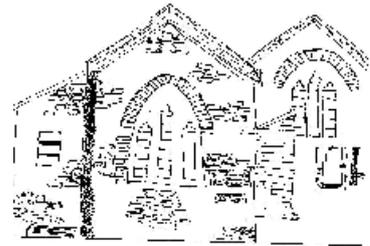




The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY
SCHOOL
WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER 17/18 30
Friday 8th June 2018**



Dear Parents,

Over the Half Term holiday Jay and Freya joined me at The Bath and West Show to receive our Environmental Youth Award. This innovative and exciting regional competition was started in 1996 by Brigadier John Hemsley with the Royal Bath & West of England Society and has now become firmly established, capitalising upon its success in encouraging many youngsters to become interested in environmental and conservation matters.

The aim of the Environmental Youth Award is to promote a greater awareness and understanding of conservation and environmental matters by encouraging and recognising the contribution made by young people. This recognition is promoted via an award made to a group of young people who have made a significant contribution to conservation and/or environmental management and applies equally to either an urban or rural environment. The award scheme is open to formal as well as ad hoc youth groups from the six counties of Bristol, Dorset, Somerset, East Devon, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. One nomination each year is selected from each of the counties covered by the Society. Bearing in mind the main objective of fostering and encouraging interest in environmental matters, the selections are made on the basis of rewarding originality and effort, irrespective of age, provided this is within an overall quality project.

The six county nominations are assessed by a panel of judges who decide upon a Regional winner. We received a lovely Bronze Hedgehog trophy, a generous cheque and a certificate.



The children have made a good first week back following the half term holiday. In Literacy we have been looking at the imperative verbs used in a set of instructions (how to plant lettuce seeds) from our text 'Grow your own lettuce'. The children have been learning how to use imperative verbs (bossy verbs) to give each other commands. They have also been learning to use adverbs to add extra detail to their commands, for example 'Quietly stand up'.

In Maths we have been busy collecting data by asking questions such as 'What is your favourite flower?' The children have presented the data collected in the form of block graphs and pictograms. They have interpreted the data and written sentences to show what the data tells us, for example 'Roses are more popular than Buttercups'.

In our topic work, we have been comparing a local forest (Haldon Forest) with a rainforest in Borneo. We have looked at what trees and plants you can find growing in Haldon Forest, compared to those growing in the rainforest in Borneo. We have talked about the different climates and what animals you might find living in the different forests. The children particularly enjoyed looking at the photographs of the Orang-utans. We are continuing to observe how our lettuce seedlings are growing.

In Class 2 this week, the children have begun a new Maths topic, in which they will be consolidating and developing their use of a range of mental and written strategies for addition and subtraction and applying these to solve problems in a range of contexts. The children discussed the different ways in which numerical data can be explored and presented in charts

and graphs and began to consider which would be the best way of presenting particular sets of data. Over the next few weeks, they will develop their understanding by carrying out a range of investigations, presenting the results of these in graphs and charts, and explaining what the graphs and charts reveal about the results of their investigations.

On Wednesday, the children in Class 2 were able to learn a lot more about the different Egyptian gods by sharing with one another the homework they had completed over the half-term period, when they were asked to research one particular god and present their findings in a leaflet or poster. Their posters and leaflets will soon be displayed in the class "museum", which the children are developing in their 'DEN'. The 'DEN' is an area in the computer room, where the children spend time working independently and collaboratively, in groups to learn more about topics by Discussing, Exploring and Negotiating (DEN), as well as applying their reading, research and writing skills. This term, the children are working to turn the DEN area into an Egyptian museum display. It is hoped that next week's visit to the Royal Albert Memorial museum will further inspire this ongoing project.

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: If you were an animal living in a forest what animal would you choose to be and why?

Class 2: What is the most memorable visit you have ever made to a museum? What makes a good museum display?

Key Dates

Spring Term 2018

13th June – Key Stage 2 trip to the RAMM Museum, Exeter.

7th June, 14th June, 21st June, 28th June, 5th July, & 12th July. Swimming Lessons.

22nd June - Exe Valley Practice Walk (Class 2).

26th June - Year 6 Junior Life Skills at the Donkey Sanctuary.

Sunday 1st July - Exe Valley Challenge.

20th July (pm) - Branscombe Summer play.

23rd July – Federation Sports Day & Race for Life.

Morning Routine

To encourage independence, we would like all children in Y1 to Y6 to come into the classroom on their own to prepare themselves for the start of the school day. Of course we are very happy for parents to bring children into the playground or entrance hall to say goodbye – whichever you prefer. Parents of EYFS children (children in Reception and Preschool) are encouraged to continue to assist their child to become familiar with the morning routines if they feel this is necessary. Please remember that the school day begins at 9am and all children should be settled in class and ready to learn at this time. If you need to speak to the class teachers we would ask you, where possible, to do so at 3.15pm. Of course you must still let us know of any health or emotional concerns that we would need to be aware of during the course of the day. The mornings are a busy time for the teaching staff who need to prepare for the school day and teachers sometimes start intervention groups at 8.45am. Do remember that all parents are invited to our Sharing Assembly at 2.45pm on a Friday afternoon after which you are very welcome to spend time in your child's classroom to see what they have been learning.

Summer Play - Change of Date

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change the date of the Summer performance. This will now take place on **Friday 20th July at 1.30pm**

Federation Sports Day & Race for Life

On Monday 23rd July, all of the children will be taking part in our annual Federation Sports Day. As part of this event, we will be holding a 'Race for Life' to help raise money for the Cancer Research charity. Each child will receive a medal on completion of the race. We will shortly be sending home sponsorship forms for each child which will need to be returned to school after the race. We hope that you will aid us in raising money for this worthy cause, and give the children something to feel really proud of. Thank you.

Collective Worship Activity

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



FAMILY FOCUS

Spiral of Hope

Start with a circle of paper or light card and draw a spiral. On the spiral write a **hope** or dream that you have that will make the world a safer, cleaner or more healthy place to live. Cut along the lines until you get to the centre, leaving a circle in the middle. Make a hole in the middle so you can hang your spiral from a thread. (You may want to practice drawing a good spiral on some scrap paper before you start.)

