

# St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 7th December

"Living & Learning together" [www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. This week we have been preparing for our Christmas Celebrations

## 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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## Key dates

### Christmas dates

11th December: KS1 Nativity @ 2pm, School Hall

12th December: KS1 Nativity @ 2pm, School Hall

13th December: KS2 Christmas Celebration @ 6pm, St Barnabas Church

14th December: Pantomime

17th December: Christmas Parties

18th December: Christmas Lunch and Jumpers

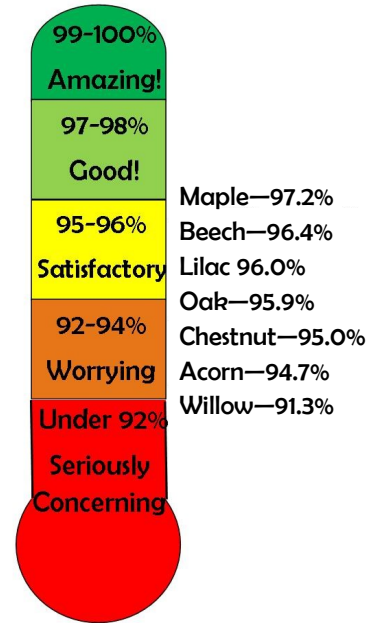
19th December: Last day 9:30am Christmas Mass at St Barnabas Church

## Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve.

**Overall attendance last week: 95.2%**

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



## This Week

The whole school has been awash with singing as the children prepare for their performances. They are very much looking forward in showing you next week.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped at our School Disco. Over £400 was raised for school funds. Our next event is the School Hampers raffle.

Please note that all clubs have now finished and information about next term's clubs will be sent to you at the beginning of January.

**CHRISTMAS CLASS HAMPER competition! + RAFFLE**  
**Friday 14th December**

We are running a class hamper competition again this year! Each class is asked to assemble a hamper of gifts that are a particular colour. Please see below for your class's colour - to form the prizes for our Xmas raffle. Mrs Duncombe will choose the class that she feels has assembled the most exciting and well-presented hamper, and the prize is pizza for the whole class!

Please bring your items to your class by Monday 10th December.

**COLOURS ARE:**

- ACORN - RED
- WILLOW - PURPLE/PINK
- BEECH - GOLD
- MAPLE - SILVER
- CHESTNUT - WHITE
- LILAC - GREEN
- OAK - BLUE

**RAFFLE PRIZES include:**

- 1 Gizza hamper full of Italian treats
- 2 Personal guided tour of The City of London (Max 6 people)
- 3 Free 1 hour lesson, Woodwind, Clarinet, Sax, Piano
- 4 1 Day Free February Soccer School, First Class Football
- 5 Photo vouchers
- 6 Wine
- 7 Childrens games
- 8 7 x Class Hampers of course!!

**Please bring your items to class by Monday 10th December**



## Class News



### Acorn News

Christmas has started in Acorn Class! We have decorated our class Christmas tree and put other decorations up around the classroom! We have written our letters to Santa and walked to the post box to post them. Miss Traviss was very pleased that EVERYONE had a go at writing! There has been lots of singing and Nativity practices ready for next week! In phonics we have learnt the digraph 'ff' and the tricky word 'no'. We also showed off our phonic knowledge by doing some independent activities and games which we all enjoyed. In Maths, we have been learning about 1 more and 1 less than a given number, initially with numbers to 5 and then to 10. We have enjoyed making lots of models with the junk modelling materials. Well done our star of the week Rowan for persevering with his writing!

### Willow News

We have been busy this week practising for our Nativity play. The children tried on their costumes on Thursday and they looked amazing! We are looking forward to the performances next week. In Maths, the children have been learning about how many tens and ones are in different 2 digit numbers and have been finding one more and one less than numbers up to 20. In English, the children have been learning about irregular past tense verbs and planning their own Christmas story. Mr Luckhurst has been impressed by Willow Class in PE this week and has praised their listening skills and teamwork. The children have continued writing about the Nativity story and talking about why Jesus' birth is important to Christians.

### Beech News

In English, we continued to develop our Samuel Pepys Frost Fair diary entries. We selected objects from the frost fair that Samuel Pepys might see and explored how we could use prepositional openers and adjectives to describe them in more detail. Next, we explored how simultaneous action sentences could be used to show the audience how Samuel Pepys was feeling. Finally, we verbally rehearsed our plans and started turning them into a final draft. In Maths, we revisited all the mathematical skills that we have been working on so far this term. We practised each skill separately and then completed a short activity in which we could show off all of these skills at once. If you are interested in looking at the types of problems we solved, we have attached a document to the Class Blog for you to look at and work on at home. Nativity rehearsals are going very well and almost all children can now recite their lines without a script. Thank you very much for all your parental support and we look forward to seeing lots of you at the performances next week.

In RE we learnt about how Christians celebrate the Nativity story at church and at home. We looked at different crib scenes and listened to a variety of Christmas Carols. I think Away in a Manger is one of our favourites! In Music we continued practicing our Nativity songs and script. We also squeezed in some art to help decorate our Golden Hamper for the raffle. If you have any more golden gifts to fill our hamper they would be much appreciated. Thank you.

### Maple News

This week Maple class have been working hard with their reading and getting excited about advent and the run up to Christmas. As well as practising our reading comprehensions, we have been using our five senses to describe. Our sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch give us different information about the world and by thinking about them we can make our writing more interesting.

In Maths we have been continuing to learn how to use the 3, 4 and 8 times tables to multiply and divide and use the knowledge we have to solve a variety of problems and play games that need mathematical understanding.

We have thought about how to survive a natural disaster such as an earthquake and how, if we lived in an earthquake prone area like California in America, we would need a survival kit. What would you take? Maple class thought hard about the important things to take like water, a radio and batteries, tinned and packet food or even a teddy bear to cuddle. On the other hand we decided that we wouldn't be helped by taking a TV, games console, too much fresh food (it might go off) or bulky items.





## Class News



### Chestnut News

This week we have planned and written a gladiator diary entry for our final piece of independent writing of the term. We researched different types of gladiator, including new, experienced, conscripted and free. Our other research included finding out about daily routines, exercise, food and hygiene. We learned about the features that a diary entry should have: first person, past tense, thoughts and feelings, an introductory statement and time connectives. We then peer-reviewed our work to check that our writing contained those features.

We have continued working on subtracting 2 4-digit numbers with more than one exchange and have been working on a set of rules to follow.

We have begun rehearsing for the Christmas Carol Concert which will take place at the church on Thursday at 6pm. We are singing a lovely range of carols, including *Away in a Manger*, with Year 3. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our class hamper is a little bit bare at the moment! The children are working on decorating it, but it would be fantastic if we could have some more donations to fill it. Just a reminder that the Chestnut class theme is WHITE.

### Lilac News

This week in Lilac Class, we have been busy finishing off our work in preparation for the end of term. We have also been practising our Christmas Carols. In Maths, we have come to the end of our statistics topic. We have been using our reasoning skills to interpret information presented in a table. We have also been looking at train and bus timetables and converting the twenty four hour clock into analogue time. In English, we have been learning about how to write a formal letter and how to set it out correctly. We started to draft a letter to the President of Belize (The Honourable Dean Oliver Barrow) explaining to him that animals such as the Mesoamerican River Turtle, the Bromeliad Tree Frog, the Brown Pelican and the Ocellated Turkey are now an endangered species and face extinction. We asked the President to cut back on deforestation and the use of pesticides, such as DDT. We used very persuasive language to support our argument. In RE we continued with our examination of texts from the Bible and in our own words we explained what key phrases and words meant to us.

In Science, we continued with our work about mass, weight and gravity and conducted an experiment in groups. We initially considered whether we thought there would be a link between the mass and weight of an object. We then measured the mass (in gs and kgs) and the weight in different objects. We found out that an object that had a greater mass would then have a greater weight. We then had to explain why we got this result. In Topic, we imagined that we were interviewing a Mayan farmer and asked him questions about the decline of the Mayan Civilisation. In Art and DT, we finished making our tiles out of clay and started to paint them. In PE, we have been involved in team game activities and improving our defending skills.

### Oak News

In English, we have written an assessment piece on the theme of WW1. After watching some original footage of soldiers and life in the trenches, we set about planning our story. We considered factors such as what time of year it was, how old we were and what situation we were in to try and add realism to our work. In addition, we were set the target of including a relative clause and preposition phrase, to make our writing more interesting. Although the stories were all on the same topic, we approached it in very different ways and have produced some great stories and diary entries.

In Maths we have been working on the reflection and rotation of shapes across a full quadrant grid. We have reflected shapes in the x and y grids, and some of us have managed to reflect diagonally too!

In French, we have been learning how to order food in a cafe or restaurant. We had great fun with some role playing and hope to use this in our very own 'French cafe' next week.

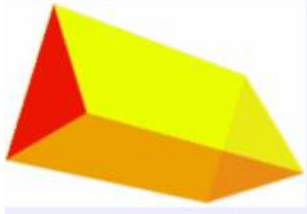
Finally, in Science, we have been investigating shadows. We looked at the shadows cast by clear, translucent and opaque objects and thought about how the position of the light source affects the shadow cast.



## Something to think about



What is the name of this solid?



A A triangular pyramid

B A triangular prism

C A rectangular prism

D A cuboid

Have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

*Moira Duncombe*

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