

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 27th January 2017

"Living & Learning together" www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.
This week we found out about Love.

Dates and Reminders

Please remember to book with the school office at least 24 hours in advance if you require After School Club.

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Dates

Monday 30th January
1:30pm Year 1 Class Mass

Wednesday 1st March
9:30am Whole School Mass
Ash Wednesday

You are very welcome to attend!

School Open Afternoon

Thursday 9th February
@2:30pm

Come and visit your child's classroom and look at their amazing work!

Forward Planning



After half term Year 3 will be starting their swimming lessons.
Letter coming out shortly

Attendance Challenge

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 96% to achieve. Well done to Beech class who had the best attendance last week.

Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	90.67 %
Willow	93.00%
Beech	98.33 %
Maple	96.67 %
Chestnut	89.66 %
Lilac	93.57 %
Oak	95.86 %



This Week in School

It has been a busy week and across the school we have battled through sickness and hopefully everyone is on the way to being back to 100%.

Last Friday the PTFA had their Spring Quiz and everyone who took part had a great time! Over £200 was raised and my thanks go to everyone who took part and who organised the event. We have recently purchased with the help of the PTFA a new PA system which was well used during the evening.

Year 2 and 3 took part in their Class Mass this week and both classes were well behaved and listened well to Fr. John.

We have had two parents nominated to become our new parent governor and this election will be taking place shortly. We will be sending information about the election and biographies of those standing via ParentMail, so please look out for this. Voting papers will be sent out in book bags. Please take the time to vote!

Please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school every day as the children have PE at least twice a week- whatever the weather!

We look forward to a warmer February.

A note from Dave:

A call out for the following to help with the Lantern Parade on the 4th Feb, we need people to prepare, cook, and serve food at the end of the parade. All profits go to the PTFA.

CREATE also needs volunteer stewards for the parade - if you know of anyone who might want to help please let me know.

Finally on the morning of the parade we need some help putting up the festoon lights all around the playground.

Any help gratefully received - contact Dave on 07966190428 or dprodrick@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Thank you.

Event news

Mrs Tompsett and Miss Stephens are organising a Zumbathon to raise money for Mrs Tompsett's marathon charity ARC.

When: Friday 3rd Feb 7.30-9.30

Where: St Barnabas' School Hall

How much: £7.50

We look forward to seeing you, regulars and newbies.

Mrs Tompsett and Miss Stephens



Safer Internet Day 2017 will take place on Tuesday 7th February with the theme 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'.

As a school we will be involved and if you would like to know more please see: www.saferinternetday.org.uk #SID2017

Did you know:

- Young people aged 5-15 are spending around 15 hours each week online – overtaking time spent watching a TV set for the first time
- Children aged 5-15 have increased their weekly online time by an hour and 18 minutes in the last year to 15 hours
- Pre-schoolers, aged 3-4, are spending eight hours and 18 minutes a week online, up an hour and a half from six hours 48 minutes in the last year. (This works out to be over an hour a day)

This week in class:

Acorn

This week we have been learning the z and w phonemes in phonics. We have read 'Dear Zoo' and wrote letters to the zoo asking for different animals. We have also read 'The Snail and the Whale', and have drawn our favourite parts of the story. In Maths, we have been learning about numbers to 20 and have been putting them in order; some of us even ordered numbers to 30! We have had a fantastic gymnastics lesson, learning to climb, jump and travel safely on the big climbing apparatus. In our play, we have been making junk models, exploring the iPad software and acting as doctors in the role play corner.

Willow

This week Willow Class have been learning about place value and number sequences in Maths. This has involved thinking about working out the number of tens and ones in 2 digit numbers and filling in missing numbers in sequences. The children have been working on developing their problem solving and reasoning skills in answering questions. In English we have been reading the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'. The children have drawn a story map, hot seated some of the characters and asked them questions, written a character description of the wolf and acted out the story. In RE we have been learning about the story of Gideon and have talked about times when we have been brave. In topic work, we have painted winter pictures, written about our heroes and been investigating what we can see in the school grounds.

