

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

**Newsletter Friday 9th March**

*"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 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

**Monday 12th – Thursday 15th March**  
Book Fair after School

**Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th March**  
Maple and Willow Cake sale

**Wednesday 21st March**  
World Book Day  
Dressing up as a book character linked to a story that has a change in it

**Friday 23rd March**  
School Disco

**Monday 26th March**  
Easter Hop

**PTFA Quiz** is postponed until May



## Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. Here is the breakdown for each class for the last 2 weeks.

	<u>w/c 19 Feb</u>	<u>w/c 26 Feb</u>
Acorn	93.7%	98.5%
Willow	94.8%	87.0%
Beech	98.3%	82.1%
Maple	92.7%	96.0%
Chestnut	91.7%	91.8%
Lilac	94.1%	89.1%
Oak	94.0%	98.7%



## Our School

A very belated thank you to Megan's dad and friends who repaired our Acorn outside area. The fencing looks fabulous and the class are very proud of their classroom environment.

Last week we had a very busy time with the unusual weather. Our thanks go to everyone who helped clear our site on the first two days of snow! With the poor weather we had to cancel our World Book Day. We have decided to reschedule World Book Day to Wednesday 21st March, which is World Poetry Day!



It was lovely to see so many parents and carers coming to find out about the progress their child's making at our termly Parent's Consultations. If you have not already seen your child's teacher please contact them directly to make an appointment.

Please can we remind parents that all dogs, except guide dogs, are prohibited from the school grounds.

Well done to our Netball team who took part in competitions this week and good luck to our Cheerleading team who are competing shortly.



## Class News

### Acorn News

Acorn Class have had an exciting week. On Tuesday they enjoyed a visit from Mr Blake, the dentist. They were able to ask questions about looking after our teeth and the role of a dentist. On Wednesday the class had a WONDERFUL trip to Tunbridge Wells Fire Station. They met the crew, had a tour of the station and even climbed onto two of the fire engines! They were beautifully behaved and we were very proud of them! Alongside this they have been learning the trigraphs 'ure' and 'air' and revising their digraphs. They have been writing fairy tale stories, their weekend news and working on 'emergency vehicle' books. In Maths they have used number lines to subtract numbers 0-20. During Plan, Learn, Review the children have been painting, using the outdoor area, building and labelling models and using the roleplay area.

### Willow News

Willow Class have had a busy week following the excitement of the snow last week. In Maths the children have been counting in 2s and 5s, putting a selection of numbers between 1 and 50 in order, measuring themselves and objects in the classroom and finding numbers for 10, 20 and 100. In English, Willow Class have been writing sentences using present tense verbs and have written their own stories about Norman the slug (a character from a book we read). In RE we have talked about the Easter Story and the children wrote some sentences about what happened when Jesus entered Jerusalem. In PE the children have continued to work on their Tag Rugby skills and were using the tag rugby belts/tags this week.

### Beech News

In English, we have been telling the story of Sir Hazelnut's quest. As a class, we decided that we wanted to write about the part of the quest when Sir Hazelnut enters the Witch's hut. We created a modelled piece of writing and then worked as a class to create a bank of vocabulary that could be used to tell the story. Finally, we set about creating our own versions of this section of the quest. In Maths, we finished our learning about telling the time. We also started learning about fractions. We focussed on splitting things into equal groups. We then explored lots of different ways of representing a half. In Topic time, we focussed our attention on the Norman invasion of Britain. We examined the Bayeux tapestry and noticed that it included a Motte and Bailey castle. We then set about researching the key features of such a castle and created our own labelled diagrams.

In R.E. we talked about the 'Big Story' in the Bible and how Christians believe Jesus is the bridge between people and God. We are finishing looking at 'Time' this week but please continue to ask your child different times using 5 minute blocks of time.

### Maple News

Maple Class visited Tunbridge Wells Museum on Wednesday to find out more about Ancient Egypt. Jeremy from the Museum shared with the class some of the artefacts the museum has and told us stories linked to those different artefacts. The children listened extremely well and a visitor of the museum highlighted their excellent behaviour.

