



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER**

5- 21/22

Friday 4th February 2022



Dear Parents,

Class 1 has had a great start to the Spring term and have shown real enthusiasm for their exciting new topics. This week, Class 1 went for a walk around Branscombe and became 'detectives'- looking for clues about the past and present, to find out about changes that have taken place in Branscombe over the years. This is linked to their History and Geography topic of '*Street Detectives*' and also with their Art unit of work - 'Creating collages of local landmarks and landscapes'. This memorable experience helped them to engage with their new topic and provided them with a lot of questions, which they have prepared for Barbara Farquharson - a local historian- to answer when she visits the class next week.



Class 1 were provided with a simple map showing a specific route for them to follow and they enjoyed taking photographs of each street on arrival and looked out for the different features of each street, such as trees, a post box, a church, a playground or shop, finding these on their map. The children enjoyed thinking about how the people of Branscombe needed to work in and look after the local community, and how the environment might have changed through the years. Class 1 were amazed by how old St Winifred's church is and enjoyed hearing about the reason why it is tucked away amongst the hills - to stay hidden from Viking invaders. Following this trip, Class 1 discussed what makes Branscombe a good place to live in, as well as ways it could be improved. Everyone agreed how lucky they were to attend school in such a beautiful village with so many historical buildings and significant events.

In Art, the Class 1 children were looking out for local landmarks to do some field sketching and used their senses to describe the landmarks, to help them choose appropriate materials to represent them in their collages.

In English, Class 1 are studying an information text on Chinese New Year and will be using the structure to write about the Jewish festival, Shabbat.

In Maths, Year 1 are focussing on numbers to 50 and Year 2 will be using their data handling skills, learnt in their statistics topic, to collect data on the human and physical features of Honiton when they go there for their federation trip in a couple of weeks.

If possible, could the Class 1 children bring in some photographs (or copies) of their family over the generations and their house? They can be emailed to the office: admin@branscombe.devon.sch.uk by next week please. Thank you for your help with this.

Class 2 have been working hard in Literacy this week to write diary entries in role as Victorians. The children have chosen a range of different personas, from a chimney sweep to a coal miner, from a maid to a rich Victorian lady. They have planned and written a series of diary extracts in which they have attempted to tell a story or develop a theme, while also including relevant historical details from their reading and research about the period. They are now beginning a new sequence of work in which they will be writing stories set in a historical context.

In their topic work Class 2 have compared the advantages and disadvantages of photographs and field sketches when exploring a place. They learned about some of the architectural features of Victorian houses and buildings, and then identified these in photographs of Victorian houses, before drawing and annotating a field sketch showing the Victorian features of our school building. The children related some of their learning to their ongoing learning about the Industrial Revolution, discovering that tiles became more common for roofing because, due to the expansion of canals and railways, slate could more easily be transported around the country from the mines in Cornwall, Wales and Cumbria. When the children explored tax in their P.S.H.E. lessons earlier this term, they learned the surprising fact that there was once a tax on windows, which led to people bricking up their windows. In their lesson about Victorian architecture, Class 2 learned that in Queen Victoria's time, with this window tax abolished and the invention of sheet glass, windows were often larger and many houses had bay windows. They learned that Victorian houses and schools needed chimneys since they were usually heated by coal fires. The class noticed the chimney of the school building and wondered where the fireplace had once been. Do encourage your children to be on the look-out for some of the features of Victorian houses as they travel around, such as bay or sash windows, chimneys, patterned brickwork or floor tiles and gothic style decoration or finials.

Exploring photographs and the development of photography is a bit of a theme in this term's learning and Class 2 would be interested to see copies of any old family photographs you may have, particularly those that date back to Victorian times. This history work has also linked in with the children's Science learning about light and reflection, as they have explored the use of mirrors to reflect rays of light. Year 5 and 6 made their own periscopes and then went on to explore refraction, using a prism to show the spectrum, just as Isaac Newton demonstrated in his experiments back in the 1660's. Having written about Isaac Newton and his theories on gravity in last term's work, the children were interested to find out more about the work of this important scientist. The children of Year 3 and Year 4 have also talked about the importance of sun safety and protecting their eyes from the sun's U.V. rays.

In their Music lessons this term, Class 2 have begun to learn to read music, as they have practised playing tunes on the recorder. They have also enjoyed listening to and discussing the work of our composer of the month, Mozart, particularly enjoying *'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik'*. In February, the composer of the month is Beethoven and the class will be listening to a range of his most famous music, from *'Für Elise'* and the *'Ode to Joy'* to his *'5th Symphony'*. The children will also explore some examples of modern pop music that have been inspired by some of Beethoven's famous works, such as *'A Fifth of Beethoven'* from the soundtrack of Saturday Night Fever.

