

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 16th March

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



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. We explored the topic of Building firm foundations

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

**19th/ 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

**Friday 23rd March**

School Disco

**Monday 26th March**

Easter Hop

**PTFA Quiz** is postponed until May

## Attendance!

Our whole school attendance target is 97%. You can see here how our classes did last week. Our whole school attendance figure was 95.4%.



### Our School

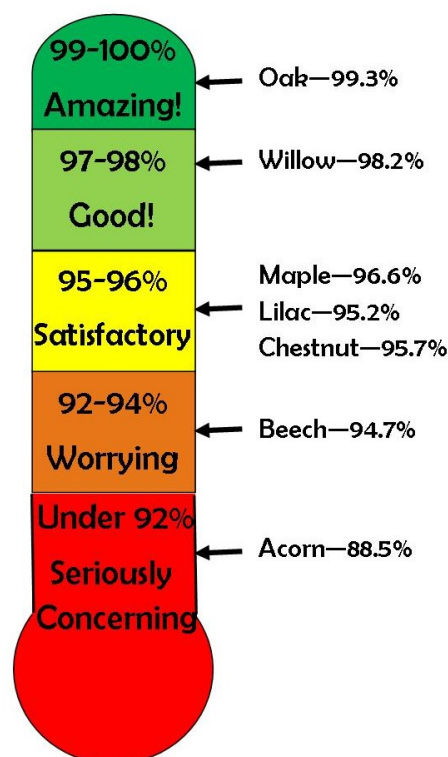
It has been nice to see the sun this week and the growing signs of Spring in our school playground.

Some of our Year 5 and 6 took part in a competition this week at Tonbridge School. Our newly formed cheerleading team performed in front of several local schools and were amazing! My thanks go to Miss Stephens and her team for all their hard work.

We held a very successful Book Fair this week. When we buy books from the fair the school is awarded commission to buy books for the school, so a big thank you to everyone who bought books!

We received a wonderful delivery of gardening tools and other items for Wildlife and Wellies. Many thanks to Adeline & Alana's dad, and the wonderful staff at Homebase for making this possible!

Next Wednesday we will be having our postponed World Book Day which coincides with National Poetry Day.



## Here we go again.....



The weather is reporting snow showers over the weekend! We will obviously be looking closely at the weather reports and if there is snow, we will follow the same procedures as last time. Please make sure your child is dressed warmly.



## Class News

### Acorn News

Acorn class have had another good week. The roleplay area is being transformed into a fire station (thank you Mrs Johnson). They have been revising their trigraphs and tricky words. The children have been segmenting, in order to write words confidently. They have been describing a fire engine and writing about their trip to the fire station. We are very pleased with the progress they are all making! In Maths they have been counting carefully in tens and ones. They have also been subtracting amounts mentally and using counting bags. With the better weather this week, we managed to get the bikes and scooters out during Plan, Learn, Review. Thank you to Ayda, Eliska and Megan who have been writing thank you letters to Mr Blake, the dentist, and the fire station.

### Willow News

Willow class have been learning about Neil Armstrong this week. The class have written facts about him, written a newspaper article about the Moon Landing in July 1969 and have also drawn and labelled a space rocket picture. On Thursday, the children also made their own rocket out of cardboard and decorated it. In Phonics we have been practicing reading and writing tricky words from Phase 5, such as water, once, many and who. The children have also been practising writing words with the 'ear' sound in. This week in Maths, Willow Class have been learning about length and height. The children have used rulers to measure objects in centimetres and used a metre stick to identify objects shorter and longer than a metre. The class have also been practising counting in 5s from 0 to 100 and solving reasoning questions about measuring. In RE, the class acted out the story of The Last Supper and also wrote some things that they could remember from the story.

### Beech News

In English, we completed our final piece of narrative writing. We told the part of Sir Hazelnut's quest where he tricks the dragon and saves the princess. We started by planning a series of simple sentences to tell the story. We then planned a conversation between Sir Hazelnut and the dragon. Finally, we used all the story writing techniques we have learned this term to turn these plans into a complete piece of writing. In Maths, we continued learning about fractions. We explored how halves, thirds and quarters could be recorded in a range of different ways- including words, pictures and fractional notation. Next, we explored how we could use our understanding of sharing into equal groups to find fractions of amounts. In Science, we started our plants topic. We learned the names for the key parts of a plant and composed question sentences designed to find out more information about them. If you would like to find out more about what is happening in Beech Class, we are trialling a class blog. To access our blog, simply visit the school website, click on 'Our Learning' and then 'Class Pages', find the Beech Class page and you will see a link entitled 'Beech Class Blog'.

In R.E. we retold the Easter Story using freeze frame drama. Then we made our own Easter Storyboards, emphasising that Christians believe Jesus saved people by dying on the cross and coming back to life again. In music we are learning about 'duration', using songs and rhythms. We are also trying out the ocarinas alongside untuned instruments.

