

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 15th February

"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 making sensible decisions

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

Friday 1st March
Exhilarate—please book via ParentMail

Week Beginning 18th March
Book Week

Wednesday 20th March
World Book Day dressing up—see the back page for more details

Monday 1st April
Parent Consultations

Friday 5th April
End of term

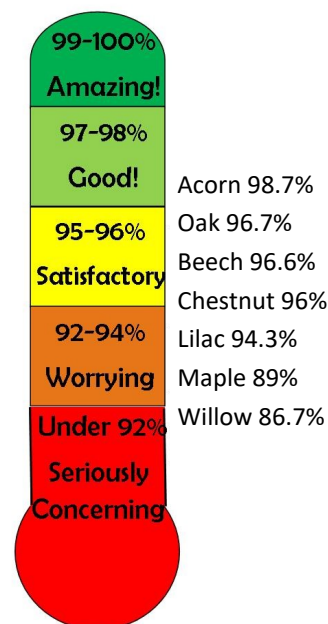
Tuesday 23rd April
Start of term 5
9:30 School Mass

Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. Last week our attendance was 94%

Overall attendance last week:

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



This Week at School

A busy last week before the half term with music being a major part. On Tuesday children from Year 1 and 2 went to the Assembly Hall to sing with other local schools. They had a fabulous time and were humming all the way home.... including the staff!!

On the same day Year 5 also went to the Assembly Hall to rehearse and perform their own set of songs. They performed to a large audience in the evening and our thanks go to Dr Charles and Fr John for leading them in their performance. Well done children, you had spent many weeks rehearsing and sang brilliantly.

It is wonderful to see our older children supporting and being buddies for our younger children. This is a real strength for not only for our children but also our school.



Class News



Acorn News

This week in Phonics we have been recapping all of the sounds we have learnt in Class so far this year. We have been reading some of our high frequency words too, like mum, him, as and back. In Maths we have been learning about length and know it is how far from one end to the other. We also talked which objects were taller and shorter. Then we used cubes, counters and bears to measure different objects in the class. The baby was 15 counters and a ruler was 9 bears long. In RE this week, we visited the church and Father John talked to us about why bread and wine are so special. Some of us wanted to find out how logs came from trees so we visited the school nature garden to look at where a tree would be cut to become logs. Lots of us have enjoyed writing out the alphabet this week as we have started matching the letter names to letter sounds. We have started seeing children use their sounds a lot more when mark making and drawing which is fantastic. Well done to our 'Star of the Week' Eva for a fantastic effort with her writing about a sheep.

Willow News

This week in Maths, the children have been counting in 2s and 5s and counting groups of objects. They have also been practising writing two digit numbers correctly and writing number sentences to show the tens and ones in 2 digit numbers. In English/Phonics, the class has been using imperative (bossy) verbs in their sentences and practising reading and writing Year 1 tricky words. In Science work, the children have been talking and writing about different animal groups. We have also talked about Neil Armstrong again and the children wrote facts about him on Thursday. In RE the children talked about why churches are important places for Christians and thought about some of the things they saw inside St Barnabas Church during last week's Class Mass. PE has involved hockey and football tournaments with the children refereeing games themselves.

Beech News

In English, we started writing the first section of Sir Samuel's Quest. First, we worked collaboratively to create a bank of simple sentences that told the basic events of the story. Next, we worked in partners to select the simple sentences we wanted to use and added adverbial phrases to open them. Finally, we used connecting tools to add additional clauses that gave the reader more information. If you are interested in doing some extra writing over the half term holidays, visit the Class Blog. We have uploaded both the simple sentences and the bank of adverbial phrases that Beech Class created. In Maths, we focussed on money. First, we made sure we recognised each coin and knew its value. Next, we compared the value of groups of coins by using the < > and = symbols. Finally, we worked systematically to find all the different ways we could make a target amount of money with a set of coins. In Topic, we explored the concepts of invasion and settlement. We created class definitions for each word and then used this understanding to complete a Venn diagram sorting activity.

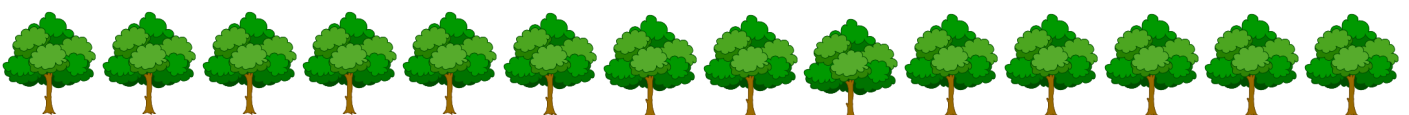
In Design Technology we reviewed our castle mechanisms, looking at what went well and what we could improve on. We think everybody had fabulous ideas and made some great mechanisms. Well done to those who made extra ones at home! We would have loved to paint the castles at school but there just wasn't space to dry them all! Maybe they could have some exterior and interior decorations over the holiday?! In RE we reflected on our Gospel topic, looking at how Christians draw understanding from Bible stories and text to know more about God.

Maple News

This week Maple Class have been turning their fantastic Egyptian Cinderella stories into shadow puppet theatre shows. We have looked at the features of play scripts and how they are set out differently to written stories. Using our scientific knowledge of light and the research we have done on life in the times of the Pharaohs, we have made our own shadow puppets from black card. We experimented to find the most suitable paper to become a screen, one that was translucent without being transparent, and strong enough to make a successful screen. We have rehearsed telling our stories to each other and many of us have worked to help each other tell them, because four hands are better than two. Finally we performed our stories to the class. We thought they were really good.

We have also been looking at money in Maths, noticing the little things that make adding and subtracting with money different from using normal numbers. We have been finding out how to give change and how this can be a useful strategy to solve subtraction problems.

We hope everyone has a lovely half term and comes back rested and ready to learn.





Class News



Chestnut News

This week we worked on planning and writing a persuasive article. We thought about how to bring the two strands of information and technique together to write an effective piece on raising awareness of deforestation. We firstly practised using appropriate sentence starters and persuasive language to write sentences. We then wrote a plan as a whole Class, focussing on using only notes to prompt us, rather than full sentences. When we return from half term we will be editing and improving our writing.

In Maths we have been dividing multiples of 10 by 10 and also by 100. We have used place value charts to understand what happens to a number when it is divided this way. We used our understanding to help us solve some written problems.

We have finished our unit on Gospel in RE. We learned what the word means, where it originated from and how we identify something as being part of the accounts of the Gospels. We were also tasked with finding out about how Christians today try to follow Jesus' example and be 'fishers of men'. Thank you Father John for coming in to our class to be questioned at length! We learned about how the Word of God, the sacraments and actions are all part of this. In addition, we have studied some stories from the accounts of the Gospels and thought about how they convey the 'good news'.

Lilac News

We were very busy at the beginning of the week making final preparations for the Tunbridge Wells Singing Festival that took place on Tuesday. During the morning, we walked down to the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall for a full rehearsal for the big event in the evening. Dr Charles was so impressed with the way the children sang on the night, particularly their performance with St Peter's Primary School of Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. When not practising, we learnt about finding the area of rectangles and compound rectangular shapes using the formula

$\text{Area} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width}$. In English, we levelled up our writing describing the setting in a Victorian Workhouse. Our focus moved on from using expanded noun phrases to developing our use of punctuation in our sentences. In RE, we started to learn about what happened to Moses and the Jewish people after the Pharaoh eventually freed them. Dr Charles read the passage in the Bible where Moses parted the Red Sea.

In Topic, we found out about Victorian inventions and the names of important inventors. We discussed how our life today would be very different without the flushing toilet, electricity, the light bulb, the stamp, the bicycle, the motor car, the telephone and the camera, to name just a few. We then sorted information and arranged dates and facts in chronological order. In DT we have continued with our sewing, making Victorian pin cushions using a variety of stitches sewn into binka. In PE, we have been concentrating on improving our hockey skills.

Just to remind you that Lilac Class will be visiting Standen House, a large Victorian country house, on Tuesday 26th of March. Letters have already been sent out via ParentMail.

Oak News

In Maths this week, we have been finishing our topic of algebra. We began the week by solving 1 and 2-step problems, then moved on to enumerating possible values for variables in equations. Although this sounds pretty complicated, the whole Class did really well with this topic and have a good understanding of algebra.

In English, we have been writing our own story based on the King Midas myth. We have been thinking about what we would like everything we touched to turn into and the possible implications. There are some really interesting ideas in the stories. One person is able to make things come to life when they touch them, another can turn everything into money - there is someone who can clone himself!

In Art, we are finishing our Grecian urns. After making them from clay using a pinch technique, they were ready to be painted. To create an authentic Greek design, we used red and black paint to draw traditional patterns, such as the Greek key, and depict ancient athletes and warriors. They will dry over the half term, then we will varnish them. They should make a fabulous display!



Something to think about



Over the half term can you:

- ♦ Go to the library
- ♦ Read a book
- ♦ Go for a walk in the park
- ♦ See how many different post boxes you can find in and around Tunbridge Wells – there are several different styles!
- ♦ What different numbers can you see around you? Can you read them? Use them to create a number sentence?
- ♦ Try something new



CELEBRATE WORLD BOOK DAY: WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

To celebrate World Book Day, we would like the children to dress up as a character from a favourite book. Please do not go to great expense; some of the best costumes we have seen have been simple and home-made!



Have a lovely half term and I hope we all can come back healthy and well to start Term 4.

With best wishes

Moirra Duncombe

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