

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

Newsletter Friday 25th January

"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 bread of life.

## 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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## Key dates

Monday 28th January  
O2 Performance

Tuesday 29th January  
Year 4 Mass

Wednesday 30th January  
Year 3 Mass

Tuesday 5th February  
Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 6th February  
Year 1 Mass

Tuesday 12th February  
TW Music Festival

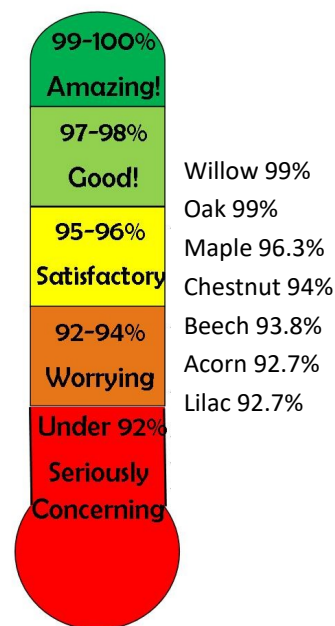
18th– 22nd February  
Half term

## Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. Last week our attendance was 95.3%

### Overall attendance last week:

Do remember we start school every-day at 8:45.



Bring your bags to school 8.45 am Wednesday 30th January



## This Week at School

Music again has played a part this week with children from St Peter's joining us to practise for the Tunbridge Wells Singing Festival. Both choirs are singing beautifully and we look forward to their performances at the Assembly Hall next month.

Next Wednesday is our Bag to School collection day and on the day there will be a designated area to store the bags awaiting collection. Thank you in advance and there are still a few empty bags in the School Reception if you would like more! Please bring your bags in the morning as they will be collected later on Wednesday morning.

## Snowy Weather



Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle, every effort will be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However our school may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. St Barnabas' Primary

School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting, clearing access points etc.

### **How will we let you me know if the school is closed?**

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, we may have to take the decision to close the school (I will endeavour to make this decision by 8am on the day). Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via ParentMail and the [Kent Closures website](#). To determine whether our school is open or closed, please visit [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk)—search for the school in the search box.

The Kent Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries. We also recommend parents sign up for SMS/Email alerts on the Kent Closures website. This service will send an SMS or email alert to let parents know if the school is closed. Parents can also listen to KMFM, BBC Radio Kent or Heart FM to hear if the school has closed.

Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.

### **What can you do to help your child whilst in school on a snow day?**

Please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.

Don't forget to provide suitable warm clothing for your child – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies/boots etc or even a change of clothing.

If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden early pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping our school remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.



## Class News



### Acorn News

This week in Phonics we have learnt the sounds y z zz and qu (please use the phonics link sent out earlier in the year if you are unsure of how to say the pure sounds). We have enjoyed writing words, listening for the initial sounds in words, been on a word treasure hunt and used the iPads to play sound games. We have also practised reading some of our high frequency words. In Maths we have been putting numbers in the correct order and ensuring we are counting in the right order to be accurate. We have also looked at the number 6. In PE we enjoyed demonstrating different balls skills. We have been changing our own reading books and the staff are really pleased with how well our reading is coming along! We have enjoyed mixing powder paints and water to see what happens and enjoyed finding ice in our outside area. We set up football matches and thought about the rules and why it is important to work as a team. Well done to the 'Star of the Week' Aiyana being a fantastic class role model!

### Willow News

The children have worked really hard to develop their handwriting and sentence structure in English this week. They have been learning how to use conjunctions, such as but, because and so, to join sentences. This has included writing sentences about superheroes and places that they would like to visit.

In Maths the children have continued learning about subtraction and addition. They have been looking at how numbers in addition sentences are commutative but that the numbers in subtraction number sentences are not. The children have been solved Maths problems involving 10 frames, counters and part whole models.

In Topic work, the children have been written about Florence Nightingale and made a timeline of events in her life. They have also cut out and ordered pictures to show the stages of a human life (baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult).

In RE the class talked about some of the themes of the teachings of Jesus (forgiveness, friendship, trust and finding peace) and the children drew a picture to represent one of these themes. In PE the children's hockey skills are developing well and they are starting to work well in their team to move and support each other. Well done Willow Class. Keep up the good work!

### Beech News

In English, we created a set of instructions for Sir Samuel, the main character in our class story. We focussed on using and applying the skills that we learned over the last two weeks to create a complete piece of writing. In Maths, we turned our attention to division. We started the week by sharing out practical objects to solve division problems with small dividends. We then moved on to using our counting in 2, 5 and 10 skills to solve division problems with larger dividends. If you would like to practise these skills at home, we have added some posts to the Class Blog which might help. In Science, we picked out all the key pieces of scientific vocabulary that relate to dissolving. We then created a concept map which we used to explain their meaning. Here are the words that we focussed on: dissolve, mix, soluble, insoluble, transparent, solution. Next week, we are going to use this vocabulary to help us conduct a scientific investigation.

In DT this week we began making our Castle Mechanisms, using split pins, string, paper clips, sellotape, treasury tags and of course our fabulous cardboard boxes. You have all been wonderfully generous and we have plenty of boxes so please don't send in any more. In RE we are looking at the different prayers Christians might pray in a variety of circumstances.

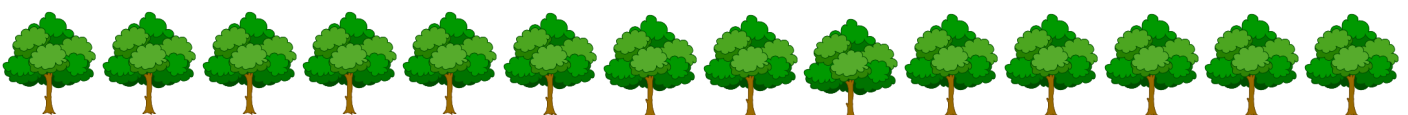
### Maple News

This week Maple have begun to divide two (and three!) digit numbers by one digit numbers. We have had fun using Diennes blocks and place value counters to make numbers before sharing them out, although it has been difficult remembering to break our tens into ones because the tens don't share evenly if we need to.

Our English has been focused on beginning to create our own version of the Egyptian Cinderella story. We have thought carefully about what the main parts of the story are and what changes we can make to them. How could she have got to Egypt if she had not been kidnapped by pirates? Who would her friends have been instead of the animals of the Nile? What precious item could she have lost to be found by Pharaoh? We have thought about using similes to describe our own characters. Did they have hair as fair as sand, as red as lava, or as black as the night sky?

We have been looking at the Gods and Goddesses of the Ancient Egyptians, the roles and features they had, the symbols they carried, and why they were shown with animal heads. We have looked at one of the Egyptian creation myths (they had several) and begun to see how the Egyptians understood the world.

In Science we have looked at the life of James Clerk Maxwell, who as well as discovering the link between electricity and magnetism also was the first person who understood how our eyes saw colour. We have made our own versions of his experiment, a disk coloured red, green and blue, which when spun looks white. We thought it looked amazing.





## Class News



### Chestnut News

This week we have been looking at the book "Where the Ocean Meets the Sea" by Jeannie Baker. It is a book containing very little text, but very detailed illustrations. We have been reading into the images and looked at book reviews. The book is based on the Daintree rainforest in Australia and tackles the issue of the threat to the prehistoric forest and wildlife. We will be basing our persuasive writing on this theme. We have begun to do some research on why rainforests are so important and the threats they face. We also chose our top 5 favourite facts - most of us were amused by the Idiot Tree that grows in the Daintree rainforest...

In Maths we have continued with the subject of perimeter and have been applying it to rectangles and squares.

We made circuits in Science using the knowledge we have built up over the past few weeks. We thought about what equipment we would need and experimented with different combinations until we lit a bulb. We also predicted what would happen if we added another bulb, and then what would happen if we had 1 bulb but two batteries. We enjoyed testing our ideas.

In RE we have started on a Gospel unit by thinking about things that are precious to us and all the routine activities we take part in on a weekly basis. We thought about what it would be like to give all that up and applied it to Matthew's account of Jesus asking Peter and Andrew to follow him. We talked about their willingness to give up what they knew to follow him.

