



BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 10/28
Friday 30th April 2010



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



The Branscombe Waves

Dear Parents / Carers

It's been an exciting week in school so far. Pre School and Class 1 had a lovely day at The World of Country Life on Tuesday which I have enjoyed hearing all about. Natasha and George represented the school at a Student Voice Conference where they discussed topics such as 'How learning could be improved in schools', 'How to make transition between different key stages easier' and 'How to improve the quality of multicultural awareness'. I would like to congratulate the two pupils on how they participated throughout the conference and on their exemplary behaviour.

Over the next few days there are more interesting things going on - please see the rest of the newsletter for further information.

Towards the end of last term Mr Swait arranged for questionnaires to be given to parents and children. I have enjoyed reading through the responses and found your comments really helpful. I have included below some of the initial ideas we have had based on the responses. Thank you once again for taking the time to fill in the questionnaires.

Fossil Day

A reminder that tomorrow (Friday 30th April) the whole school will be attending the Fossil Day at Lyme Regis. Unfortunately rain is expected. The activities are undercover but please could children wear suitable footwear, wear warm wet weather clothing, including a raincoat, and bring a packed lunch and drink (no chocolate bars that could melt, fizzy drinks or glass bottles please). Children may bring a small amount of money in a named purse as there may be an opportunity to buy a souvenir.

Collection will be from school as usual.

May Day

As part of the celebrations for the re-opening of the Village Hall we will be holding our annual May Day on Saturday May 1st. The May Queen is Charlotte Reid and the May King is Thomas Willerton. Please could all children meet at school at 12.30pm so that they can get changed into their May Day outfits. We will then all process down the school path together ready for the dancing. After the children have finished their performance we will walk back up to school together to get changed again and we would ask that parents collect children from school at approximately 2.00pm. The weather for the weekend is not good, however, we do intend to hold the dancing inside the hall if it's raining. Please ensure the children all have rain coats so that they can wear these as we walk down to the hall from school.

PTFA Cake Stall

The PTFA are hoping to restart the monthly cake stalls. Please fill in the slip below if you are happy to go on the rota for baking cakes! Thank you.

School Dinners

A reminder that as from May 4th 2010 school dinners will be increasing in cost to £2.00.

Emailed Newsletters

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically please send us an email (from the email address you'd like the newsletter to be sent to) asking to be included in our electronic mailing list.

Questionnaires

The children's questionnaires covered a wide range of topics from school dinners to classroom environment. To summarise, all of the questions apart from one were answered positively in the main. However, some areas which we will initially look at further as a result of the questionnaire are improving lunch times and ensuring assemblies are more meaningful to the children. Mrs Gray has already had some discussion with Sheleen, our MTA, on how we can positively reinforce good lunchtime behaviour. These ideas will be put into practice in the coming weeks. We will also be promoting school dinners more over the coming term with a special world cup themed menu and a parent taster session.

The parent questionnaire was really pleasing, particularly the comments you made about the friendly, supportive feel of the school and the care, support and guidance that is given to pupils.

The following three points summarise the responses

- Feedback shows that the quality of communication from the school has improved since the last parent questionnaire
- Parental perception of the school's high expectations for its pupils has improved since the last parent questionnaire
- Parents agreed or strongly agreed with all but two of the points on the questionnaire.

We are pleased that parents appreciate the work we do with the local community throughout the year and also our links with the local church. Although Rev. Edwards left last term we are currently discussing ways in which we can keep this link going whilst we wait for a new vicar to be appointed. We will keep you informed of our plans. The next whole school church service will be on Thursday 20th May at 2.45pm. Do please join us for this if you can. Tea will be served at the end of the service and children are to be collected from church.

Some parents didn't feel that there was a good range of activities including trips and visits. As a staff we are always trying to provide the children with a rich and varied curriculum. Where appropriate we try to use the local environment as much as possible and we encourage visitors to the school to share their knowledge and experiences with the children. We are looking forward to working with the National Trust and parents to cultivate our new allotment. Any offers of help would be very much appreciated. We are open to any suggestions of people who may be able to enrich a topic we are covering with the children. We hope that you feel that the number of opportunities that we have already organised this term have been valuable to the children.

Mrs Crawford has prepared the table below to give you an idea of the forthcoming sporting opportunities that are being planned for the children.

| Date | Event | Age group | Start and finish | Venue |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Thursday 13 th May | Ultimate frisbee | Years 4 and 5 | 4.00 - 5.30pm | Sidmouth College |
| Monday 17 th May | Kwik cricket | Years 5 & 6 | 4.00 - 5.30 | Sidmouth College |
| Monday 17 th May | Rounders | Years 3 & 4 | 4.00 - 5.30 | Sidmouth College |
| Thursday 17 th June | Swimming Gala | Years 3 & 4 | 1.00 - 3.00pm | Sidmouth Pool |
| Monday 21 st June | Kwik cricket | Years 5 & 6 | 4.00 - 5.30 | Sidmouth College |
| Monday 21 st June | Rounders | Years 3 & 4 | 4.00 - 5.30 | Sidmouth College |
| Monday 5 th July | Playground Games | KS1 | 9.15 - 11.00am | Sidmouth College |

Further activities to be arranged are Gymnastics for Year 6, Orienteering, racket sport, sports hall athletics.

Another area that was raised in the questionnaire was that of home learning. As a staff we will review our planning of home activities. It has already been discussed with Jon Maxwell Batten, our educational psychologist, is going to run a parent workshop in the autumn term for parents of children in Class. The focus will be on how parents can help to best prepare their children for being in school. If you have any other suggestions as to how we can better support your child with home learning please don't hesitate to talk to us.

Ultimate Frisbee

Pupils from years 4 and 5 have been invited to attend a session of Ultimate Frisbee at Sidmouth College Thursday 13th May.

This will be a skilled based session followed by a friendly competition. To avoid unnecessary cost we would ask that parents provide their own transport to and from the event.

Please indicate your willingness for your child to take part in this activity by returning the attached slip. Further details will be provided later.

School Clubs

The following after school clubs will take place this term:

Netball - Wednesday 3.15 until 4.15

Football - Andy Widger is offering after school football club on Friday afternoons on the village hall tennis courts this term.

Yoga - Wednesday 3.15. until 4.15

We will also be running lunch time clubs this term for cross country, textiles and for looking after our new allotment.

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

Clubs Permission Return Slip

Name of child

| | |
|----------|---|
| Netball | ✓ |
| Football | |
| Yoga | |

I give my permission for my child to participate in the after school clubs indicated above.

Signed(parent / carer) Date.....

.....

Ultimate Frisbee Permission Slip

I would / would not like my child to take part in Ultimate Frisbee

Thursday 13th May at Sidmouth College. I understand that I will have to arrange transport to and from the event.

Signed.....

Date.....

.....

PTFA Cake Stall

I am happy to help bake cakes for the PTFA.

Name.....

Date.....