



# Headteacher's Newsletter

Bransgore Primary School - An environment where your child can flourish

**Bransgore**  
Church of England  
Primary School









## September 2011

**Welcome back!** We have had an incredible start to the year and the children have been brilliant! There are lots of exciting learning units planned so its full steam ahead. I have already enjoyed observing **Key Stage One** classes digging for archaeological finds (treasure!) for their entry point to their learning unit, Time Detectives.



Our newest children in **Lions & Tigers** have also excelled. On day one I watched in awe as the confidently said goodbye to their parents and walked into school on their own. They are fabulous and are proving to be a lovely group of children.

In **Years 5&6** they have been learning about individual learning styles, and have been matching class photographs to a learning style:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Word smart     |  People smart    |
|  Number smart   |  Self smart      |
|  Music smart    |  Organised smart |
|  Movement smart |  Picture smart   |

Very Powerful learning!



The **children in Years 3&4** have also been focusing on how the brain works and have impressed me with their ability to articulate how and when they learn best. Our SCITT graduates are

equally impressed at the skills and understanding of these eight and nine year olds!

### Harvest Service

On Monday, 26th September the school will join our Vicar in St. Mary's for the Harvest Service. This is a time of thanksgiving but also a reflection about the unfair distribution of food over the world. The children are invited to bring in tins or dried items of food which St. Mary's will take to the New Forest

Food Bank. This is one of our local charities we support during the year, we will also organise Shoe Boxes for children (see below) and respond to international appeals for aid.

### Shoe Box Appeal

I know that you are only just back from the Summer holidays, but it is time for me to ask for your help once again to brighten the lives of disadvantaged children in Tanzania, Montenegro, Albania, and Romania by way of our annual shoe box appeal, which you have so wonderfully supported in recent years. Empty boxes and explanatory leaflets can be collected from the Foyer area from Wednesday 5th October. Filled boxes will need to be returned to school for collection in the week after Half Term.

### Parent/Teacher Consultations

Mr Warren, Deputy Head has written about the above event which will take place on Wednesday 5th October, 6.00pm to 7.30pm.

### Front Playground

The governors and the BSA have kindly allocated some funds to support the next stage of the development of play and learning areas. On Tuesday 4th October a company will be astro-turfing areas of the playground, providing the staff team with the basis for the creation of role play areas around the outside of the playground. It has been excellent to have the security system to provide young children with the freedom to play and learning in the new space without the public being able to walk through. With this additional funding the team can now enrich this provision further.

### Academy Update from the Governors - September 2011

Bransgore School is on target to become one of the country's initial primary academies. School governors met this week to monitor progress and judge whether the controversial move remains a worthwhile option for our school.

A project manager and solicitor, funded by central government, have been working with the school over the summer period to ease the process through and cover all the legal and financial bases. The governing

body monitors their actions.

Academy Status is one of the Government's flagship policies. Their belief is that giving more budgetary and curriculum control to individual schools will drive up education standards, give parents more choice as to where they send their children, and help schools become more fiscally efficient.

In practice it means exchanging dependency from Hampshire County Council – who currently fund the school, provide essential services, and have responsibilities for standards – for funding from the Department of Education. The school then becomes free to buy in services from any source it likes.

Hampshire County Council, under severe central pressure to cut spending, has reduced or removed key services and personnel from their education department leaving school administrators uncertain about the future. Most secondary schools in Hampshire have already become academies which has completely altered the county's schools financial and service provision landscape. The impact is now being felt by primary schools.

It seems inevitable to Bransgore's governors that most primary schools will have to go down the academy route if they are to maintain viable services. However, they consider academy status for Bransgore will mean little change to the quality of our children's learning. Bransgore is already a leading primary with a challeng-

ing and innovative approach to the curriculum which would continue whether under county or academy control.

Where academy status can score for Bransgore is in the area of collaboration with a number of other schools with which we have built strong partnerships. Chief among these is Ringwood Secondary who have an existing foundation and academy track record and who are offering help and savings especially in the areas of staff pay rolls, site maintenance, and bulk purchasing.

Discussions continue with the diocese and county council regarding land transfers. It is anticipated these will be completed in the next few weeks. Should the governors still consider the change in status advantageous for Bransgore school when all the formalities have been completed, conversion could be as soon as November or December 2011.

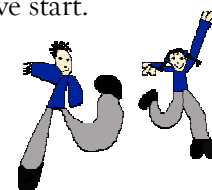
### Terry Gibson - Vice Chair of Governors

Thank you for all your support and encouragement with getting this term off to a positive start.

Best wishes

Peter Pretlove

Headteacher



SEPTEMBER	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival Service – St Mary's Church
OCTOBER	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Consultation 6.00p.m. – 7.30p.m.
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm - Read Write Inc workshop for parents
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Years 5&6 Exit Point - 2.45pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	CHILDREN BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM – Normal Time
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup>	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	INSET DAY 1
NOVEMBER	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	INSET DAY 2
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	RETURN TO SCHOOL
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2pm - Open afternoon for new families
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	BSA Fireworks Night
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Years 5&6 Hobbit Week—Children dress up as favourite Hobbit character today
Mon. 28 <sup>th</sup> – Fri. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Autumn Assessment week
<b>Dates are subject to change every now again - please check the website regularly for changes</b>	