

**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER 08/09 6**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Church Service**

Unfortunately, because the Vicar is in India at the moment, our monthly Church service will not be taking place. We hope to resume this in November.

**Lunch Time Help**

Please, please, please consider offering to help at school during lunch times. Several of our Meal Time Assistants will be leaving us shortly due to gaining full time employment elsewhere. After October we will only have one meal time assistant on two days of the week. There are two ways you can help - either by just doing one or two sessions a week, or by becoming more of a consistent member of staff. We do have a position available where someone who is able to come in each lunch time could start work at 11.30 and continue until 1.30. This will cover the lunch time break but also enable equipment to be prepared in the playground and tidied away at the end. Such a member of staff could also help teachers make resources, listen to readers or help in the library during the time before and after lunch.

If you are interested in either of these paid positions please contact Mrs Gray as soon as possible.

If you yourself can't commit to this, please think of anyone else you know who may be interested – we are desperate! Thank you.

**Netball Tournament**

Congratulations to Natasha, Ella and Isy who played so well in the Netball Tournament at Sidmouth College. Well done girls!

**Flora Cooking with Schools**

We were delighted to hear that the preschool have been given a grant (from the Co-operative Community Fund) to buy a new cooker which children at school will also be able to use. What better time then, for the school to get involved in Flora's Cooking with Schools. In each tub of Flora there is a token code (on the paper cover inside) which you can allocate to a school of your choice. If we build up enough tokens we will be able to buy badly needed cooking equipment, such as measuring jugs and saucepans. The first time you use the Flora website it can seem confusing so here are a few instructions:

Log on to [www.cookingwithschools.com](http://www.cookingwithschools.com). On that first screen look for Redeem Token and type in the token code from the paper on your margarine tub. Click GO. It asks you to do a security check and then asks for the town of your nominated school. Type in **Seaton**. It then asks you to select your school and Branscombe is in the list. Finally press Submit.

It does seem a little long winded but we really feel it is worth it because the equipment will make a real difference to your children's cooking in school. Thank you for your support.

### **Class 3 Multi Sports Festival**

Unfortunately the Multi Sports Festival for Class 3 which was due to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October has been postponed. It will now take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 4-6pm. Please fill in the revised permission slip below.

### **Netball Posts**

We are very excited to have two netball posts in the playground. Our thanks to Poppy's dad for donating these to school – they are already proving very popular at playtimes.

### **Car Sharing Challenge**

On the morning of Wednesday 22 October our very exciting Car Sharing Challenge will take place. Last July Malachi, Bethany Lee and Hebe from Year 6 attended the Devon County Council Travelwise Conference, to receive, on behalf of the school, an award for our footpath. While at the conference the children had to make a pledge that would help the school achieve even greener travel. They came up with the idea of a car sharing challenge: on one morning during Walk to School Month all the children would get to school in just 15 cars. This term Class 3 have taken up the baton and have designed brilliant leaflets to explain what the Car Share Challenge is all about. We have taken their words and pictures and put them in one leaflet, which you should receive with this newsletter. We hope you will read the leaflet carefully, which we're sure you'll agree contains children's work of a very high standard, and be persuaded to participate in the challenge. To help Class 3 plan the event they would be grateful if you could fill in the form below and return it to school early next week.

**CAR SHARE CHALLENGE - WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2008**

Name of child/children: \_\_\_\_\_

We will/will not take part in the Car Share Challenge.

We will travel to school by car/ on foot.

We would/would not like to be put in touch with other families we could car share with on the morning of Wednesday 22 October.

(please delete as applicable)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Years 5 & 6 Skills Session**

The children in Class 3 have been invited to Sidmouth College on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 4.00 – 6.00pm** to take part in a volleyball, hockey, netball and basketball skills session.

Parents will be required to transport their children to and from the event.

Please return the slip below to Mrs Crawford if you would like your child to take part.

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Name of pupil \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I would like my child to take part in the skills session

----- will transport him/her to Sidmouth College.

-----will pick him/her up at 6.00pm.

Please meet Mrs Crawford & Mhairi at the entrance to the college.

## **PTFA News From April**

- **New Mums**

Thanks to the new Mum's who have approached me with offers of help this term.

I promise to take you up on your offers and it would be lovely to get you all involved. Perhaps you could consider coming along to Hazel's informal (but essential) Christmas Fair meeting tonight (see below)!

- **Cake Sale**

A big thanks for your ongoing support with cake sales. This year's rota should have reached you either by hand or via book bag by now. Wednesday's cake sale raised an impressive £34.00 so thanks very much to Guy and Amanda Bentley.

