



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 10/26**  
**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010**



Dear Parents/Carers

**Achievements to Celebrate**  
**Branscombe Waves Award:**

**Class 1:** for working hard and being a real pleasure to be with.

**Class 2:** for working hard and being a real pleasure to be with.

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



**The Branscombe Waves**

**Easter Egg Competition - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

The PTFA have organised an Easter Egg competition for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2:30pm at the school. The children will need to decorate a hard boiled egg which they will need to race with. There will be prizes for each class. Everyone is welcome to watch the races weather permitting. Children will need to wear suitable footwear for the races. Pre-School children are welcome to join us.

**Holidays in term time**

Please see information at the end of the newsletter.

**School Dinners**

As from May 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 school dinners will be increasing in cost to £2:00.

**Non Pupil Day**

Please note that the school will be closed to pupils on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April for our Non Pupil Day. The school will reopen for the Summer term on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**Thank you**

As I am sure most of you are aware at the end of this term I will be returning to my substantive post as an Assistant Head at Brixington Primary and Mrs Gray will be returning from her maternity leave. I would like to thank everyone for their help and support over the last year. It has been a real privilege to be the Acting Headteacher at Branscombe Primary and I will take away many fond memories of my time here. Please can I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who organised my farewell do. It was a wonderful afternoon and I am extremely grateful for my lovely parting gifts. May I take this final opportunity to wish the pupils, staff, parents and Governors at Branscombe Primary School every future happiness and success?

Have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

Best wishes

Neil Swait

## Holidays in term time

We would prefer that children are not taken on holiday during term time although we recognise that this is sometimes difficult to avoid, particularly if adult employment is linked to the tourist industry. It is not an automatic right for families to take up to 10 days holiday in term time. Moreover, it is only in **exceptional** circumstances that holidays be taken in term time. Parents are reminded in the weekly newsletter that they should not take their children out of school unnecessarily for holidays or visits. The Head Teacher contacts those parents who frequently take the family holiday in term-time and reminds them of the disruption to their child's education and the message they are giving to their child about school by taking them away from school during term time. However, the school adopts a realistic and flexible approach, whilst always emphasising that holidays in term time are exceptional rather than the norm.

At Branscombe Primary School, if parents wish to request an absence they will need to speak to the Headteacher. They will then be asked to complete a Request for Leave of Absence form, if they wish to take their child out of school for an appointment, visit or holiday. The request for leave must come from a parent with whom the child normally resides and must be for the purpose of an annual family holiday.

The Head Teacher is responsible for approving absence from school.

The Local Learning Community, following consultation with the EWO, has adopted these common principles, for all schools, in relation to considering holiday requests.

1. Holidays will not be sanctioned in the first two weeks of a new term. (These times are important for strengthening friendships groups and introducing new learning within the curriculum)
2. Holidays will not be sanctioned during the schools assessment period in the month of May. (The data from this time is essential for us to plan learning objectives that meet individual needs)
3. Generally, holidays will not be sanctioned if overall attendance stands at less than 95%
4. Generally, only one period of holiday will be approved in each academic year and only up to a maximum of 10 school days.

The Local Learning Community work together to ensure each school has the same holiday dates and non pupil days. These are available from the school office or on the website.

If the Head Teacher does not sanction an absence, any absence by the pupil will be treated as unauthorised. Reasons for authorised and unauthorised absences are explained to parents.

**Absence request forms are available in the school entrance hall and from the school office.**