



The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 33
Friday 6th July 2018**



Branscombe Waves

Jay: for showing care and lots of effort to produce high quality written work.

Freya and Agatha: for working hard to complete excellent data handling work.

Lily: for her wonderful writing this week about her favourite flower fairy.

Corey: for his independent learning in maths this week and determination to keep trying.

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week in Class 1 with the children completing their end of term Reading and Maths assessments. The Year 2 children happily spent an afternoon in Class 2, the first of their transition into Key Stage Two afternoons, helping to make props and paint scenery for the end of year play. The Reception and Year 1 children have also been preparing for the play by learning to sing the songs.

In Literacy the children continue to be inspired by the beautiful poetry of Cicely Mary Barker. They have enjoyed listening to more of her poems about flower fairies and have been identifying the rhyming words within them. The children have thought about how they can adapt her 'Foxglove Fairy' poem using their own ideas. They have been thinking carefully about the adjectives that they can use to make their poems interesting.

In Maths the Year 1 and 2 children have started a new Learning Journey – 'Number Sense'. They have been counting in multiples of two, three, five and ten starting from zero and looking for any patterns or rules that help them to remember them. The EYFS children have been working on adding and subtracting 2 and 3 to the teen numbers using a number line and maths cubes for support.

In Science we have looked at the Life Cycle of a flowering plant. The children have described the various stages that a plant will go through in its lifetime. They have been able to sequence these stages using pictures.

This week, Class 2 have continued to research and have begun to write the biographies of a range of famous Egyptians, some ancient and some modern. While some of the children chose to write about ancient kings and queens of Egypt, others chose to find out more about the famous Egyptologists who have helped to uncover the secrets of this mysterious civilization. Meanwhile, the children's Maths work this week has linked to their Geography work, as they devised questions about the population of Egypt, such as 'How does the population of Egypt compare to that of other countries in the world?', 'How has the population of Egypt changed in the past 50 years?' or 'How do the populations of different cities in Egypt compare with one another?' Having researched and found data to answer these questions, the children were challenged to present the data in a suitable graph. In order to choose whether to use a bar graph or line graph, they had to decide whether the data they had collected was discrete or continuous. Then, they had to consider whether the numbers needed to be rounded and decide on an appropriate scale.

On Wednesday afternoon, Class 2 was joined by the children in Year 2 for the first of three transition sessions to allow the Year 2 children to begin to become familiar with their new classroom and teacher. The children had the opportunity to ask questions and the older children shared some of the things they knew to be different in Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 1. Then, the Year 2 children joined the Class 2 children for an Art lesson, in which they began to create pictures in the style of Egyptian wall paintings, which will form the backdrop for our end-of-year play, 'A Glint of Gold'. Rehearsals for the play have begun in earnest this week. The children in Class 2 are working hard to memorise their lines, while both classes have begun to learn songs from the musical. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for the performance in the Branoc Hall on the afternoon of 20th July.

On Sunday several children, parents and staff joined together in Exeter for the Exe Valley Challenge. Thank you so much to those children and parents who braved the one morning of rain we've had in weeks to take part in this super event. With some rejigging of teams, and borrowing some children belonging to staff, we managed to enter four teams into the different categories – all of which did very well. The rain didn't dampen their spirits at all, and there were huge smiles as they crossed the finish line. A big well done too to Miss Moss who arranged the practice events, sorted the teams and peddled up and down the quay on her bike to find our teams and cheer them on!



A reminder that we have our open evening on Thursday for you to look at the work your children have done throughout the year. There are no appointments for this – just come into school at any point during the evening. It is also an opportunity to discuss any aspect of your child's school report if you wish. Reports will come out next week – we are just waiting for the SATs results to be released before we seal the envelopes!

Next week myself and Miss Prince will be carrying out interviews for some staff positions across the federation and so may not be at Branscombe very often. If you need to talk to one of us please phone Alice in the office and she will be able to get a message to us.

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: How can we be a good friend?

Class 2: How would a farm in Egypt be similar or different to farms in other parts of the world (eg.in a mountainous area, in a temperate climate like the UK, etc.)?

Key Dates

Spring Term 2018

12th July. Swimming Lessons.

12th July 3.25-5pm – Open Evening.

16th July – Class 1 Beach School.

20th July (pm) - Branscombe Summer play.

23rd July – Federation Sports Day and Race for Life.

24th July – Last Day of Term.

Rachel Dwan

We have been very lucky for the past year or so to have had Rachel Dwan working with us – mainly in Class 1. I know that her calm, friendly approach with the children has been greatly appreciated by pupils, staff and parents alike. She was even very calm when she was the lucky member of staff to take the 'Ofsted' phone call back in October! Rachel has also given of her time to run after school clubs too which we are very grateful for. Sadly, Rachel has decided to relocate to Cornwall during the summer and she will be leaving us at the end of term. I know she will be much missed by the whole school community.

Federation Sports Day and Race for Life

On Monday 23rd July, all of the children will be taking part in our annual Federation Sports Day at the village field. As part of this event, we will be holding a 'Race for Life' to help raise money for the Cancer Research charity. We hope that you will aid us in raising money for this worthy cause, and give the children something to feel really proud of. Thank you.

Class 2 PE

Please could all children have a pair of long trousers or leggings in their PE kit? Often the PE class takes place on the tennis court which is a slightly gravelly surface and longer trousers may help protect against a knee injury if a child falls over.

Ticks:

As Branscombe is known to have a tick population and they are now in their most active season, please make sure that you are checking your children regularly for ticks. See the NHS website for information on how to safely remove ticks. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/insect-bites-and-stings/treatment/>

Collective Worship Activity

This term we have been 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.

The Basket of Dreams

This beautiful sculpture is on the hills overlooking Lake Wakatipu in New Zealand. It is called the Basket of Dreams and is made from a spiral of steel. Spirals can remind us that we have a choice about the way we live. We can either travel inwards towards self-centredness where we only try to think of ourselves or we can travel outwards towards the world and other people.

