BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 10/11 02 Friday 17th September 2010







Dear Parents,

The children are now really getting involved in the term's topics and planned events. It is lovely to see how well the new children have settled into school and made friends.

On Sunday we will be joining with the congregation of St Winifred's Church for their Harvest Festival. Although we understand that short notice was given to you of the service and that many families have other commitments on a Sunday, it is a shame that, as a Church School, only a handful of children will be joining the teachers for the service and our planned contribution has had to be altered.

We have had a couple of 'healthy' visitors into school this week; class 2 enjoyed a visit from a dentist who led a very interactive session on oral hygiene and today the whole school have had a talk from our school nurse about preventing head lice. Thank you so much for all the new hair bands that have been purchased this week to assist in this on-going campaign! A leaflet for the children and another for parents will be sent home tonight with advice about dealing with head lice.

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

Exe Valley Challenge

The photos that participants ordered on the day of the challenge last term are now in school. Each photograph costs £5, please give the money to Nicola in the office, with any cheques made payable to Devon County Council.

PTFA

There is a PTFA meeting being held at 9am on Wednesday 22nd September. All parents and friends of the school are welcome to attend

Sidmouth College

There is a parents' information evening being held at the college for parents of Year 5 pupils on 28th September at 7pm.

Clubs

Football Club will hopefully be starting on Fridays from Friday 1^{st} October. Andy Widger will be dropping further information into school shortly.

Netball Club is for children in Year 2 and above, not just KS2 pupils as previously stated. Similarly, children from all year groups are welcome to attend Construction Club on a Wednesday evening so long as they haven't previously committed to Netball Club.

Fun Day Stalls and Fun Day

The Class 2 Fun Day stalls will be run on Wednesday during an extended morning break. Please could children from both classes bring a small amount of loose change on the day so that they can participate with the stalls.

Fun Day itself will take place on Friday afternoon from 1.30pm at the back of the Village Hall field. The children should bring their PE kit into school and a change of shoes.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

In previous years children have really enjoyed making up shoe boxes of Christmas Gifts for the Operation Christmas Child Appeal. A leaflet explaining this year's appeal is being sent home with this newsletter. Please note a donation of £2.50 per shoebox is needed. This can either be donated on line or included in the box. Please see the form for further details. More forms are available on line or in school.

Hedge Walk

On Thursday of next week (23rd September), Class 2 will be going on a Hedge Walk with Lucy Morton, the National Trust Community Ranger. Hedges support many animals by providing them with food and shelter. Berries and seeds are food for birds, while holes beneath the hedge are often home to small mammals. The children may also discover caterpillars, shieldbugs and many other invertebrates living among the leaves. With their results they will be taking part in a Biodiversity Survey; see www.OPALexplorenature.org for further details. Children from Class 2 do not need to wear school uniform on Thursday. They should wear sensible clothes for an outdoor walk, bring wellies to change into and bring a water proof coat. The walk will only take place during the afternoon and so lunch time arrangements will not be affected. If any parents would like to join us for the walk their help would be greatly appreciated. Please let Mrs Gray know that you can come with us.

'What Makes a Good Learner' Meeting

On Monday 4th October our Educational Psychologist will be running a meeting for all parents about 'What Makes a Good Learner'. This will be run after school and a crèche will be available. Following the meeting Mr Ford will talk to Foundation Stage parents about The Foundation Stage Profile which is the document used to assess the younger children.

Sponsored Walk

On 20th October the whole school will be doing a Sponsored Walk to raise money for Farm Africa. The walk will be led by Lucy Morton, the National Trust Community Ranger and will have a "Wellies" theme as part of Farm Africa's Campaign. During the walk Lucy will talk to the children about nuts and berries that can be seen in our local environment during the autumn. Further details and a sponsor form will be given out shortly but in the mean time please put the date in your diary as parents and friends of the school are very welcome to join us.

School Photos

The school photographer has been back to school this afternoon to complete the family group photographs. The order slips will be sent out on Monday.