

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 20th April 2018

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



Our **School Christian Values** are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. We explored the topic of expectations and the importance of challenging ourselves

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

PTFA Quiz May 4th

Girl's Football Tournament
Friday 27th April

Year 6 Test Week
Monday 14th May– Friday 18th
May

Half term
Monday 28th May– Friday 1st
June

INSET day– no children
Monday 4th June

Monday 11th June
School Photographs

Week beginning 11th June
Year 1 Phonic Assessment

Sports day
Thursday 21st June tbc
Am KS2
PM KS1

Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. Lots of children had chickenpox at the end of last term which is why we had a more absences than usual in the last week of term.

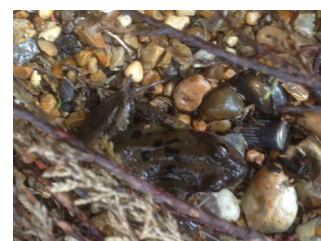
Our School

Welcome back to a new term and welcome to all our new families.

The weather this week has been wonderful and has been a welcome change from all the rain we had during the Easter break.

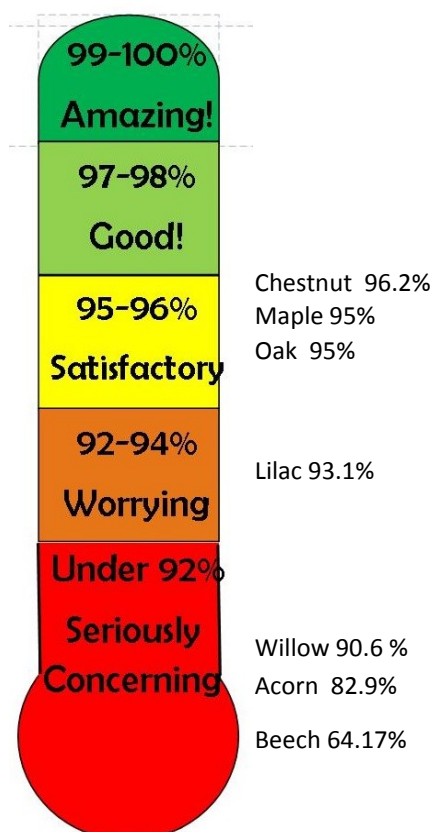
Please can we ask that all children have a hat, water bottle and have sunscreen applied everyday.

Mrs Watkins who looks after our garden areas for us sent across a photograph of some new members of our community of a family of toads! Spring is certainly here!



Congratulations to Mrs Tompsett who ran in the Brighton Marathon last weekend. She completed the race in a personal best time.

A busy first week back!





Class News



Acorn News

Acorn Class have had a brilliant week. They have started their new topic 'The Animal Kingdom'. They have been researching different types of bears, from around the world and have discovered some very interesting facts. The children have enjoyed reading 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', next week the children will be writing the next part of the story. The children have been learning phase 3 and phase 4 'tricky words', concentrating on using these confidently in sentences, as well as revising all of their sounds. In Maths they have been identifying odd and even numbers. The class started by thinking about these numbers as 'happy and sad' and quickly progressed to using the 'odd' and 'even' terminology. During Plan, Learn, Review the children have been using the outdoor area to explore capacity, using the bikes and scooters, they have been using the iPads, designing menus, making models and investigating using the Numicon. They have worked hard and enjoyed the sunshine this week!

Willow News

This week Willow Class have been enjoying learning outside. We drew plants and signs of Spring in the school garden and playground during our Art lesson. We also did some outside learning on Wednesday afternoon including sand tray and water activities examining capacity.

In Maths, we have been learning to count groups of 10 and counted in 10s up to 200. In English the children have been writing explorer stories and also wrote about what they would pack in their bag if they were going on a journey.

Our topic this term is 'How to be an Explorer' and we have spent time this week talking about where we have visited and what explorers do. On Thursday the children took part in a drama workshop about exploring Africa and had lots of fun.

