

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

**Newsletter Friday 15th November 2019**

*Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.*

*" [www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)*



Our **School Christian Values** are Aspiration Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. We have continued to find out about reconciliation

## 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.

If your child cannot attend a club session please do let us know so we are not contacting you.

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## Dates

Tuesday 19th November  
Captain Safety Roadshow  
for Year 1 and 2

Sunday 1st December  
School Christmas Fair  
12– 2pm

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## Remember Remember

Jolly Jars  
(bring in 25th & 26th Nov)

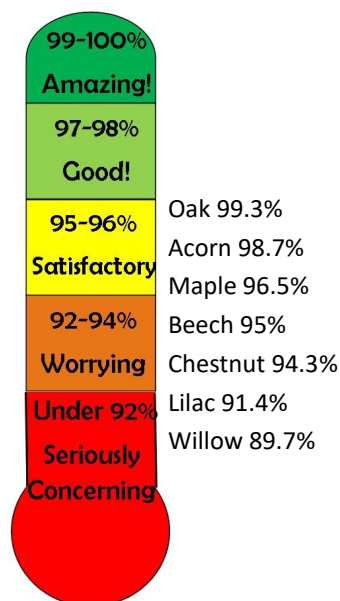
Items for your class  
Christmas hampers  
(deadline 22nd Nov)

## Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve.

**Overall attendance last week: 94.7%**

Do remember we start school everyday at 8:45.



## This week

At the start of the week the whole school stopped at 11am to remember those who had died in conflict. The previous day, Crystal our Head girl had represented the school at St Barnabas Church in laying our wreath as part of our community's remembrance.

Tuesday saw our netball team take part in a local schools league and win both matches against some of our bigger local schools! We also found out on Tuesday about our children's success in Judo– well done to Daisy, Rowan, Phoebe, Oscar and Henry.

On Wednesday our termly Able writers event took place, with children from other schools joining us to work with Brian Moses.

Over thirty prospective parents joined us for our second open morning for next year's Reception intake. I can certainly say it was lovely to show our school and the positive comments we received.

Today is Children in Need day, congratulations to our runners who did brilliantly at Dunorlan Park this morning, particularly Grace and Oscar who won their respective events. Finally, thank you for your support in raising money for Children in Need.



Coffee Morning Every Monday Morning

8.45 - 9.30

In The School Hall

Parents, Grandparents, Carers

Everybody Welcome

Drop in, Chill out, Eat Biscuits

### Parent Governor

We now have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a Parent representative. The role of governor has steadily risen in responsibility over the last few years but I can assure you it is very rewarding, and will greatly enhance your understanding of the school and increase your involvement in the local community. See your ParentMail for more details.

## Sport News

### Netball

What a fabulous start we had in the TWKSSP High 5 Netball league played at SKA on Tuesday evening. With each game 4 periods of 5 minutes and the squad rotating at every change it is a busy challenge for our 9 Year 6 pupils who are in the squad. The league has 13 schools taking part with groups of fixtures taking place 5 times during this school year!

Our first match was a very close encounter against St Marks and a score from Albert in the last period was enough to give us a deserved 1-0 win.

The second match was against St Johns, and scores from Albert (2) Grace, Melanie and Mujataba saw us to a comfortable 5-1 victory.

Here is hoping we can continue this run of form in the next set of games.

Well done to our squad of Albert, Mujataba, Teo, Elsie, Grace, Lillyanna, Melanie, Mary and Parnika. With thanks to all parents for their support and to Mrs Johnson for taking over umpiring in the future.

### Basketball

Yesterday we played in the TWKSSP high 5 mini basketball tournament at Skinners School. The squad were superb, winning 11-5 v St Johns, 10-0 v Rusthall, and drawing 5-5 with St Peters and 6-6 v Staplehurst.

We ended second in our group and missed out on a semi final by one point - they were brilliant!

Squad: Teo, Albert, Mujataba, Dylan, Praneet, Rayan, Elsie, Lillyanna, Prinika, Melanie  
Well done to everyone!



## Class News



### Acorn Class

Acorn class have had a very busy week learning their sounds and trying hard practising the sounds p, d and g. In our Maths we have focused on the number three and really enjoyed exploring our numbers in class.

On Monday we went outside with the rest of the class to remember those who died in the war.

We have had fun in our Child Initiated sessions and you can see the amazing vehicle some of our children created.

We are looking forward to drawing our Christmas Card designs for Homework. Well done to Evie who is our star of the week and will be bringing home Nick the Monkey.



