

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



The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER 3- 21/22  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



Dear Parents,

In Class One, the children have all been working really hard and showing great perseverance with the new skills they have been working on. Every child has shown good progress in their handwriting and presentation skills. Lots of children are starting to use the joined up cursive style in independent writing.

The topic of '*Bright lights, Big City*' has engaged the children in many exciting activities. They have enjoyed finding out what countries make up the U.K. and what flags make up the Union Jack. They have identified human and physical features in the U.K. and have been comparing Branscombe to London. They really enjoyed taking virtual tours of London on google maps, and looking closely at aerial photographs of Branscombe.

In Art, the Class 1 children have been sketching famous London landmarks using charcoal and different art pencils. They concentrated really well on this task and produced some wonderful results. In Science, they have been learning about the seasons, day length and how to measure the weather. They have been really keen to check the rain gauge that they have made and record the results. They have also started to display these results in bar charts.

In Music, Class 1 have really enjoyed learning '*London Bridge is falling down*'. They have worked hard at keeping the pulse, identifying ostinatos and choosing instruments to match different parts of the song.

In English, the children in Class 1 have been busy creating their own recipe for a 'Royal Roll' for the Queen. They have been learning how to use imperative verbs (bossy verbs) and adverbs to add detail to their writing. In Maths, the Class 1 children have started the addition and subtraction unit, they are working hard at learning their number bonds to 10 and 20 off by heart. This will help them to add and subtract larger numbers quickly.

Our Early Years children have settled well into the school routines, showing greater independence and team work. They are learning to help themselves to resources and tidy up afterwards. They have made the best of the good weather we have had by taking lots of their learning outside, often designing complicated obstacle courses to challenge each other.

This term Class 1 will be learning about the Great Fire of London, as part of our main topic – '*Bright Lights, Big City*'.

Class 2 had an exciting day just before half term, when they had the opportunity to visit the Odyssey Space Dome in the Branoc Hall. This was a truly amazing experience, the expert presentation, projected onto the interior of the dome covered a wide range of topics, from size and movement of the different planets, to the constellations in the night sky. The children were able to experience what it might have been like for Tim Peake to travel to the International Space Station. They were shown views from the Space Station looking back at Earth, as well as views of the interior of the space station. Some highlights of the presentation included watching an asteroid approaching -which narrowly missed them- and learning about the black hole 'monsters' of Space. In the afternoon, the

children were joined by the Key Stage 2 classes from Broadhembury and Farway schools and worked in teams to complete a range of short space-themed challenges: making a collage, composing music, using written clues to place spacecraft in the order in which they were first launched, identifying constellations by plotting coordinates and identifying different astronauts from clues about them.



The Class 2 children have been building on their historical understanding this week by learning about the Cold War and the Space Race. They were challenged to research and find out the dates of various events - from the launching into space of Laika the dog, to the first moon landing, Tim Peake's visit to the International Space Station and the advent of space tourism. They then had to use the dates to place the events in chronological order.

In their Science work, Class 2 have moved on from learning about planets and stars to learning about forces and the work of Sir Isaac Newton. This week, the children began their studies by identifying and finding examples of a range of contact and non-contact forces.

In their English lessons, Class 2 have continued to read and find out about different aspects of space and space travel in preparation for writing their own non-fiction book about the topic. At the end of term, we hope that the children will be inviting their parents to attend a special 'book launch' event, and will present their book and also explain and display some of their other learning across the term.

Meanwhile in their Art lessons, the Class 2 children have begun to work towards creating a contribution for Exeter Cathedral's 'Guiding Star' exhibition, which will be displayed in the Cathedral from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Another highlight of the past week has been the start of swimming lessons for Class 2. Due to the disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, it has been several years since the class were able to go for swimming lessons. Therefore, there was a mixture of excitement and trepidation in the class as they anticipated these lessons. However, the children started the lessons well and have already started to make progress in developing their swimming skills.