### Maple News

The children have been working very hard this week in Maple Class. They have been finishing their stories, editing them and then writing them up in neat. Next week we will be able to make a class book of all their work to go in our book corner.

In our Maths work we have been working on division with remainders and we have been using our times tables to help us with scaling. In our topic work, the children have been designing Egyptian coffins and they have created some beautiful and detailed patterns. In our Science work we have been looking at magnets and their different poles.

### Chestnut News

We have begun a unit on fractions and are revisiting different ways to represent a fraction.

Continuing our work on poetry, we have been selecting appropriate adverbs to enhance a verb. We also worked some magic, by turning adjectives into adverbs. These activities are intended to cement our understanding of word types and to build up a bank of tools to create our own poems.

In Science, we carried out an experiment using chocolate. We have been learning about changes in state and whether some changes are reversible. We made a prediction, designed and carried out an experiment, recorded results, drew conclusions and then.....ate the chocolate!

We focused on Maundy Thursday in RE this week. We thought about how Christians celebrate, serve and remember on this particularly important day in Holy Week. We then looked at accounts in the Gospels and saw how they link to what happens in church today.

### Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac class have been learning about equivalent fractions and how to convert improper fractions into mixed numbers (and vice versa). In English, we have moved onto persuasive writing and how to present an argument in the form of a letter. We have been thinking about the negative and positive impact that the railways had on the population of Britain during the Victorian period. We drafted letters to an editor of a newspaper, dated Thursday 15th March 1850, explaining our point of view and why. In Science, we have been looking at how the temperature of water and whether stirring or not stirring sugar affects the way it dissolves. Last session we made our predictions and this week we conducted the experiment. In RE, we have been considering who was responsible for the death of Jesus. As a class, we thought that God, Jesus, Judas and the Jewish people were responsible. Our Topic work this week has been about how the Victorians spent their leisure time and that laws were passed to improve the lives of the working people so that they had more free time. Victorians enjoyed visiting the zoo and going to the circus. They also liked to go to parks, concerts, the theatre and the seaside. In DT, we continued with our Victorian cookery books and, using our laptops, we researched recipes that were used. We then selected those that we wanted to include in our books. In PE, we are now playing proper tag rugby matches applying all our skills that we have perfected over the last few weeks. In French, we have been learning to write and say some more short phrases.

### Oak News

This week Oak class have been practising their SATs tests. They have all done really well and tried their hardest. We have also been planning our own Greek myths and thinking about the type of language we can use for different sections. In our Science we have been looking at how the heart works and measuring our pulse and seeing how our pulse changes.

On Wednesday part of the class took part in a Cheerleading competition. They were spectacular and were a credit to the school.



#### Note from Dave:

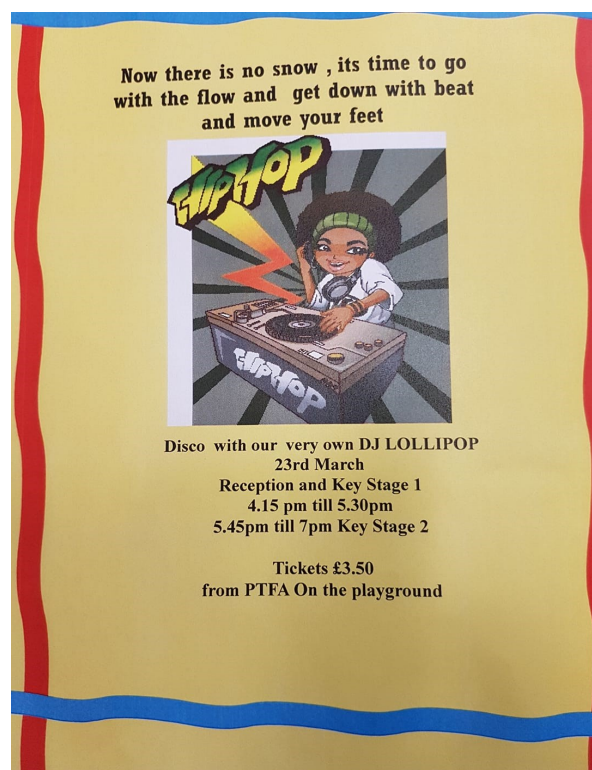
A reminder that there are coffee mornings for parents each Monday at 8.45 am onward in the Staff Room these are an opportunity to socialise with other parents and to get updates on what the PTFA are planning.



**Something to think about**

**Using 2, 3, 4 and 8... can you make 99?**

**Are there different ways?**



Have a lovely weekend. Have you completed the After School Club survey? If not, click the link here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CS3P9SJ>

With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW