

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

**Newsletter Friday 10th November 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. This week we have continued to look at the importance of Remembrance.

## Reminders

Please can we ask that we have no chocolate nut spread in sandwiches as we have children who are allergic to nuts in school.

Chocolate should be in moderation and we ask that the children do not have other sweets in their packed lunch boxes

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## Dates

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

PTFA Get Together (see back page)

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Parents in Year 2 invited to Act of Worship @ 9.00am

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

Parents in Reception invited to Act of Worship @ 9.00am

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

School Disco

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Bingo

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

KS1 Nativity @ 2.00pm

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

KS2 Christmas @ 6.00pm

## Attendance

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

Acorn	97.6%
Willow	98.9%
Beech	98.0%
Maple	96.2%
Chestnut	98.6%
Lilac	98.2%
Oak	96.3%



## This week in School:

Another busy week! The weather has certainly turned colder this week and again can I ask that all children bring a coat every day – not only do we try and get the children out as much as possible but if it is too cold, children who do not have a coat at school will not be allowed outside to play.

This week we had our first Open Morning for places in our Acorn Class for September 2018. Those who walked around the school were struck by the atmosphere and family feel. They were also impressed by the standard of work across the school and the high expectations. We have another Open Morning on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Today as a school we stopped to mark our act of Remembrance. On Sunday a wreath will be laid on behalf of the school at the St Barnabas War Memorial.

**Online applications** for a Reception Place in September 2018 opened with Kent County Council on 6th November until 15th January. If you are applying for a sibling place you still need to apply online through KCC. [www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions).

If you need assistance with completing the online form please do get in touch with the School Office who will be only too happy to assist.

## Events coming up!

**Children in Need** is on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** and the School Council have decided that as a school we can wear our own clothes and bring a small teddy into school for the day. For this privilege children are requested to donate £1 to Children in Need; please can you make sure that the bear has your child's name on so it can come home safely!

**Shakespeare Week Wednesday 21st November:** Bring all your coppers!! How far can we make our 1p and 2p coins travel around the school?

**Shakespeare Week Friday 24th November:** Dress up day as a Shakespeare character or wear something purple. For this privilege children pay £1 to support our library.

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

**PTFA Own Clothes Day:** bring a bottle for the tombola stall at the Christmas Bingo event.

**PTFA disco:** more details to follow.



### PTFA AGM

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 9:15 in the library. Information has been sent out via Parentmail.

## Sports News from Ms Edmed

On Wednesday afternoon Eridge Park was freezing, wet and muddy - but this provided no obstacle for our Year 4 and 6 children who competed in our last Cross Country event of the year. With 60 children running in each race, the competition was tough.

First to run were the Year 4 girls. Grace crossed the finish line in an astonishing 10th place, shortly followed by Elsie, Daniella, Evie and Crystal - showing all of the qualities of a budding athlete.

The Year 4 boys were up next, with Albert pushing himself to his absolute limit and earning himself an incredible 12th place. He was followed in style by Mujtaba, Teo, Jake and Wali.

Our Year 6 girls showed the same immense strength and determination as their younger peers, by completing two laps of the course. Lara was our first to cross the line in an impressive 22nd place, followed by Flora and Anastasia who completed the course with ease.

Our Year 6 boys were the last to compete, in an exciting race with William just beating Bob to the finish line - posting a well earned 36th place, closely followed by Mustafa and Brandon.

A huge congratulations to all of our athletes, we couldn't be prouder!

Also a massive thank you to all of the parents who took their own, and other's, children to the event and even stayed to encourage and watch despite the cold weather. Without your help, these events would not be possible.

GO ST BARNABAS!



