



Broadhembury Church of England Primary School
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Dear Parents

In Class 1, the children are very excited to have had a visitor to our classroom this week. His name is Jim Squeak and he is a little mouse with some very adventurous relatives. Jim has brought in some video footage of him in the attic finding a mysterious box. He is planning to bring the box into school next week so that Class 1 can begin exploring what it inside. Watch this space...

Please look out for letters coming home in homework books explaining a little about what we are doing in history.

Shrove Tuesday was a perfect pancake day at Broadhembury. The children in Class 1 began with some pancake themed activities and were then able to weigh and measure the ingredients to make their pancakes which they enjoyed with their favourite toppings. Later that day Class 2 made pancakes with Miss Cole and made a few extra ready for the pancake races. The weather stayed fine and at 3pm the children went outside ready to race. Class 2 ate their pancakes with the traditional topping of lemon and sugar and the races began. It was tense as both children and then adults raced to be the first team back and win the team points. Beam and Draw emerged triumphant with 10 team points each but everyone had an enjoyable afternoon. A big thank you to the PTFA for arranging refreshments and thank you to everyone who donated cakes.



This year for world book day, we have based our day on our favourite book.

The children all dressed up as a character from their favourite book and created a book box with clues about their story.

The day started with us thinking about why world book day is important.

The children then looked at all of the book boxes with a partner from another class and tried to guess the story from the clues! Most of the stories we managed to guess, but there were a few tricky ones. Because of the wide range of stories the children took time to share the story they had bought with a partner.

After play, class two wrote book reviews all about their favourite book and looked at how to develop their writing to match the standard of professional book reviews. There was a wide range of stories reviewed which will be put on display in the library.

Class one designed book tokens for the world book day competition. The winning design will receive £500 of book vouchers!

In the afternoon the class one children designed their own Huey while thinking about what makes everyone different. Class two then had a chance to design a book token as well as turning their favourite story into a comic!



The children all looked fantastic and had a great day reading

Thank you for all your continued support.

God bless and have a lovely weekend.

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

Question of the week

Class 1 The answer is 'yes', what is the question?

Class 2 If you give up something for lent that isn't a self-sacrifice are you still showing commitment to God?

BROADHEMBURY BRIDGES to week ending Friday 24th February

Class One:

George for always lending a helping hand and looking after the classroom

Key Dates

16th March – Class One Multi Skills at Honiton Leisure Centre

21st March – Parents' evening

31st March – Easter Service 2.30 – End of term

31st March – Wear a Hat Day – details to follow

18th April – Summer Term begins

26th May – Break for half term

5th June – Back to school

21st July - End of term

Reading

We would be very grateful if all children could read with their parents each night.

Upcycling Competition

Please remember that the closing date for Waste Week's upcycling competition is 10th March 2017. Your child will be bringing an entry form home from school. For more information go to <http://jointhepod.org/waste-week-2017>

Guinea Pigs

The guinea pigs have a lovely new travel cage which means it's now a lot easier for the children to take them home for a weekend, if you are happy to have the guinea pigs for a couple of nights please let Sarah know in the office so that you can be added to the rota.

Good Samaritan Awards

A reminder that this award system supports the PSHE, Citizenship and British Values elements of our curriculum and we hope staff and parents will encourage pupils to work towards the awards. Children will be asked to complete tasks relating to the following areas; Staying Safe, Keeping Healthy, Enjoying and Achieving, Economic Wellbeing and Making a Positive Contribution. The aim being to give children a broad and balanced view of society.

At the start of term each teacher will plan a Life Skills activity ensuring that all children are involved.

To achieve their **Red** award the children will need to complete 5 challenges, including the class ones. **White** they will need to achieve 10 and for the **Blue** award they will need to complete 15 challenges. This will be over the course of the year.

If the children raise money for a charity by putting in extra effort they can win a Citizenship Award Certificate for thinking of others, having an idea, putting in the hard work and raising money for a nominated charity.

Parent Governor Vacancy

One of our Parent Governors, Clara Rose, has taken the decision to resign from her position on the federation's governing body. We would like to thank her for her dedicated service and all that she has done for our schools during her time as governor. She will leave the role in the next few weeks. However, this means that there will now be a vacancy for a dedicated parent on our governing body. The role can be demanding, but is also very rewarding. If you think that you may have the qualities, skills and time necessary to take on this role, please get in touch with Mrs Gray in the first instance. She can provide you with more information about what the role entails. We will start the formal process of selecting a new governor in the next couple of weeks – further details will be given soon.

School Funding

I included in the newsletter before half term some information about school funding. I would like to reiterate that this week and give more information about the Government spending plans that are leading to the first school cuts in a generation. School budgets are already under severe pressure in Devon schools and the National Audit Office say that those budgets will shrink in real terms by £3 billion by 2019/20.

In a nutshell, the Government are increasing costs whilst at the same time scrapping support for schools. The amount of National Insurance and pension contributions that schools pay is increasing and the introduction of an apprenticeship levy of 0.5% of the wage bill will stretch resources even further. At the same time they are scrapping the Education Services Grant meaning that schools will have to fund additional services for children which are currently being provided by local councils. If that wasn't bad enough news, schools in Devon are also being expected to pay a deficit which has accrued over time in the County Special Educational Needs pot of funding.

You can see the breakdown of these cuts by visiting www.schoolcuts.org.uk. If you type in our school name you will see the potential funding cuts that our school may suffer by 2019 if the current plans for a national funding formula go ahead. Please also put into the website the name of the potential secondary schools your child may go to in the future. From this website there is an easy button that generates a letter to your MP to express your concerns.

As Headteachers in Devon we have been urged to raise the profile of this issue and ensure that it remains dominant in the media. We are asking all parents to support us in doing so. Education funding is falling rapidly and our children will suffer. Cuts will mean fewer teaching and support staff, less support for children and fewer resources.

We know that the most important investment for raising standards is high quality teaching. In 21 years of working in the teaching profession I have never felt the need to make any kind of political statement. However, I am compelled to do so now for the sake of our children.

Please help us to make a difference by registering your concern; www.schoolcuts.org.uk

Collective Worship Activity

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



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Wonders of Creation

Philosophers in Ancient Greece in the first and second centuries BC talked about the seven wonders of the world. They chose places such as the Egyptian pyramids, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and the Colossus in Rhodes.

Many years later another group of people compiled a list of the seven natural wonders of the world. They chose the Great Barrier Reef (near Australia), the Grand Canyon (in USA), Mount Everest and others.

This month's challenge is for you to decide on the 7 wonders of **creation**. What will you choose? Your list could include a tiny insect, a beautiful flower or a huge sea creature. Think carefully. Either draw the wonders or take photos and write on the back of each why you have chosen them.

Bring your pictures or photos to school and in each class we will talk about the wonders of **creation** and decide which are really amazing!

