

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 15th September 2017

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



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.

Reminders

Dates

Tuesday 19th September

Individual Photographs – please make sure children are in full school uniform

Sports Committee meeting: all parents/carers welcome, 2.15pm in the School Hall

Monday 2nd October

Under the Sea
Year R- 3

Wednesday 18th October

Parent Consultations

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Please make sure your child has a coat and their PE kit in school every day.

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Please do not come into the school building without signing in through the school office. This allows us to make sure our School environment is safe.

Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. Here is the breakdown for each class.

Acorn	not at school
Willow	89.5%
Beech	95%
Maple	97%
Chestnut	96%
Lilac	99%
Oak	90%



This week in School:

Welcome to all our new families. Our Acorn children are settling in well and it is lovely to get to know them. Next week the children are staying for lunch and we are looking forward to meeting them as a whole class.

The children have started their new topics and if you log on to our new website you will see some of the learning your children will be undertaking over the term.

Clubs have also started and thank you for your patience with our online booking. New systems take a little while for us all to get used to and after a few niggles all seems to be well.

Mr Luckhurst is supporting our PE lessons this term on Monday and Thursday. Mr Luckhurst is an experienced coach and is supporting our staff in the teaching of PE, and this term especially in their team games.

Do remember to come and have a cup of tea or coffee together in the staff room after Monday drop-off. This is a chance to meet other parents/carers and to find out more about our School. Please remember to sign in at the school office.

A very busy week.



Class News

Acorn News

It has been a wonderful week in Acorn Class. The children have been getting to know our school and learning some important class routines. They have been thinking about why we come to school and what we do at school. We had a lovely discussion around this and the children shared their ideas: "We come to school to make friends", "to learn about shapes", "to learn letters", "to paint", "to learn to be kind", "to have stories", "to have lots of fun" (a few of the children's ideas). The class have been getting used to our 'plan, learn, review' sessions, where a range of activities take place (some independent and some teacher directed). Small groups have been busy creating 'self-portraits' with paint. The children have enjoyed some dancing and singing sessions as well as parachute games and lots of stories. We have been busy using the 'outdoor classroom' to look at stories, use the chalk, musical instruments, water, bikes and scooters. We are very impressed with how the children have settled in this week.

We have had fun in the sand, learnt how to use the interactive whiteboard and playing in the home corner. The children have settled really well and are enjoying making new friends

Willow News

This week Willow Class have been practising using finger spaces and full stops in their writing. The children have also been developing their speaking and listening skills in an I Spy activity and a shopping list story. Friday 15th September was International Dot Day so Willow Class heard 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 counting forwards and backwards from 0 to 10 and using Numicon, counters and number cards to find one more and one less than a given number. We have also been practising number formation for numbers to 20. In Science we have been talking about what different things are made of and had a scavenger hunt in the classroom to find objects made of plastic, wood, metal, paper and other materials. 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 and the children are settling well into the new routines.

Beech News

In Literacy, we have been creating some pieces of descriptive writing. We started the week by reading a story all about the Great Fire of London. We stopped reading at the moment where Toby, the main character, looked out and saw the entire city of London was on fire. We used this as the inspiration for our own pieces of writing. First, we, used our senses to identify things that Toby might be able to see, hear, smell, taste and feel. Next, we combined these subjects with simple verb phrases to create grammatically sound sentences- we made sure we used full stops and capital letters to punctuate our work. Then we experimented with using adjectives to add descriptive detail to our sentences and produced some fantastic descriptive sentences of our own. Finally, we edited and improved our work to make sure it was of the highest quality. In Maths, we have been deepening our understanding of place value. We used a range of different techniques to represent 2-digit numbers- including numicon, place value blocks, words, numerals and pictures. We also explored how to partition such numbers in a variety of different ways. In ICT, we completed an online activity all about the Great Fire of London. We analysed pieces of historical evidence and made discoveries about 17th Century London. In PE, we started our gymnastics unit of work. We experimented with different ways of travelling using 2, 3, 4 or even 5 points of contact with the floor- Beech Class came up with some extremely inventive methods of movement. In R.E. we are looking at Creation. What might a Creator look like and what questions would we ask them? We are linking Art with Creation, making some sketches of flowers and leaves.

Maple News

In Maple Class we have been working on place value and converting numbers from digits to words. We have started our Topic work on the Stone Age by creating timelines - we made our own first. We have been looking at how Harvest is celebrated around the world and have been writing our own prayers.

Chestnut News

In Chestnut, we have been revisiting spellings strategies learned last year. All children have a copy of the year 3 and 4 spelling list in the back of their home learning book to refer to.

In English lessons we have broken down key features of the Cinderella story and made predictions about what would be different in an Egyptian version. We have read the book Egyptian Cinderella and made comparisons. As part of our learning, we have looked at comparative conjunctions such as but, whereas, while and although.

In Maths we are revisiting place value and Roman numerals, We have been looking at the patterns there are in Roman numerals up to 100. We have tested our knowledge of 3, 4 and 8 times tables before we move on to this year's challenge of adding 6,7 and 9 times tables.

In Topic we have learned about the importance of the River Nile in ancient Egyptian history. We are looking forward to learning about gods and goddesses and the way of life in ancient Egypt.

We are lucky to have swimming lessons continue on a Friday. Please remember that all children require a swimming hat. The other PE lesson of the week is run by Mr Luckhurst. All children need full PE kit in school all week so that they can participate and enjoy this session.

Lilac News

Lilac Class have made a superb start to the term and Year 5. I am very pleased with the quantity of reading record books that are being returned regularly to school and the amount of reading children are clearly doing at home. In Maths, we have been learning about place value and ordering and comparing numbers. I am very impressed with the children's ability to recognise and read very large numbers. In English, we have been concentrating on our poetry writing this week. We are in the process of creating poems about space using a range of conventions for poetry writing such as using metaphors, similes and onomatopoeic words. In RE, we have been thinking about why a God is loving and holy. We thought deeply about what characteristics a loving and holy God should have and thought about what a God should look like. In PE, we have been working hard at developing our large ball skills and coordination and footwork. We devised our own team games too.

In Topic this week, we have started our work about the Ancient Mayan Civilisation. We have been learning about when the civilisation was discovered and by who. We have also located Mesoamerica on an atlas and the route that the Spanish explorers took when sailing there, five hundred years ago. In Art this week, we have started to design our individual Mayan person with moving arms, legs and head that we will be making over the next few weeks. These designs are based on illustrations found inside Mayan temples and from other forms of Mayan art that still exist today. In Science and ICT, we have been researching space facts and facts about the Solar System.

Oak News

Oak Class have had a fantastic start to the year. This week they have been working hard at different SATS papers to see where we are aiming for at the end of the year. They have all tried very hard and should be very proud. We have also started to look at place value in Maths - ordering, comparing and understanding numbers to 1million. In English the children have produced some fabulous writing about the short film 'The Piano' - they wrote their own versions of the story including numerous flashbacks.



On a Friday morning, we have our Celebration Assembly where the School comes together to share success and highlight those children who have shown our School Values. These children have been nominated by their peers and adults of the school. We would like to invite you to attend these Acts of Worship which run from 9am- 9:30 on a Friday morning.

If you can attend please come and sign in at the School Office and join us in the hall:

Friday 22 nd September	Parents in Year 3
Friday 6 th October	Parents in Year 4
Friday 13 th October	Parents in Year 5
Friday 20 th October	Parents in Year 6
Friday 3 rd November	Parents in Year 1
Friday 17 th November	Parents in Year 2
Friday 24 th November	Parents in Reception

Job vacancy!

We have a vacancy for a general assistant in the kitchen. The role is for 1 hour per day, 5 days per week to put the tables & chairs and out and away. Please contact Karen on 07958 170132 if you are interested.

Something to think about



Does a cup of tea weigh more when you add a spoonful of sugar?

And lastly.....

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW