

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 4th May

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



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. We found out about ST George and how to be courageous

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

7th May

Bank Holiday Monday
No School

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.

Overall attendance last week: 94.4%

Do remember we start school every day at 8:45.

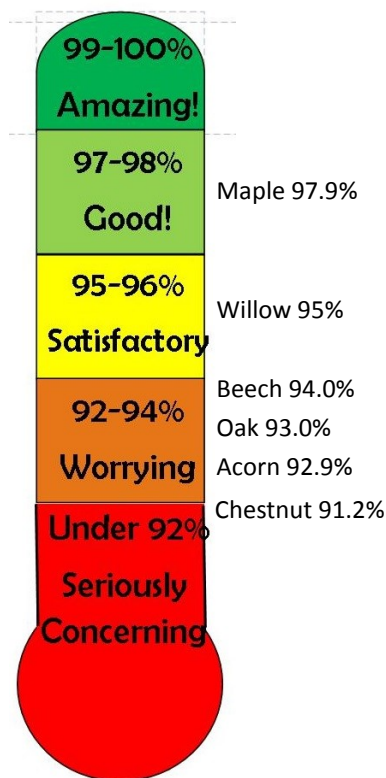
Our School

Last Friday some of our Year 3 and 4 girls attended a football tournament and played with passion and with great teamwork. Well done to Daniella, Elsie, Demi, Grace, Mary, Lilyanna, Isabella, Evie and Melanie.

I have had the pleasure of going with Year 3 to their swimming lessons for the past two weeks. The children are really trying hard to improve their skills and it has been great to see how our non-swimmers are trying so hard to swim. Their behaviour in the changing rooms has also been very sensible and we are trying hard not to lose any socks!

On Wednesday we had three teachers from local schools visit to have a look at how we teach Maths. They spent the morning visiting classrooms and highlighted what fabulous children we have and how hardworking our staff are – go team St Barnabas!

I hope you all enjoy the long weekend and I hope that the glorious weather we are promised comes!





Class News



Acorn News

This week Acorn Class have been learning more about bears. We have been planning our teddy bears picnic and serving our customers in the teddy bear café. We have been putting our bear knowledge to use making information books. In Plan Learn Review we have used the junk modelling to create a home for mummy and baby bear (we always need donations of junk modelling if you have any!)

In Phonics we have been revising our digraphs and tricky words and working hard on segmenting and blending for both reading and writing. We are becoming rather good at it now!

In Maths we have tackled the tricky concept of doubling and halving numbers to 10. We've used the numicon to help us.

We are all looking forward to some better weather so we can use the outside classroom. Please remember to send in sun hats and put sun cream on your child every morning once the sun makes its appearance.

Maple News

In Maple Class this week, we have been continuing our work on equivalent fractions. We have also been working on our times tables, focusing on our quick recall skills. In English, we have been improving our note taking skills. The children have been reading information texts about some of the volcanoes that can be found around the world. They recorded the important parts in note form and then they had to write a paragraph using their notes.

In our Science work, we continued to look at the importance of a balanced diet. We discussed the main food groups and the children then completed a food pyramid.

In Year 3 we are continuing to build on Time, focusing on the language of 'past' and 'to', as well as introducing Roman numerals on a clock face. In RE, we are looking at Pentecost and the idea of the Kingdom of God. The children have created beautiful Pentecost plates and have been thinking about questions for Father John! Our Albert Bierstadt inspired mountain paintings are looking incredible too.

Willow News

This week in Maths, Willow Class have been learning about sharing objects into equal groups and halving even numbers. The children have been practising using their reasoning skills to solve and explain a range of Maths problems. In English, we have read 'This is The Bear' by Sarah Hayes and the children wrote a character description of the bear using exciting adjectives. The children have also been writing explanations of how to be a good explorer using the conjunction 'because' in their sentences. In Topic work, the children have been learning the names of the seas of the world and starting to learn about Christopher Columbus. In RE this week, the children acted out the story of David and Goliath and then wrote some of the story. In PE this term the children are developing their athletics skills and have been practising sprinting and running in relays.

Chestnut News

In English we have completed story maps for our own hero myths. They are based on the structure of Beowulf, with children creating their own characters and settings. We have begun by writing paragraphs on settings. The stories contain contrasting settings just as the story of Beowulf contrasts the glittering hall of Heorot with the wild Danish moors, populated with monsters! We have gone on to introduce the monster and describe the havoc it wreaks on the peace and calm.

We have continued our work on decimals in Maths, practicing writing and describing decimal numbers and also comparing them using the < and > symbols.

In our Topic sessions we have completed art work link to the Bayeux tapestry and have begun to design brooches based on typical Anglo Saxon designs.

As part of our Habitats topic in Science we have learned about the characteristics of living beings. We used the mnemonic MRS NERG to help us with this. The children then choose one of the life processes and created a poster

Beech News

In English, we completed our pieces of writing that recounted our trip to the park. We then started thinking about a new genre of writing. As part of our 'Home and Abroad' topic, we are going to learn about people from a far-away place. Therefore, we started planning a letter to our Vietnamese pen-pals. We watched a video of them on the British Vietnamese International School website and learned a little bit about them. Next, we created a plan which included information about ourselves and questions we wanted to ask our pen-pals. Finally, we analysed a modelled piece of writing and identified the writing skills we would need to use to create a successful letter. In Maths, we focussed on developing our addition and subtraction skills. We identified a range of different skills that we could use to help us add and subtract with accuracy. We then practised using them in a range of different contexts. Lots of new addition and subtraction activities have been put on MyMaths and some extra challenges have also been posted on the Class Blog.

This week we celebrated the Jewish festival of Shabbat. It began with us lighting our candles and reading from the Siddur to bless everyone. Then we shared out the 2 loaves of Challah Bread that we had made as a class during the day. Instead of drinking wine from the Kiddish cup we shared red grapes around the table. Next we made time to talk to each other and enjoy the rest and family time that Shabbat brings. Finally we lit the Havdalah, a three stranded candle. In Art this week we made a Vietnamese Collage using a variety of materials based on traditional or contemporary artistic designs.

Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been learning how to partition decimals and have developed our knowledge of place value. We have also been exploring the relationship between fractions and decimals. In English, we have continued with our drafts about being Frederick Fleet up in the crow's nest who was one of the survivors of the Titanic disaster. We focused on character and setting and the features of writing a recount. In Science, we have been thinking about the similarities between the life cycles of some insects and amphibians. In Topic, we continued with our work about the journey of the River Severn and particularly looked at the Severn Bore and the estuary. We also learnt about the water cycle and what key words meant, such as precipitation and transpiration. In RE, for our topic about Islam, we examined how Muslims pray and looked at some of the different words there are in the Qur'an for Allah. We also discussed some of the similarities between the words for God that we have come across when looking closely at the Bible earlier this year. In Art this week, we finished our close observation drawings of shells using a range of pastels. Our task was to colour mix as accurately as we could and look carefully at the different ranges of colours and patterns we could spot. In PE, we were involved in a mini class football tournament as well as practising our relay skills.

Oak News

This week we have been continuing our revision for our SATs in two weeks time. In Art we investigated London landmarks and drew our own versions.





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!

71 candy bars are shared equally among nine children.
How many whole candy bars do they get each, and how many candy bars are left over?

Have a wonderful long weekend.

With best wishes

Moira Duncombe

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