

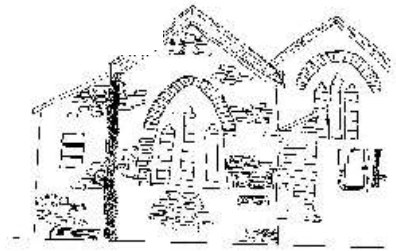
BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 13 / 14 06
Friday 22nd November 2013



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents,

We welcome this week our new clerical assistant, Alice Hunter, who will be helping Nicola in the office on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please introduce yourselves to her when you are in school and make her feel at home!

Thank you to all those parents who have said how pleased they are with our recent Ofsted report. Whilst we are delighted with all the positive comments we do also relish the opportunity to work on the areas identified which will enable us to reach an 'outstanding' grade in the future. These had already been highlighted within our own self evaluation process and mainly link to giving the pupils more strategies for independent learning and self motivation and challenge.

Over the next few months we will continue with some of the strategies already in place linked to embedding 'learning behaviours' (more information will be produced for parents about this shortly) and also ways we can help children to understand that making mistakes is good because we can learn from them. Just after our inspection took place I was reading a newspaper article in 'The Times' by Alice Thomson, the headline was 'Progress involves 51% success and 49% error'. The article was talking about how cautious people had been with the recent bad weather and high winds, and how as a nation we are becoming risk averse. She then goes on to talk about this in relation to children and I will copy her thoughts here;

'The National Curriculum boldly states that all pupils must be taught about risk alongside reading and writing. But we no longer trust children to learn from their mistakes; we insist they make none. They can't even turn on a tap without first reading Danger Hot Water. Perils, they are taught, are all around them. They are discouraged from walking home alone. Instead they discover about risk from computer games. So they fail to learn lessons about probability, impact and consequence.'

Our inspector said that our children had a good understanding of health and safety and risk, particularly in a coastal situation. However, I did find the article thought provoking, particularly in the aspects of encouraging children to think for themselves and making sensible choices. Surely our responsibility both at school and home is to give the children safe opportunities to make these discoveries and to provide an atmosphere where mistakes are turned into positive experiences – one that enables us to be inspired to find out more.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Branscombe School

Key Dates – Mrs Gray will be at a learning community conference during the days she was due to be at Branscombe next week. If you need to contact her next week please speak to Nicola or Alice in the office who can get a message to her.

Friday 22nd November (today) – Last football club for this term

Monday 25th November – School Photographs

Monday 2nd December – Christingle Service, 6pm at St Winifred's Church (details below)

Saturday 14th December – Branoc Hall Christmas Fair, 2-5pm

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Play (note the change in date, details to follow)

Wednesday 18th December – Children's Christmas Dinner (details to follow)

Friday 20th December – Carol Singing (details to follow)

Friday 20th December – Last day of term

Monday 6th January – return to school after Christmas holidays.

Children in Need



As you will know the children had great fun making cakes last Thursday and came to school on Friday dressed in spots. We raised £47.69 for Children in Need, so thank you to all who donated money.

School Photographs

These will be taken in the afternoon of Monday 25th November. Please make sure that your child comes to school in a smart school sweatshirt. Children may wish to bring hairbrushes to school.

Free School Meals

Please could we encourage all parents who think they may be eligible to claim Free School Meals for their children to fill in the Free School Meals form (see below) **before** the Christmas holidays. Your children do not have to take up the meals if you still wish them to have a packed lunch, however, for each child who is in receipt of Free School Meals the government gives the school an extra **£900** for our budget and this is increasing to **£1300** next year. This money is vital for us to provide specific intervention sessions for the pupils.

The form and more information can be found at:

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learningschools/schoolmeals/free_school_meals.htm

The form can then be filled in and emailed back to Devon County Council. If you are unsure whether you are eligible, or need to ask for advice on filling in the form you can call their helpline on 0845 155 1019.

Christingle

The Christingle service will take place at 6pm on Monday 2nd December at St Winifred's Church. It would be great if as many children and families as possible could attend. **Please complete and return the attached slip (if you haven't already done so) as this will help us to plan for the service.** Thank you.



Class Work

We will shortly be sending children home with pieces of school work that they completed last academic year. We had kept this work in school to use for when Ofsted visited, but the children can now bring this home for you to enjoy and keep.

School Sweatshirts

We have had quite a few parents speak to us recently about their children coming home without sweatshirts, or in sweatshirts that don't belong to them. Please could we ask that all sweatshirts are clearly labelled with your child's name and that you check when washing school clothes that your child has come home in the right one.

Church Service

St Winifred's Church will be holding an all-ages worship service this Sunday, 24th November at 11.15am in the Branoc Hall.

Village Pantomime

The PTFA have very kindly agreed to pay for children to go the village pantomime on Saturday February 8th. The performance will begin at 7.30pm and will be finished by 10pm. Please complete and return the slip below if you would like your child to attend the performance. The PTFA would be very grateful for any parent helpers, so if you are planning on attending and would be happy to help please tick the box on the reply slip below.

Christingle

My child / children _____ will be

attending the Christingle Service on Monday 2nd December.

Village Pantomime

I _____ (please print name) would be interested
in my child/children _____

attending the Branscombe village Pantomime on Saturday February 8th 2014.

I would be able to be a parent helper at this performance (please tick box) ☐