



**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS' PRE-SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**7- 22/23**  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

Branscombe C of E Primary School  
Children's Aims  
We will try to:



The Branscombe Waves

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy month in Class 1. The children have enjoyed learning about their new topic Moon Zoom and discovering the key historic events that have happened in space. From the first dog in space in 1957, to Tim Peake travelling to the International Space Station in 2015 and everything in-between. The children thought it was particularly interesting to learn how the astronauts use the toilet in space after watching one of Tim Peake videos from space!

The children in Class 1 have been working hard to design their own planet during art this month. They have been using their knowledge of materials from our science lessons to design a new planet that will be displayed in school next week. Make sure you have a look at sharing assembly next week!

Class 1 have continued to enjoy 'Sharing Assemblies' on Friday afternoons with parents present to share the children's learning journey and achievements. Class 1 have been busy working on developing their writing skills and using their phonic knowledge to decode words efficiently. This was evident during last weeks shared assembly when the children shared the riddles they had been working on during literacy lessons.

Class 2 have been enjoying learning more about Mexico. In their Geography work, the children have worked in groups of 2 or 3 to create presentations about different aspects of Mexico's human geography and culture: food, money and jobs, celebrations and festivals, houses and homes, sports and activities, and music and dance. They have also compared aspects of life in Mexican villages and towns. Year 3 and 4 considered reasons why people may prefer to live in a rural environment and why many people choose to live in cities. Year 5 and 6 have begun to research and find out more about the Chihuahuan desert in Mexico. In their guided reading work, the children of Year 5 have been reading and learning about rainforests, while the Year 3 children have been reading about deserts and Year 6 have read more about Mexican culture and celebrations such as the 'Day of the Dead' (Dia de Los Muertos).

Meanwhile, in their Science learning, Class 2 have been designing and carrying out fair tests designed to help them learn more about aspects of sound, such as which material is best to muffle a sound and what happens to sound when it travels over distance. They have used an online tool to measure the volume of sound in decibels and created bar graphs to present the results of their experiments. This links with their learning in computing lessons, in which Class 2 have begun to explore how a spreadsheet can be used to collect data and create bar charts to show the data.

Today, the children celebrated N.S.P.C.C. number day. As well as dressing up as rock stars and practising their times tables, Class 2 have undertaken a range of number investigations and used numbers across the curriculum, to create bar charts in Science and to create a budget for their enterprise projects in P.S.H.E. In their Personal Social and Health Education this term, Class 2 have been thinking about money - where it comes from, what is used for, what our taxes pay for and how we can make money. They have been working in groups to plan an enterprise activity to try and make some money for the school community fund. The team that makes the most money will also win themselves a prize.

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*

## Special Visitor

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January we had a visit from P.C. Craig Amarilli as part of Neighbourhood Policing Week. He came into school and had a tour from Mrs Tubbs and went into classrooms to meet our children. The children were delighted to see him and welcomed him to our school. After Craig found out about our Hola Mexico unit, he spent some time speaking Spanish to the class 2 children and teaching them some basic phrases. He even had time to pose for a picture! Thanks for coming PC Craig!



### Branscombe Waves

#### Class One:

Ava- for demonstrating kindness to others and persevering in her learning.

Elysa-Jane – for fantastic number work.

Jake – for a fantastic riddle about an owl.

Sasha – for creative learning in Science.

Alex- for respect towards others.

#### Class Two:

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

Ben - for being a cooperative, respectful, friendly and helpful member of the class.

Barney – for excellent participation in class discussions, especially in R.E.

Corey – for improved handwriting and effort when writing.

Zoe – for excellent concentration and contributing well to class and group work.

Barney – for attempting to join handwriting.

Olivia - for working hard to improve her letter formation and joining in handwriting.

Rupert - for excellent concentration and participation across the curriculum.

### Question of the Month

What would life be like without numbers?

## Important notices

### Break time snacks.

Please can break 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.

### **Pancake Day.**

The school will be celebrating Shrove Tuesday on 21<sup>st</sup> February with our usual pancake races and we would be grateful if parents would send their children to school on that day equipped with a frying pan and a pancake for the races. We would also be grateful for any contributions of additional pancakes to fuel the children's efforts with a pancake feast. The races will take place in the school playground at 2.45pm and parents are welcome to arrive early to collect children on that day, so that the children will have some spectators for the races.

### **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.

### **World Book Day.**

World Book Day (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March to avoid potential NEU strike day)- The theme this year will be 'A Celebration of the English Language' where we will be asking children to come in dressed up as an adjective (description word). We have been focussing a lot on Oracy this year and want to celebrate the rich language that we have. Some ideas the children could dressed up as are: colourful, magical, fatigued, blustery, vibrant, puzzled, energetic etc. We will be having a vocabulary parade at the end of the day so children need to have their word on a label with their costume.



### **Free School Meals.**

If your circumstances have changed as a result of the Covid-19 crisis 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.**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February- Safer Internet week.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February- Class 2 Mayans trip.

13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February - Half term.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February- Class 1 Space dome trip.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March- World Book Day- come to school in costume see above.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March- Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Event.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March- World Poetry Day.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March- End of term.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April- Back to school

### **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.*

Bedtimes can be a tricky time for lots of families, The Book Trust have put together some ideas to help you with this- which will of course help the mental wellbeing of all the family. Their 'Bath, Book, Bed' campaign is all about helping you get your little ones to sleep - and we know how important that is for your whole family.

That's why they hosted a Twitter party where parents shared stories, tips, and advice - basically, all the hacks that work for them! They've picked out some of their favourites below to help you...

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2018/april/11-excellent-bath-book-bed-tips-that-work---from-parents/>

### **Collective Worship Activity**

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

#### **TALK TOGETHER about Perseverance**

Teachers often say that **perseverance** is something that many children find difficult.

Very little that is really worthwhile in life can be achieved without **perseverance**. An athlete may train for years before they are ready to compete at the highest level. A musician must practice every day, sometimes for hours at a time, if they are to really master their instrument.

- How would each family member rate themselves on a scale of 1 - 10 at **perseverance**?
- Can you give an example of something you have achieved by determined **perseverance**?
- Is there a skill that you think you could improve with **perseverance**?

# Your police team

## We're here to help



Insp 5784 Phil Gray



Sgt 5294 Matt Beards



PC 7950 Sam Parfett



PCSO 30186  
Mike McGauley



PC 7946 Craig Amarilli

Please stop and say hello and let us know if we can help in any way

Visit our website for lots of useful information



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**POLICE**

Local policing with  
local communities