

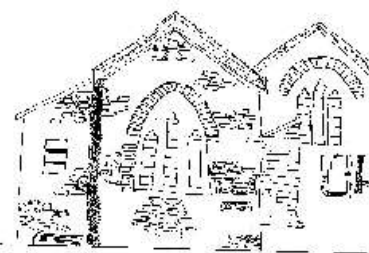
BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 10/11 20
Friday 18th February 2011



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents

I can't quite believe that we are coming to the end of this half term already. We seem to have packed a lot into the first few weeks of this year and as you will see from the rest of this newsletter there are lots more exciting things planned after the holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and volunteers who work so hard with the children to enable us to provide such a variety of opportunities for them. We hope you all have a lovely half term holiday and that the children come back to school refreshed on Monday 28th February.

We hope you all have a lovely break.

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

Questionnaire

We are always interested in ideas that you have for continuous improvement of our school. We should be grateful if over half term you would complete the attached questionnaire which we hope will give us suggestions and provoke discussions for our plans for the next financial year. Please ensure they are returned by Monday 28th February.

Cathedral Service

A reminder that at 3pm tomorrow afternoon you are invited to join representatives from many of the Church Schools in Devon at Exeter Cathedral to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the National Society for Church Schools. Mrs Crawford and her class, as well as Ann on her sewing machine, have been busy preparing our school banner which will be paraded around the Cathedral. Refreshments will be served after the service. It will be lovely to see you there.

School dinners

Please find attached a dinner form. Please note that the week back after half term is Week Two on the menu.

Cookery Club

We were pleased to learn this week that we have been awarded a grant which Mrs Crawford had worked hard in applying for earlier in the term. The grant called "Let's Get Cooking" is to help with the running costs of school cookery clubs which promote healthy eating. Next half term Cookery Club will start on Monday 7th March and will be open to Key Stage 2 children. This will be on a first come first served basis with a maximum of six children. If your child will be attending please complete the form below and provide a contribution of £1 towards the ingredients for the five week course.

Exciting Post for Class 2

In literacy last term Class 2 were looking at how texts are structured. They focused initially on books which have an easy structure and we chose the famous 'That's not my...' series of books which many very young children enjoy. Once the children had noticed the repetitive structure they designed their own 'new' book for the series. The children were also learning about styles of letter writing so they then wrote a letter about their book design to Usborne publishers.

On Wednesday the author of the 'That's not my...' series wrote to the class and I have copied the letter here:

Dear Class 2

Thank you for sending your wonderful ideas for new titles in the 'That's not my...' series and all your delightful letters. I love your drawings and the touchy-feely patches that you have used. You have all realised how the words work in the books - an adjective, such as rough, silky, fluffy, shiny, to describe the texture of the touchy-feely patch, and a noun to name each part of the body or object.

There would be problems using some of the touch-feely patches that some of you have suggested, especially the feathers, as each book has to have lots and lots of safety tests before they can be published. A baby might lick or try to chew the feathers, which wouldn't be very nice!

I am working on the 34th title in the series at the moment. I'm not allowed to say what it is before it's published, but one of you has chosen the same animal that the book is about. It's going to be published in September, so keep a look out in bookshops or on the Usborne Website to see what it is.

Thank you so much again, for letting me see your ideas.

Best wishes

Fiona Watt

The children found Fiona's advice about the safety aspects of choosing the materials really interesting and we look forward to discovering which of our class chose the title of the next book in the series!

Fossil Festival

You may remember that last year the children took part in the Fossil Festival in Lyme Regis. Unfortunately the organisers have had to cancel their Schools Day as it was planned for the 29th April - now the public holiday for the Royal Wedding. However the children have been invited by the artist Christine Allison to draw or paint a fish and take it along to the Festival on Friday the 29th or Saturday the 30th of April or Sunday the 1st May. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

Swimming

Yesterday was the last swimming lesson. We would like to say a big thank you to all the mums who have helped us over the last few weeks. We really couldn't have done it without you.

Eco Club

We are thrilled to be able to announce that Eco Club is to be revived at last! One of the volunteers at the National Trust (another Lucy!) is going to come up and work with the children on a number of projects. The first project will be to help construct a bug hotel that we have mentioned in the last couple of newsletters. Class 2 have had a talk about this today and should be able to explain more about it to you. If you could keep collecting things that could be used in the construction (please see picture for ideas). Very old unwanted books and phone directories can also be used. The hotel will be being constructed in mid March.