Beech News

In English, we focused on creating pieces of recount writing. First, we examined the pieces of modelled writing that Mr Mackinnon had been posting on the blog over the Easter holidays. Next, we identified the different skills that we were going to use and picked a different colour to highlight examples of each skill in the text. Then, we started writing our own piece of recount writing. We tried hard to use all the different skills that Mr Mackinnon used in his writing. In Maths, we reviewed all the different skills that we have learned so far this year and practised answering questions which required us to use and apply these skills. In Science, we used an interactive game to identify the main factors which affect how well a plant grows. We then used this understanding to plan a scientific investigation.

In R.E. we are starting a new topic, learning about Judaism. Beech class learnt about the importance of the day of rest to Jewish people and how they read the Torah. We made our own Torah scroll to tell the Creation story.

Art this Term takes us to Vietnam, where we are looking at the art of different cultures. This week we used watercolours to create traditional pieces of Vietnamese Art.

Also this week Beech Class took part in a fantastic Explorer Drama session run by a professional company. Ask Beech Class to act out the bushbaby or fruit bat!

Maple News

This week we started our new topic 'Survival of the fittest'. It is a Geography and Science based topic and we started our week by finding out about volcanoes. We talked about some of the things that we think that we know already and then we thought about what we needed to find out. We looked at the cross-section of a volcano and then we drew and labelled our own diagrams.

In our English work, we started to make notes on how volcanoes are formed. We have also been adding suffixes to root words to create new words. In Maths, we have started to look at equivalent fractions. We used strips of paper to discover which fractions were equivalent to each other.

Year Three have started to look at the concept of 'Time' and have been challenged to learn the 'Months of the Year' rhyme. We are exploring the use of calendars and adding interesting events. In Art we have started to build on the skills needed to create a Still Life painting and will be comparing artists over the next few weeks.

Chestnut News

In English we have begun reading an adaptation of the Anglo Saxon epic poem, Beowulf. We read the first two chapters to establish the setting and used power of 3 sentences to describe the great hall of Heorot and the wild Danish landscape. We established that a hero was needed to fight the monster Grendel and turned adjectives into superlatives to list the qualities this character would need. Finally, we turned our attention to the monster. We imagined our own, drew them and then thought of powerful verbs to describe how the monster would move.

In Maths we have continued our work on fractions. We have been adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator, subtracting fractions from whole numbers and found fractions of amounts. We have begun a unit on Hinduism in RE. We will be building on the learning we did in Year 3. So far we have created a brainstorm of all the things we can remember, and have learned about the Hindu creation story. The children broke it down into 6 sections and created storyboards. Our topic is 'Weird and Wonderful' and we will be mainly focusing on Anglo Saxons and Vikings. Our English work will be linked to the topic, especially focusing on myths and legends from this time.

Please remember that PE kits need to be in school all week. This allows flexibility to participate in outdoor activities at any time.

Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers. We have also been solving problems about fraction calculations. In English, we have been drafting poems about the sea. Not only have we used the conventions of poetry writing such as alliteration, metaphors and similes but also personification. We looked at a sea poem using examples of personification as a starting point. We then wrote down descriptions of the sea whilst examining sea photos and a video from Portland Bill in Dorset. In Science, we have learnt about the different characteristics that group animals as either mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish and birds. We also considered how animals adapt to their environment.

In Topic, we have been involved in map work. We carefully labelled the oceans and seas onto a world map with the use of an atlas for reference.

In RE, we started to find out about Islam. We learnt what the Five Pillars of Islam were and also thought about the pillars that we have in our life that 'hold us up'. Khadija and Esma also told us about their lives as Muslims and we learnt so much from them. In Art, we have been looking at different mosaic designs that can be found in a mosque and have designed our own. In PE, we have been concentrating on developing our relay skills and have practised our running technique.

Oak News

In Maths, Oak Class have been looking at interpreting all kinds of charts and drawing their own pie charts. Science has been lots of fun looking at the components and function of blood and making our own 'blood'.





Note from Dave:

A reminder that there are coffee mornings for parents each Monday at 8.45 am onward in the Staff Room these are an opportunity to socialise with other parents and to get updates on what the PTFA have got coming up.



Something to think about

Mo and his four friends eat a meal. They each pay for part of the meal. Mo pays £5.20. Each of his friends pay £3.80.

How much did the meal cost in total?

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the warm weather!

With best wishes

Moirá Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW