

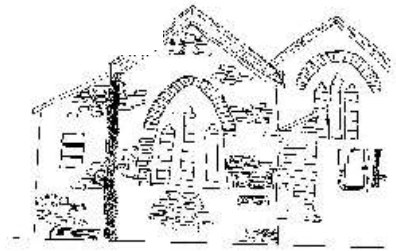
**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 13 / 14 07**  
**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013**



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents,

It was a real joy a couple of weeks ago to accompany some of the Year 5 and 6 children from both of our schools to the East Devon Council Offices in Sidmouth. The event was part of National Takeover Day and was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by the children and adults who attended.

Throughout the day the children took part in activities relating to some of the areas run by the local council. Two of the highlights were when we had to take on the role of environmental health inspectors and also as councillors in a debate.

The children were asked to inspect 'Sam and Ella's Café!' Inside they discovered a catalogue of horrors (all a set up I promise, and no risk to the children)! The chef was dropping bread on the floor and then continuing to butter it for sandwiches, the same mop was used to clean the worktops as well as the floor, there was blood dripping from liver onto cooked ham in the fridge and there might even have been a dead rat hiding between the cupboards! The children were great, and played their part as very strict inspectors brilliantly!

When the children entered the council chamber they had to dress up as different councillors; for example one of our pupils was a headteacher, another was a parent, another a café owner. They had to debate whether a new fast food restaurant should open in the town centre. The Chairman led the debate, encouraging everyone to speak and inviting questions. After everyone had put their views forward the Chairman asked the committee to consider conditions that could be put on the application to overcome any concerns. The Principal Solicitor was present and was invited by the Chairman to explain what could and couldn't be planning considerations. The Chairman also involved the applicant about what she would be prepared to do. At the end of the debate the Chairman summed up and asked the Committee to vote. The children made some brilliant arguments and the solicitor

thought some of our pupils would have a great future in debating! Some of the points our pupils made are listed below:

- A take away shop would provide a good, cheap place for young people to meet up, which was better than them hanging around outside. Alternatively there were concerns that it might actually encourage gangs.
- The food served would be unhealthy and would lead to unhealthy, obese children.
- Children needed nutritious food to fuel their brains and help them learn well at school. There could be a negative impact on their education. If too many children chose to eat at the take away it might force the school canteen to close.
- The take away would fill an otherwise empty shop. However, this could be used for residential purposes instead.
- The competition could force existing local businesses to close down.
- There were serious concerns about litter, plastic containers, pollution and smell from the take away shop. This could impact on local wildlife and attract vermin. Litter on the streets could also be dangerous and might devalue the town.
- A new shop would create local jobs and career opportunities for young people.
- Food would be sourced locally.
- A take away would provide quick, convenient, hot meals.

The committee voted to refuse the application, with 5 votes for and 6 votes against.

At the end of the day the Chairman presented all the pupils with a certificate. As a headteacher I was very proud of our pupils. They were impeccably behaved and demonstrated a huge amount of confidence throughout all the activities. They challenged themselves to take part in activities that they may have felt slightly nervous about and encouraged each other in a very supportive manner. We have received a letter from the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Graham Godbeer, thanking the children for taking part. He said they had excellent ideas and opinions and were good ambassadors for the school. Well done to you all.

As you will see there is a lot of information in this newsletter about the various Christmas activities that are coming up before we break up.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

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

**Key Dates** – Mrs Gray will be in school all day on Monday and Tuesday next week.  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Branoc Hall Christmas Fair, 2-5pm.  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – Children's Christmas Dinner in Branoc Hall (Note change of date).  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Play, Branoc Hall, 6pm (details below).  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Carol Singing in class 1 (details below).  
**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Last day of term.  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – return to school after Christmas holidays.

### Christmas Play

In line with the current topic on the Victorians, the nativity this year will be *The Old Time Music Hall*. It will take place in the Branoc Hall at 6pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and everyone is welcome to join us for a sing-song. All children will need to be at the Branoc Hall by 5.45pm. Requests for help with costumes will be sent out to individuals. The PTFA will be providing mince pies and refreshments and holding a raffle. Donations of mince pies and raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

### Carol Singing

Parents are invited to join the whole school for our end of term Christmas sing-along and carols in Class 1 on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm.



### Wassail

The school will be organising a Wassail on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Full details will follow, but keep the date free! On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> the children will be doing related craft activities, and if any parents could come in to help with this, please let us know. Please also save any empty jam jars that we could use for our creations.

### Livery Dole Colouring Competition

Thank you to all who entered the Livery Dole colouring competition. The children earned £100 worth of equipment for the school by taking part. Well done to Daisy, Daisy and Jay who won book tokens.



### Christmas Lights for the Philippines Disaster Fund

Sheleen's son Dominic has decorated their house (near the village hall) with Christmas lights and is collecting donations for the Philippines Disaster Fund. If you go and have a look at them please show your support by putting some money in the box at the gate.

### Changes to school meals menu

The kitchen have let us know that the menu will be different to advertised on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Instead of curry it will be sausage rolls or vegetarian sausage rolls, with shortbread for pudding. Also, there will be a permanent change on Wednesdays Menu 4, with sausage rolls/vegetarian sausage rolls being offered instead of beef pie.

### Dogs on School Grounds

Please could everybody be aware that dogs are not permitted on school grounds.