

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 8th December 2017

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



Our **School Christian Values** are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. This week we have discovered the importance of the Christmas Wreath.

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

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Dates

Saturday 9th December
Carol Singing 11am - 12pm
Royal Victoria Place

Sunday 10th December
PTFA Christmas Bingo

**Wednesday 13th and
Thursday 14th December**
KS1 Nativity @ 2pm

Thursday 14th December
After School Club Party

Friday 15th December
KS2 Christmas @ 6pm

Tuesday 19th December
School Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 20th December
School Christmas Mass
@ 9:15am

Attendance

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

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Acorn | 99.2% |
| Willow | 99.3% |
| Beech | 92.3% |
| Maple | 97% |
| Chestnut | 96% |
| Lilac | 97.9% |
| Oak | 93.3% |



We look forward to seeing you this Sunday:



**St Barnabas
Christmas Bingo**

**Sunday 10th December
2-5pm**

Family Prizes
Mulled wine
Hot food
Bottle tombola
Raffle prizes
Festive craft activities
Prize for the best Christmas jumper!

FREE ENTRY

All Welcome!

Fun for all the family!

St Barnabas CEP School, Quarry Road, TN1 2EY



Class News

Acorn News

Acorn Class have been busy revising some of the sounds they have learnt over the past few weeks, including 'g,o,e,r,u'. They have taken part in some reading activities this week, where they have had the opportunity to get used to 'guided reading'. This is a valuable activity where children read in a group with an adult and discuss the text. They concentrated on sounding out and blending the words. The children have also been using the 'read and roll' games and hunting for sounds with the magnetic letters. In Maths the children have worked hard on recognising and ordering numbers 11-20. They have enjoyed working out the missing digits in a line of numbers, using the washing line to order numbers and counting with our 'counting bags' (filled with interesting objects!). The children have also taken part in Plan Learn Review, where they have been drawing and writing, some have used iPads, others have used the outdoor area and lots of the children have been practicing our Christmas songs during this time! The rehearsals for our Christmas production are going well and the children are excited about performing next week!

Willow News

This week the children have been learning to read and write the numbers 1 to 20 and have been problem solving using numbers up to 20. We have also been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. In Topic work the children have been talking and writing about things they like doing in Tunbridge Wells. In English we have been recapping how to write a good sentence. In ICT the children have been practicing logging in on the laptops and developing their number and mouse control skills. In PE the children have been practising their ball control and throwing and catching skills. We have also been practising songs and actions for our Christmas production ready for our performances next week.

Beech News

In English we used our letter writing skills to create a letter to Father Christmas. We used and applied the writing techniques that we learned when writing to Samuel Pepys in a new context. We focussed on using topic sentences, information sentences and question sentences to create paragraphs for our letter. In Maths, we turned our attention to multiplication. We started by using words and pictures to represent equal groups. Next, we explored how addition and multiplication symbols could be used to record our findings. Finally, we used our 2, 5 and 10 counting skills to solve multiplication problems. We have also been working very hard to learn our lines and prepare ourselves for the KS1 Nativity. Thank you to everyone who brought in a costume this week. We look forward to seeing as many parents and family members as possible for our performances on Wednesday and Thursday at 2pm.

Beech Class learnt and performed a poem called 'Freeze', adding in their own actions in pairs. We looked at how the poet used shape to form the words on the page, giving added visual impact. Following on from our performances we started to make up our own lines to add to the poem. In RE we made a Christmas card including our thoughts on 'why Christmas matters to Christians.'

Maple News

In Maple Class, we have been getting in the Christmas mood by looking at Christmas adverts. On Monday we watched 'The Bear and the Hare'. The children had to retell the story using exactly 75 words which is quite tricky! Some found it difficult not to add too much detail while others found it hard to add enough! It was good fun though. On Tuesday we watched 'Mrs Claus'. We discussed who we would ask Mrs Claus to deliver a present for and why. The children then drafted their own letters to Mrs Claus, asking for a present for someone special.

