Dear Parents,

It has been a busy start to the half term in Class 1. The children have continued to enjoy learning about their unit ‘Moon Zoom’ and were very excited to go on a school trip to a Space Dome. There they met with our sister schools Woodbury Salterton, Broadhembury and Farway. The children had great fun exploring and learning more about the wider world in which they live. As well as looking at the stars in our sky in the planetarium.

Class 1 have also started a new unit in R.E. this term focusing on Judaism. So far, Class 1 have discovered some of the different artefacts that can be found in and around a Jewish home and their significance. These artefacts include a Torah, Kippah and Mezuzah. Class 1 have also begun their design and technology unit for this half term, focusing on designing and creating their own moon buggies. We are all looking forward to seeing the final designs! We will share them with parents at Sharing Assembly.

Lastly, Class 1 have continued to enjoy our weekly ‘Sharing Assemblies’ on Friday afternoons with parents present to share their learning journeys and achievements. Thank you to everyone who has come along.

The children of Class 2 have made a good start to the second half of term, in which they are enjoying learning more about the Ancient Maya civilization in History. The children have begun to explore the dates in which the Maya were active in Central America and compared these dates to their existing knowledge about life and events in different parts of the world, noting how they overlapped with other civilizations, including the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods in Britain. The children have begun to explore a range of images and artefacts to learn more about the Maya way of life and were particularly intrigued by the ball game they played, in which they had to try to hit a hard rubber ball through a vertical hoop not much bigger than the ball itself, using their hips!

In their English lessons, the Class 2 children have been reading about some of the animals that inhabit the desert and have been exploring the features of an effective non-chronological report. Having practised writing about imaginary animals (using pictures of creatures from the film, 'Avatar') they are now beginning to research and plan their own reports about the deities of the ancient Maya.

In their Art lessons, Class 2 have begun to explore different ways the ‘Day of the Dead’ (La Dia De Los Muertos) has been represented, using brightly coloured skeletons and patterns featuring flower motifs and a happy, celebratory feel. The children will be going on to create their own patterned skeleton masks, using modroc to make their masks three dimensional. They will also be exploring and learning more about the artistic styles of several Mexican or South American artists, including Frieda Kahlo, Jose Guadalupe Postada, Diego Rivera and Romero Britto. Meanwhile, in their Design and Technology lessons, Class 2 are continuing to develop their Mexican recipes and hope to invite their parents to join them at a Mexican feast and art exhibition prior to the final Sharing Assembly of the term.

Already this half-term, the children have celebrated the start of Lent with a special Ash Wednesday service at St Winifred's church, led by Father Steven and then with the Branscombe CofE Primary School tradition of eating pancakes and pancake races on the playground. In Collective Worship, as well as learning about the reasons why Lent is important to many Christians and is often a time of fasting and preparation for Easter, the children have begun to explore this term's theme of Service.

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 Month**

Class 1: How important is science and space travel for us and future generations?

Class 2: What is ‘art’? When does something someone has created become worthy of the term ‘art’?

**Branscombe Waves**

**Class One:**

Toma – for hard work and resilience towards challenges in her work.

Alex - for respect towards others.

Sasha – for creative learning in science.

Jake – for a fantastic riddle about an owl.

Elysa-Jane – for fantastic number work**.**

**Class Two:**

Ben - for being a cooperative, respectful and friendly member of the class with lovely manners.

Rosie - for trying hard to explain her reasoning clearly in Maths.

Isla - for courage in volunteering for a difficult personal challenge.

Annabelle - for taking responsibility to be helpful and looking after younger children.

Dominic - for excellent effort with written tasks, especially in Science and History.

Zach - for showing a positive attitude and improved concentration in his learning.

**Important notices**

**Charity**

We are pleased to announce that, together with other donations from the village, Branscombe CE Primary School helped raise £1445.77 for this year’s Royal British Legion poppy appeal. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

We also raised £28.50 for the NSPCC during our TT Rock Stars day. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**Red Nose Day**

This year we will hold Red Nose Day on Monday 20th March. The children are welcome to come to school on this day wearing a red nose and bring in a donation for charity, if they are able. Red Noses will not be allowed on Friday 17th March, as Class 2 will be out on a trip. Thank you for your support.

**Break time snacks.**

Please canbreak time snacks being sent into school be limited to fruit. We are encouraging healthy eating crisps and chocolate are not suitable. Thanks for your help with this.

**Water Bottles.**

Please remember that children should only be bringing water into school to drink, as we are trying to encourage healthy drinking throughout the day. Thank you for your help with this.

**Free School Meals.**

If your circumstances have changed your child may have become eligible for free school meals. This will also bring extra funding to the school, which will be used to help your child. For an instant decision or to learn more please go online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals>.

**Key Dates – Spring Term 2023**

Tuesday 14th March - Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby.

Friday 17th March - Class 2 Devon school games - Dance day.

Monday 20th March – Red Nose day and Year 5 Sidmouth transition afternoon -1-3pm.

Wednesday 29th March - Nursery open afternoon - 2.15pm.

Wednesday 29th March – Parents’ evening.

Thursday 30th March - Easter church service - 9.10am. Parents welcome.

Friday 31st March - Last day of term.

Monday 17th April- Back to school.

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| **Wellbeing***There has been much press in recent months about children’s mental health. As part of our drive to support this we are going to include something each month in the newsletter about Health and Wellbeing. We hope you find this section useful. If you have any topics you would like us to find some helpful tips about, please let us know.*The BBC have produced a Mental Health Toolkit called Headroom. This has been set up to give you tools to help with troubles surrounding mental health. Whether it is everyday tips, sounds to relax your mind, strategies to cope with parenting right now or films to get you talking, the BBC are there to help you look after yourself and your loved ones. As the children return to school next week it is worth having a look at the section on sleep to help them through busy days. Follow the link below to find all of the toolkit and resources for adults and children. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/YfRzhXDKSZQxFVn30TlXBj/your-mental-health-toolkit  |

**Collective Worship Activity**

This term we will be focussing in school on the value of Service. 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.



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