- **Pub Quiz**

This term's fun fundraiser is all confirmed for Thursday 23rd October at The Fountain Inn, Branscombe, 7.30 for 8pm start. Teams of 4-6 can enter - everyone is welcome, at £2 per head. There'll also be a goody hamper in the raffle. I hope you can get a few teams together as this is the 3rd quiz we've organised and they've always been great fun (and somebody's GOT to beat "The Dads" team this year!!) so please tell your friends and we look forward to seeing you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- **Pamper Evening**

I've contacted a few practitioner friends and I think that this evening may work better early next year, with a bit more notice. So..... feedback please..... would you prefer it to be a late January do (new year, healthy start, treat yourself) or happen around Valentines time (get the other half to pay I'm thinking!!). Let me know your thoughts and I'll go with the flow.

- **Christmas Fair - Hazel's Meeting**

Please don't forget that tonight, Friday 10th October from 6pm is the Christmas Fair meeting at Hazel's house. We really do need your help and the more of you that can come, the more time there is to actually enjoy yourself on the evening.

- **PTFA Minutes**

Just to keep you in the loop about PTFA, this term's minutes are circulating with this newsletter for you to keep up to speed with our present and future plans. No comment about the "Elf" reference at this stage!

As always, if you have any thoughts, ideas, comments then please call me on 07973 202441. Regards, APRIL



# **BRANSCOMBE PTFA**

**(The Parent, Teacher, Friend Association of Branscombe School)**

**Autumn Term 2008**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

**Present:** April Rose, Hazel Goodier, Candice Waterhouse, Faith Richards, Jo Ryce, Katie Gray, Jess Thompson

**Apologies:** Gillian Cole, Catherine Willerton, Lynley Doulton, Carolyn Pinnock, Jane Snowling, Louisa Merritt

## **Head Teacher's Report:**

Katie expressed her thanks for all the hard work that had gone into the Summer Fair, and said how much it had been appreciated by many of the villagers as well as the children themselves.

She reported that cake sales continue to be much appreciated (by everyone's taste buds as much as for the money they generate) and expressed the hope that there will be enough support to see them continue this year.

## **New Play Area Proposed - Taking Pressure off School Playground**

The National Trust has given its approval for a sustainable play area to be built in the corner of the field next to the school.

Hazel expressed concern about the amount this area would cost to build in a sustainable fashion (around £3,000) and queried whether the children could be escorted down to play in the existing playground next to the village hall instead. It was explained that, unfortunately, the chronic shortage of mealtime assistants means this won't be possible as you need two to accompany the children off-site and one to stay at school.

Plans for the play area are still to be considered, and should it go ahead, the children will be consulted regarding the equipment that's chosen.

## **Christmas Cards**

It was agreed that these were very popular last year and Katie is currently in negotiations with a couple of printers to secure the best production deal. Every child will have the opportunity to design their own card and thanks to the teachers for co-ordinating the exercise.

## **School Fish Tank**

Katie reported that the only immediate need for school is a replacement lid for the fish tank – around £30. However, it was agreed last year that the money raised from

the cake stalls would be used to replenish some classroom consumables. Staff did do an audit for this and Katie will give this shortly to April. She also expressed her thanks to Dominic, who has been coming in every night to feed the fish.

### **Matters Arising – The Term:**

#### **October**

**Pub Quiz:** We need to get some money into the PTFA coffers and this has proved popular in the past, is a good money earner and easy to organise. So April suggested that another be organised for the last Thursday in October.

Whilst she expressed everyone's appreciation for the support the Mason's Arms has given the event for the last two years she suggested that, in the name of village democracy, we should ask The Fountain whether it would like to host the event this year. It was also felt this would be a good way of involving more parents from the west end of the village. Should this prove successful, then it was suggested that in future the quiz be held in alternate pubs each year.

April will liaise with both pubs and is also in contact with two quiz masters. The last Thursday at the end of October was suggested as a good date for the event.

#### **November**

**Pamper Night:** It was also proposed that we hold a Pamper Night one Friday in November. Due to her wide contacts within the field, April is confident she can persuade lots of therapists to attend and we are targeting ticket sales of around 100 – which will be dependent on parents inviting family and friends along.

The proposal is to charge £10 to include to 10-15 minute sessions plus nibbles (of food, as opposed to feet).

Having recently attended one of these evenings, Jess suggested that the event needs to be very carefully scheduled in order to ensure there is time for everyone to get their allocated therapies.

It was also suggested that we should ask local jewellery sellers etc if they'd like to take a stall.

**Remembrance Day in conjunction with Village:** this is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> November

**December** – *brace yourselves, there's a lot going on!*

**Christmas Play in Village Hall, Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** The PTFA will be providing a raffle and refreshments beforehand – eg non-alcoholic drinks, mince pies etc. Hazel, April and Faith have offered to help on the day.

**Christmas Lunch, Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Dec:** As usual, the PTFA will donate £500 towards this – money which has already been allocated. It was reiterated that all related receipts need to be carefully recorded.

**School Christmas Fair, Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** This is the proposed date, but we are checking to see whether or not it clashes with local late night shopping events. There was discussion as to whether it should be held at the village hall, but, overall, it was felt the school was the better venue (despite a bit of a dark walk up the hill to get there).

It has been proposed that we organise a Christmas Fair Sub-Committee, which will obviously welcome as many members as possible. The first meeting will be held at Hazel's lovely house at 6pm on Fri 16<sup>th</sup> December – “think of it as a social gathering, not a sub-committee”, she advises.

Hazel will be speaking to all parents who kindly volunteered last year and ask them to do the same again in 2008 – however, more help is still very, very welcome as we did struggle to get enough volunteers.

**Christmas Puddings:** It has been decided that this year, instead of puddings, we will hold a craft activity evening where Hazel will supervise the children making Christmas tree decorations. She has proposed Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Dec from 3.15pm (replacing the normal football activity which will have finished by then).

**Santa's Grotto:** It was agreed by all that the Grotto, very kindly constructed and donated by parents, is fantastic; but, unless you're a fully qualified chippie, it does take rather a long time to erect – and was the main reason for the late start of the fair last year. So this year it's proposed that Santa will snuggle up in a nice blue tent for the night – hopefully decorated by Class Three children if time allows.

April will be writing to Lapland to ask Santa if he can attend again as he proved very popular last year. She is also happy to be an elf on the night (but is unfortunately refusing to wear stripy tights, platforms and a mini skirt as was suggested – although maybe a small donation to the PTFA might change her mind on this one).

Any ideas for new stalls for the event would be welcome. There will be a 'Make a Wish' craft table and possibly a £1 Lucky Dip. Also all families will probably be asked to donate one wrapped present. April acknowledged the need to make money from the event, but also cautioned about striking a balance between it being too commercial and the children having a fantastic time and being able to afford to take part in lots of the events.

Hazel will be investigating the Exeter Scrap Store Warehouse in order to find out about getting craft materials for the evening. It was suggested that, as a local school, we can get up to £30 worth of stuff free.

**Christmas Open Afternoon, Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** There will be a chance to see the children's work from 2.15 – 4pm. Mince pies etc will be served.

**Christingle, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Refreshments for this event will be served in the church as it was felt that it didn't work particularly well serving them back at school.

**Christmas Entertainment, Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** April confirmed that she has booked *Theatre Alibi* to give a performance. The PTFTA will pay for all children's tickets (costing it £101.25) but it was hoped that we might be able to sell additional tickets to parents and siblings at a cost of £3-3.50 per adult ticket (the group can perform to a maximum of 160). The ticket price could include.... you guessed it, a cup of tea and a mince pie (but maybe we'll decide to switch to flapjacks or a nice healthy apple by this stage). The event will start at 2pm, ending at 3.15 and is being billed as 'family theatre' as opposed to children's entertainment. Do bring lots of guests as April has seen the group perform and says they're fab.

#### **Other Matters Arising:**

**School Disco:** Whilst it was acknowledged how much the kids love the discos, it was suggested that we wait until Valentine's Day 2009 to organise the next one as there is so much already going on this term.

It was suggested that, perhaps, instead of the normal disco, we ask Dylan's band to perform – which would be extremely popular with the children, given how much he's loved. It was also suggested that we might hold the event on a Sunday afternoon so that whole families can attend and boogie down together.

#### **New Committee:**

The new committee needs to be sworn in at a brief AGM. This will take place one night after school. Many of the previous committee have now left and so there will be a new proposal of the following members:

Chair:	April Rose-Turley
Vice-Chair:	Catherine Willerton
Treasurer:	Gillian Cole and Jo Ryce (tbc)
Secretary:	Jess Thompson
Support:	Hazel Goodier – and as many others as possible please?!

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- This will follow at a later date

#### **Any Other Business:**

**Next PTFA:** Spring 2009 – week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> January – venue/time tbc