### Willow News

It has been another busy week in Willow Class this week. In English this week, we have been using the story of "We're going on a bear hunt" by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury as a prompt for writing. On Monday the children listened to the story and thought about the description included in the story. Some children also came up with alternative places the family might have visited and alternative sounds they might hear. On Tuesday the children wrote part of the story and on Wednesday they wrote a description of the bear. On Thursday the class started to write an alternative version of the story. In Maths this week, the class has been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. The children have been learning about their names and properties. On Thursday the children created pictures using 2D shapes and talked about the shapes that they had used. In RE the children talked about what they are grateful for and how they celebrate Christmas. The class also talked about what some Christians families do (such as going to church, almsgiving and celebrating with their family). In PE the children played a game where they passed the ball in teams on Monday, and we used the climbing bars, ropes and gymnastics horses on Thursday.

### Beech News

This week Beech class have been continuing their work on Samuel Pepys diary of his time at the frost fair. They have created a bank of simultaneous action sentences to help them in their writing in showing how he would have been feeling at different points in time. In maths they have begun to work on subtraction using the column method. This involved learning the new vocabulary of minuend (the large number) and subtrahend (the smaller number).

In ICT they began working on spreadsheets and learning they different methods to create calculations. They then created their own zoo using a spreadsheet in Purplemash. In PE the class had a fun lesson using all the skills they have learnt over the last few weeks and showing these off on the large apparatus. In English, we wrote another diary entry from the point of view of Samuel Pepys. We used the plans and help sheets that we have been working on over the last 2 weeks and created a complete version of our writing. In Maths, we turned our attention to subtraction. We explored how the expanded column method could be used to complete subtraction problems. We then focused on recording our thinking clearly.

### Maple News

Maple Class have been carrying on writing instructions this week. We looked at why instructions are sequenced and why using adverbs of time can help us order them. Then, we looked at how we can link different ideas together in a single sentence by using coordinating conjunctions. Coordinating conjunctions are words like 'and', 'although', 'so', 'or', or 'because'. they help us to tell more information in one sentence. Instruction writing can use coordinating conjunctions to explain steps or give more detail. We used this to add detail to simple facts about mammoths. In science, we investigated how fossils are formed by creating our own cast and mold fossils. First we pushed a shell into softened plasticine to make a cast. In nature, this happens when a dead animal or plant is covered with sediment before it can rot away. over time the soil surrounding it turns into rock and the bones disappear. Next, we took our shells out of the cast and filled the space with plaster of Paris. Real fossils are formed when deposits slowly build up in the gap left behind as the mold. After the plaster had hardened, we peeled off the plasticine and chipped off any stray pieces of plaster. We were left with a cast of the shell. We could compare a 'fossil' we had made of an oyster shell with a real fossil of an oyster. It was really heavy.

We are looking at Iron-Age Britain in our topic. The Iron-Age brought new materials, new techniques and new ideas. We looked at Iron-Age Celtic jewellery, how they delighted in using mythical animals, spirals and swirls, and repeated patterns in their art. Celts used gold and other precious metals along with enamel - a precious coloured glass- to create beautiful, intricate brooches and pendants. We have designed our own Celtic jewellery and compared the designs to the Bronze-Age jewellery we looked at a few weeks ago.

In Maths we have begun to think about multiplication and division. We started by using counters to help us count in threes, fours, sixes and eights. We put the counters into rectangle shapes to help us find how many there were in each calculation. Next, we used Cuisinairre rods to help us count in numbers like 3, 4, 6 and 8. and put the rods together in rectangles. That meant that we could record our calculations as rectangles. We realised that we could use rulers to draw the rectangles more accurately, using rods to check our answers. These rectangles are called arrays and can help us multiply numbers, they can also help us divide, but we will go into more detail of that next week.





## Class News



### Chestnut News

We have continued to work on instruction writing in English. Using extracts from the book "You Wouldn't Want to be a Roman Gladiator", we learned about how people became gladiators and the steps they followed to train. We learned facts about the ludus gladiatorius and the lanista, who were old gladiators responsible for training. We also found out about the various types of gladiator and decided which one we would write instructions about. We then wrote instructional sentences and highlighted the imperative verb in each case. Through shared writing we created a 'skeleton' set of instructions that we will build upon. To improve our sentences, we practised choosing appropriate adverbs to work alongside our imperative verbs.

In Maths, we have been adding 2 4-digit numbers, first without exchange and then building up to 3 exchanges. Not only have the children worked on their addition skills, but they have also made great improvements in the presentation of their work. They have worked on using concrete materials such as counters to support their learning before moving on to using the column method. Mrs Pring dropped in to see our investigation work this week. We are really working hard at experimenting with numbers in order to test our ideas. We were trying to identify 2 4-digit numbers that totalled 4,444 and whose numbers were all even. It was fantastic to see the children being bold and challenging themselves.

In Science the children were let loose with the components to make simple circuits. It was a really fun session and we put into practice the theory work we have done on circuits. We all managed to make a circuit that lit up a bulb and were able to reflect on possible barriers to it being successful. We also predicted what would happen if we added another bulb into the circuit and followed it up by testing our ideas. We used the text of John 1:1-14 as the basis of our discussions in RE this week. We looked back to the text we studied in Genesis and picked out the language that features in both of them. The text of John 1 is very challenging and over the next few weeks we will be discussing what it means in relation to the Trinity and how it compares to the other accounts of the Gospel.

### Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been using the inverse operation to check for accuracy when working through addition and subtraction calculations. In our Oral/Mental Maths sessions, we have been working out the missing number in an equivalent calculation so that each part either side of the equals sign has the same total. In English this week, we started to think about the features of persuasive writing. We will be writing an article for a travel brochure about why people should visit and go on holiday to Belize. In ICT, we visited several travel sites to get us started and to give us ideas. Our focus was to find out what the main attractions and places to visit were in Belize and what activities you could do. In RE, we have been examining texts from Matthew about the birth of Jesus and compared these with the Prophecies from the Old Testament that we read last week. As a class, we explored what we thought the texts were referring to and what they were telling us about the birth of Jesus.

In Science, we have been learning how a sundial works and have started to make our own sundials that we will use to tell the time next week, providing we have a sunny day! In Topic, we designed storyboards about the Mayan story of creation. In Art, we have started to design our tiles that we will be making out of clay based on Mayan designs. From art work that the Mayans left behind we know that they liked to use bright colours and interesting patterns. In Music, we have been singing our space songs and have been composing 'Moonscapes' using a range of instruments to describe the space ship, the astronaut moonwalking, outer space and the stars

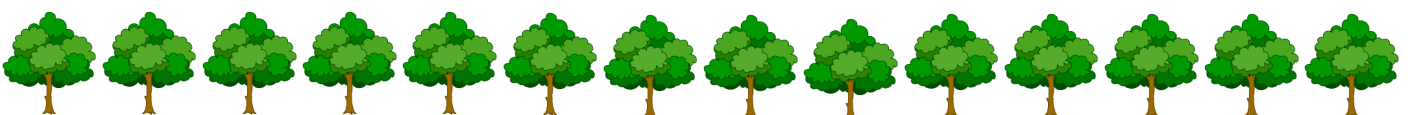
### Oak News

In maths, we are continuing on our journey through all things fractions. Monday saw us consolidating our work on subtracting fractions by solving reasoning problems. We then moved onto multiplying fractions by integers (whole numbers) and fractions. This was a real break from the hard graft of addition and subtraction and the class got to grips with it really quickly with everyone able to complete questions confidently. On Thursday, we started work on dividing fractions by integers. Currently we are only working on fractions and integers which are divisible with no remainders. Next week we will start work on the more formal method of division. On Friday, we had a bit of a different maths lesson. As half of the class were out at a cross country event, we decided to take part in a maths-based 'Escape the Room' challenge. The children were split into four teams and competed against each other to be the first to crack the ten-digit code. It was very tense at times but everyone did brilliantly and it was a really fun exercise. We are also taking part in the 'Barvember' event which sees the children tackle word problems by using bar models. This is a national event and hopefully it should really help them to visualise the maths questions and give them an alternative way to solve them.

In English, we have been writing our Greek god and goddess fact files. We have been working hard to meet the success criteria we set ourselves last week; a particular focus for many has been the use of colons and semi-colons. It is lovely to see more and more of the class becoming confident enough to use them in their writing! The final copy will be copied up next week and these will be used to build a bank of information that future year sixes can use for research.

In science, we have been finding out about Carl Linnaeus, the famous taxonomist, and how his method of categorising living things has shaped the world we live in. We looked at how the hierarchy of his taxonomy works, what each category means and how to use it to find out a living thing's scientific name. Finally, we researched an animal of our choice and classified it using the Linnaean system.

For our latest art project, we have been looking at optical art and how different effects can trick the brain into seeing something that isn't there. This week, we have drawn out the 'skeleton' of our piece and will continue to add colour to it over the next week. It should make for a really interesting display!





### Booktober

Well done to all our children who participated in 'Booktober' last month.

More than fifty per cent of the school adopted the idea of reading more, during October. Some of our pupils read as many as 40 books, and were able to answer questions about what they had read.

As always, we thank families for support during this reading challenge, and hope that it has reminded our children of the importance, enjoyment and relevance of reading in our lives. Long may it continue!



### Reception class 2020-2021

The application process is now open online with KCC for a Reception Place in September 2020. This process is open until 15th January 2020.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places>

REMEMBER: You must still apply for a Reception place through KCC if you have a pre-school child who has an older sibling in the school. Sibling rights apply and are part of the admissions criteria but you still have to apply for that place. Your older child must be in current YR to Y5 when applying for September 2020.

Please remember to bring a coat to school every day!



Have a wonderful weekend. With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

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