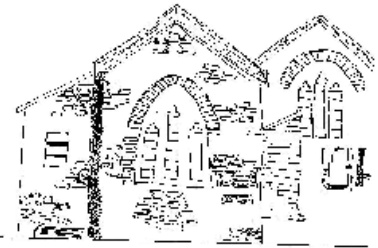




The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 21
Friday 16th March 2018



Dear Parents,

This week, the children in Class 1, have been learning more about the people who would have lived and worked in castles. Our Reception pupils investigated the stories behind famous Knights, and created their own Knights, Kings and Queens. They then used these characters to write imaginative stories! They have worked as team, to write a poem about dragons, describing what they might see and hear, as a dragon descends on a castle! Meanwhile, Key Stage 1 pupils have enjoyed listening to Pie Corbett's 'How to Catch a Dragon', and are beginning to experiment with using some of the writerly techniques employed by the author, to compose their own instruction pages, for a class manual on the subject of 'Dragon Keeping'! Chapters include, feeding a baby dragon, how to find a lost baby dragon, how to ride a dragon and caring for a dragon's teeth.

In Maths this week, the children in Class 1, have been learning more about measurement, and how the skills that they are developing in our lessons apply to everyday life. Having learnt the vocabulary surrounding a variety of units of measurement, including capacity and temperature, they were able to use the data that they have collected since our half term break, to complete a range of activities. These have included plotting a graph, to show the change in temperature during the last 3 weeks, recording the frequency that we experienced particular types of weather using a pictogram, and a bar graph to represent the rainfall each day!

This week all the children were lucky enough to be visited by a representative of the Fire service. The children in Class 1 were taught the 'stop, drop and roll' procedure, to ensure that they could take care of themselves if they ever needed to. They watched a fire safety video on the subject of staying safe around matches and candles, and they even got to dress up in the fire-fighting kit, like real fire fighters. The children were most interested by the photos of fire fighters working in the community, rescuing animals and pupils, both in situations that involved fires and also those that did not.



The Class 2 children meanwhile, were informed about the different roles of the fire service, and reminded of key messages with regard to their safety. The children were challenged to check up on the location and number of smoke alarms in their home, and to check that they were tested on a weekly basis. They were also challenged to go home

and discuss with their parents an escape plan, ensuring that they would know what to do, in the event of a fire, with the key slogan, "Get out, stay out, call 999". The children were asked whether they would be able to give their address and post code to the emergency services, and they were also reminded what they should do in the event of their clothes catching fire: "Stop, drop and roll".



In their Literacy learning this week, Class 2 completed their current Literacy sequence, by planning and writing their own stories, using our model text, 'Weslandia' by Paul Fleischman, to help them. As part of this sequence, the children have been challenged to develop the vocabulary and sentence structures in their writing, and also to develop their skills of proofreading and editing.

In this week's Science lesson, the children began to explore a range of questions about light, dark and how we see things, including considering safety with regard to looking directly at the sun. The Year 6 children used a range of question prompts, to explore and revise what they have previously learned on this topic, then began to explore the reflection of light, using mirrors.

Meanwhile, the Year 3 and Year 4 children used torches in dark spaces, such as inside boxes, to explore how different amounts of light affected how they saw different coloured objects, predicting and then exploring which objects would be easier to see when there was less light.

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: How could you use the Knight's code, to lead a better life?

Class 2: Where is your ideal place to snuggle up and enjoy a good book? (*Real or imaginary*). What makes it a great place to read? Where is the most unusual place that you have ever read a book?

Key Dates

Spring Term 2018

21st March – Parents' Evening.

29th March – Rock Stars Wear a Hat Day.

Last Day of Spring Term: Thursday 29th March.

Bad Weather Preparations

You may have seen that snow is being forecast in places this weekend. If this does affect our area please keep your eye on the school website and I will put a message across the homepage like I did a few weeks ago relating to any necessary school closures. Thank you for your understanding. Katie Gray.

Breakfast Club - An Important Reminder

Please could all parents be aware that Breakfast Club begins at **8 o'clock each morning**. We are required to provide 2 members of staff to supervise the children during this time, and no members of staff are paid before 8 am. Therefore, the door will be kept locked until this time. At 8 o'clock the front door will be unlocked and you will be able to come into school and sign your child in. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Illness

A reminder that if your child has been ill, with either sickness or diarrhoea, please ensure that your child remains at home for 48 hours after the last episode before returning to school.

World Book Day

Last Friday, staff and children were pleased to be able to have a delayed celebration of World Book Day 2018! This year, the children and staff celebrated by thinking about their favourite bedtime stories. Many of the children dressed up in their bedtime clothes, and brought their favourite bedtime stories and cuddly toys to school.



Miss Harvey-Jones challenged the Key Stage 2 children to design and create a cosy reading den, to encourage the younger children to read. The children worked in groups to plan their reading dens, and created concept boards to show their designs, using their Maths skills to measure and calculate the area of the spaces they had chosen, and to work out how much it would cost. The Class 2 children then wrote persuasive speeches, to present their "Reading Den" proposals to the children of Class 1. In keeping with our British value of democracy, the children then voted for their favourite scheme. The Key Stage 1 children also used their Maths skills, to carry out a survey of the most popular bedtime stories in our school. They had to create a tally chart, and then turned these into bar charts or pictograms.



Meanwhile the children of EYFS used wooden spoons to create puppets that could be used to retell their favourite stories. At the end of the day, the children split into groups and the teachers read them some of their own favourite bedtime stories, while the children had a 'bedtime' drink of hot chocolate. Some of the children's parents also joined in the fun!



Reading

As you are aware, this year, we have undertaken a number of activities aimed at promoting the value of reading, such as our sponsored read and book fair last term, and our World Book Day celebrations this term. We would like to encourage parents to continue to make it a priority to support your child in reading at home, on a regular basis. We encourage all the children to read for approximately 15 to 20 minutes each day, whether that be independently (once they are able) or with a parent, sibling or friend. While the children in Key Stage 2 may be more independent in their reading, even the most able readers in Key Stage 2 can benefit from sharing this experience with their parents. This might be through reading together, discussing what they have read to check they have properly understood it, researching and practising using unfamiliar vocabulary, discussing their reading preferences or simply encouraging them to persevere! This not only helps to improve their reading fluency and vocabulary acquisition, but will also support the children in developing their writing, from the first stages of understanding what a sentence is, to being able to use a broader, more sophisticated range of vocabulary and sentence structures in their writing.

With the challenges of modern life, we recognise that it can be a challenge for parents to sit and read with their children on a daily basis - or even for the children to find time to fit it in to their increasingly busy lives. However, we would like to take the opportunity to emphasise just how beneficial a daily habit of reading can be to your child's learning, right across the curriculum. If reading for 15-20 minutes is not possible, even 5 minutes is better than nothing! Little and often is better than not at all, and is often more achievable for children for whom reading is a challenge.

We would also like to thank parents for the support you do give towards helping your children to develop a love of reading, by taking an interest in what they are reading, supporting them in

making appropriate book choices, listening to them read and helping them to develop a habit of regular reading. The one-to-one support that you are able to give them is invaluable. Keep at it!

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.