## Class News

### Acorn News

Acorn class have learnt the new sound 'm'. They made 'Messy Minions', using paint and their hands and they made 'monsters' using the construction resources. They have been using 's/a/t/p/i/n/m' to make words and they have looked at using these words along with 'tricky' words to make sentences. The children have been sounding and blending the words. In Maths they have been adding two sets of numbers to make a total. They have been working extremely hard at writing numbers. In Plan, Learn, Review the children have been busy making crowns and bracelets using paper/tape/glue/scissors and decorations. Some children have enjoyed working with the stencils, others have been busy in the role play area, some made towers with the 3d shapes and some children have been busy exploring the outdoor classroom. Acorn Class enjoyed a trip to the church on Monday afternoon, to meet Father John. They learnt about 'Mass' and the different objects/clothing involved in this special ceremony. They listened carefully and had the opportunity to ask questions. Another busy week!

### Willow News

This week in English, we have started learning about how to change nouns from singular to plural. The children have been learning about the different rules which apply to words depending on how they are spelt (adding 's' or 'es' or doing something different). Each child has written their own book using plural words of their choice. In Phonics we have been learning to read and write tricky words and practised our spellings using the 'ay' and 'oy' digraphs. In Maths, the children have been solving problems involving number bonds and have been using their reasoning skills to explain why certain answers are true. We have been practising using words like 'greater than', 'less than' and 'more than'. The children have also been practised counting in 2s and talked about odd and even numbers. In Art, the children used clay to make bowls and decorated them with pasta. They have also been enjoying sharing their experiences of watching fireworks and describing what they saw. In RE we have started talking about the Christmas Story and are starting to learn some songs ready for our Christmas play.

### Beech News

In Class Worship time we looked at the Operation Christmas Child project run by Samaritans Purse. People across the UK are packaging up shoeboxes with goodies for children in other countries who may not receive a Christmas present this year. It isn't too late if you would like to send one yourselves. In RE we talked about 'Incarnation' and the meaning of this to Christians at Christmas time. We then drew our chosen Nativity characters, giving them lines to say in our speech bubbles. Beech Class are doing really well at learning their Nativity songs. Please do help your child to practice the Nativity Script that they will all bring home today. Thank you.

### Maple News

Maple Class have been working hard this week and they have shown lots of enthusiasm towards their work.

In English, the children have been writing a non-chronological report about the creature from the short film Marshmallow. They have also created their own creatures to write a report about next week. In our spelling work, we have been looking at different strategies to help us to remember how to spell tricky words.

We have been learning and practising the 3 times table in Maths this week and we have also moved on to multiplication methods, looking at different ways to record our calculations.

In our Topic work, we have been researching prehistoric beasts and creating our own fact sheets on some of the animals.

### Chestnut News

In English we have begun our unit on play scripts. We have looked at examples of play scripts and highlighted key features, including cast lists, stage directions and speech punctuation. To develop our understanding of stage directions, we have taken samples of text and rehearsed them using different intonation. This will help us when we develop our own play scripts over the next few weeks. We have also been using the prefixes il-, im-, in- and ir- to change the meaning of roots words.

We have begun a focus on addition and subtraction. The excellent work the children did on place value has really helped them make a flying start. We have put emphasis on setting work out correctly in thousands, hundreds, tens and ones columns, before adding and subtracting 1s, 10s, 100s and 1,000s. The children are making really good progress in securely knowing their 6, 7 and 9 times tables, which are this year's targets. Any time spent working on these at home will really enhance their progress.

In RE we have started our unit on Incarnation. We have thought about important words that we encountered in Genesis 1 and seen how they also appear in John 1. Over the next few weeks, we will look at different accounts of the Gospel in John, Matthew and Luke and developing our understanding of the Trinity.

In our Topic session, we have thought about significant milestones in ancient Egyptian history. We have ordered key events, discussing our understanding of 'BC' and identifying the events that we find most interesting or significant.

Just a reminder that homework is due in on a Thursday, to allow me time to mark it before issuing the next piece on Friday. If you have any problems, please see me before or after school. Thank you!