In Maths the children have been developing their data handling knowledge and creating tally charts and drawing bar charts and pictograms. They have continued to develop their times tables knowledge – keep going!

### Chestnut News

Our focus in spelling this week has been words beginning with the prefixes inter- and anti-. We have been generating word lists from our own knowledge and have also used our dictionary skills to add to them. As a class, we have really developed not only the skills we need to use a dictionary, but also a great enthusiasm for checking words!

We are now working on creating images in poetry. We are building up a 'tool kit' of devices to paint some really rich pictures. As well as using similes, we have been using noun phrases and adding prepositions in order to provide more information for the reader. We have learned how to turn a simile into a metaphor and are ready to add more tools to our kits next week!

We have worked on area in Maths this week, building on from our understanding of perimeter. The children have learned different strategies to help them calculate regular and irregular shapes and the correct units of measure.

As part of our topic, we have designed our own Fabergé eggs and will start making them next week, using papier maché. If you have any unwanted newspapers, we would be most grateful to receive them, so we can make some really solid eggs!

### Lilac News

For Maths this week in Lilac Class, we have been finishing off our work on using a formal written method to solve calculations about multiplication. We have also been learning about short division written method and what to do when there are 'remainders'. In English, we have been perfecting our poems that we will enter for the Jeffery Hale Writing Competition. In addition, we will be entering our narrative writing based on Chapter One 'The Shilling Pie' from Berlie Doherty's "Street Child". For our topic this week, we visited Woodbury Park Cemetery where a leading member of The Friend's Society, June Bridgeman, gave us an excellent guided tour and we had the opportunity to ask her questions on what she knew about the people who were buried there. We found the graves of Jacob Bell the founder of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and Jeffery Hale who did so much work to support the poor people in Tunbridge Wells. We found many graves that belonged to children and also soldiers who fought in the Crimea and the Battle of Waterloo. We were shown where the paupers were buried and June explained to us that poor people were buried at the bottom of the cemetery, whereas rich people were buried at the top. There were also a wide selection of beautiful trees and we have been asked to plant a lilac tree in the near future. In RE, we have been continuing with our work about the Easter story where we have been examining a selection of texts from the Bible and answering 'big questions'. In Art, we finished our William Morris designs and in DT we finished our front covers to our Victorian Cookbooks. In PE, we have moved onto playing mini tag rugby matches.

### Oak News

This week Oak Class have been busy planning their Greek myth stories and writing atmospheric setting descriptions. In Maths they have been looking at measures and how to calculate using metric and imperial measurements. In English, we have been practising using colons and semi colons.

## We need your help....

We are keen to get your feedback on the current After School Club and your thoughts on the possibility of running a Breakfast Club.

Please could you follow this link to complete the survey by Monday 19th March:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CS3P9SJ>

We welcome responses from everyone, regardless of whether you currently use the After School Club provision.

Please note that whilst we are looking into the possibility of running a breakfast club, it will only be possible with strong support and ultimately commitment to attend, so please make your voice heard via the survey if this is something you feel strongly about!



### Something to think about

Using 1, 9, 3 and 6... can you make 16? Are there different ways?

Which places are these clues describing?

Writing implement with small insects- Penzance

People's Rock- Folkestone

Tying things up securely- Nottingham



St Barnabas  
School & PTFA

## EASTER HOP!



**Monday 26th March**

**A sponsored half hour hop, skip and jump...**

Have fun around the Hop activity course and raise money for our school!

Sponsorship forms in book bags or from the School Office!

Get active this spring - for a great cause!



St Barnabas PTFA

## EASTER BAKE SALE

**Monday 19th &  
Tuesday 20th March**

**Willow & Maple Classes  
are selling sweet treats  
in the playground after  
school, bring your  
purses and help raise  
money for the school!**



### 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 are planning for the future.

Have a lovely weekend!

With best wishes

Maira Duncombe

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