

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

Newsletter Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September

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

**Attendance** - We challenge all our classes to have 100% attendance. Remember school starts at 8:45 in the morning!



## This week in school

Wasn't Tuesday fun? It was lovely to see all the children and staff dressed up to celebrate Roald Dahl's birthday. KS2 went up to the Trinity Theatre and watched the BFG, Sarah, Patryk and Jacob were awarded prizes for their costumes.

Our Acorn children have settled in well and it has been lovely getting to know them and we look forward to meeting them as a whole class next week.

Can I remind all parents not to come into the school building before or after school through the side doors. If you need to contact a member of staff please come to the school office or write a note in the children's contact books. This is to enable us to know who is in school for your child's safety- thank you in advance.

My apologies for the date mix up for our school photographs- it is next Tuesday and will be for individual/ siblings and families. Please can we ask that the children are in full school uniform.

Please do make sure that your child's PE kit and water bottle is in school everyday and as the autumn nights draw in – a named coat!

## Dates and Reminders

Any more extreme reading photographs taken during the summer holiday will be gratefully received. Closing date soon.

### September

Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Individual photographs
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Coffee + - see newsletter section from Dave
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Macmillan Coffee Morning

### October

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultations
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	End of Term 1

## **This week in class:**

### **Acorn**

We have been exploring all of the toys we have in school; the scooters, bikes and big climbing equipment have been very popular! We have been learning counting songs, painting self portraits and learning what we need to do to become 'super learners' before designing our own superheroes. The children have enjoyed lots of messy play with the glittery sand and a tray full of slime! We have also explored the iPad, torches, beebots and voice recorders.

### **Willow**

This week Willow Class have been listening to the story of 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl and doing some activities based around the story. The children have made their own spaghetti surprise based on Mrs Twit's wormy spaghetti, made a beard for Mr Twit and written a recipe. We enjoyed dressing up as characters from Roald Dahl's books on Tuesday to celebrate his 100th birthday and found out a little bit about him. Thursday was International Dot Day so Willow Class read the story of 'The Dot' by Peter H Reynolds and did some dotty activities. In Phonics we have revisited some tricky words and learnt the new sounds 'ay', 'ou' and 'ie'. In Maths we have been adding numbers, practising number formation and counting in 1s, 2s and 10s. The children have been making use of the outside area for a variety of activities including reading, treasure hunts in the sand and small world play. It has been a busy week.

### **Beech**

Thank you to all of the children for their hard work this past week in Beech Class. They have all made a great start and have produced some lovely work. We really enjoyed seeing them in costume and taking part in our exciting Roald Dahl day. Thank you as well for your donations which will go a long way in helping children with medical needs across the UK.

Today, rulers at the ready we estimated objects then accurately measured them to find out the real lengths. Some of us worked out the difference between these two measurements in cm.

In RE we talked about the font, lectern, pulpit and altar. Next Thursday we are hoping to visit St Barnabas' church to find these parts of the church building. We also shared our experiences of visiting churches with two children explaining how they had lit candles in the church for loved ones and prayed for them

Just a reminder that homework is due on Monday. Have a restful weekend.

### **Maple**

We have enjoyed our first full week back at school and are settling into new routines nicely.

We were lucky enough to see the film 'The BFG' at the Trinity Theatre on Tuesday, along with the other Key Stage 2 classes. Maple Class children looked fantastic dressed up as characters from Roald Dahl books, though I don't think they enjoyed having Miss Trunchbull as their teacher. We have focused on 'Danny the Champion of the World' and our English work has been based on writing instructions. We learned about The Sticky Hat and Horse-Hair Stopper as methods for poaching pheasants, and invented our own techniques. Some of them are very amusing! As part of writing instructions, we had to use imperative (bossy) verbs and time connectives.

As it has been Dahl week, we have taken inspiration from his books in Maths too. We have been solving problems using multiplication skills, based on some interesting fictional characters.

We have started our topic, Rolling Stones, with an overview of the Stone Age. The children had lots of questions which we hope to find answers to over the next few weeks.

### **Chestnut**

Chestnut Class have had an amazing start to the year. This week has been focusing on Roald Dahl. We kick started the week by being the first class to work on making a Roald Dahl model village with Dave. In class we have focused on the book The BFG which we have really enjoyed, especially going to see the film at the Trinity Theatre on Tuesday. In our English and Art lessons we have been thinking about dreams - what they are, the meaning of the word and what they can look like. We have written our own personal dreams and designed dream jars. In Maths we have been learning about number and place value which we will continue next week.

### **Lilac**

In Maths this week Lilac Class have been working on different written methods to record addition and have also been working on decimals. In English we have focused on Roald Dahl's 'The Witches'. We have been writing newspaper articles about 'Witchophiles' - people who are experts at recognising witches and designing posters. For RE, we have started our work about Islam. We have been learning about the Five Pillars of Islam. In History we have been comparing the lives of the rich and the poor in Victorian England in both the country and the towns. We have also started our Science topic for this term about the properties of materials and classifying them into various groups. In PE we have made a fantastic start at learning how to play basketball and have been concentrating on developing our ball skills

### **Oak**

In Oak Class this week, we have been writing short autobiographical stories inspired by Roald Dahl's book, Boy. The children had to write a short story containing exactly fifty words! On Tuesday morning, we went to watch The BFG and the costumes were amazing! The children listened to 'The Great Mouse Plot' (a chapter from Roald Dahl's 'Boy') they planned and wrote their own short story, based on this

In Maths, we have been looking at short methods of multiplication and practicing our times tables In Maths the children revised their knowledge of place value, up to 7 digits.

In Science the class looked at the human heart, how it works and it's structure. They made a tissue paper heart and added the pulmonary artery, pulmonary vein, superior vena cava and inferior vena cava (in the form of sweets!).

### Notes from Dave:

**Parent Coffee on a Monday** - Do come into the School Hall after drop off and have a cup of tea or coffee. It is a chance to get to know other parents of the school and find out more about what is happening- it would be lovely to see you there!

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Please bring a cake (homemade or shop bought) and help us raise money for this worthy cause. Surplus cake will be sold after school.

**Coffee Morning plus-** Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September- 8:45am in the hall. Our regular coffee morning for families of children needing support. Come along and share your experiences, information and occasional invited guests - all welcome

### Lunches

Our school meals are now provided by The Contract Dining Company. Unfortunately there has been an issue with setting up online payment for school meals, this is going to take about 3 weeks to resolve. In the meantime please could you pay for all meals using cash or cheque. The cost of the lunch is £2.30 per day. We apologise for the inconvenience and will let you know as soon as this has been resolved.

If your child is in Years R-2 they are entitled to universal free school meals. The funding means that children have 5 days school dinners or no school dinners and parents provide a packed lunch.

### Something to think about:

**If I stick a bunch of flowers in a computer... does the computer become a vase?**

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

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