Times Table Rock Stars

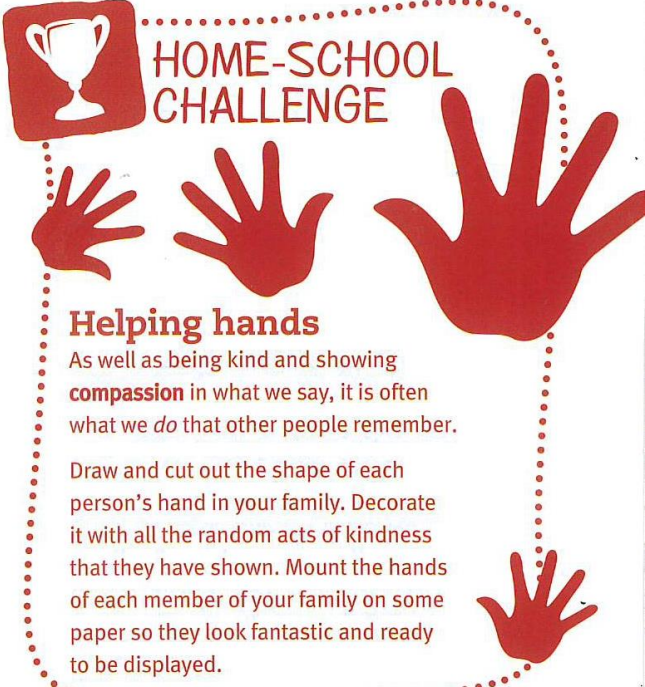
On Thursday 29th March, which is the last day of school this term, we are planning a special dress-up day in school in the style of 'Rock Stars'. We will be collecting donations in support of the Brain Tumour Research charity, for 'Wear a Hat' day – so please include a rock star hat or wig in your costume!

We would like to use this opportunity to launch an exciting new resource that we will be using in school to support children in their learning of times table facts: a web-based programme called Times Table Rock Stars! We will be introducing children to this resource over the next few weeks so that they can become familiar with it before our 'official' launch on 29th March, when we are inviting them to come to school dressed as a rock star of their choice.

The resource supports children in learning times tables through a range of activities and games and we will also be launching our "Hall of Fame" in school, where children's achievements will be celebrated. The children will each be given an individual username and password with which to access the activities, some of which may be set as part of their homework. The programme also involves regular tests, the scores of which are averaged through the week, and will be tracked on the special "Hall of Fame" noticeboard. We will send more information about this day nearer the time, but wanted to inform you all ahead of time, so that you can get prepared for sending your Times Table Rock Stars to school, ready for some Rock and Roll action on 29th March!

Collective Worship Activity

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



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Helping hands

As well as being kind and showing **compassion** in what we say, it is often what we *do* that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.

Branscombe C of E Primary School PTFA Quiz

On Friday 23rd March, there will be a PTFA School Quiz. The cost is £12 for a team of 4, and includes a ploughman's supper. Doors open at 7.30. Quiz starts at 8pm. Raffle and Licensed Bar. To book a team contact Abi Fuell 01297 680512 or email abibrookes@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Branscombe Branoc Hall Table Top Sale

Saturday 31st March 2018, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. For more information or to book a table contact Amanda or Bertie, Tel: 01297 680470. Email: amanda@greatseaside.co.uk

Junior Grizzly Cub and Fun Run - Saturday 17th March

The Grizzly is taking place this coming Sunday. The 2K Junior (for 8s and over) and the 2K Fun Run (for under 8s) are taking place on Saturday afternoon, in Seaton. If your child would like to take part, visit the Axe Valley Runners website for further details.

MARINE YOUNG COMPANY | MONDAY 23 APRIL – MONDAY 9 JULY

JOIN THE MARINE YOUNG COMPANY AND EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

Marine Theatre, in partnership with Exeter Northcott Theatre, is offering a regular opportunity for 40 talented young people to make thought provoking theatre together in a professional setting. Previous experience of acting is not required, but desire and commitment are compulsory. The sessions will be delivered by experienced drama tutor and Northcott team member Lizzie Hedden.

At the Marine Theatre, Church St, Lyme Regis DT7 3QA.

Mondays from 23 April 2018 for 10 weeks (with breaks as per local schools term times).

Years 5 – 7: 5 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Years 8 – 11: 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.

£100 advance for 10 sessions; places can be secured with a £25 deposit, followed by two equal instalments.

The term culminates with a sharing of work for friends and family. Marine Young Company members will have opportunities to work with Marine staff as well as perform on the stage. To find out more, and to register for a place, please contact Sophia Moseley at admin@marinetheatre.com or 01297 442394.