



The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 17
Friday 9th February 2018**



Dear Parents,

In Literacy this week, Class 1 have enjoyed listening to and reciting dinosaur poems. They began the week by exploring *'The King of all the Dinosaurs'* by Paul Cookson, picking out the rhyming words, before thinking about the body parts of their favourite dinosaurs. They then came up with their own list of dinosaur-like adjectives, to describe the body parts of different types of dinosaur, for which they tried to find appropriate rhyming words. Following this, they used their notes to build noun-phrases to describe their own dinosaur, organising these in a poetic style similar to that of the authors. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to *"Wayne the Stegosaurus"* by Kenn Nesbitt, appreciating the humour in this poem, and even had a go at rapping about dinosaurs!

In Topic lessons, inspired by learning about Mary Anning, the children have been finding out more about fossils. They looked at fossils collected from the beach, to describe the feel of them, and the shapes that they could see. They found out about the work that palaeontologists undertake, and the type of rock that fossils are found in. Our EYFS children made their very own shell and fossil shop, just like Mary; they labelled their goods with the prices that they wanted to charge, and got out the money and tills, to practise counting money and giving change.

On Tuesday, as part of Safer Internet Day 2018, the children earned their stripes for their cyber safety rainbows, by completing a number of class and individual challenges. They were awarded their first stripe after thinking about 'online opportunities'; discussing what they enjoy using the online world for, and coming up with rules and regulations that they have encountered, either in school or at home around the use of these things, which help them to stay safe when online. Next, they played a 'Trust it Traffic Lights' game where they were asked to identify some key features of people, websites and attachments that they can trust. After deciding upon what is reliable information available online, they were awarded their second stripe. Following this, the children were able to earn stripe number three, when they learnt about the importance of keeping personal information private- sharing only made up nicknames, and creating passwords to protect their details. They then played a game of 'feels alright...feels all wrong' to help them to think about situations when they might feel unsure, uncomfortable or that something wasn't right. They learnt who they could go to for help, when they want to voice their concerns, in order to achieve stripe number four. Finally they listened to and watched a range of scenarios, in which they had to give advice, acting as an 'agony aunt' or 'mentor', and making appropriate decisions to earn their last stripe.

This week, Class 2 have worked hard to complete a range of pieces of work, that will soon be going on display in the classroom, so do pop in after half term, to have a look at the children's work. The children have 'published' the reports they researched and wrote last week, about an aspect of space, on topics ranging from stars, to planets, to nebulae, to the International Space Station.

They have begun a new sequence of work in Literacy, in which they are reading and writing stories, set in imaginary worlds. They began by asking "What if...?" questions, to stimulate ideas for a story set in a context that is slightly - or vastly - different from Earth as we know it. The

children have practised writing the opening of the story they planned, focusing on introducing the characters and describing the setting. After half term, they will continue this sequence of work by looking at a range of stories, and using images to inspire and develop their confidence in writing descriptively.

In their Maths work this week, the Year 3 and 4 children, practised telling the time on analogue and digital clocks, converting between 12-hour and 24-hour times, and solving problems by converting between different time intervals. Meanwhile, the Year 6 children, have been developing their knowledge of the relationship between metric and imperial measurements of length, distance, capacity and weight, and solving problems involving conversion from metric to imperial, and vice versa.

In the afternoons, Class 2 have spent some time learning a range of songs, in preparation for the Sidmouth Learning Community Music Festival event, on Thursday evening. All the children attended the rehearsal on Thursday morning, so that they all benefited from the valuable experience of singing in a large choir, alongside pupils from several other local schools. In the evening a smaller group of Branscombe pupils headed back to Sidmouth



College, to perform in a special concert and really did the school proud, especially with their rendition of "Let's Go Fly a Kite" from Mary Poppins. They may have been the smallest choir but they certainly showed the great talent we have amongst our little school! Many thanks to the parents who joined us at this event, and facilitated the children's participation and to Miss Moss who supported them with their preparation.



Class 2 have also been developing their use of a sketch book, in Art this week. Having looked at a range of example pages from artists' sketch books, the children were introduced to the work of two "Science fiction" artists, whose work involves a space-theme: Peter Thorpe and John Conrad Berkey. The children were then asked to produce a page in their sketch book, to record their thoughts, observations and learning, about one or both of the artists. Later in the term, having practised drawing their own imaginary rockets and spaceships, and explored a range of marbling techniques to produce space-themed background, the children will be challenged to produce their own work of "Science fiction" art, inspired by the work of these artists.

We hope you all have a relaxing half term break, and we look forward to seeing the children back at school, on Monday 19th February

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: Who are you thankful for?

What do they do that makes you feel grateful and how can you make sure that they feel appreciated?

Class 2: Which is your favourite season and why?

How would your life be different if there were no seasons?

Key Dates

Spring Term 2018

12th-16th February- Half term

19th February- First day back at school after half term.

1st March – World Book Day

21st March – Parents' Evening

21st March – World Poetry Day

29th March – Wear a Hat Day

Last Day of Spring Term: Thursday 29th March

Music Lessons

In addition to their class music lessons, we are glad that several Branscombe pupils have taken the opportunity to learn instruments, with our visiting music teacher, Malcolm Foster. Spaces are available, should any other children wish to learn piano or violin, and Malcolm is quite willing to take two pupils together, to help share the cost of lessons, should this make it more affordable. Lessons cost £14 for a 30 minute session, and currently take place in school, on Wednesday afternoons. For further details, please email malcolm_93@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.

Spare Clothes

Please could ALL children in Preschool and Reception have a spare set of clothes with them every day, in case of toileting mishaps! Also, if you have any spare pants, socks or trousers that may fit our younger children, and that you would be willing to donate to school, we would be very grateful for these. All Class 1 children should have wellies and a waterproof coat in school every day please.

Collective Worship Activity

This term we have been focussing in school on the value of Thankfulness. 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.



READ TOGETHER...

The Man Who Came Back

Jesus was travelling along the dusty roads towards Jerusalem. At each village he was welcomed by people, happy to see him and listen to his teaching. But today, as he entered the village he saw in the distance a small group standing apart from the crowd. They were calling out, "Jesus, Master, help us, please make us well." These poor people had a disease called leprosy. They were terribly ill and no-one in the village wanted to go near them.

But Jesus didn't ignore them. He stood among them and prayed for them. As each of them went on his way they began to notice that their whole bodies were healing up. They were so excited that they immediately rushed off to share their good news. Well, nine of them did. The tenth turned and fell on his knees in front of Jesus and **thanked** him for what he had done.

"I healed ten people with leprosy today", said Jesus to the man. "Where are the others?". But then he smiled "Well at least you came back to say **thank** you!".

YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2018

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Age groups: 8-11 or 12-16

SUBJECT: WILDLIFE OR PETS

Up to three entries per person, size 7 x 5 in. as either colour or black and white prints. Each photograph must have a title and the name, age and contact number of the entrant. Please send your entries to Mrs. J. Stephens, Sidbury Mill, Sidbury, Sidmouth EX10 0RE before 31st March 2018. Free entry. Must be your own work unaided. No late entries can be accepted.

All entries (subject to the discretion of the judges) will be exhibited at the Prize Giving at The Gallery, Sidbury Mill, Sidbury, on **Saturday, 5th May at 2 p.m.** All exhibitors, with a parent/guardian are invited. No unaccompanied children please.

PRIZES of £60, £40, £20 for the 3 winners in each group

Our very grateful thanks to all our local sponsors.

Winter in Wild East Devon

Mon 12 Feb 10am to 12 noon Bird watching for children at Tower Mide, Seaton Wetlands	Tues 13 Feb 10am to 1pm Nest box building at Road Bank, Seaton Wetlands
Wed 14 Feb 2pm to 4pm Bird feeding fun at Cranbrook	Sat 10 and Sun 11 Mar 10am to 4pm Mother's Day treats at Seaton Wetlands
Sat 10 Mar 6am to 8am Dawn chorus walk at Holyford Woods	Sat 17 Mar 10am to 12 noon Take a walk in the park at Cranbrook

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