Beech

In English we have been creating some extremely detailed pieces of descriptive narrative. We used the descriptive writing skills we learned last week and added sentences which described what the character did and how the character felt. We also worked really hard to use capital letters, full stops and commas with accuracy. In Mathematics, we explored the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction. We used bar models to help us generate addition and subtraction calculations and then used this understanding to help solve empty box style calculations. In Science, we thought carefully about the bulbs that we planted at the start of the term. We used a plant growing simulator to learn how to make our plants grow successfully. Finally, we created scientific explanations to record what we had found out.

In Dance we are creating a piece based on Jesus and the storm. Today we looked at using different emotional expressions to add to our choreography. A fantastic range of grimaces and surprised looks followed as we fell out of the boat! In RE we read the story of the Pharisee (Mr Proud) and Tax Collector (Mr Sorry) and how their attitudes affected their relationship with God. We drew a comic strip style entry to write some boasts and respond to them looking through Jesus' eyes.

Maple

Our year group Mass took place on Monday afternoon and the children asked many interesting questions. Parents are always very welcome and it was lovely to have Teo's mum join us. Thank you Fr John for welcoming us into the church and to Jake, Albert and William for serving.

We have worked very hard on our explanation texts this week. Each day we have looked at specific paragraphs in our writing. We have been explaining how to make natural dyes, focusing on using present tense, third person and time connectives. The children have produced some very impressive writing. We will be producing final versions next week, along with photos to complete our work.

The class have explored the character and impact of Julius Caesar and created fact sheets. This is part of their understanding of the Roman invasion of Britain and the impact of the settlers. As homework this week, they have been asked to start working on designs for a mosaic, based on research of colour and pattern in original works.

Chestnut

We have been looking at the inverse of multiplication this week - division. We have been learning different strategies to solve problems. In English we have used drama to expand our understanding of the text we are reading. We did this by using a conscious alley. We have also been thinking about the moral reasons behind what the children are doing in the story and what our views are on this.

The children have been writing the final draft of their explanations, concentrating on accurate spelling, punctuation and handwriting. In Maths the children looked at telling the time using the analogue clock and 24 hour clock and they have been answering complicated time problems. In RE they read 'The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector' and examined Jesus' teachings about pride. In Science the children carried out an experiment to see how the brightness of a bulb changes with the length of wire used.

Lilac

In English this week, we have been improving and editing our writing about being a Spanish Conquistador in 1519. The focus is to write a well developed description of the setting, using prompt sheets and mind maps. For Maths this week, we have been learning to add and subtract fractions with the same and different denominators. We are also becoming more confident at explaining mathematical statements about calculations. In Science, we have been learning about the different phases of the Moon and the relationship between the movement of the Earth, Sun and Moon. In PE we have been focusing on gymnastics, learning about different jumps and the correct way to land and move. In DT, we finished our pin cushions that we took time to design and sew. In RE, we have been discussing the Creation Story and the story of Adam and Eve and how God wanted to create a perfect world. We have been relating the story to our own lives, by thinking about how we can put things right in our relationships with those around us.

Oak

This week we began reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' and we have started to write a short story based on the opening. The children came up with some wonderful, vivid descriptions to start their stories. In our spelling work, we have been finding out about homophones and coming up with strategies to help us to spell them correctly.

We have been working on percentages in Maths and the children have also attempted a Maths reasoning paper.

In Science, we have been thinking about how animals have adapted to their environment and we were trying to answer the question 'Which shape feet are best for swimming?' The children had to devise an experiment to try to answer this question we then carried out the experiment together.

The children have also been researching animals and plants that live on mountains and are now creating an information poster.



Something to think about:

Does electricity weigh anything?



We allow our older children to bring in a mobile phone which is kept in the School Office during the day. We have noticed that some of them walk to school with headphones and we have discussed with them about safety when crossing the roads.

From Monday if your child is attending a club after school we will be asking them to collect their phones after the club has ended. Those children attending our After School Club are also being asked to keep their phones in a designated place.

And lastly.....

Please can I remind parents about parking safely around the school and to make sure they do not park in the church car park as it is used throughout the day~ thank you.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

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