

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

Newsletter Friday 10th May 2019

"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 being generous.

## 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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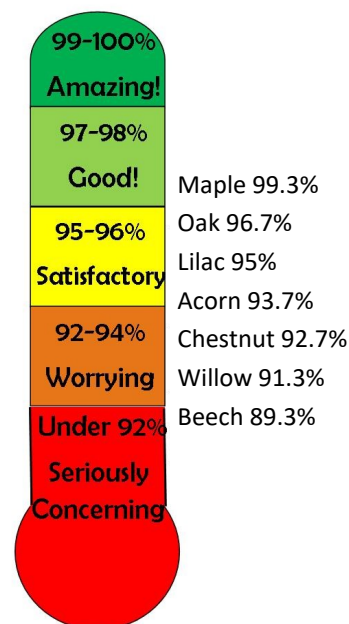
Good luck to all our Year 6 children who will be completing their SATS next week.

## 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.



## PTFA News

**School Disco** – the next one will be on Friday 17th May and we look forward to a great evening. A ParentMail went out yesterday about how to buy tickets. If you would like to help at the KS1 or KS2 disco, please let John or Mrs Duncombe know; we would love to have your help!

**Cake Sale** – we are aiming to have a monthly cake sale with each class in charge of making and selling cakes to raise money for the School. Our first one will be on Friday 24th May and Acorn Class are taking the lead. Please see Aimee, Danny's mum, for more information or offers to help.

**Crazy Jean's Soap Box Event – Saturday 8th June** - the PTFA have been given a discount for tickets for this exciting event at Dunorlan Park next month.

**General Tickets:** [click here](#) or go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crazy-jeans-soapbox-race-2019-racers-code-for-friends-and-family-general-tickets-tickets-57699433559>

**Family Tickets:** [click here](#) or go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crazy-jeans-soapbox-race-2019-racers-code-for-friends-and-family-family-tickets-tickets-56108841054>

Please note the password is racers.



## Class News



### Oak News

In English this week, we have been analysing and comparing dual narrative texts in preparation for our own piece of writing. Firstly, we looked at an extract from 'Prey...Pray' by Peter Barker. We like some of the language he used such as 'symphony of laughter' and 'peals of merriment'; we also liked the way he used long, descriptive sentences for the hunted characters and concise sentences for the hunter. We also looked at two extracts from 'Jaws' by Peter Benchley. We loved the way he added tension and made the great white shark seem like a cold, emotionless predator. Finally, we worked on building long, flowery sentences to help the reader to build empathy with the hunted. In Maths, we have been preparing for the upcoming Sats by revising arithmetic and problem solving, and holding focus groups for topics such as fractions and percentages. We have also been polishing our arithmetic, reasoning, grammar and reading comprehension skills in preparation for the SATs, which begin on 13th May.

With the Sats in mind, we would like to remind you that there will be breakfast available at school from 8:15am, Monday to Thursday, next week. This will be open to all year six children. No booking is required, they can just turn up, and it is free of charge. I know some of the children are nervous about the Sats tests, but we would not want it to cause them any unnecessary stress and simply want them to try their best. We are very aware that Sats only measure a very small area of a child's ability and are not representative of the many other wonderful talents and qualities they may have. Early nights to ensure they are fully rested would be much appreciated!

### Lilac News

In Maths this week, we have continued with our work about fractions. We have been adding and subtracting mixed numbers using bar models to help us. We also used two methods to solve calculations. The first was to add up the whole numbers and fractions separately and the second method was to convert the mixed numbers into improper fractions. In English, we have been busy drafting a recount about the Titanic disaster from the perspective of Frederick Fleet. He survived the tragedy and was up in the crow's nest looking for icebergs on the night of Sunday 14th April 1912. He was the person who said those famous words 'Iceberg right ahead!' Our focus for our writing task was to describe character and setting. We also started to read our exciting new whole class text 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Gill.

In Science, we have been looking at the life cycle of amphibians, in particular the frog, toad, newt and salamander. We have been thinking about why their life cycle involves a complete metamorphosis rather than an incomplete one. In Topic, we have been learning about the important part rivers play in the water cycle. We learnt how key words such as condensation, evaporation, transpiration, precipitation and transportation related to the water cycle. In Art, we finished off our pastel drawings of shells and made a whole class iceberg collage. In Music, we have been listening to Benjamin Britten's four 'Sea Interludes' from Peter Grimes. We discussed how the use of different instruments and dynamics described the sea. We learnt about orchestral 'families' and what instruments belonged to them.

Thank you for all your support with the homework and hearing your child read regularly at home. It is very much appreciated!

### Chestnut News

In English this week we have begun planning our own hero myths based on Beowulf. To help us with this, we have been analysing sections of text from the story and identifying the setting description. We have then taken some basic adjectives and found much more interesting ones using a thesaurus. This will be a useful bank of information to use when we write our own myths. Another part of our preparation has been to look at the conventions of hero myths to see what elements we need to include. We decided there always needs to be a beast, a hero, a struggle and a reward for the hero. Next week we will begin work on our own epics!

The children have been really impressive in their Maths work this week! They have moved from identifying equivalent fractions by sight, to recognising them through proportion. I was so impressed with their perseverance and positive attitude to their work. They have gone on to calculate equivalent fractions and work with fractions greater than 1. They have got to grips with the language that is so specific to fractions and are able to use it correctly. Instead of MyMaths this week, I have set them some equivalent fractions for consolidation. This is in their homework books.