In English we have also been continuing our work on learning the correct spellings for various homophones. In our Maths work, we have been working on division and finding remainders.

The children made some lovely stained glass window decorations this week, using tissue paper and lots of PVA glue! They look very effective.

Chestnut News

Following on from our writing assessments, we have been working on key features to improve the flow of our writing. We have looked at pronouns so that we do not repeat names. We have also identified other aspects of our writing that we need to work on, such as staying in a particular tense and organising all our skills to set a scene. The children are showing great progress in their writing by being able to separate their themes into paragraphs.

We continue to work on subtracting 4 digit numbers using borrowing. We are working on combining our skills with 2 step problems. Some of the children created some really interesting problems as part of their homework.

We are turning our attention to things festive with work on our Christmas concert at the church. Mr Stevens has helped us rehearse our own contribution in the music lesson he takes with us each week. We even performed with recorders and violins in assembly this week. We have begun creating Christmas cards and decorations - we are using our skill with colour and pattern to produce hand-made items. We hope you like what we create!

Thank you for all the contributions to our class hamper; your generosity is hugely appreciated.

Lilac News

In Lilac Class this week, we have been perfecting our carol singing, not only for our school performance but also for our visit to the Tunbridge Wells Care Centre on 15th December. Our RE work has been closely linked to Christmas and we have also thought about what a Messiah would think of our world today. As a class, we brainstormed ideas about what a Messiah would be pleased to see and what they also thought would need to change in the world today. In Maths, we improved our knowledge of multiples of numbers and moved on to think about common factors of groups of numbers using our knowledge of tables and division. In English, using our extended persuasive writing that we finished before Assessment Week, we started to design our leaflets to promote why people should visit Belize. We looked at a leaflet advertising The Science Museum at Herstonceux that we visited last month, to give us some idea of how to lay out our information in a leaflet and what sort of content a leaflet should contain. In our Topic work, we considered the different theories about why the Mayan Civilisation suddenly came to an end. We put in order a selection of theories into the most and least likely scenarios and also imagined that we interviewed a Mayan farmer about what happened during this time. In Science, we continued with our work about weight and mass and how these can be measured. In PE we have still been developing our long jump and triple jump technique and have attempted to beat our personal best.

Oak News

A busy week with the Class working hard on the topic of Fractions and exploring their different properties. We have completed our writing assessment and have enjoyed planning and writing a narrative. In Science we have continued to look at the properties of light. We have begun to sing songs for our Celebration on 15th December.

End of Term Arrangements

KS1 Nativity - Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December @ 2pm

The children have been working hard and are looking forward in performing 'Countdown to Christmas' to you all. The performance will be in the School hall and you are welcome to come and join us.

KS2 Christmas Celebration - Friday 15th December @ 6pm

Come and join all the children in KS2 at St Barnabas Church to celebrate Christmas, singing carols and hearing readings about the Christmas story. Each class will be leading the singing and all the children will be expected to attend.

Christmas Parties - Monday 18th December

The children will be having their Christmas parties on this day. More information will come from their class teachers.

Christmas lunch - Tuesday 19th December

Tuesday is Christmas Lunch day. The children will be able to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch. Please see the ParentMail regarding this and return your slip by Monday 11th December so that we can make sure there is enough food.

Wednesday 20th December is our last day and we will be having a **School Christmas Mass** at 9:30am at St Barnabas Church - you are very welcome to join us. We finish school at 3pm.

Lost Property- we have a large collection of coats, jumpers and PE kits. Do come and look in the lost property bin to see if anything is yours.



Something to think
about

Is the moon in the sky?

Online applications for a Reception Place in September 2018 are open with Kent County Council until 15th January. If you are applying for a sibling place you still need to apply online through KCC.

www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions.

If you need assistance with completing the online form please do get in touch with the School Office who will be only too happy to assist.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the School Disco last week. The children had a fabulous time and I know some of the adults did too!
See you at the bingo...

With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW