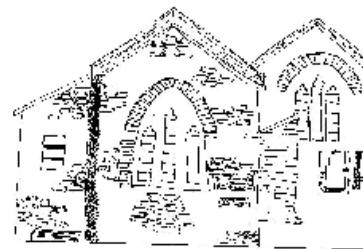




The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 7
Friday 3rd November 2017



Branscombe Waves

Dominic: Being hardworking and doing his best.

Oliver: Being hardworking and staying focused, even when it is challenging.

Tom: Consistently listening carefully, and doing his best in every activity.

Samuel: Kindness to others, making sure they are included.

Dear Parents,

As part of their topic work, and linked to both our R.E. theme and our current value of justice, the children in Class 1 have been pondering the question: How we can care for our world? They began the week by exploring the great outdoors, looking for evidence of our 'wonderful world' and taking photos of things that took their breath away or made them say "Wow!" Following this, the children compared their findings to those of others, further afield, through watching and discussing the productions 'Creation Calls' and 'Planet Earth - What a Wonderful World'. Everyone enjoyed the adventure that these clips took them on; down waterfalls, into the rainforest and across the ice with a polar bear and her cubs.

The children then investigated the question posed in the first video: How can I say there is no God, when all around creation calls? They researched the creation story documented in the bible, compared to that which Hindu's believe, the stories of Dreamtime from Aboriginal Australians and many more. They were challenged to make a world, just like our own, in the Tuff Spot, given no resources, so they could imagine the concept 'in the beginning there was nothing'. Finally they chose to retell a variety of these creation stories, in their own way - making story books, showing the creation story using resources, and in dot paintings, to name but a few.

Class 2 began learning about the British Empire this week, first defining terms such as 'empire' and 'colony' and then using maps to investigate, which countries of the world were once British colonies. The children learned that while an emperor needs an empire, an empire does not necessarily have an emperor! In future weeks this term, we will be completing some cross-curricular Literacy work, in which we will be debating whether the British Empire was a good or a bad thing.

In their R.E. work this term, the children of Class 2 are investigating the big question, "How should we live and who can inspire us?" In the last half-term, they looked at the life of the prophet Muhammad, and how his life inspires Muslims. Switching from investigating Islam to investigating Christianity, this week the children began to investigate the impact that Jesus had, on the lives of his first followers, as well as considering how the stories of Jesus, might inspire his followers today.

In Collective Worship this week, as well as beginning to explore our new theme, Justice, the children celebrated All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows) by learning about the stories of

different saints, such as St. Winifred, after whom Branscombe's church is named. They discovered that in some Christian calendars, November 3rd is dedicated to St. Winifred. They also learned that in the Bible, all Christian believers are referred to as Saints. To mark this, the children all took turns to wear haloes on Wednesday, to remind them to practise being good!

Thank you for all your continued support.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

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

Question of the Week

Class 1: Is our planet perfect? Was it designed in this way or did it happen by accident?

Class 2: Should we be prepared to pay more for our foods (tea, coffee, bananas, chocolate) to ensure that the farmers who produce them receive a fair price for their goods? What might prevent people from doing so?

Key Dates

Autumn Term 2017

14th November - Parents' Evening

4th December – Christingle service (evening)

12th December – Christmas Lunch

18th December – Christmas Play

19th December- Carol singing and end of Term

Class 1 Outdoor Learning Time

On Mondays Class 1 will be doing outdoor learning time every Monday afternoon. Therefore ALL children in Class 1 MUST have the following in school on Mondays:

- A waterproof coat.
- Wellies.
- A change of clothes (non-uniform, suitable for working outside, and possibly getting dirty).
- Waterproof trousers or overalls if possible.

Photo Orders

Please could any photo orders (for the photos that were retaken, just before half term) be returned to the office by first thing Monday morning? Thank you.

The School Library

In order to give the children the opportunity to visit the school library with their parents, from next week, Rachel will be available to open the school library after school, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, until 3.45pm. Please feel free to visit the library with your child at these times if you would like to help them choose a book to borrow.

Water Bottles

Please could all children have a water bottle in school every day. We are increasingly finding that children are forgetting to bring one in, and this becomes a problem particularly when going out and about, around the village.

Branoc Hall Christmas Fair

The annual Branoc Hall Christmas Fair, will take place on Saturday December 2nd, from 2pm-4pm. The children will be opening the fair by singing some Christmas songs, so it would be great if as many children as possible could be there. The children will need to be at the hall from about 1.45pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

First Day Contact

Please could all parents be aware that they should let school know by 9am if their child is going to be absent or late for any reason, both on the first day, and on any subsequent days. Please do this by phoning rather than emailing, you can leave a message if nobody is able to answer.

If a child does not arrive at school and no message is received, we have a duty to establish a reason for their absence. This week we have received a letter from Devon County Council asking all schools to remind parents to make contact with the school on the morning of any absence and that the school will use the child's emergency contact list in the event of no answer on the parent(s) home, mobile or work phone(s). As a result of a recent incident in another county, DCC advise parents to ensure that an emergency contact has the ability to gain access to their house to check all is well in the event that the parent cannot be contacted and this becomes a safeguarding concern.

If school processes fail to locate a pupil then the school will 'Risk Assess' the situation and;

- Telephone the Police using 999 if the child is considered to be at risk of immediate and significant harm or danger
- Telephone the Police on 101 if not at risk of immediate significant harm but where there are escalated welfare concerns
- Continue to try and contact parent(s) and/or emergency contacts if the pupil is not considered to be at any increased risk.

On their child's return to school following an absence, parents must provide a note explaining the reason for their absence. If this is not received, we will send home an absence form for you to complete and return to school. Please note that if a written absence note is not received, absences may be recorded as unauthorised, even if you have called us to provide a reason.

Collective Worship Activity

This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Justice. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together. If the children bring back something that you have done at home linked to the Collective Worship activity, or can talk about a discussion they've had at home linked to it, then Mrs Gray will award them with a new special sticker.



**FAMILY
FOCUS**

Making a new law

New laws are passed every year by the government.

Ask each member of the family to think of a law which they think the government should pass.

Talk about your ideas and how your new law would make a difference.