

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 24th February 2017

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



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.
This week we continued to find out about Peace.

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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Parking Plea

Please can we kindly ask that you do not leave your car engines running when parking in our neighbouring streets. Please respect the environment
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Parent Governor Election

Just before Half Term we held an election for a new Parent Governor and I am pleased to say Mario Beneventi, father of Charlie in Year 2, has been elected. My thanks go to both Mario and Natascha for standing.

PTFA

Acorn Cake stall March 27th

Easter Hop event Thursday
30th March

More information soon

Attendance Challenge

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 96% to achieve. Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	95.67 %
Willow	94.67 %
Beech	98.00 %
Maple	97.00 %
Chestnut	95.36 %
Lilac	96.42 %
Oak	94.48 %

Staffing News

"I'm very sad to share that Mrs Atkins will be leaving us at the end of this term. After 17 years with us she knows everything there is to know about the school and knows everyone there is to know! She will be greatly missed by everyone at St Barnabas' and I am sure you will join us in wishing her well for the future.

As a result we are now looking to recruit an Administrator to join us from April. Full details can be found on www.kent-teach.com "

World Book Day

Our school will be celebrating World Book Day on Tuesday 7th March 2017 and we would like to invite you to join us in helping your child to make the most of this special occasion.

Our theme this year is Adventures. Please come dressed as a character from an adventure story.

World Book Day celebrates the joy and value of books and reading, especially for children. To get them started on their reading journey, every child receives a £1 World Book Day Token that can either be exchanged for one of ten special World Book Day books, or used to get £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more. You can find out more about the books at www.worldbookday.com/books.

Please see the ParentMail sent out this week for more information.

This week in class:

Acorn

This week we have been learning the sh and oo digraphs in phonics; we have been using these digraphs by playing lots of reading and writing games. The children loved the book 'Supertato' and so we all wrote speech bubbles to imagine what some of the characters were saying. In Maths, we have been learning to take away from a group of objects and record our work in a subtraction number sentence. In RE we have been learning about Ash Wednesday in preparation for whole school Mass next week.

Willow

This week Willow Class have been adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers, reviewing number bonds for 10, 20 and 100 and doing number investigations in Maths. In English we have writing instructions and doing activities around the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', which has included the children writing their own version of the story. In RE we have been talked about Shrove Tuesday and Lent. The children have been learning about what seeds need to grow, label a plant diagram and explored the school ground to look for different plants. We also found a frog and frogspawn in the school pond.

Beech

In English we started writing 'Sir Alwen's Quest'. The class had already mapped out a route for Sir Alwen to take, his first obstacle being a flaming fire pit. This week, we used a range of different writing techniques to tell the story of Sir Alwen overcoming this obstacle. We revisited the work we had done earlier in the term using verb tenses and adjectives to create an introductory sentence. We also used question sentences and speech marks to create sentences for our story. Finally, we experimented with 'How' and 'Why' adverbial phrases to help make simple sentences more interesting. In Maths, we solved problems involving fractions. First, we were challenged to find fractions of shapes. Then, we used arrays to help us find fractions of amounts. Finally, we used these skills to solve fraction problems in context. In Science, we used a set of results from our plant investigation to write a scientific conclusion. We spotted patterns in the results, used our scientific knowledge to explain them and then predicted what might happen if we continued the investigation. In ICT we used the 'repeat' function to programme formula to create regular 2D shapes.

Maple

The children have settled back into the new term with a focus on Boudicca as part of both English and topic. They have been learning the facts about her revolt against Roman rule and also thinking about her as a person. Next week we will be writing from her point of view.

In Maths we have moved on to fractions. We have made fractions walls to reinforce that fractions are part of a whole. We also designed pizzas and folded and marked them to demonstrate the whole, halves, quarters and eighths.

Swimming starts this week and will continue until the end of the school year. Please remember that children need a swimming hat! It is such a lovely opportunity for children to develop this skill, whatever stage they are at!

Chestnut

Chestnut Class returned enthusiastically from their half term break. In English this week we have focused on performance poetry, we have been looking at different ways writers use language and how we can use this in performances. In Maths we have been looking at multiplication as scaling, turning a house into a giant's house. We have also been looking at the grid method as a way of solving multiplications.

The children have been looking at what makes an effective advert. They designed their own product and came up with a catchy slogan. In Maths the children looked at the properties of angles and worked hard on identifying and ordering angles. In Science the children started a new topic: 'States of Matter'. They looked at the difference between solids and liquids, under a microscope and took part in a fun 'pouring' experiment, where they thought about the viscosity of different liquids.

Lilac

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been using their knowledge of fractions to solve word problems. We have been thinking about mathematical language in relation to multiplication and division. In English, we have been focusing on persuasive language. We have started to draft a piece of writing for a travel brochure about why we should visit the country of Belize and the lost cities of the Ancient Mayans. In Science, we have continued our work about sundials and how we can use them to tell the time. For Music this week, we walked to Claremont Primary School to rehearse with other schools in Tunbridge Wells for the Singing Festival on Wednesday the 22nd of March at 7.30pm. Letters will be going out about this shortly and you will also be able to buy the tickets soon. For Topic, we have been learning about the Mayan Story of Creation and how they believed that people were originally made out of mud! In RE, we have been looking at some of the letters in the Bible that Paul wrote and have written our own letters to someone special about our values and beliefs.

Oak

It has been a busy week in Oak Class. In English, we have been looking at instruction texts. We have written instructions for how to survive an avalanche. The children have had to think carefully about how to sequence their instructions and how to punctuate bullet points consistently.

In our Maths work we have been interpreting pie charts and line graphs. We have also been solving reasoning problems related to weight.

In Science, we looked at how plants have adapted to their habitats and we have researched the features that they have that help them to survive.

We have focused on mountain homes in our topic work, thinking about how they are designed to withstand harsh mountain conditions.



Something to think about:

Does a firework look the same on the back and the front?

Term Dates 2017- 2018

Term 1: Monday 4th September-Friday 20th October

Term 2: Monday 30th October- Wednesday 20th December

Term 3: Thursday 4th January- Friday 9th February

Term 4: Monday 19th February- Thursday 29th March

Term 5: Monday 16th April- Friday 25th May

Term 6: Monday 4th June- Tuesday 24th July

INSET days: 4th September

5th September

4th January

5th January

4th June

A detailed term dates will follow on ParentMail.

And lastly.....

Have a lovely weekend and hopefully the weather will be kind

Well done to Willow Class who achieved our Caretaker Award!!

With best wishes

Moirá Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW