

**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 07/08 06**  
**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**Interviews**

On Monday we will be holding the interviews for the new Class 1 teacher. Please could children all make a big effort to look particularly smart and in full school uniform! Dawn will be very busy all day greeting the candidates and ensuring all their needs are met. Therefore, we would be grateful if visits and phone calls to the office are kept to a minimum on the day. Thank you for your understanding.

We will, of course, let you know the outcome of the day once the successful candidate has accepted our offer.

**Church Service**

Wednesday will be the first of our monthly Church Services. It will start at 2.45 and all parents and friends of the school are invited to join us. **ALL CHILDREN WILL NEED TO BE PICKED UP FROM THE CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY.** When collecting your child you are welcome to come into church for refreshments. During the service we will take the opportunity to say thank you to Mrs Holman for her time at Branscombe School.

**Half Term Holiday**

A reminder that the children break up at 3.15 on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October.** We return to school on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

**Cheques**

A reminder that all cheques brought into school should be made payable to **Devon County Council** unless we specify otherwise. Thank you.

**Mill On The Brue**

Please could the remaining deposits of £35 be sent into school with the children on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October in the plastic wallets. We have to send the full deposit to the centre next week. Thank you. I do plan to hold a parents evening about the residential visit nearer to the time but in the mean time if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Mrs Gray.

**Arriving at School**

It has been lovely this week to see so many children and parents using the new footpath. I have especially enjoyed seeing the older children being able to be more independent and walk to school by themselves. This is great but we have noticed children are arriving quite early at school. We cannot be responsible for the children until 8.45 and would ask that they do not arrive in the playground until this time unless they are in Breakfast Club.

**Sponsor a Fish**

You may have heard that we recently had a bit of an accident with the Fish Tank and several of our fish unfortunately passed away. Sheleen and Dominic have worked very hard to restock the fish tank and they had the idea that some children may like to sponsor a specific fish. Sheleen is going to put some posters up near the tank to tell the children about the different varieties of fish and how they should be cared for. We often find little groups of children watching the fish and we would like there to be a good display in the tank for them to observe. If you would like to sponsor a fish please see Mrs Gray or Sheleen.

### **Walk to School Reward Scheme**

Now that we have our lovely new path and as part of our school's commitment to encouraging healthy activity amongst our pupils (and parents) we are Walking the Wizard Way!

### **What is it?**

Walking the Wizard Way is a Devon County Council scheme where children are rewarded for walking to school.

### **How does it work?**

- \* Children walk to school at least the length of the school path or further
- \* Children earn certificates by collecting signatures in their 'Wizard' tally cards every time they walk to school.

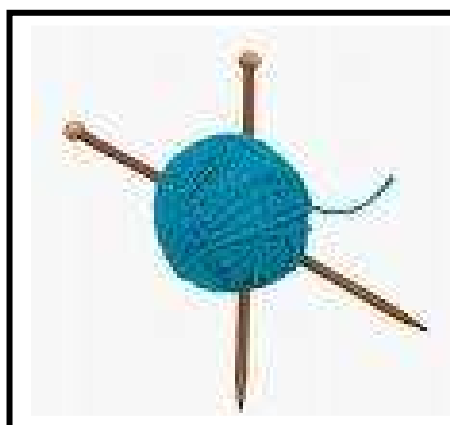
### **Why Walk the Wizard Way?**

- \* It promotes healthy exercise and helps keep children (and adults) fit.
- \* It can help children to develop personal and road safety skills.
- \* It can reduce traffic outside the school.
- \* It gives children the chance to learn more about their local environment.

### **What else do I need to know?**

Walking the Wizard Way requires commitment and honesty from parents and children involved. Parents need to complete the cards in the evening after school and keep track of the awards. This simply involves signing or ticking your child's card for every walk they do (one signature for walking to school and another for walking home). Wizard tally cards and certificates are provided free by Devon County Council through our school. The children have all received a start up pack today and we will monitor their cards to see when certificates are needed.

We hope you enjoy being part of this scheme.



## The BIG KNIT

**Thank you to everyone who has knitted hats.**

All finished hats have to be handed into Glynis by

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> October.**

Sorry, we cannot delay the posting because of the postal strike.

**So far our total is 44.**



## Newsletter

Some of you may be aware that we recently had a full Ofsted Inspection. I am delighted to tell you that this inspection went very well indeed, largely due to the fantastic work put in by all the committee especially Tracey and Catharine. The impact of this enthusiasm and wonderful teamwork is evident in the inspector's comments below:

***"The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children participate enthusiastically in the activities on offer. They are very chatty and bubbly, and confident to share what they know..... Staff support and extend the children's vocabulary and mathematical development very well..... Staff make good use of questions to challenge the children's thought processes and encourage them to think things through for themselves..... Children engage in a range of interesting activities to stimulate their interest and curiosity..... and enjoy the many craft activities. Staff plan well to support the children's progress. New systems in place effectively link to the six areas of learning and the steps within..... Children are well behaved. Staff are positive and provide children clear and consistent messages about considering the needs of others and being polite..... Leadership and management of the care and nursery education is good. Children's care and learning needs are supported well due to the high ratios of well – qualified and enthusiastic staff. The staff team feel valued and supported in their role.... They work well together as a team, effectively communicating to share tasks and responsibilities to support each other, parents and the children.***

The Preschool Committee would like to thank Tracey and Catharine for all their hard work since the beginning of term. A full copy of the report is available in the preschool for anyone to read. We also recognise parents as the first and most important educators of their children and we are grateful to you for working in partnership with the preschool staff to ensure your child/children enjoy and benefit from the activities they participate in.

Branscombe Preschool is a registered charity and the staff are supported by a group of voluntary charity trustees, who have worked hard over the last year to ensure that the children receive the best possible early years teaching and care. Without this committee the Preschool would not exist and the Preschool exists solely to provide the best quality early years care and education for children in the local community.

The Preschool AGM will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October - the venue is yet to be confirmed, so please look out for the notice on the preschool door. We will be celebrating the success of our recent inspection so please come along if you can. The Preschool relies greatly on the help and contribution of both existing and future parents and if you can help in any way you will be welcomed with open arms!

We hope to see you there!

**For and on behalf of Branscombe Preschool Committee**

**Jo Hemery**

**Chairperson**