately, have to record the absence as unauthorised.

School Meals

Nicola counts and banks the dinner money on a Monday morning. Could you please ensure that you do your best to book and pay for any meals that are required for the week on a Monday morning as Nicola needs to focus on other aspects of the school administration on her other days in school. If you need to book and pay for a meal during the week please ensure that you speak to Nicola or another member of staff. Thank you.

Bug Hotel

On Friday the 18th March all the children will be helping to construct our Bug Hotel. Please have a good look around your garden and garage for anything that we might be able to use in the construction (please see picture for ideas). Very old unwanted books and phone directories can also be used.



Topics and Targets!

Information is given below about the topics and targets for both classes this term. The targets are all displayed in more detail in the classrooms and if you wish to find out which element of the target is specific to your child please discuss this with the class teacher.

Class 2

This term the maths target is linked to multiplication. The children are learning times tables. This will progress to them understanding the connection between division and multiplication to allow them to check answers. The higher level targets link to understanding how division is linked to fractions and finally exploring written methods of recording multiplication.

This term the literacy targets are linked to punctuation. The children will focus on adding capital letters and full stops. They then move on to using apostrophes, adding commas to a list and the appropriate use of question marks and exclamation marks. Higher level skills will focus on using appropriate speech punctuation and adding colons, and ellipses to their written work.

The term's topic is entitled 'Planning a Royal wedding'.

In literacy the children will cover traditional stories from around the world based on Cinderella. For non fiction work they will be writing invitations and instructions.

In maths they will consider ratio and proportion for recipes and multiplication and division. They will be doing a lot of talking about problems. In their shape and space work they will be designing the tiers of a Royal Wedding Cake.

The science work will consider properties of materials, stages of matter, conductivity and electricity.

The art work will relate to the work of Faberge and designing a wedding dress.

In music the children will listen to traditional wedding music and will make appropriate choices for our 'ceremony' using the Sing up Website.

PE units of work are movement in gymnastics - travelling and shapes, Maypole Dancing and traditional dances

In history the class will learn about the history of the modern royal family and family trees.

Class 1

This term the numeracy targets are linked to the value of numbers, number bonds and problem solving using addition and subtraction skills.

The writing targets are linked to handwriting and making their writing more interesting by using adjectives and starting sentences in interesting ways.

The reading targets are focused on reading fluently with different voices and tones for expression. The children will also consider the reasons that authors have chosen specific words or phrases.

The class topic is still 'Animals'. Now that the children have finished their class display about local animals they are going to link with a school in Kenya to compare the animals that we have locally to the ones around their school. They are also going to send the Kenyan children some pictures of local birds that they have drawn. The children will be writing letters to the donkey sanctuary and hopefully going on a visit there.

If you can help in any way with the topic areas please see the class teachers.

Robotics Club For Class 2

Peter Lovell will be starting a Robotics Club on Thursday evenings from 3.15 until 4pm. It will begin on Thursday 10th March. Peter has written...

I would love girls and boys aged 9 years and above to join my new exciting club. I hope that by the end of the summer term you will be able to make and program your own robots. You will also see when you are doing subjects like physics and math in class why it is important in the real world and also for fun. I will always be around bringing Nicole to school and if you don't understand something after a meeting you can stop me and ask me.

Week 1 - to familiarise everyone with what makes a robot tick. We will use a robotics tank to do this and demonstrate uploading algorithms to the tank.

Week 2 - learn how to program the microprocessor to do simple things like flashing LED's and running motors.

Week 3 - learning about pulse width modulation to control motor speed.

Week 4 - we will give the microprocessor inputs so that we can start putting sensors on it.

Week 5 - We will add more input sensors.

A maximum of 8 children from class 2 will be able to attend the club initially and places will be given on a first come first served basis. Please fill in the permission slip below if your child wishes to attend.

PE T-Shirts

The PE shirts have now arrived in school. Please see Nicola if you would like to purchase one at a cost of £7.50.

Parent Governor Election

We have received no nominations for the post of Parent Governor. The post of Parent Governor remains vacant.

Pancake Day

Our pancake races will take place on Tuesday 8th March. Class 2 will be making the pancakes at the Village Hall in the morning; if you are able to help please return the attached slip on Monday. In addition all children will need to bring a pancake (previously made at home) and a frying pan for the races. The races will take place at the Village Hall from 2pm and will be followed by pancakes and tea. Please ensure that all children are collected from the Village Hall at the end of the school day.

Church Service

This term's church service will take place on Thursday 17th March at 2.45pm. All parents and friends of the school are welcome to attend. Please ensure that children are collected from the Church at the end of the day.

Cake Sale

This month's cake sale will take place after school on Thursday 10th March. Louisa and Naomi are on the rota for this sale.

Grizzly Run

Clare Graysmark is running the Grizzly Run next weekend in aid of Branscombe Pre School. If you would like to sponsor her please catch her in the playground!

Gifted and Talented

Some children in Class 2 have been given letters about gifted and talented courses. Please note that being given this letter does not mean that they are guaranteed a place; all schools in Devon have been given this letter and places are allocated on a first come first served basis. If your child wishes to attend they need to tell Mrs Crawford on Monday and bring in a cheque for £30. Parents are responsible for arranging transport to and from the courses.

I _____ am able to help make pancakes at the Village Hall on the morning of Tuesday 8th March.

I give permission my child _____ would like to attend Robotics club.