

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 11th January

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



Our **School Christian Values** are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. This week we have found out about Epiphany

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

Monday 21st January
Yr 5 Class Mass

Wednesday 23rd January
Yr 6 Mass

Monday 28th January
O2 Performance

Tuesday 29th January
Yr 4 Mass

Wednesday 30th January
Yr 3pupil

Tuesday 5th February
Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 6th February
Yr 1 Mass

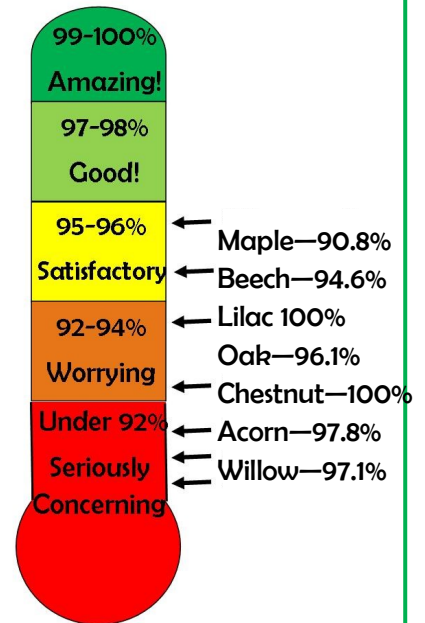
Tuesday 12th February
TW Music Festival

Attendance

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 97% to achieve. In the last week of term our attendance was 96.6%

Overall attendance last week:

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



This Week

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and welcome to our new families—we hope you feel part of our family already.



The children have come back full of bounce and have been discussing their new topics and their targets or wishes for the new year.

On Wednesday Fr. John came and gave the school an Epiphany blessing. Do look outside our front door to see the blessing in full.

I have added a few dates to our newsletter of our Class Mass dates. You are very welcome to join your child's class.

I think we have a very busy and exciting term ahead!



Class News



Acorn News

We have had a great first week back, the children have been very calm and grown up on their return! This week in Phonics we have been recapping Phase 2 sounds ready to start Phase 3 next week. In Maths we have been learning about addition and how when we put two numbers together it makes a bigger number. In Write Dance we have been learning a new dance called 'The Growing Tree' and are ready to draw this on paper next week. During our own learning time, we have enjoyed building dens with bits of material, we've enjoyed writing and mark making in shaving foam and coloured rice. The children have been trying really hard to keep the classroom tidy and put resources back where they belong. The staff in Acorn have noticed a big improvement with the children's reading and writing, a lot more children are 'having a go' and this is great to see! Well done to our 'Star of the Week' Teddie for being ready to learn and demonstrating great listening skills this week!

Willow News

This week in Willow Class the children have been busy talking about our new topic 'I need a hero'. We have discussed what a hero is and what characteristics a hero has. The children wrote about and drew a picture of their hero. These included mums and dads, nurses, firefighters, vets and doctors. This term we will be discussing everyday heroes such as people who help us, historical figures, such as Florence Nightingale and Neil Armstrong, and talking about superheroes. In English this week, the children have been practising writing and using capital letters in their sentences. They have written sentences including names of people and places. In Phonics, the class have been blending and segmenting words continuing digraphs and trigraphs and having been practising reading new tricky words. In Maths the children have been adding by counting on and have used 10 frames, counters and number lines to supporting their calculations. We have also been finding number bonds for 10 and 20 and talking about how we can use them when finding the next ten.

In Science work, we have talked about the seasonal changes that happen in Winter. On Thursday, the children wrote information about Winter and made a Winter picture using paper and other materials. In RE we started talking about how Christians believe Jesus' teachings give messages about how people should live their lives. The children listened to the story of the tax collector and the Pharisee and thought about why asking for forgiveness is important. In PE we played and refereed a football tournament (Monday) and played hockey (Thursday).