In RE we became familiar with the Hindu creation story. We broke it down into 6 elements and retold it in the form of a storyboard, with accompanying explanations. The children have begun to think about similarities and differences between that and the Christian creation story.

We had a really interesting topic session this week to discuss the concepts of 'invaders' and 'settlers' in relation to the Anglo Saxons. We linked it to wider themes of migration and the reasons behind population movement. We analysed 6 factors in the move of the tribes and decided which were 'push' and which were 'pull' factors. It was interesting to discover that some of the kings in Britain actually paid the Anglo Saxon tribes to come and help them defend their lands from other invading forces.

In Science we have been thinking about sorting living things into different categories according to their features. We had a bank of images and sorted them according to various different categories such as: vertebrate, invertebrate, mammals, tetrapods etc. We tried out many categories and saw that some living creatures could fit into more than one.





## Class News



### Acorn News

This week in Phonics, some of us have recapped the digraphs ar or ur ow oi and ear and we learnt the tricky words all, are and was. Some of us have recapped the sounds m d g and o and the phase 2 tricky words (the, to, I, no, go, into, of, put). In Maths, we have been learning all about the numbers 18, 19 and 20. We have also recapped adding and subtracting and encouraging the children to count on or back from the first number. In RE, we read the story of 'The Troublesome Twins' and talked about our siblings, twins, birthdays and what it might be like to be blind. During our child-initiated time, lots of us have been keen to continue our work on adding, especially number sentences containing a missing number! We also enjoyed making playdough, we had to carefully measure out the ingredients using cups. Lots of children have enjoyed writing their own helicopter stories again and we enjoyed acting these out. Well done to Julianne our 'star of the week' for always demonstrating our school values.

### Willow News

In English, Willow Class have been learning how to structure a basic letter. The children have written 2 letters and have used the books 'Dear Greenpeace' by Simon James and 'Poles Apart' by Celia Warren as a prompt for our letter writing. The children have been concentrating hard on checking their sentences make sense and developing their handwriting. In Maths, the children have been doubling numbers, sharing objects into groups and been using resources in the classroom to solve practical maths problems. The class have also been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

As part of our Topic work, the class have been learning about the oceans of the world, talking about the difference between Arctic and Antarctic and been thinking about the climate and the North and South Pole. The children have come up with some interesting questions during class discussions and have been very keen to share their knowledge about different parts of the world. In Science, we are comparing different types of seeds and finding out about what plants they will grow into. The children have also written about what plants need to grow. Our RE theme of the week have been the story of David and Goliath. The children have talked about a time when they were brave and recorded their ideas. In PE the children are developing their running skills and javelin throwing skills as part of our athletics theme

### Beech News

In English, we completed our park recounts. We then used teacher feedback to edit and improve our writing. In Maths we focussed on multiplication, division and finding fractions of amounts. We started the week by refreshing our ability to count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Next, we explored how these skills could be used to solve arithmetic and reasoning multiplication problems. After that, we considered how counting and sharing could both be used to solve different types of division problems. Finally, we explored how the skills we learned for multiplication and division could be applied to find fractions of amounts.

This week Beech Class have showed off their recount skills by finishing their writing about their trip to the park. In Maths we have been remembering our skill by answering place value questions. During PE this week we practised our dribbling skills and used these to help us score goals.

### Maple News

Maple Class have been carrying on trying to learn the first parts of The Jumblies by Edward Lear. We have used actions to help us remember how it goes. Then we have begun to turn it from a poem into a story. We have used adjectives to help us describe in greater detail and similes to add extra interest to our writing. Because the Jumblies' friends call out to them in the poem, we have been remembering to punctuate speech correctly when we use it in our writing.

We have been investigating what the parts of a flower are for and what they do. Looking closely at the flowers in the classroom, which although they are small and hard to see have yellow-red pollen that you can see with a hand magnifying glass. We also have kept on with our experiment to see what things a plant needs to survive and what things it can do without. At the moment, we think that plants need water but mostly they need warmth to live. But that they can grow happily without much space because they are trapped inside a small clear pot.

We have been finding out how to count in fractions and exploring why some fractions are equivalent to each other. We have made fraction walls, thought about cutting up pizzas and begun to think about how fractions work on numberlines. Fractions can be tricky things to get to grips with, so we have been working hard to check we know what we are doing



## Something to think about



What is the tens digit in 465 ?

A 46

B 4

C 5

D 6

## The PTFA is excited to announce the next School Disco!



The school disco will take place next Friday, 17th May.

Entry costs £3.50 which includes a drink & slice of pizza and there will be a tuck shop available, so bring some money for snacks.

Times:

Reception and KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2): 4.15 to 5.30

KS2 (Yrs 3 - 6): 5.45 to 7.00

Remember, children **MUST** be collected from the disco by an adult

We are trying a new process to make it easier for all parents. Please do the following:

1. Collect the form & an envelope from the box outside the school office.
2. Fill in the form, put the form and money in the envelope & seal the envelope. *Note: this must be done by a parent as you need to sign it and give emergency contact details.*
3. Write your child's name and school year on the envelope.
4. Place the envelope in the Disco Bookings Box outside the school office.
5. No tickets will be issued, we will make a list based on the forms we receive.
6. Deadline to purchase tickets: Thursday 16th May.

Have a lovely weekend

With best wishes

*Moirá Duncombe*