Dear Parents and Carers,

You may be aware that we are currently consulting about forming a co-operative trust amongst the primaries that feed into Braunton Academy and with Braunton Academy. I and the governors feel that this opportunity has the potential to bring many benefits for the children and future pupils without the school losing any of its independence or distinctness. Being part of the trust means that the school is signing up to work together with the other schools. The local schools have not always had positive working relationships and by signing up to the trust principles it provides a foundation to move forward so we can work together to best serve the children of Braunton so they are best prepared for Braunton Academy and beyond. We have been working more collaboratively over this academic year than we have ever done since I started working at Caen in 2014 and being in the co-op will safeguard this for the future. I would also add that Mark Judey the Chair of Governors at Braunton Academy has been at the helm of this project with Jo Howard [our Chair] and it has been very reassuring to know that the Chair of the Braunton Academy is so committed to working together for the betterment of the pupils and families of the village and surrounding areas.

Being part of trust means we stay part of the local authority, we keep our own governing body and head teacher. We won’t become a church school or change into an academy. Being part of a trust doesn’t mean we can’t work with other schools from outside the trust. Recently our Y6 teachers went to Bishops Tawton Primary to look at the Y6 writing and as a school we are part of the Dartmoor Teaching School Alliance which provides training and support for the school. We will still decide how we teach the national curriculum and won’t choose to change what or how we teach an element of it unless we feel it will benefit our children. Our income will still be determined by the number of pupils we have, the governors and I will still manage our finances and in fact we will be just over £4000 better off annually as we won’t have to pay the apprenticeship levy [which we have not been able to access/ use since it started to be reclaimed from our budget]. We will still continue to be supported by the local authority with regards to significant building repairs. We will continue to have our own uniform and identity.

Should it not succeed then there would be no negative impact for the children, families or staff as the co-operative trust is really what the schools who are signed up make of it.

We are very keen to hear your thoughts on the co-operatve trust proposal and the short survey can be found here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BLCConsultation/

Our Parent Survey is also still open and please do complete it as we [staff and governors] read and discuss all your feedback and thoughts. It can be found here: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CaenParentSurveySpring2019/

This week Y5 worked with the poet Christopher Jelley [https://www.jelley.info/] on a poetry project based on the Tark Trail. The project is called the ‘Peddling Poetry Project’ and our workshop was arranged with the Beaford Arts Centre who had received funding for the project. The children went out on the Tarka Trail and wrote collective poems.
These poems have been ‘pinned’ and just like geocaching and ‘Pokemon Go’ you can find a read the poems on your phones. If you go to the website: https://tarkatrail.poetrypin.info and then a map of the Traka Trail full of pins will come up as well as a blue dot to mark your location. Each pin is the location of a poem and when you arrive at a pin the title will come up on your phone and you can read the poem! You can also add your own poems through the ‘add poem’ button on the top right and once done your poem will be pinned. The poems can be found all along the Tarka Trail all the way to Torrington and some are now four years old. We have a number of passports in the office which can be taken by families to write their own poems in, write the favourite ones in and also gather stamps from a number of cafes such as The Waterside Café in Chivenor, Station Master in Barnstaple, Fremington Quay and more. A great way to make a walk or cycle a bit more of a treasure hunt. Have fun on the trail and many thanks to Beaford and Christopher for coming to Caen.

After half-term we will be starting the ‘Changing Me’ Sex element of our Jigsaw PSHE scheme of work. This ‘puzzle piece’ does incorporate their Relationship and Sex Education element and it builds throughout the school from learning and thinking about parts of the body [YR] to recognising how their body has changed from being a baby [Y2] to understanding about how bodies change during puberty and how a baby grows over the nine month gestation period [Y6]. I have put some of the Jigsaw resources and guides on the school website under the ‘Year Groups’ tab. On Thursday 6th June I will be holding a meeting in the school hall at 9am and 5pm to look at the RSE materials in more detail.

On Wednesday we took two teams to the ‘Big Schools’ Tag Rugby Competition which is put on by PETROC for the North Devon Primaries. Thirty teams took part on Wednesday and our two teams played really well. One lost very narrowly in the quarter finals whilst the other ended up running out comfortable winners against Ilfracombe in the final. Well done to all to all who took part – they all played really well and worked tirelessly in the heat. Also well done to Cass who won best kicker in the lunchtime kicking competition.

Today a number of children from across KS2 are taking part in the Ilfracombe Aquathon. I managed to pop up and see the Y5s race. It is a challenging course where the children need to swim between 50m and 200m [increasing by 50m each year] and then run either one lap [Y3 and 4] or two [Y5 and 6] of the field behind the pool. It is also pretty daunting, especially for the first timers and Y3s, swimming in the noisy and crowded pool. We had a few places in the top 3: Y4 girls - Norah 2nd; Y4 boys – Seb, Sawyer and Max 1st/2nd/3rd respectively; and, Y6 boys – Cass 3rd. Well done to all who competed and thank you to all those who helped and supported.

We will send out more details after half-term but we have now got a date for Sports Day. It will be on Friday 5th July for Y2 - 6 9.30am – 11am[ish] and then YN – Y1 1.30pm – 3pm.

Have a good half-term,

Mr Page

Upcoming events

3.6 - School returns
6.6 - RSE curriculum meeting – YR-Y6 parents welcome. School hall. 9am and 5pm.
12.6 - Co-operative trust meeting at Caen. All welcome. 2.40pm
5.7 - Sports Day. Y2-Y6 9.30-11am, YN-Y1 1.30-3pm