Beech News

In English, we started the term by focusing on instruction writing. We were inspired by our latest class book, The Twits. It was decided that the title of our first piece of writing would be 'How to Make Mr Mackinnon Angry'. Therefore, all week, Beech Class have been thinking up monstrous ways of making their teacher angry and writing them down using instruction sentences. At the start of the week, we focussed on starting each sentence with a bossy (imperative) verb. Later in the week, we focused on using a range of connecting tools to add extra detail to our instructions. In Maths, we are starting to learn about Multiplication and Division. This week, we explored the concept of 'Equal Groups'. We used practical resources to make equal groups and then recorded them using words and mathematical symbols. Finally, we looked at arrays and explored how we could use and apply these recording strategies to record them as well. If you want to practise some of these skills at home, we have added a post to the Class Blog designed to help. In Science, we revisited the learning that we completed on materials earlier in the year. We started thinking about how materials can change. We considered the material changes that we learned about during our 'Fire and Ice' topic and then introduced a new piece of scientific vocabulary- dissolving. If you want to get a head start on this learning, please visit the Class Blog. We have added a post that will help you.

In Science work, we have talked about the seasonal changes that happen in Winter. On Thursday, the children wrote information about Winter and made a Winter picture using paper and other materials. In RE we started talking about how Christians believe Jesus' teachings give messages about how people should live their lives. The children listened to the story of the tax collector and the Pharisee and thought about why asking for forgiveness is important. In PE we played and refereed a football tournament (Monday) and played hockey (Thursday). This week we started planning design technology ideas for our castle mechanisms, including a portcullis, trebuchet, drawbridge, catapult, pulley and tunnel. We discussed how we might make them and the resources we would need. In R.E. this term we are learning about the Gospel. This week we looked at 'Good News' and what that means to us.

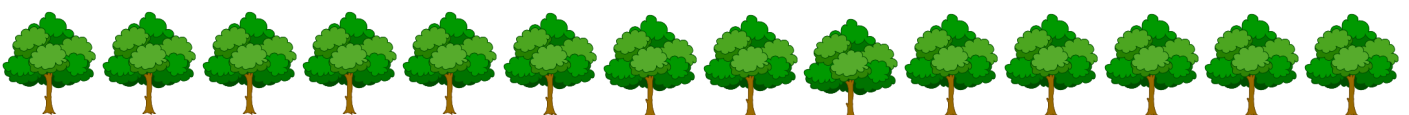
Maple News

Maple Class have started the new year already excited about discovering ancient Egypt. We have read "The Egyptian Cinderella" by Shirly Climo and Ruth Heller. The story is half fact and half fable and about Rhodopis, a Greek slave girl who became Queen of Egypt. Like the Cinderella story we know she lost a slipper that fitted only her dainty feet, and the Pharaoh searched the land looking for the girl whose foot it was. We have been comparing the two versions looking for similarities such as the slipper, and differences — ugly sisters are replaced with Egyptian serving girls, the fairy Godmother with a falcon (the symbol of the God Horus). We are beginning to use comparative conjunctions to stretch our sentences and provide contrast.

We can locate Egypt on a map of the world and place the ancient Egyptian Civilisation on a timeline. We are beginning to learn the names of the most important Egyptian Gods and Goddesses and what they were patrons of, why you might have a feast in ancient Egypt and what you might eat if you were invited to one.

In Science we have begun to explore light. Why it is so important to us and how hard it is to describe things if we don't have it.

In Maths we are carrying on working on multiplication and division, how we can compare statements and how knowing one multiplication fact can help us answer questions about a whole family of problems.





Class News



Chestnut News

We have had a really positive and busy first week back in school. It was lovely to see all the children after the Christmas break.

In Maths, we are finishing off our unit on addition and subtraction. We have refreshed our memories on subtracting 2 lots of 4-digit numbers with up to 3 exchanges. We have also looked at making sensible estimates as a quick way of checking calculations. This has meant reminding ourselves of the rules of rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 or 1,000. Finally, we learned about using the inverse calculation as a checking strategy and have completed some challenging puzzles to test ourselves.

In English, we have done some revision of verb tenses. We have turned present tense into past tense and vice versa. We also begun our whole class reading of *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes. We made predictions about the subject of the book from the front and back covers before opening the book. We have read chapter one, picked out some new vocabulary and tried to guess its meaning from the context. We have put these words onto our vocabulary wall. We have discussed the varying sentence length that Ted Hughes uses and thought about the effect this has.