Next week, there will be a special focus for Children's Mental Health week. The children in Year 5 and 6 recently completed their training as mental health ambassadors for the school. In this role, to celebrate this special focus, the children will be launching a range of lunchtime activity clubs, aimed at developing activities that help the children to relax and unwind. These include a Lego club, an arts and crafts club and a games club, led by the older children in the school. On 8th February, the children will once again be celebrating Safer Internet Day. This year's theme, *'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'* will give the children an opportunity to explore and discuss their experiences on platforms where they can play games, interact with their peers and take part in 'live' experiences such as video streaming. They will discuss some of the things that can make these experiences good for their mental health, enabling them to connect with others and enjoy a wide range of hobbies and interests, but also some of the things that can be difficult, and the importance of treating others with respect online. The children will consider who they can seek help

from if they encounter a lack of respect online and the importance of speaking out and letting others know about these problems.

Looking ahead to March, the school will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday on 1st March with our usual pancake races and we would be grateful if parents would send their children to school on that day equipped with a frying pan and a pancake for the races. We would also be grateful for any contributions of additional pancakes to fuel the children's efforts with a pancake feast. The races will take place in the school playground at 2.45pm and parents are welcome to arrive early to collect children on that day, so that the children will have some spectators for the races.

On 3rd March, we will be celebrating this year's World Book Day across the school. This year, we will be thinking more about classic literature and in particular, some of the popular and enduring stories of Charles Dickens, such as '*Oliver Twist*' or '*A Christmas Carol*'. During the day, the children will find out more about the famous author and watch some short video extracts from dramatisations of his stories. Then, working in their knot teams, the children will read and explore an abridged retelling of one of his famous stories. They will then work as a team to prepare a shadow puppet retelling of this story, developing collaboration, Artwork and drama skills. At the end of the afternoon, the children will celebrate by performing their plays for one another. We would like to invite the children to dress up for the day as a character from any of Dickens' famous stories. In the weeks running up to the event, we will be exposing the children to some of his stories and we will discuss with the children the historical context and the types of clothes they might wear.

Message from Mrs Tubbs, our Head of Learning

It has been another busy few weeks at school! I have loved getting to know the children at both schools and it has been great to speak to lots of parents too. A little reminder that school is open from 8.45am and starts at 9am, it is so important that your child arrives on time to ensure that they have a settled start to the day. Any child arriving after 9.10am will be marked as late. Please support us by ensuring your child arrives on time.

Thank you for the many parents who ordered a school dinner on Census Day - this was much appreciated.

Children have access to a few different online learning platforms through our school, some of which, the children have usernames and passwords for. The children work really hard in school and at home on these programmes to earn coins/rewards on them. Please ensure that your child is only accessing their own account and not anyone else's. Thank you for your help.

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

Branscombe Waves

Class One:

Sophie - for super effort in every subject.

Class Two:

Olivia- for excellent effort in her work, particularly taking care to notice and use correct spelling in the learning environment

William- for settling to work quickly and working with concentration, managing distractions well.

Question of the Month

Class One: What types of jobs did people have around in Branscombe in the past?

Class Two: How would life be different if cameras and photographs had never been invented?

Key Dates – Spring Term 2022

7th February- Futsal at HCC, Trip for some of Class 2.

8th February- Safer Internet Day.

10th February- Key Stage 1 Trip.

1st March – Provisional date for Class 2 trip to Tiverton Museum.

Wellies and Jumpers

The children will also need to have wellies in school this term to use on walks and in the field. Another reminder is for children to wear plenty of layers as windows and doors will be open in all weathers to increase airflow in the classroom. Thank you for your help.

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. Thank you for your help with this.

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>.

Grizzly volunteers

The P.T.F.A are volunteering as marshals during this year's Grizzly run. They are looking for 6 volunteers to help marshal the section along the beach, from the Sea Shanty to the Hooked Cliff. It is taking place on 6th March and the volunteers will be needed from around Middy until 4pm. For helping the P.T.F.A will get a donation from the Grizzly committee. Thank you.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 8th February.

The theme of this year's event is to #PlayYourPart in creating a better internet and the children will be exploring respect and safe relationships online.

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.

Today in school the children have dressed up as Rock stars to raise money for the NSPCC. As you know the NCPCC works to protect children today and prevents abuse tomorrow, to transform society for every childhood. Along with all the essential work they do protecting children from abuse and harm they also use their website to inform parents about how to support their children when they are anxious. Please follow the link below for further advice. Thank you for all of your generous donations.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>




How to Help Children Suffering From Depression & Anxiety | NSPCC

Whether you're working from home for the first time or supporting children with anxiety due to COVID, we've got tips and advice for you. Knowing how to talk to your child about their mental health, or recognising the signs that they might be struggling, can be really hard. Signs of depression or ...
www.nspcc.org.uk

Collective Worship Activity

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

Spiral of Hope

Start with a circle of paper or light card and draw a spiral. On the spiral write a **hope** or dream that you have that will make the world a safer, cleaner or more healthy place to live. Cut along the lines until you get to the centre, leaving a circle in the middle. Make a hole in the middle so you can hang your spiral from a thread.

(You may want to practice drawing a good spiral on some scrap paper before you start.)

