

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 2nd February 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 Candlemas.

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

Tuesday 6th February

Safer Internet Day

Friday 9th February

School Mass @ 9:30am

Monday 12th– Friday 16th

February

Half term

Tuesday 27th February

World Book Day

Friday 2nd March

PTFA Quiz Night

Wednesday 7th March

Parent Consultations



Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve.

Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	83.0%
Willow	93.7%
Beech	97.0%
Maple	97.6%
Chestnut	92.7%
Lilac	88.6%
Oak	98.3%



This week

On Tuesday four local headteachers visited us as part of a local schools initiative, working together to support school improvement. I am pleased to report that they observed excellent behaviour both in and out of the classroom. They spoke to many children who were very clear that they knew what to do if they were upset and they also said that they felt very safe at school.

You might have seen on social media concerns raised about an app called Roblox. As a school we are not aware of any concerns amongst our community but if you would like more information about this app please go to: <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/> or <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents>.

Next week is National Online Safer Internet day and we will be spending the day looking at the theme is 'Create, connect and share respect: a better internet starts with you.' Do ask your child what they found out during the day.



Class News

Acorn News

Acorn Class have had a wonderful week, settling into their new routine. In the morning they have lined up brilliantly, organised their belongings, self registered and then settled down to some 'Fizzy Fingers' learning (early morning learning activities). They have worked hard on the following sounds: 'sh, th, ng, ai' and they have been looking at the tricky words 'she' and 'we'. In Maths they have been thinking about weight and pictograms. In Plan Learn Review the children have been colour mixing, making models of famous buildings, writing in zig-zag books, making Lego models, using the bike/scooters, using the roleplay area and experimenting with the musical instruments. The class enjoyed a trip to Tunbridge Wells Library on Wednesday, their behaviour was excellent! They learnt about how a library works and how to join the library. The librarian spoke to the children about different genres of books and shared stories with them. Our next trip will be to the fire station (on Wednesday 7th March). If any parents could join us, it would be greatly appreciated.

Willow News

In English this week, Willow Class have been practising using words with 'er' and 'est' suffixes to add detail to their sentences. The children have also been practising writing sentences and questions and punctuating them correctly. Our book of the week has been 'Supertato Veggies Assemble' by Sue Hendra and the children have been talking about aspects of the story. In Maths, the children have been using their problem solving and reasoning skills to complete addition and subtraction word problems. The children have also been learning about the relationship between adding and subtracting and how to sense check their calculations. In Science work this week, the children have talked about what different animals eat and have been discussing the words Herbivore, Omnivore and Carnivore. As part of our RE lesson this week the children visited St Barnabas Church and Father John talked about Mass. In PE the children started playing 3-a-side hockey games. We talked again about the importance of holding the stick correctly with both hands and not raising it above the knee.

Beech News

In English, we have written some outstanding character descriptions of Sir Hazelnut - the hero of our class quest. We started the week by reading and creating actions for a modelled piece of writing. Next, we explored how we could use our own ideas to adapt this modelled writing. We used a range of descriptive vocabulary, including adjectives, similes and adverbial phrases, to create our own character description plans. Finally, we re-drafted these plans and edited and improved our writing. In Maths, we started the week by using our reasoning skills to solve problems involving pictograms. Next, we used sets of data to create bar models. Finally, we learned how to interpret scales and used these skills to interpret a range of different charts and graphs. In PE we focussed on using the gymnastic skills we have been learning this term to create routines on a range of different apparatus.

Maple News

This week we have been thinking about the ending to the story of "The Egyptian Cinderella". The children discussed whether they thought the ending was a happy or a sad one. They had to come up with reasons for each side of the argument. We then had a whole class debate on the ending of the story and the children put their points of view across very clearly.

In our Science lesson, we went on a shadow hunt around the school. We took photos of the shadows that we found and then discussed how they were formed. We have been exploring our British Values and looking closely at the Tower of London and finding out why it was built.

We are continuing our work on multiplication in Maths. This week we have been multiplying a 2-digit number by 1-digit.

Chestnut News

In Chestnut Class this week we have been writing our persuasive letters based on the theme of plastic pollution in the oceans. This has involved a process of research, highlighting important information, creating mind maps and finally structured plans with key points and supporting evidence. The children have tackled this tricky task with great focus and have built up a lot of knowledge along the way.

We have begun a new unit on multiplication and division in Maths. We started with multiplying by 10, using place value counters and grids to show the difference between calculations such as 12 lots of 10 and 10 lots of 12. There was a lot of discussion and co-operation when the children were testing out number combinations.

In RE, we discussed the story of Jesus healing the leper in Mark. We found out more about the effects of the illness and the stigma that is still attached to it. We thought about why Jesus chose to heal the leper and what kind of world he wished for. Next week, we will finish our unit by thinking about the message in the Good Samaritan.

Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been using formulae to calculate the perimeter and area of squares and rectangles. We have also been finding the area of compound rectangles using our problem solving skills. In English, we have now read Chapter 4 of Berlie Doherty's 'Street Child' entitled "The Workhouse". Although we have still focused on Jim's character, we have also been looking at setting and the language that the writer has used to describe the appearance, smells and sounds of the workhouse and the emotions Jim experienced. In pairs, we studied photographs of inmates of the workhouse from the period and wrote down what we thought these images told us about the life of these people. We also looked at the rules of a real workhouse and in our pairs considered what this told us about the life of those who had to live by them. We then started to draft a piece of writing describing the setting of the workhouse that Jim Jarvis found himself in, using our own expanded noun phrases and adverbs. In Science, we have been thinking of definitions that we could use to describe the properties of different materials. In RE, we have continued with our work about Moses. We talked about the first four episodes in his life and particularly looked at the Burning Bush, where we considered Moses's feelings about returning to Egypt to save his people. In Topic, we carried on examining the positive and negative impact that the Industrial Revolution had on the lives of the Victorians. We started to look at the benefits of steel production and how this led to the development of the railways and the transportation of goods around the country. In PE, we have now moved on to playing small hockey matches using our skills that we developed last week. In DT, we started to embellish our Victorian pin cushions by creating more intricate and colourful patterns using cross stitch.

Oak News

Oak Class have been looking at percentages in Maths and solving reasoning problems. In Science we have been looking at natural selection and evolution and finding out how animals are adapted to their environment.



Note from Dave:

A reminder that there are coffee mornings for parents each Monday at 8.45 am onwards in the Staff Room. These are an opportunity to socialise with other parents and to get updates on what the PTFA have got coming up.



St Barnabas PTFA

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 2nd March

in the School Hall



All proceeds to a great cause - St Barnabas' PTFA!

St Barnabas CEP, Quarry Road TN1 2EY



Something to think about

Which places are these clues describing?

1. Where the cook picks crops!
2. Where cows are milked in a capital city?
3. A darkly coloured bonfire?

Last week's answers

1. Genuine oar movement? Truro
2. Where to go swimming in Dorset? Poole
3. Between six and eight trees? Sevenoaks

Please can I just remind you that bikes and scooters should not be ridden in the playground by pupils or their siblings.

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Moirá Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW