

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 12th January 2018

"Living & Learning together" www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. This week we have found out about Epiphany

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

Class Mass

Monday 15th– Year 6
Tuesday 16th– Year 5
Monday 22nd– Year 3
Tuesday 23rd Year 4
Monday 29th– Year 2
Wednesday 31st– Year 1
1:15pm in the Church

Monday 22nd January

PTFA Coffee Morning @ 9am
Get together to discuss the term's events

Friday 9th February

School Mass @ 9am

Monday 12th– Friday 16th

February

Half term

Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. Last term as a whole school we had 95.83% so we are getting there!

Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	92.0%
Willow	91.9%
Beech	91.6%
Maple	92.2%
Chestnut	94.8%
Lilac	92.8%
Oak	93.8%



This week in School:

Happy New Year !

Welcome back and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas Holiday. The children have started their new topics and have had discussions about their aims and targets for the coming term.



On Wednesday Fr. John blessed the School with an Epiphany blessing. Do have a look at the blessing which is to the left of our entrance and ask your children what the blessing shows.

On Thursday a group of our Year 5 and 6 children went to represent our School at the Tunbridge Wells Sportshall Athletics. The children were excellent ambassadors and several achieved a place. We are waiting for final confirmation of results but well done to all involved.

Clubs start next week.



Class News

Acorn News

Acorn Class have had a brilliant first week back. In Phonics they have been busy learning the new sounds j, v, w and x. They have read the Jolly Phonics stories, featuring these sounds. Following this, they have learnt the song and action, to embed the sound. The children progressed to writing the sound, cursively and then reading and writing words which include these sounds. Some children have started to write sentences, using their phonic knowledge. In Maths the class focus has been 'one more and one less'. They have been revising the numbers 0-20 and using number lines and digit cards to find one more and one less. Our new theme this term is 'People Who Help Us'. The role play area has been transformed into a 'Doctor's Surgery'. The children have been busy taking on the role of 'doctors', 'nurses' and 'patients'. During our Plan, Learn, Review sessions some children have been drawing, writing and creating models, some have been busy in the outdoor area, others have been building and playing games and others have been using the role play area. We have welcomed two new members to the Class: Jessica and Dhitika and they have settled in beautifully. What a lovely start to the new term!

Willow News

Willow Class have been busy this week practising their sentence writing skills. We had a class discussion about what makes a good sentences and the children have been working hard to develop their sentences to include exciting vocabulary, finger spaces and punctuation. On Tuesday, the children did some work based on the story of The Scarecrow's Wedding including drawing their own story map and designing their own scarecrow. In Maths, Willow Class have been using Numicon to investigate number bonds for 10 and 20 and adding 2 numbers together to make number to 20. The children have also been practising writing number sentences independently to represent their work. The Class have been playing phonics games based on the letters we have learnt last term and been using their decoding skills to read a range of words. Our topic this term is 'I need a hero'. This week we have had a Class discussion about what being a hero means and have thought about what type of people might be heroes.

Beech News

In English, we started to create pieces of instruction writing. We were inspired by 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl which we read in Term 1. We loved the way that Mr and Mrs Twit were always making each other angry. Therefore, we decided to create a set of instructions for making Mr Mackinnon furious. We began by using imperative verbs to create simple instructions. Next, we explored how different connective tools could be used add detail to our instructions. In Maths, we focussed on solving division problems. We started the week by using practical resources to share objects into equal groups. Next, we explored how diagrams could be used to solve division problems when practical resources were not available. Finally, we were introduced to an alternative method for solving division problems which utilised our counting skills. In our Topic lessons, we started a 'Knights and Castles' unit of work. First, we created concept maps to show what we already knew about knights and castles. Next, we designed an imaginary kingdom which will act as the setting for our own version of a knight's quest. In PE we utilised a range of different gymnastic equipment to explore balance.

In RE we started our new topic entitled 'The Gospel - What is the good news Jesus brings?' We looked at gifts in nature around us that Christians believe God gives us, ordering these items in a line of importance. This involved lots of discussion and debating in our groups to reach a joint decision. We are starting our DT castle mechanisms project this week. We planned our project and talked about what we will need. Please could everyone in Beech Class bring in a shoe box or cereal packet type box on Friday 26th January to make our castle and mechanisms.

