

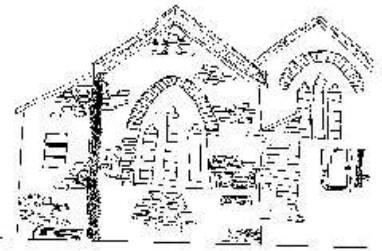
BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 10 / 11 36
Friday 15th July 2011



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



The Branscombe Waves



Dear Parents

I am writing this as Class 2 do their final preparations for what I know will be a super end of year play this afternoon. The children, Mrs Crawford and teaching assistants, not to mention parents helping children to learn lines, have put in a huge amount of time and effort to make this afternoon a success.

It is with great excitement that I can announce that we won the title of 'Most Improved Allotment' in the Sidmouth Rotary Club School Allotment Competition. Our allotment, with its scarecrows and papier mache vegetables, was judged on Monday morning. On Wednesday I was very pleased to accompany Mr Lovell and three school council representatives, who had shown particular interest in the allotment, to the Riviera Hotel for the competition presentations. We were then able to share a lunch provided by the Rotary Club. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Lovell for all their enthusiasm and commitment to the allotment, to Mr Selway who provided a fence (which the judges had suggested last year) and to those parents and governors who helped to make the scarecrows. A real team effort - well done to everyone!

I hope that many families will be able to join the congregation of St Winifred's Church on Sunday at 11.15am, when the new vicar, Rev Hilary Dawson, will take her first service. You are then welcome to stay for a bring and share lunch

God bless and we hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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

Key Dates

Monday 18th July - Leavers' service at St Winifred's Church at 9.15am. All children to come to school first please. Parents Welcome.

Monday 18th July - 2.45pm. Transition meeting for parents of pupils in Year 2 who will be moving into Class 2 in September.

Monday 18th July - 3.15pm. Open evening for all parents.

Tuesday 19th July. Class 1 trip to beach and playing field. Please see below for further details

Friday 22nd July - last day of summer term.

Monday 5th September - first day of new school year.

Year Two Transition Meeting / Open Evening – Monday 18th July

On Monday we will be holding a meeting for parents of the current Year 2 children at 2.45pm to explain the daily routines of the new class and to discuss any questions or concerns they or their children may have about the transition to Class 2. This will be followed by an Open Evening at 3.30pm until 5.30pm for all parents to come and look at their children's work and class room displays.

It is also an opportunity to discuss any issues relating to your child's progress or end of year report. There are no time slots but staff will be available to talk to you. Thank you to those parents who made comments relating to the style of the report. Some parents asked for feedback about the non statutory tests that Year 3, 4 and 5 children take.

Although we don't report on these, parents are of course welcome to ask Mrs Crawford or Mrs Gray for a breakdown of the results.

We would ask that this year, when you've had a look at your child's work, you do not take the books home with you. We are due to have an OFSTED inspection during the next academic year and will need to show them evidence of children's work. Once we have built up enough evidence in the new academic year (around October half term) we will of course send this year's books home (and forward them on to the Year 6 leavers). Thank you for your understanding with this matter.

Photographs

Whole school, Year 6 and Pre-School photographs are on show in the entrance hall. They are priced at £10 each and can be purchased from the office. Any cheques should be made payable to Devon County Council. Please make sure that you purchase any photographs that you want by Wednesday morning next week as we will need to bank money and return any unsold photographs before the end of term.

Photo Framing

We have received details from a couple in Branscombe who do photo and picture framing. They are offering 15% discount on framing of school photos and will also make a 10% donation back to the school. Leaflets will be sent home with this newsletter.

Breakfast Club Pricing

From September the price of a single session at Breakfast Club will be £2.50. However you will be able to buy a block of 10 sessions at a discounted price of £23.50. All 10 sessions will need to be used within the term of purchase (unless the block is purchased within the last two weeks of a term when they can be carried over). There have been times during the year when children have arrived at Breakfast Club on their own. This is always a worry because although we have 2 members of staff on site, if they were delayed for any reason, we don't want children waiting at school on their own. To ensure that this doesn't happen, and to ensure that we can monitor the 10 session blocks, we will require parents to sign children in from September.

Class 1 trip to the beach

On Tuesday, 19th July, Class 1 will be going to Branscombe beach and the playing field for some fun activities. We plan to have lunch at the beach, so all children will need a packed lunch and plenty to drink. Children can wear trainers or sensible footwear for walking and playing in. They will also need a waterproof coat, sun cream and a sun hat. If the weather forecast suggests particularly unfavourable conditions we shall stay at school. We hope to make a decision about this on Monday.

Governor News from Amanda

During this half term there have been a few changes to the Governing Body. The new vicar, Hilary has now joined the governing body and we are all very much looking forward to working with her. Whilst we have been without a vicar, Sandi Clark has been covering this role. I would like to thank Sandi for her support during this time. Our other Foundation Governor, Simon Maplesdon, has sadly now moved from the village and therefore resigned from the governing body. Simon has been a really supportive and enthusiastic governor during his term with us and he will be missed by all.

However, Simon is still keen to offer science lessons at Honiton Community College and I know that the pupils really enjoyed their previous trip there. As this leaves us with a Foundation Governor vacancy we are currently working with the PCC and they are getting nominations to fill this post – Sandi Clark will be one of the nominations and the final decision will be made by the Diocesan Board of Education. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in being nominated for this role please contact a member of the PCC.

