

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

Newsletter Friday 30th November

"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 found out about the significance of the Holly Tree

## 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

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

## Key dates

### Christmas dates

December 7th – Flu Vaccinations

11th December – **KS1 Nativity**  
@ 2pm, School Hall

12th December – **KS1 Nativity**  
@ 2pm, School Hall

13th December –  
**KS2 Christmas Celebration**  
@ 6pm, St Barnabas Church

14th December – **Pantomime**

17th December –  
**Christmas Parties**

18th December – **Christmas Lunch and Jumpers**

19th December – Last day  
9:30am **Christmas Mass** at  
St Barnabas Church

## Attendance Last Week = 91.4%



Oak 95.5%  
Lilac 91.7%  
Chestnut 93.3%  
Maple 90.3%  
Beech 83.6%  
Willow 93.3%  
Acorn 92.3%

99-100%

Amazing!

97-98%

Good!

95-96%

Satisfactory

92-94%

Worrying

Under 92%

Seriously

Concerning

**CHRISTMAS CLASS HAMPER competition! + RAFFLE**  
**Friday 14th December**

We are running a class hamper competition again this year! Each class is asked to assemble a hamper of gifts that are a particular colour. Please see below for your class's colour - to form the prizes for our Xmas raffle. Mrs Duncombe will choose the class that she feels has assembled the most exciting and well-presented hamper, and the prize is pizza for the whole class!

Please bring your items to your class by Friday 7th December.

**COLOURS ARE:**

- ACORN - RED
- WILLOW - PURPLE/PINK
- BEECH - GOLD
- MAPLE - SILVER
- CHESTNUT - WHITE
- LILAC - GREEN
- OAK - BLUE

**RAFFLE PRIZES include:**

- 1 Guest hamper full of Italian treats
- 2 Personal guided tour of The City of London (Max 6 people)
- 3 Free 1 hour lesson, Woodwind, Clarinet, Sax, Piano
- 4 1 Day Free February Soccer School, First Class Football
- 5 Photo vouchers
- 6 Wine
- 7 Childrens games
- 8 7 x Class Hampers of course!

Many thanks and we look forward to seeing some beautiful hampers! Xmas Raffle tickets: raffle tickets will be sent out in bookbags and our fantastic Xmas raffle prizes will be drawn and announced on Friday 14th December.



## Class News



### Acorn News

In Acorn Class this week we have been recapping the sounds we have learnt and have learnt the tricky word 'I' - please encourage your child to look for this word when reading different books. In Maths, we have been looking at 'more', 'fewer' and 'equal'. We found the word 'fewer' tricky but we have persevered with it. We used numicon and objects to compare which amount was more and fewer. We have started 'Write Dance' to help us with strengthening our wrist muscles ready for writing. The picture we drew this week was of a Volcano. We have read a story about why it is okay to be angry sometimes and ways we can help ourselves from saying or doing unkind things. Well done to our 'star of the week' Lena for coming into class without her Mummy and Daddy.

### Willow News

This week we have been doing Maths quizzes on adding and subtracting, naming different shapes and accurately reading, writing and ordering numbers up to 20. The children have worked very hard to use their Maths skills to solve the questions and it has been lovely to see how their confidence has grown. In English, the children have written a character description for the Gruffalo and planned and wrote their own story about Stickman. As a class we talked about what things should be including in a good sentence (finger spaces between words, starting each sentence with a capital letter, using punctuation at the end of a sentence, using different sentence openers and conjunctions and using describing words to add interest) and the children have been trying do these things in their writing. We have practised the Christmas Play twice this week and the children are continuing to practise our songs in class as well. We have continue to talk about the Nativity story in class and children have written about Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem. In PE, the children played 3-a-side football and lots of goals were scored!

### Beech News

In English, we started planning our latest pieces of diary writing. First, we combined actor and action phrases to create simple sentences that could form the basis of our writing. Next, we selected our favourite sentences and sequenced them carefully. Next, we took the opening sentence and converted it into an interrupted action sentence by using the past continuous tense and adding an extra clause. Finally, we explored how the and/but/so/because connectives could be used to add extra clauses to these simple sentences. In Maths, we focussed on using a number line to add and subtract across 10s barriers. We practised our counting skills and then learned how to use a number line to accurately record our thinking. This week we have used most of our topic time to rehearse for the Nativity. Please can pupils keep on learning their lines. Next week, we are hoping to rehearse without scripts! The dress rehearsal is scheduled for Monday 10th December with the full performances scheduled for Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December. Thank you for your continued support.

In RE we looked at the gifts given to baby Jesus in Bethlehem by the Wise Men and then we talked about the gifts given by the lowly shepherds. We discussed what a poor person could bring to Jesus in the form of an actual gift or an act of service. In our music time we continued to practice the Nativity songs, which are sounding absolutely fantastic.

### Maple News

This week Maple Class have been imagining they lived in the Iron Age. In Iron Age Britain people lived in roundhouses, often in hillforts, Maple Class have thought about what it would have been like to live there, with a fire in the centre of the house and beds made of straw. We would have used iron tools to harvest our crops and iron spears and swords to defend our cattle from raids by other tribes. We would have made our own patterned cloth on the looms that we had in our roundhouses and eaten a mixture of grains, beans and meat called pottage most of the time. Although we wouldn't have written anything down, we would have painted things and carved intricate designs of knots and spirals.