In Collective Worship this week, the children have begun to explore the new value theme of Friendship. This will tie in well with the UK's Anti-Bullying Week, from 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November, which will begin on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November with 'Odd Socks Day'. On this day, the children are invited to express their uniqueness and celebrate their individuality by wearing odd socks to school. Throughout the week, they will be carrying out a range of activities to explore this year's theme, '*One Kind Word*'. In particular, the children will consider and make a display of kind words that have made them feel happy and that they could say to encourage others. Prior to Anti-Bullying Week, the Federations Ethos Teams will be carrying out a project in the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November, to consider ways that they can promote kindness, forgiveness and reconciliation in the school.

Towards the end of the week, Class 2 have begun to think about next week's commemoration of Armistice Day. The children will be joined by members of the local church community in their Act of

Remembrance at the War memorial outside St. Winifred's Church at 10.45am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November and we would be delighted to welcome any other members of our wider school community who are able to join us.



We are delighted to announce that we have successfully held interviews for our new permanent Head of Learning. We have appointed Mrs Ashleigh Tubbs who will start with us in January. Over the next couple of months Mrs Tubbs is keen to visit the school and get to know the pupils and staff and our routines. Mrs Gray met with Mrs Tubbs over the half term holiday and she is very excited about her new role and keen to get started.

In the meantime Mrs Sandy Brown will continue as acting head of Learning at Branscombe and Farway and is available to you if you have any compliments, concerns or worries!

Here is a message from Sandy Brown, our acting Head of Learning: *"I have really enjoyed the last half term getting to know your wonderful children and have thoroughly enjoyed our learning together and the great writing they have been concentrating on. Keep up the super reading over this half term; it is your child's future passport to success. Have a great half term and I look forward to seeing more progress next term".*

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 Month**

**Class One:** What signs of autumn can you find outside?

**Class Two:** Which helps people achieve more- **competition** or **collaboration**?  
Why? Can you give examples to support your answer?

### **Key Dates - Autumn Term 2021**

10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> November & 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> December– Swimming lessons for Key Stage 2.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day, St. Winifred's Church at 10.45am.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Individual school photos.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov - Flu immunisations.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner.

Last day of term: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Christmas holiday Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

### **Important Notices**

#### **Guitar Lessons**

Please note our Guitar lessons will change, from Wednesday to Tuesday until after Christmas.  
Thank you.

#### **School Photos**

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November we are having our school photos. Please remember that the children will need to bring school uniform to change into after P.E. this is very important. Thank you.

#### **Drop off and Pick up**

Please can all Parents and Carers remember to keep 2 metres apart at drop off and collection time. This is important for all our safety to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Adults and teenagers should wear masks outside the school gate. Thank you for your help with this.

## Branscombe Waves

### Class One:

**Lilly** - for working well with others and sharing resources.

**Zach** - for focusing and working hard on his presentation and handwriting skills.

**Jake** - for trying really hard with joining his writing.

**Sophia** - for independently selecting writing tools to support her with her spelling and writing.

### Class Two:

**Beau** - for excellent story writing and kindness to others.

**Isla** - for great improvement in writing.

**Ben** - for a respectful attitude and good concentration and effort in learning.

**Zoe** - for a respectful attitude and good concentration and effort in learning.

## Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed as a result of the Covid-19 crisis your child may have become eligible for free school meals. This will also bring extra funding to the school, which will be used to help your child. For an instant decision or to learn more please go online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>.

## Collective Worship Activity

This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Friendship. 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.



## HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Use your imagination to make the best **friendship** bracelet ever – using knotting, threading beads, twisting ribbon, whatever you can think of. The more original the better!

or, if you prefer...

make your own large version of the picture puzzle (over the page), joining 5 or 6 words about **friendship**. Either draw pictures or cut them out of magazines.

## **Wellbeing**

*There has been much press in recent months about children's mental health. As part of our drive to support this we are going to include something each month in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If you have any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.*

'Ten a day' - Be proud of your very being. 'What have you done today to make you feel proud?' Share your ideas as a family it may not just be today but over the week.



1  
Talk about your feelings



2  
Do something you enjoy and are good at



3  
Keep yourself hydrated



4  
Eat well



10  
Actively care for others

## **'10 A DAY' CHOICES TOWARDS BALANCING OUR MENTAL HEALTH**



5  
Keep active in mind and body



9  
Be proud of your very being



8  
Ask for help



7  
Stay connected to those you care about



6  
Take a break