Maple News

Maple Class started this week by thinking about why we make New Year resolutions. The children then thought about what their own resolutions should be; they made a resolution for both home and for school. In our English work, we have started to read 'The Egyptian Cinderella' which links to our new topic on Egypt. We looked at the traditional story of Cinderella and we then predicted how The Egyptian Cinderella may be different. We have been practising our times tables in Maths, focusing on learning our 4's and 8's. Our Science this term is 'Light' so we discussed what we already knew about light and what we would like to find out. We also started our RE for this term which is Sikhism and thinking about the question - What is important for Sikh people?

Chestnut News

It has been a lovely start to the new term with all the children full of energy and enthusiasm!

Our work in English has focused on improving our writing. Using the last piece of extended writing as a starting point, we have looked at areas we can improve upon, such as using more effective descriptions, extending our sentences using conjunctions and using a greater range of punctuation. We have revised 4 digit column subtraction with exchanging (borrowing) and have reminded ourselves of the other strategies we can use to take one number away from another. We have also used our skills to solve problems with more than one step.

In Science, we began our new topic - changing states. We started by looking at the differences between a balloon filled with air, one filled with water, and one filled with ice. We went on to look at the different properties of matter and whether they change shape, mass or volume. Lots more experiments to follow!

Our theme for RE this term is Gospel and we looked at 3 parables to see what messages about the 'good news' they contained. We then focused on Jesus calling his first disciples and thought about the things we have that we value and how we would feel about having to give them up. We have also enjoyed PE with Dave Luckhurst, music with Mr Stevens AND a swimming session

Lilac News

In Lilac Class, we began the term by thinking about what we achieved last year and our favourite memories of 2017. We then started to thinking about 2018 and wrote about our New Year's Resolutions. In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been sorting factors and common factors of numbers using Venn diagrams. We have also been recognising and using prime numbers and square numbers and have worked in pairs solving problems. In English, we started our first piece of extended writing based on 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty set in the East End of Victorian London. We are working on a piece of narrative writing where our focus is describing the thoughts and feelings in Chapter One of the main character, Jim Jarvis. In Topic work, we have been learning facts about Queen Victoria's life. We found out that she was a very hardworking monarch who was also very stubborn and artistic. Queen Victoria took her role very seriously and would not let anyone tell her what to do. She had 9 children, 37 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren. In Science, we have been grouping and classifying materials by thinking about their properties and what they are used for. We considered which materials conducted heat, were thermal, transparent, soluble and hard. In PE, we practised our running and relay skills and then we were involved in relays that developed our large ball skills. In DT, we designed patterns for Victorian pin cushions that we will be making in the coming weeks.

Oak News

It has been lovely to have Oak class back and to hear all about their holiday fun. We have had a busy week starting on our new topic of Ancient Greece. We have been looking at formal styles of writing and how the features differ from informal. We started to research key events in the Ancient Greek timeline and are planning on making this into a formal document next week. In Maths we have started to look at coordinates and plotting shapes in all 4 quadrants.

Staffing News

We welcome Miss Lomas to our Year 3 team who will be teaching on Thursday and Friday each week. Year 3 have already made her welcome and we all look forward to getting to know her.

I am sorry to say that Mrs Legg is currently in hospital with pneumonia. She is very poorly and we send our love and prayers to her and her family at this challenging time. We will keep you updated and hope to see her soon.

Finally we say congratulations to Mr and Mrs Atkinson who are expecting their second child. This is wonderful news for their family and exciting times ahead.

Uniform plea

We have a large selection of jumpers and coats without a name. Please can we ask that **all** clothing is named.

Can we also remind everyone that PE kits are needed in school everyday. We have a few children who regularly do not have their kit.

Thank you in advance



Have you looked at our Website recently?

It is constantly being updated and has a calendar of events and information about the school.

The PTFA have their own Facebook page- ST Barnabas PTFA

Do have a look:

<http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk/>

Online applications for a Reception Place in September 2018 open 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.



Something to think about

Can you stand on the same beach twice?

Have a lovely weekend.

Please do remember that school starts at 8:45am and children should not be on the playground before 8:30am.

With best wishes

Moirá Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW