

**BRANSCOMBE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**WITH LITTLE EXPLORERS’ PRE-SCHOOL**

**NEWSLETTER**

**3- 22/23   
Friday 4th November 2022**

Dear Parents,

It has been another very busy month in Class 1, which saw our first school trip this year, to Axe Valley Wildlife Park. Luckily, the weather was great with some lovely autumn sunshine. The children started the day in the education tent, where they had the opportunity to get up close to some wonderful creatures such as an armadillo; a giant African millipede; a snake; a giant African snail and many more. All of the children were offered the chance to hold/touch the animals whilst hearing some interesting facts about them, including that in the times of the dinosaurs, snakes used to have legs! Following this, the children had another unique opportunity to feed the meerkats. After lunch, the children had plenty of time to explore the park's animals, of which many are featured in their current storybook, 'Meerkat Mail' and their last key text, 'What do you do with a tail like this?’ They particularly enjoyed seeing some of the birds, cats and primates. All of the children returned back safely but very tired. A great day was had by all.

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 independent writing and using their phonic knowledge to decode words efficiently. Moreover, they have been applying their number knowledge by solving problems and explaining their answers and thinking. The children have really enjoyed their science topics and specifically learning about the different groups of animals, what they eat and their different lifecycles. There are many videos and interactive activities on the BBC Bitesize website for the children to explore further if they wish- see the link below.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6882hv>

Class 2 meanwhile have continued to enjoy learning about the events of World War II and how they affected children in particular. Shortly before half-term, the class were delighted to have a visit from Mrs Gray, who came in to teach the children about her husband's grandfather, who was one of the British airmen involved in the 'Great Escape' at Stalag Luft III prisoner of war camp, portrayed in a famous 1963 film. As well as showing some key moments from the film, Mrs Gray described to the children how she and her son had researched to find out more about this relative they had never met. She brought copies of some of the documents and photographs she had managed to find, and the children enjoyed looking through these historical sources of information to find clues about the life and experiences of Henry Cuthbert Marshall, the 'great escaper'. The children also enjoyed looking at the replicas she brought in of the medals he had earned for his courage in World War II, although they were shocked to hear that prisoners of war were not rewarded with service medals for the time that they were held prisoner!

This half-term, Class 2 have begun by learning more about rationing in World War II. They compared the sort of diet they might have over the course of a week with that of a child during World War II. Over the next few weeks, the children will hopefully have the opportunity, in our Food Technology lessons, to prepare some World War II recipes and compare the eggless sponge cakes of the type that were made in World War II with a traditional sponge cake using eggs. As the children have begun to find out more about life on the 'home front', they have learnt about some of the key propaganda campaigns that were developed to boost morale and encourage people to support the war effort by 'Digging for Victory' or learning to 'Make Do and Mend'. In their Literacy work, Class 2 are learning about how to write persuasively, in preparation for taking some of the propaganda posters that were used to advertise these campaigns and turning them into persuasive leaflets.

In their R.E. work this term, Class 2 have enjoyed learning more about the celebrations and festivals of the Jewish faith. They particularly enjoyed investigating the foods that are eaten at Passover and linking the symbolism of these foods to the story of Moses and the Exodus. The children tasted the traditional 'matzot' (unleavened bread) that is eaten at Passover and scoured the classroom for 'chametz', the leftover pieces or crumbs of any bread made with yeast that must be tidied away before the festival. This week, the children will consider again their responses to the key question, 'How do festivals and family life show what is important to Jews?' before progressing after half-term to learn more about why the Torah is so important to Jewish people.

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 One:**

Toma- for working hard across all of her areas of learning. She shows excellent commitment to learning.

**Class Two:**

Rupert - for extra effort to improve the vocabulary in his writing.

Olivia - for working hard to improve her spelling and handwriting.

Rosie - for excellent listening, empathy and teamwork.

Corey - for great effort in reading and in writing.

Sam - for working hard to catch up in Maths.

Isla - for demonstrating great perseverance and managing distractions well to complete her work.

**Branscombe Waves**

**Class One:** How can you show resilience (recover from setbacks and bounce back)?

Does a good learner always get everything right first time?

**Class Two:** Which World War II campaign would you most like to revive and why?

*(e.g. Make Do and Mend; Dig For Victory; Loose Lips Sink Ships; Careless Talk Costs Lives—Be Like Dad, Keep Mum!)*

**Key Dates – Autumn Term 2022**

8th November - Year 5 & 6 Gymnastics at H.C.C.

11th November - Remembrance Day.

14th November - Anti Bullying Week.

16th November - Individual School photos.

18th November - Children in Need.

22nd November - Year 5&6 Sports Hall Athletics at H.C.C.

29th November - KS1 Multi-sports.

30th November - Stir up Sunday.

1st December – Christingle Service.

1st December - Year 5 Sidmouth School transition morning.

14th December - Christmas play.

15th December - Christmas lunch.

16th December - Class 1 Carol Singing.

**Important notices**

**Poppies**We now have poppies in school, if your child would like one, please bring in a donation.Thank you.

**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>.

**Children in Need**

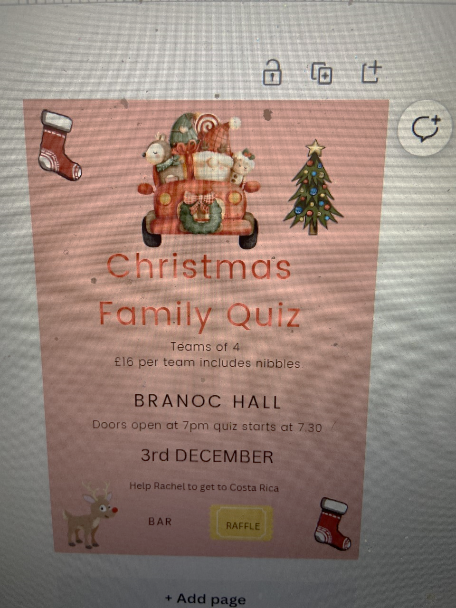
On Friday 18th of November we will be supporting Children in Need. The theme this year is SPOTacular so we are inviting children to come into school dressed in spots. We are also asking the children to think about what makes them SPOTacular. Class 1 children can work with you to think of words and phrases that describe them and that make them special and Class 2 can put together a presentation in the form of a piece of writing, poster, pictures, or computer presentation which explains what makes them special and SPOTacular.  We will look at these on Children in Need day. We are also asking for a £1 donation from any families who would like to donate to the charity.

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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.*  Life can be very busy and it is sometimes hard to relax and have time to be peaceful for even a few minutes. Use these kids’ meditations to support your children in this, ‘Peace Out’ is a series of guided relaxations and visualizations for kids.  <https://cosmickids.com/?video_series=peace-out>   |  |  | | --- | --- | | [https://cosmickids.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Peace-Out-Series-2-sleeping-dragon-thumbnail-601x338.jpg](https://cosmickids.com/?video_series=peace-out) | [Peace Out - Cosmic Kids](https://cosmickids.com/?video_series=peace-out)  A lovely guided meditation for kids - all about loving kindness. We imagine our loving thoughts as ripples on a lake's surface. When we think kind thoughts, they find their way out into the world and make it a better […]  cosmickids.com | |

**Collective Worship Activity**

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