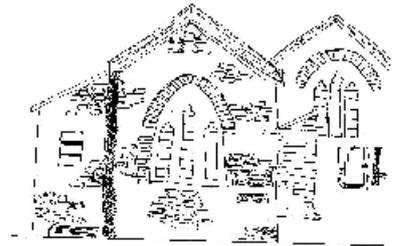




The Branscombe Waves



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**  
**WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 17/18 20**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018**



Dear Parents,

Before the disruption caused by the inclement weather conditions, the children in Class 1 enjoyed taking part in our latest 'Ready, Steady, Write' themed day, during which they all had the opportunity to partake in a range of activities, to explore the nursery rhyme 'Hey Diddle, Diddle'. First, they made cow puppets that were able to jump over the moon, which allowed them to practise using positional language. Following this they created stick puppets and story stones, to retell the rhyme. Finally they created mobiles to summarise the rhyme! Later in the afternoon, the children wrote a diary entry, recounting part of the rhyme, from the perspective of one of the characters. Excellent work was produced by all, and Miss Harvey-Jones was blown away by the imaginative ideas communicated in this creative writing task.

Our Reception pupils have had lots of fun, further improving our role-play zone: To encourage meaningful play in this area of the classroom, Miss Harvey-Jones left the design and construction of the castle to the children for this half term, and thus has been keen to let the children themselves, take responsibility for the props and décor. Last week the children enjoyed making platters and goblets to decorate their table for a medieval banquet, and have also created symmetrical shields, to adorn the walls of the 'great hallway'! Prior to their guests arriving for the party, they decided that they needed some entertainment for the festivities, and took musical instruments into the castle, for song and dance! This week their interests have moved towards finding out more about knights. The children had fun cutting out pictures of their faces to stick on paper and then using mixed media to create an image of themselves dressed in armour!

Meanwhile our pupils in Key Stage 1, have moved from 'paddling' to thinking more deeply, about our new text 'The Paper Bag Princess' by Robert Munsch. The children have been looking at the finer details of the story, to unpick the characteristics of Elizabeth, Ronald and the Dragon. They decided upon the best adjectives to describe these characters, and provided reasons for these choices, with evidence from the text. They then worked in pairs, to attempt to retell the tale, from differing points of view! Using their thinking about the different ways that a character is described and presented in a story, the children planned what their own good and bad characters would be like, to include in an invented fairy tale. They are looking forward to sharing their own fairy tales with you in this week's Sharing Assembly.

In this week's Science lesson, Class 2 built on the children's recent homework task, in which they were asked to observe the moon over a period of time, and make a moon diary. The children explored the reason why the moon appears to change shape. Using a football, half covered in black, to represent the moon with one side in sunlight, and the other half in shadow, the children drew sketches of the shapes they could see from different angles on black paper using chalk. They practised using some of the vocabulary that is used to describe the phases of the moon, such as 'waxing', 'waning', 'crescent' and 'gibbous'. The children observed that while the moon is waxing (getting larger), the right side is visible and the left side is in shadow, while when the moon is 'waning' (getting smaller), the left side of the moon is visible and the right side is in shadow. While the Year 6 children worked as a team to create a poster, explaining the phases of the moon, the younger children were challenged to order pictures of the moon's phases, and label these correctly, using the vocabulary they have learned. In the same lesson, reinforcing the

children's recent work on time in Maths, the children discussed the difference between lunar and calendar months, revising the number of days in each calendar month, and learning that a lunar month lasts for approximately 27 days.

The children also completed some cross-curricular Maths work in their Geography lesson this week. In this term's Geography lessons, the children have been using globes, maps and atlases to find out more about the planet we live on. This week, having revised the terms learned in previous weeks (latitude, longitude, equator, tropic of Cancer, tropic of Capricorn etc.) the children learned more about the polar regions of the northern and southern hemispheres. They were then challenged to create graphs, using data showing the number of daylight hours, in different months in the Arctic and/or Antarctic circles, and comparing this with London.