In Maths we have been working on the three and four times tables and learning how to share into groups to divide. In Science, we have learned what the epicentre of an earthquake is and how we can use the Mercalli scale to measure an earthquake's destructiveness. We made our own buildings from blocks to test what the best designs for buildings in earthquake prone areas were (we think it's pyramids) and how the damage from earthquakes and tremors gets less as you move away from the epicentre. In computing we have carried on learning how to make a presentation on PowerPoint about our favourite topics from Science.





## Class News



### Chestnut News

We have been completing assessments in Reading and Maths this week which has kept us very busy!

We have also found time to complete a set of instructions for becoming a successful gladiator and then identified key features of an instruction text. In addition, we have worked through two more chapters of Oliver Twist. The children's comprehension skills are improving each week and we are really enjoying the ups and downs of the tale.

In RE, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Father John. We had many questions linked to the Trinity and incarnation that he was able to answer. He also helped us to understand how the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John differ. We have gone on to make a comparison of the language in Genesis 1 and John 1!

### Lilac News

This week in Lilac Class we have been very busy doing our assessments in Maths, Reading and Writing. When not involved in these, we have had RE, Science, Art/DT, Topic, Music and PE lessons as usual. In RE, we have been examining texts from Matthew in the New Testament about the coming of the Messiah. We worked in pairs and highlighted phrases and key words that described what characteristics and credentials the Messiah will have. We looked carefully at the original texts and thought about what they meant. In Science, we followed on from our work about Sir Isaac Newton and learnt about the difference between mass and weight and how they are measured using different units of measurement (Newtons and grams/kilograms). This will lead us nicely into our practical activities that we will be involved in next session.

In Topic, we have been designing our own Mayan calendars inspired by original artefacts. Our calendar was based on a solar year and consisted of 365 days (like the calendars we use today). However, a Mayan solar calendar is made up of 19 months and some of the months were shorter than ours, for example the last month was only 5 days long. The Mayans believed that this was a very unlucky month and people tried to stay indoors and do as little as possible to keep safe! In Art/DT, we started to make our Mayan tiles out of clay, carefully looking at our tile designs that we created. We also finished our drawings of bracelets and necklaces inspired by real Mayan jewellery. In Music, we have continued to practise a selection of songs from the shows in preparation for the Tunbridge Wells Singing festival. In PE, we have started to play hockey, focusing on tackling skill.

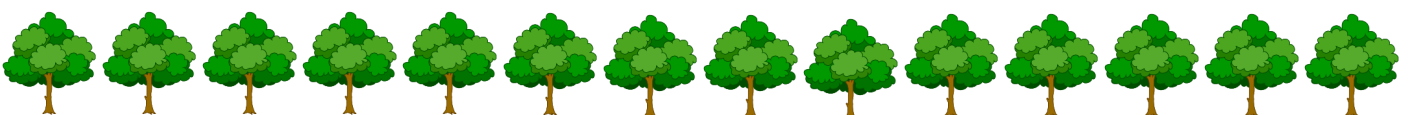
### Oak News

Another busy week in Oak Class! In Maths, we have been plotting points and translating shapes across a full coordinate grid. Everyone has done so well with this and we are looking forward to moving onto reflecting shapes across a mirror line next week.

In English we have been learning about the famous football match that took place on the Western Front in 1914. After considering what motivated the soldiers involved to set an unofficial truce; how they would have felt about the 'enemy' before and after the event; and the possible consequences, we composed letters from the soldiers to their families back home. The whole class were wonderful at putting themselves in the soldiers' shoes and managed to come up with some lovely pieces of writing.

In French, we have been learning the vocabulary for clothing, which we can now use alongside our parts of the body vocabulary.

Finally, in Science we conducted an investigation to help us understand how light helps us to see. We would like to say a huge thank you to LUKA IN YEAR 5's MUM - who made our investigation possible by providing a huge bag of empty shoe boxes!





**Thank you to Bob Bernard and First Class Football for supplying prizes for the raffle! See below for details about music lessons and the December Soccer Schools.**

**Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone Lessons**  
Professional woodwind teacher  
with over 30 years teaching experience  
including 25 years with  
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar Schools

For further information go to  
[www.bobbernard.co.uk](http://www.bobbernard.co.uk)

DBS Certificate

E.mail [bob.pam.bernard@gmail.com](mailto:bob.pam.bernard@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01892 523497  
Mob: 07792 888022



**DECEMBER SOCCER SCHOOLS**

FIRST CLASS FOOTBALL  
INSPIRATION SINCE 2003  
www.firstclassfootball.com  
E: [info@firstclassfootball.com](mailto:info@firstclassfootball.com)  
T: 07740 703397

**THURSDAY 20TH & FRIDAY 21ST DECEMBER**

**TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
SKINNERS SCHOOL SPORTS HALL  
ST JOHNS ROAD, TN4 9PG**

**TONBRIDGE  
HAYESBROOK SCHOOL SPORTS HALL  
BROOK STREET TN9 2PH**

**9AM - 3PM / 9AM-12PM / 12PM-3PM  
2 DAYS = £45 / £25 PER DAY / £15 HALF DAY**

"(Futsal) is where I learned my skills... the place where you play is much smaller and the pace (is) higher, so you need to be a highly technical player to play FUTSAL PROPERLY."  
- Philippe Coutinho

**AGES 5-16**

**ONLINE BOOKINGS - LIMITED SPACES**



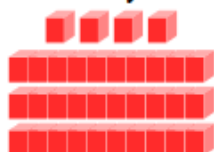
If you are coming to the disco have fun. Have a lovely weekend .With best wishes

*Moira Duncombe*

@StBarnabasSchoolTW

### Something to think about

How many blocks are there in the picture?



A 42 Blocks

B 7 Blocks

C 4 Blocks

D 34 Blocks