### Lilac News

This week in Maths, Lilac Class have been reading and interpreting line graphs. We have been learning about scale and the Y axis and the X axis. Line graphs need to be read very carefully and sometimes there is estimation involved when answering questions. We are now becoming much confident at estimating in Maths. In English, we have started our next piece of extended writing. We planned and started to write a first draft of persuasive writing. We are pretending that we are writing an article for a travel brochure about why people should visit Belize. For stimulus, we have looked at a selection of travel sites promoting this country and have particularly focused on the persuasive language that has been used. In RE, we have been thinking about what Messiah means and the qualities a Messiah has. We looked at a range of texts from the Bible and identified words that described Messiah, for example 'Wonderful Counsellor' and 'Prince of Peace'. On Tuesday we went to the church for our Class Mass. Father John talked to us about the different stages of the Mass and why they take place and what they represent. There was also time for us to ask him questions. In Art/DT this week, we started to make our Mayan jewellery using clay. We carefully followed the designs we drew based on pictures of Mayan jewellery that can be seen in the abandoned temples and the original jewellery that has been found by archaeologists. In Topic work this week, we have been creating our own story boards to re-tell the Mayan Story of Creation. This story emphasises why maize was so important to the Mayan people. In PE, we are now perfecting our marking, passing and shooting skills and now work superbly in teams!

### Oak News

This week Oak Class have started to look at fractions. They have been comparing them and ordering them on a number line. They have also been busy writing poems and looking at all the different punctuation they can use to make their writing interesting.

In Oak Class we have been learning about different experience of evacuation in WW2 and thinking about what we would pack in a suitcase. In Science we have been discovering how our eyes work and having fun with some optical illusions.

## Introduction from our new Chair of Governors

Following my recent appointment as Chair of Governors at St Barnabas I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I have been a Governor at Speldhurst CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School for the past 10 years and was appointed Chair in September 2014. I am passionate about ensuring all pupils receive the best education possible. I run my own business and have two children aged 8 and 12 years old.

The main role of the governing body is to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic strategy for the school;
- Hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of all pupils;
- Oversee the financial performance of the school, ensuring that monies are well spent.

The Governing Body will meet at least 4 times per annum, and through two committees, Finance and Resources, and Teaching and Learning, will ensure that it has a positive impact upon the school, working with Mrs Duncombe and the Senior Leadership Team to drive progress and improvement.

All Governors are volunteers however the role and responsibility of the Governing Body is extremely complex and I look forward to working with the governors to provide a safe and exciting learning environment, and to deliver an exciting and challenging curriculum which aims to develop all children to be the best they can be.

Please contact me via the School Office should you have any queries. I would also recommend you visit <http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk/> to gain further insight into school activities and the board of governors.

Wishing you the all the best for the remainder of the term and the approaching and very busy Christmas period!

*Ivan Goodsell*

# Get together!



Join the PTFA  
for a drink  
@ The  
Allotment

Friday 10th  
November  
8pm onwards

All welcome!

Come and learn more about what we do  
and get involved!



**ZUMBATHON! Friday 24th November**  
**7:30 - 9:30pm at St Barnabas' School**  
**Hall £7.50.**

This year, students in year six are fortunate enough to be taking part in the national Shakespeare Schools Festival. They have been working really hard rehearsing for their version of Macbeth, which they will be performing at Trinity Theatre in front of a paying audience. This fantastic opportunity really helps to develop skills such as teamwork and public speaking, as well as being a fantastic confidence-builder. Unfortunately, it is very expensive and in order to enable future classes to take part, we need to raise as much money as possible to help with funding. So...come and join us! You'll be keeping fit, raising money for a good cause and having a jolly old time!

## After School Club

If you need to contact Julie at the ASC and the office is closed, her mobile number is: 07904 295171

Julie has also asked for any donations of board games that the club could use. Please drop them into the office and we will pass them on.



## Scholastic Book Club

This is just a reminder that the deadline for online orders is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Please see:

<http://schools.scholastic.co.uk/st-barnabas-tn1>

All orders help to raise funds for buying more books for the school

Have a lovely weekend. St Barnabas Remembrance service starts at 10am on Sunday if you are able to join us.

With best wishes

*Moira Duncombe*

@StBarnabasSchoolTW