The week ended with more cross-curricular Maths learning, as the children celebrated World Book day. As they worked in groups to plan a cosy reading den, the children were challenged to measure and calculate the area of the spaces available, drawing scaled diagrams of these spaces. They were also challenged to consider, and plan the budget, that would be required for resources they may use, to make their reading den feel comfortable.

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:** What rules would you have, if you were head teacher, for the day?

**Class 2:** If you had the opportunity to go to space, where would you most like to go, and why? What do you think might be the highlights (or 'lowlights') of such an experience?

### Key Dates

Spring Term 2018

15<sup>th</sup> March – School Meals parent tasting session (further details below).

21<sup>st</sup> March – Parents' Evening.

29<sup>th</sup> March – Rock Stars Wear a Hat Day.

Last Day of Spring Term: Thursday 29th March.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:malcolm_93@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you.

## **Collective Worship – Compassion**

In Collective Worship this half term the children have been exploring the concept of sharing as being a demonstration of compassion towards others. They have discussed how a true display of generosity is one in which a person shares something equally and fairly. They have enjoyed roleplaying situations, where keeping the best for themselves and giving away what they might consider rubbish, is not really sharing compassionately. As a result of these conversations, the children and staff have decided that they are fortunate enough to be able to show compassion to others, by sharing that which we have, with those in less privileged positions. Therefore, as a school we have chosen to do something about this!

Over the coming weeks, we would like to invite you to join us in bringing in items for a collection to take to the Food Bank, at Saint Winifred's Church, and to do our part making food available to those who are in 'food crisis', having no food and no money with which to buy food.

Foods collected include:

Tinned meat/Tinned fish	Sugar
Tinned vegetables	Tea Bags, Coffee
Tinned pasta	Noodles
Baked Beans	Rice or Savoury Rice
Soup	Pasta or Pasta Sauce
Tinned Fruit	Tinned Custard
Fruit Juice or Fruit Squash	Cereal/Cereal Bars
UHT Milk	Rice Pudding/Sponge Pudding

The children have also learnt a little more about some of our local charity shops and the wider organisations that they are part of. They have taken a vote to choose two charities to support through sharing some items from home that are no longer used, including clothes and toys that have been grown out of. Having counted the votes, the children's charities of choice are: Air Ambulance and Hospiscare.

We will be taking some of the children both to the church, and also to the shops in Sidmouth, to deliver our donations during the week commencing Monday 25th March, in our effort to support them in raising money towards their causes.

## **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!

## TALK ABOUT COMPASSION TOGETHER...

**Compassion** is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.

Talk together about:

- how we can show **compassion** and kindness to one another at home
- recognising when friends at school need us to listen and act with **compassion**
- stories in the news demonstrating how strangers show **compassion** in times of natural disasters
- how nations show **compassion** to other nations at times of disaster or need by sending money or volunteers to help

### 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.

### Mothering Sunday Service

This Sunday at 11.15, there is a simple service to celebrate Mothering Sunday at St Winifred's. Everyone is welcome – and there will be posies for mums!

### 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](mailto:abibrookes@hotmail.com). Thank you.



## BRANSCOMBE BRANOC HALL

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:amanda@greatseaside.co.uk)**

## Family Day at the NLO

Explore and discover our fascinating Universe!

Featuring:

The Fire Show  
Planetarium Shows & Story Telling  
Hands-on Science Experiments  
Telescope Tours & Talks  
Solar & Radar Meteor Observing

**Saturday 17th March 11am - 5pm**

Norman Lockyer Observatory,  
Salcombe Hill  
Sidmouth EX10 0NY



Refreshments  
Available

Adults £3  
Children Free

# Food Tasting Presentation



Aspens Services have been providing the catering at Branscombe C of E Primary School since January 2018 and we would like to introduce ourselves to you.

**On 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2.45pm to 3.45pm we will be doing a food taster presentation to introduce our food to you and your children.**

We will bring samples of the great food we provide the children at school and you will have an opportunity to ask the Aspens Catering Team any questions that you may have.

Feel free to visit on your own and then bring your children in after pick up.

We look forward to seeing you there!