



Broadhembury Church of England Primary School  
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**12<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had a super summer break and you all feel refreshed.

It's a very exciting time at school with Farway CE Primary joining the Jubilee Federation. The teachers have been working hard over the holidays planning for the new term and I know they have found the support of their colleagues across the larger federation a real support. You will see from the topic webs that will be coming home with this newsletter today that there are lots of exciting things planned for the Autumn Term. The topic for Class 1 is 'Food and Farming' and this will be launched next week with a trip to West Town Farm for all the Reception/KS1 pupils across the federation. Class 2 will be studying 'Britain Since 1930' and they will be having a joint federation experience in a few weeks where they will be creating a 'musical in a day' based on WW1, they will also be going on a trip to Castle Drogo to follow up their studies of Adrian Drewe that they began last year. After half term this topic will be based on the decades of British history following the war.

You will have seen that at the end of last term we got some new school signs outside the school. The children are going to be involved in a couple of weeks in creating one last school sign – a mosaic of the school logo. They will be working with an artist over the course of a few days and I hope it will be a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

I mentioned last term that there were going to be several changes across the country within schools. There is a new National Curriculum that we are now following. This has been followed when planning the new topics. There has also been a change to the way we are asked to assess the children. The system of 'levels' that most families will be familiar with has been removed and schools have been asked to devise their own ways of assessing achievement and progress. We are on track with these changes across the federation and we will provide you with more information about the way we are assessing children once we have some put our new system into practice.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter about the topics and some new systems within the classes. There are also dates for some of the events in the 'Key Dates' section.

We welcome Amelia, Kiera and Kyla who have joined us this week.

Thank you for all your continued support.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

*Best wishes from Katie Gray and the staff at Broadhembury School*

### **Question of the week**

**Class 1** Why are farms important to us?

**Class 2** How would home life have been different in 1910?

### **Morning Routine**

To encourage independence, we would like all children in Y1 to Y6 to come into class on their own to prepare themselves for the start of the school day. Parents of EYFS children (children in Reception) are encouraged to continue to assist their child to become familiar with the morning routines if they feel this is necessary. Please remember that the school day begins at 9am and all children should be settled in class and ready to learn at this time.

If you need to speak to the class teachers we would ask you, where possible, to do so at 3.30. Of course you must still let us know of any health or emotional concerns that we would need to be aware of during the course of the day. Anything administration related can be discussed with Sarah in the school office rather than the teachers. The mornings are a busy time for the teaching staff who need to prepare for the school day. Do remember that all parents are invited to our Sharing Assembly at 3pm on a Friday afternoon after which you are very welcome to spend time in your child's classroom to see what they have been learning.

### **Class 2 Homework**

In Class 2 homework will be set on a Friday and the children will be expected to bring their book back to school with their homework completed on the following Thursday. Each week they will have two pieces.

The first will be the weekly question that will be stuck into the back of their homework book and the children will need to discuss it with friends and family and then write down their responses in a format of their own choosing. The question will also appear on the newsletter. The aim of this is to get the children talking about their learning, there aren't usually right or wrong answers to the questions – it is to promote discussion.

The second piece will be completed in the front of their book. At the beginning of the term a sheet will be stuck into the front cover of their book with a variety of activities related to the class topic. These activities will use different learning skills and styles. Each week your child needs to choose one of the activities and complete it in their books over a double paged spread, it may include writing, pictures, photos, building or making something. The children will tick or highlight the activity that they have completed. In school on a Thursday and Friday the children will be asked to share their homework with each other. As the children will be doing different activities each week it will be interesting to see what the children have produced and hopefully inspire the other children to want to complete their next piece of homework. Children will be encouraged to choose activities which use different skills. We hope that this homework will be interesting and fun for all the family.

Children should also continue to read each night and practise their times tables.

### **Art Shed**

We expect that the children have told you about the new 'Art Shed' that they can use during lunch times. There is currently an extra piece of equipment sitting in Mrs Gray's office. It is a trolley with 'old sweet jar' style plastic jars waiting to be filled with collage materials. This can then go in the art shed too. Do you have any small bits of scrap card, buttons, beads, sequins, milk bottle lids, small balls of wool or any other small collage materials? If so we would be very grateful if you could you donate them to the school.

### **Parent & Toddler Group Every other Friday 1.30pm – 3pm**

The parent and toddler group will be starting again on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September and it will now run **every two weeks**, this will be a free group for Parents, Toddlers and Reception Children.

There will be fun family activities including games, music, arts & crafts, cooking etc. Parents will be able to have a chat together over a cup of coffee. At the end of the session everyone is welcome to join our sharing assembly. Please pass this information to anyone else you know who has pre-school aged children. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.

### **School Dinners**

As from this September the cost of a school meal has risen to £2.20. However, this will only be charged to children in Class 2. All Reception and Key Stage 1 children will be entitled to Free School Meals as part of the new national entitlement.

If you think you may have been eligible for the old 'free school meals' because you receive certain benefits please, please still claim for these. Any child who is entitled to 'free school meals' for this reason brings in a considerable amount of extra income for the school which has been used to employ an extra teacher to provide intervention groups for all abilities of children. If you would like a form please ask Sarah in the office.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL'S 'PTA'**

- We are holding a "Yummy-Mummy" night. Mums are invited for an evening out on the 27th September. A meal at Viceroy's in Dunkeswell at 7.30pm (each person is responsible for paying for their own meal / drinks). Please let myself or Clara Rose know if you will be attending.
- As a Bodyshop at home consultant I am going to donate 10% of my commission to the school from orders from parents of school pupils. Please ask me for a brochure.
- We are an unofficial "PTA" as we need more committee members. If you are interested in joining us or just helping with fundraising please speak to me or Donna Jennings.

Thank you - Jenny Rowland

### **Key Dates**

**Mrs Gray will be in school on Thursday & Friday next week.**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Class 1 Trip to West Town Farm**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September - Children begin creating mosaic**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Class 2 Musical in a Day**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – National Walk to School Day**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Parents Evening**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Class 2 Trip to Castle Drogo**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last Day of School before the Half Term holiday**

## **Term Dates 2014/15**

### **Autumn Term 2014**

Monday 8th September - Term begins for children

27th October - 31st October Half Term

Monday 3rd November - Non Pupil Day

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Children return to school

Friday 19th December - Term ends for children

### **Spring Term 2015**

Monday 5th January Non Pupil Day

Tuesday 6th January - Term begins for children

16th February - 20th February Half Term

Friday 27th March - Term ends for children

### **Summer Term 2015**

Monday 13th April - Term begins for children

25th May - 29th May Half Term

Wednesday 22nd July Term ends for children