### Lilac News

In Maths this week in Lilac Class we have been busy working with square and cube numbers and can identify square numbers up to 400! Whilst problem solving, we discovered that all square numbers have an odd number of factors. In English, we have levelled up and improved our first draft of our own version of Chapter One, Shilling Pie from 'Street Child'. We have particularly been focusing on writing passages of dialogue correctly and using different words for 'said' such as whispered, yelled, cried, bellowed. In RE, we have been continuing with our work about Moses and his salvation of the Hebrews - 'God's People'. This week we discussed the thoughts that might have gone through Moses's head when he saw the burning bush and God spoke to him, telling him to go back to Egypt and free the Hebrew slaves.

In Topic, we have started to learn about the Industrial Revolution and the impact this had on people's lives. At the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign only 20% of the population lived in the towns and cities but by the end of her reign this rose to 80%. The reason for this was because machines did a lot of the work that the farm labourers use to do and as a result, they had to move to the towns and cities to find work in the factories. In Art, we have been looking carefully at the paintings of Victorian artists that worked with watercolours. We learnt how to colour mix correctly and what perspective meant. In PE this week, we have been developing our hockey skills and learning how to use a hockey stick correctly whilst passing and shooting. In Music, we have been practising very hard for our Singing Festival on the 12th of February at the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Halls. On Wednesday afternoon, St Peters joined us for a rehearsal as we will be singing "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" with them on the night. Please can you return your consent slips as soon as possible and can I also remind you that tickets are on sale in the school office.

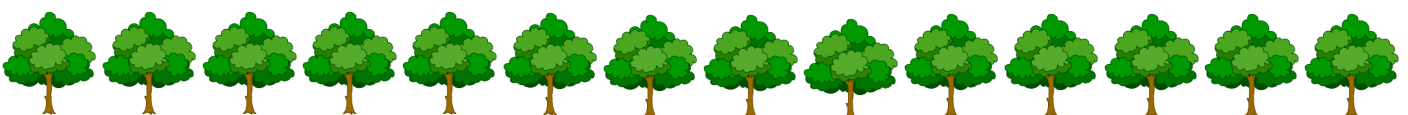
### Oak News

In Maths this week, we have been consolidating our work on fractions, decimals and percentages and can now convert between all three. We then moved on to calculating a percentage of an amount - they seemed quite keen to work on this after I told them how useful it was in the sales!

In English, we are completing our posters on the three ages of Ancient Greece. We have found out many fascinating facts - such as the Olympic Games was originally a festival in honour of the god Zeus - and we are now working on making our poster designs as eye-catching as possible.

In French, we are learning about fruit and vegetables and trying to put the vocabulary together with the adjectives we learned last week.

Finally, in Science, we are learning the scientific symbols used to draw electrical circuits and have had a go at drawing some of our own



## Something to think about



Convert the decimal 0.08 to a fraction.

A  $\frac{8}{10}$

B  $\frac{8}{100}$

C  $\frac{1}{8}$

D  $\frac{4}{5}$



### Starships

A club for children with additional needs and their siblings aged 6-11 to play, have fun and make friends

Thursdays, fortnightly Term Time only  
From 5:00-6:30pm  
£4 donation per session

17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Held at: St Philip's Church, Salisbury Road, Tonbridge, TN10 4PA

For more information, contact Vicky at [clubs@space2beme.org.uk](mailto:clubs@space2beme.org.uk) or call her on 01622 764566 or 07872 060456

Registered charity no. 1140764

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### Skinner's Kent Academy

The Skinner's Kent Academy will be holding tours for prospective parents, once a month from February to June 2019. The tours will be taking place on the below dates and they are currently available to book onto via the Academy website using the following link <https://www.skinnerkentacademy.org.uk/academy-tours.html>

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

### From Our School PTFA

Do you have any fun ideas for events or activities that we can do for Easter & raise some funds for our school? All ideas welcome & PTFA support available to make it happen. It would be great to try something new for 2019!

Please add your comments to the PTFA Facebook page or drop into the PTFA envelope in the School Entrance.

Have a lovely weekend and keep warm!

With best wishes

Moirá Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW