

# St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

**Newsletter Friday 21st September 2017**

*"Living & Learning together"* [www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.

## Reminders

**Please remember we are a nut-free school.**

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### Dates

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Under the sea  
Year R- 3

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Harvest Festival 9:30am  
St Barnabas Church

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Parents in Year 5 are  
welcome to join us at  
Celebration Assembly

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Parent Consultations

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Please make sure your child  
has a coat and their PE kit  
in school everyday.

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## Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	100%
Willow	98.6%
Beech	99%
Maple	95.1%
Chestnut	97.3%
Lilac	96.8%
Oak	98.2%



## This week in School:

It has definitely become more autumnal this week and it is noticeable that the leaves are coming down and more children are wearing coats – please do make sure they are named and your child knows where their name is.

Learning has been happening both in and out of the classroom with the children developing their team skills and developing resilience.

Acorn Class have been with us every morning and it was good to see parents come in to hear about how we teach phonics and how we can work together. Today is the class picnic and next week the children are with us full time. The children have settled in very well and will soon be meeting their buddies.

Our Harvest Festival is on 6<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30am at St Barnabas Church. We will be collecting dry goods (cans, packets etc) for the local food banks.

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September we are having our own coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support – more information later in this newsletter.

A very busy week.



## Class News

### Acorn News

Acorn class have been working extremely hard this week. The children listened to a short story/rhyme linked to the 's' phoneme. They went on to identify objects with this initial sound. In groups the children painted 's-shaped' snakes (and cut them out!), they hunted for magnetic letters with the 'S' sound, they made 'S' sounds using play dough and they drew the 'S' sound in glittery sand. Following this the children took part in two 'Write Dance' sessions, working on their gross motor skills, to prepare for writing. In Maths, the children were counting numbers 0-5. They used the interactive whiteboard to count different objects, they matched 'Numicon' to digit cards, they built towers of 0-5 and they ordered numbers with the help of puzzles. As well as this, the children have been very busy during our 'Plan, Learn, Review' sessions: using our outdoor classroom to draw, play with dinosaurs, build castles, explore the sand/water, bikes/scooters and the indoor classroom to play imaginatively in the home corner, explore the rainbow rice, build with Duplo, draw and read. The Acorn children are settling in really well and making new friends.

### Willow News

This week in English, Willow Class have been doing activities based around the story of the 3 Little Pigs. As a class we have listened to several versions of the story, sequencing story pictures, drawn a class story map and acted out the story in preparing for writing the story ourselves. The children have continued practising using finger spaces and full stops in their writing in Phonics sentence writing and this week we have learnt about the 'oy', 'ir' and 'ue' sounds. In Maths we have been counting forwards and backwards from 0 to 20 and learning how to spell the number names for 1 to 10. The children have also been developing their reasoning skills in sorting and number sequencing activities. In Topic work, we have been talking about different types of home and what our homes are like. The children also used their knowledge of materials to think about what they would use to build a house for one of the 3 little pigs. In RE we have been talking about the story of the lost son and thought about what the meaning of the story is and the importance of forgiveness and love.

### Beech News

In English we have been creating pieces of descriptive writing which link to our 'Fire and Ice' topic. First, we analysed a modelled piece of descriptive writing and identified three types of sentence that we were aiming to master during the week: descriptive, action and question sentences. Next, we explored how to create each type of sentence and generated lots of ideas to include in our writing. Then, we used these ideas to compose our own pieces of descriptive writing. Finally, we edited and improved our work. In Maths, we continued to extend our understanding of place value. First, we revisited the type of Whole-Part models that we created last week. We explored how we could use different addition calculations to record our findings. Next, we learned how to use a systematic approach to solve a place value investigation. In ICT, we were introduced to the concept of programming. We then experimented by creating and inputting simple programming instructions. In PE we created our own ways of balancing. We then used these balances to create gymnastic routines. In RE we talked about the Creation story, thinking of key words to help us remember the correct order. Then we wrote 'Thanksgiving' prayers and words of praise to the Creator. In Art we are mixing paints to create new colours and using a variety of paper sizes to experiment with our scale of Creation paintings.

### Maple News

In Maths we have been continuing our work on number placement, counting in 50s and partitioning numbers. In English we have tried using adverbial phrases in our writing. We have also been reading "The Stone Age Boy" and trying to imagine what it would be like if we woke up in the Stone Age. We wrote postcards home telling of our adventures making tools, hunting food and wearing animal skins. We designed a neolithic settlement in ICT and have been studying evidence found in Skara Brae to tell us what life was actually like.

### Chestnut News

In Maths this week we have been very busy working on rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and to the nearest 100. We have learned the rules we need to follow and used our skills to solve some problems. We are really trying to develop our explanation skills as well as our arithmetic. Children have the opportunity to discuss mathematical ideas in pairs and provide reasons why they think particular statements may be true or false. This can be quite tricky, but the children are showing real enthusiasm. We have continued to base our English work on the book Egyptian Cinderella. As preparation for planning our own stories, we have looked at feeling words that are appropriate at different points in the story. We also explored the 'show, not tell' approach by thinking of the body language that characters might display. We created banks of actions and expressions that can convey how someone is feeling and hope to use these ideas to enhance our writing. We have continued with our unit on Creation in RE. We discussed what the instructions in Genesis mean to Christians and how they could be interpreted. We also thought about ways in which we can all take care of each other and of the earth. As part of our topic work on Ancient Egypt, we have been learning about homes and daily life. We heard about the discovery in 1901 of an entire household's possessions that were entombed thousands of years ago. This finding enables us to learn many interesting facts about the lives of ordinary Egyptians at that time. We made plans of houses and compared them to our own. We all agreed that while their refrigerators were effective, we didn't fancy the wooden neck supports they used instead of pillows!

### Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been looking at negative numbers. We have been ordering and comparing them and recognising number patterns along a number line. In English, we have been drafting and editing a setting. We imagined that we were a Spanish Conquistador in 1519 who travelled through the rugged mountains and tropical rainforests of Mesoamerica. Suddenly we came across the abandoned palaces and pyramids of the Ancient Mayan Civilisation. We have been writing in the form of a diary account about what we heard, felt, saw and smelt when describing the setting. In Science, we have continued with our research about the Solar System and the Milky Way. We have also been learning about recent facts that have been discovered about Saturn's rings and moons. Ollie brought into school a very interesting newspaper article about this and we thoroughly enjoyed finding out new information. Eirini brought in an asteroid and Emily brought in some meteorites for us to look at and handle. In History, we have been looking at pictures of some Mayan artefacts and from these have deduced how they lived their lives. In RE, we have been thinking deeper about why God is loving and holy. In Lilac Class we have moved on from considering our own ideas about the characteristics God should have, to what characteristics Christians believe God should have. In Art and DT, we have started to make our Mayan people based on our individual designs.

### Oak News

This week Oak Class have been thinking about how to make descriptive writing interesting by looking at the function of adjectives, adverbs and adverbials. We used what we had learnt to write character descriptions about a character for the story War Horse. In Maths, we have been looking at negative numbers in context using our knowledge to solve problems. In RE we started to think about what Creation really means to Christians. We have been making circuits in Science and are having lots of fun practising our French. We have enjoyed using the iPads and laptops to research information and to improve our skills designing games in Scratch.



On **Friday 29th September** we will once again be supporting Macmillan Cancer Support. This year we will be having both a Coffee Morning & Afternoon Tea; it would be great if everyone could support this event enabling us to raise lots of money for this good cause.

Ways to support:

Baking or buying cakes to bring in on the Friday morning. There will be prizes for the best cake made by an adult and the best cake baked by a child (some help with this is ok).

Helping to serve on the day.

Encouraging your friends to come along.

Donating any spare paper plates, cups, napkins etc you may have unused at home.

Any tablecloths you can donate/lend (not precious ones please)

**COFFEE MORNING** - Will be in the staff room from drop off, come for chat, cake, competitions etc - all tea, coffee, cake etc by donation.

**AFTERNOON TEA** - Will be in the hall from 2.30pm to 4pm come along before pickup for a quiet drink and cake, then return with your children for more tea and cake. There will also be bingo, competitions, announcement of the winning cakes and much more.

If you are bringing homemade cakes for the competition please make sure your name and contact details are with the cake.

Come along and join us. Any questions, offers of support etc, contact Dave on 07966190428.

Thank you,  
Dave

## Something to think about



What colour would be a zebra be if you took its stripes off?



On a Friday morning, we have our Celebration Assembly where the School comes together to share success and highlight those children who have shown our School Values. These children have been nominated by their peers and adults of the school. We would like to invite you to attend these Acts of Worship which run from 9am- 9:30 on a Friday morning, except for 6<sup>th</sup> October which is at 9.30am in the Church.

If you can attend please come and sign in at the School Office and join us in the hall:

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents in Year 4 – in the Church at 9.30am
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents in Year 5
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents in Year 6
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parents in Year 1
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents in Year 2
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents in Reception

And lastly.....

Have a lovely weekend

With best wishes

*Moira Duncombe*

@StBarnabasSchoolTW