



## Branton Community First School and Breamish Valley Nursery

### Newsletter March 2014

What beautiful weather we have had since coming back to school after half term. We have been able to get onto the school field at lunchtimes and playtimes and make the most of our fantastic outdoor space. Please remember that all children need suitably sturdy footwear for being outside at lunchtimes and playtimes.



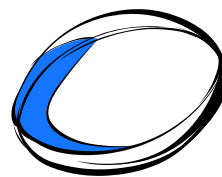
#### Swimming

We had a successful first swimming lesson last Thursday with three first time swimmers joining us. A big thank you to Mrs Capper, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Whitfield for their support. We were praised by the swimming coaches for having the appropriate ratio of adults to children in the water.

Please, if you have not already returned the reply slips from last week's PE letter, can you do so as soon as possible? We need to know definite numbers of nursery children swimming and also parent helpers before the day of our swimming lessons. We have organised transport on the basis of all our 17 eligible children swimming.

#### Rugby

Our children also enjoyed their first afternoon rugby session with coach Richard. They were on the grass so please send a full PE kit, joggers, sweat top/fleece and trainers that you don't mind getting muddy!



#### Parents Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend the parents meeting with Miss Plunkett and myself, it was lovely to be able to meet everyone and also to share our new Assertive Mentoring System that we are trialling in school.

#### Book Week

It is book week this week with World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Your child will be given a voucher that can be used to buy a special World Book Day book or go towards a book of higher value. As Thursday is swimming day, rather than dressing up could all the children please bring a fact to share? Just have an interesting fact that they have found out that they would like to share with everyone as we enjoy non-fiction or information books as well as fiction or story books.

#### Educational Visits

We have some educational visits planned in the next few weeks, two of which are linked to our Heroes and Villains topic.

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March we will be visiting Wooler Police Station for a Hero and Villains morning with PC Clark. He has promised us a visit to the cells to see where the real villains had to stay. We know that our children will enjoy a Hero and Villain experience but thought

it may not be appropriate for our youngest nursery children (children entering Reception in September 2015). Therefore on this occasion our youngest nursery children will remain in school with Miss Plunkett.

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March all of our children will take part in a visit to Wooler Fire Station to see some of our 'local heroes' and find out about how they help our community.

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March we shall be visiting Brandon Farm to experience life during the lambing season. All children including Nursery are invited and will need suitable clothing and their wellington boots.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution towards the transport costs of all three visits and ask that you complete and return the consent form attached by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

As mentioned in our February newsletter we have three more events in school this half term.

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March we will be taking part in a Sport Relief 'Mile', and you are invited to join us. You and any members of our community are very welcome to join in with this event and help to raise funds for Sports Relief. Refreshments will be provided on our return to school and all donations will be gratefully accepted on behalf of Sports Relief. Please contact the school for more sponsor forms if required. We look forward to seeing you.



On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March you are invited to join us for our sharing assembly on the theme of Mothers' Day at 10 am in school with refreshments afterwards.

We are planning a visit to the church on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April for our Easter service and everyone is welcome to join us and Rev Marion Penfold. We will send further information out nearer the time

### **A Thank You!**

It was lovely to see so many parents and members of our community at our Coffee Morning on 14<sup>th</sup> February. We hope you all enjoyed the wonderful fairy cakes, biscuits and scones the children made. The children were thrilled to make just under £75 for their efforts.

### **New Curriculum**

From September 2014 a new curriculum will be implemented nationwide. At Branton we see it as an opportunity to revisit our curriculum and ensure that it is both appropriate and relevant for our children and the local community. Branton is a Community School in an amazing setting, and we value the views and ideas of everyone in our community. Please could you spare the time to give us your thoughts by returning the attached questionnaire?

*The Branton First School Team*

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