One of our parent governors, Andy Hosking, has resigned due to an increase in his workload. He felt that he would be unable to continue to fulfil the role as he would not be able to give it the time needed – Andy has been a thorough and conscientious governor and has greatly contributed to the governing body during his time with us.

Finally, I am delighted to say that Steve Reid will be remaining on the Governing Body despite the fact that his daughter, Charlotte, is now moving on to Secondary education. There will be two vacancies for Parent Governors when we return to school in September. We intend to hold elections at the start of the Autumn Term. Governance is an interesting and rewarding role and if you are considering putting yourself forward but would like more information or an informal chat, please don't hesitate to talk to either Amanda or Katie.

Parent Forum Information from Amanda

We now have all the Year Reps in place but unfortunately it has proven impossible to get everyone together at this busy time of year. Furthermore, we have only had one issue raised for the meeting. We therefore feel that it would be better if we organised a Parent Forum for early in the Autumn term when parents may have questions or issues that they would like to raise.

Parish News Article from Amanda

Following the last school service at church I have been inspired to write an article for the Parish Newsletter. For those of you who could not make the service, Nigel Freathy

was talking to the children about our hands and mouths and how we can use them both for good and for bad. It struck me that people often are happy to complain about things but are sometimes less likely to stop and give praise when it is due. With that in mind I would like to write a piece for the Parish Newsletter celebrating Branscombe CE Primary School and all that we love about it as a way of saying thank you to the staff for all their hard work and to make the local community aware of how well the school is doing. I wanted to include quotes from parents, children and governors and therefore need your help! If you would like to write a quote for me to include, stating something positive about the school, please could you use the slip and hand it in to the office. Thank you in advance. Amanda

Clubs

Only Spanish and Cricket clubs will be running next week, all the others have finished now for the summer. We will let you know in the first couple of weeks of September the clubs that will be on offer next term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and members of staff who give of their time to ensure we have such a range of clubs.

Class 2 Greenhouse

We would like to say a huge thank you to Reuben's Nanna who came into school recently and helped to take the bottoms off the many bottles we now have in school ready to build our greenhouse. If anyone else is able to spend some time in school helping with the preparation of the bottles we would be very grateful.

Term Dates 2011/12

Autumn Term 1st Half: Monday 5th September - Thursday 20th October

Half term holiday: Friday 21st October - Friday 28th October

Autumn Term 2nd Half: Monday 31st October - Friday 16th December

Christmas Holiday: Monday 19th December - Wednesday 4th January

Spring Term 1st Half: Thursday 5th January - Friday 10th February

Half term holiday: Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

Spring Term 2nd Half: Monday 20th February - Friday 30th March

Easter Holiday: Monday 2nd April - Monday 16th April

Summer 1st Half: Tuesday 17th April - Friday 1st June

Half term holiday: Monday 4th June - Friday 8th June

Summer 2nd Half: Monday 11th June- Friday 20th July

Voluntary Support

Over the year Macarena Stiles has voluntarily attended school each week and taught the children in Class 2 Spanish. Macarena is looking for employment and so will not, unfortunately, be returning next year. To show our appreciation for her work with the children we hope to buy Macarena a gift from Class 2. If you feel able to contribute toward her leaving present, please send your donation in an envelope by Monday. It is hoped that Macarena will still offer an after school Spanish club in the Autumn term.

School Meals - Important Information

From September our school meals will still come from the same kitchen (currently St Nicholas Junior School), however, the current company running the kitchen DCCS will no longer exist and the school itself will be a Self Providing Kitchen. Therefore no dinner money will be able to be carried over. We will inform you of any money owing shortly and we will need this to be paid by next Friday at the latest so that the kitchen can finalise all their payments.

Alice in Wonderland

Three children were selected to attend an Alice in Wonderland Drama Course which took place earlier this week. Here are some quotes from the children.

Autumn said: "BB, Josie and I went to an Alice in Wonderland Workshop at St Leonard's Primary School in Exeter. My favourite part of the day was playing croquet. All three of us were on the blue team, but the red team won!"

Josie said: "It was amazing to try out some different scenes with people. The last two parts were my favourite; they were the garden scene and the croquet scene."

Beatrix said: "I thought it was so inspiring and interesting. It was hard because I didn't know many people there. But it was spectacular."

Sidmouth Amateur Dramatic Society Ltd

Rhythm's Going to Get You is a 3 day summer workshop for 8 to 12 year olds and will run from 25th to 27th July. The cost is £15 for members or £20 for non-members. Please contact Tanya on Sidmouth 579254.

Sidmouth Museum

Presents a one day special tribute to Sidmouth's renowned antiquarian and naturalist - Peter Orlando Hutchinson on Wednesday 20th July. Free admission 10.00 - 5.00pm.

Sidmouth Hospital Comforts Fund

Fun day, fete and car boot sale will take place on the 16th July from 12-4pm at Sidmouth Rugby Club. There will be a BBQ, bouncy castle, Tug-o-War and live bands. Only £1 and children are free.

Donkey Sanctuary Junior Club

If anyone is interested in attending the Junior Club on Friday mornings from 10am until 12pm throughout the summer holidays please contact 01395 57156.

Bikeability

If anyone is interested in bikeability courses during the summer holidays please contact Maggie Richardson on 07887 573371 or e mail

thecyclingpartnership@gmail.com

Celebration Quotes for the Parish Newsletter