Year 5 and 6 Residential Trip

A reminder that the deposit (£25) for the residential trip needs to be in school on the first day back after the holidays. Please write cheques to Devon County Council. Thank you.

Willow Weaving

A reminder that the National Trust are arranging a Willow Weaving day on the Wednesday during half term. It will take place in their workshop from 11am until 1pm and 1pm until 3pm. Phone 01752 346585 for further details.

Apple Tree Planting

To celebrate the Millennium the school planted an orchard near to the Mill in the village. Some of the trees within this orchard have since died and so, with the help of the National Trust and apple trees donated by Hastoe Group, Class 2 will be replacing them. This apple tree planting will take place on Wednesday 2nd March and it would be advisable if children in Class 2 come to school in non uniform and wellies on that day as they may get rather muddy!

Parents' Evening reminder

We will be holding a parents evening on Wednesday 2nd March between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Each child should have received a slip to return to request an appointment. We will send out slips confirming your appointment on Monday 28th February.

World Book Day reminder

Thursday 3rd March is World Book Day and we are planning some very exciting activities. Firstly, children can come to school wearing a mask of their favourite character, so start thinking about what to make and how you might make it. Secondly, we will be holding a bedtime story session after school. Children can bring their pyjamas and a cuddly toy and we will provide hot chocolate and toast until 5pm. We would love parents and people from the school community to get involved by reading their favourite bedtime story to the children. We would especially like to encourage boys to read and so would particularly like to invite male readers to the event. Dads, Grandads, Uncles please get involved. Please note on the form below if you would like to come along and read for us and how many children will be staying after school.

Pancake Day Reminder

Our pancake races will take place on Tuesday 8th March. Class 2 will be making the pancakes at the Village Hall in the morning; we would be grateful for any parent helpers and for donations of plain flour, eggs, milk, lemon, sugar, squeezezy syrup. Please provide an indication of what you will be able to provide on the form below. In addition all children will need to bring a pancake (previously made at home) and a frying pan for the races. The races will take place at the Village Hall from 2pm and will be followed by pancakes and tea. Please ensure that all children are collected from the Village Hall at the end of the school day.

Holiday Club

Attached to this newsletter you will find details of holiday activities taking place in the Sidmouth and Ottery St Mary Learning Communities.

Gardening Competition

We have been invited to take part in the Rotary Club Gardening Competition again this year. We are shortly going to be starting work on our allotment again. If anyone has any spare plants or seeds then please arrange to bring them into school.

T-Shirts

As a result of the children being more involved in inter-school sports events and a feeling that the children didn't seem to have much pride in their PE uniform, the governors recently approved a slight alteration to the school PE uniform. They agreed that a school logo on our white PE t-shirts would mean that the children would feel more like a team and more proud of the PE uniform. This change will be phased in gradually. New PE t-shirts will shortly be available in the office for those parents who wish to purchase one at a cost of £7.50. Although the younger children can buy them this change is mainly for the older children who get changed more regularly for PE lessons and visit other schools for PE events more often. Another change made by the governors was that children may now wear a dark coloured plain track suit over their blue shorts and white t-shirt to ensure they are warm during winter PE lessons.

BCG Screening

In line with national policy, BCG vaccination for TB has not routinely been given to children in schools since 2005. NHS Devon are now screening young people aged 5 - 18 years old who are at risk of developing or have ongoing risk of exposure to TB infection. This includes any child aged 5-18 years old who has not been vaccinated against TB infection and:

Have a parent or grandparent born in a country with a high incidence of TB

OR

Were born or lived for more than 3 months in any country with a high incidence of TB

If you feel that your child fits into either of the above groups please contact the Immunisation Team on **01392 208469/208470** to arrange screening and vaccination.

In addition to this all children in Reception will be sent a questionnaire that needs to be returned to school, for the attention of the School Nurse.

Football

Please find attached a flyer for football club that will be taking place after half term. Please ensure that you return the slip together with a cheque made payable to A. Widger into school for us to pass on to Andy but please note that this is a private arrangement between yourselves and Andy Widger.

World Book Day

My Child(ren), _____ will
be attending the bedtime story session on World Book Day.

I _____ would like to come and read a bedtime story on
World Book Day. I would like to read (an extract from):

Cookery Club

My child _____ would like to attend cookery club and I
have enclosed £1 towards the cost of the 5 week course.

Pancake Day

I, _____ will be able to provide the following
ingredients for Pancake Day (please note approximate quantities).