We have begun our topic 'My Planet Rocks' by looking at the globe and learning information about continents. Over the term we will be learning about hemispheres, lines of longitude and latitude and map references. If anyone has old maps that they no longer need, we could definitely find a use for them.

Lilac News

Happy New Year! In the letter that Dr Charles sent out you will have information about the topics that we will be covering this term. There is also information on our school website. In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been identifying multiples of whole numbers and finding different pairs of factors that when multiplied, make a whole number. Our knowledge of tables has proved to be very important! In English, we have started to read Berlie Doherty's 'Street Child'. In pairs, we have been brainstorming ideas about the thoughts and feelings of the main character in the story, using a thesaurus to develop our vocabulary. We have also been doing some whole class guided reading using this text and working through some comprehension activities. In RE, we have started our unit entitled 'God's People' and have looked carefully at some passages from Exodus in the Old Testament describing why the Egyptians treated the Israelites so badly.

In Science, we have grouped materials according to their properties and have explored categories such as transparent, soluble, insoluble, reversible and irreversible change, inflammable and waterproof. In Topic, we looked at the start of Queen Victoria's life and found out that she was a lonely child who could speak several languages and was a very good artist. She also wrote in a journal every day of her life and you can read it today. In PE, we have been focusing on our team building skills.

Dr Charles is so impressed with the amount of children that are reading at least three times a week to an adult and bringing in their reading record books regularly signed. Thank you so much!

Oak News

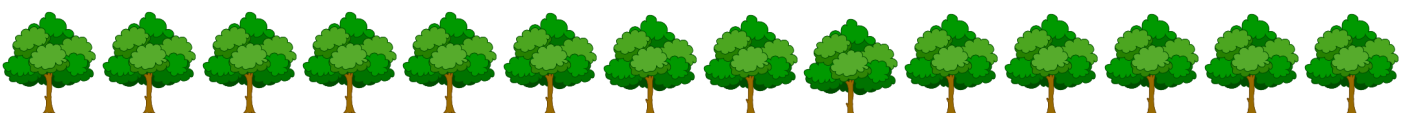
The first week back has been a busy one in Oak Class.

In Maths, we have begun our new topic of decimals. We started the week revising methods of multiplying and dividing fractions by 10, 100 and 1000, and have moved on to multiplying and dividing by integers - making decisions about whether to use written methods or solve them mentally.

In English, we have been researching the growing problem of plastic pollution and thinking about how we can make a difference. We realised that two main issues affect Tunbridge Wells as a community and negatively impact the environment: the lack of recycling bins in town and the fact that there is no free recycled plastic collection for schools. We decided the best way to tackle these issues was to write to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in the hope that they will consider the problem. We have each written a persuasive letter that will be collectively sent next week. Hopefully we will get a reply!

In French, we are learning adjectives, starting with colours. Next week, we will be looking at how these words change according to whether the noun they are describing is masculine or feminine.

Our new topic in Science is electricity. This week, we have been refreshing our knowledge of circuits. We will continue to build on this as the term progresses.



Something to think about



Write $(4 \times 1000) + (7 \times 100) + (3 \times 10) + (0 \times 1)$ as a four digit number.

A 4073

B 4703

C 4370

D 4730

Primary Admissions 2019

Applications for primary school for children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 opened on Monday 5th November 2018 and closes at midnight on **Tuesday 15th January 2019**.

Please apply online via www.kent.gov.uk/ola. For further information, please view the KCC Admissions booklet from the www.kent.gov.uk/schooladmissions website.

Winter Lanterns Parade

The parade will be on Saturday 9th February starting at 5.30pm at The Royal Victoria Place and finishing for the first time at the Grosvenor and Hilbert Recreation Ground – Auckland Road entrance. CREATE are running a number of winter lantern making workshops including one in the school hall. For more information and to book please go to www.winterlanterns.org



Starships

A club for children with additional needs and their siblings aged 6-11 to play, have fun and make friends

Thursdays, fortnightly Term Time only

From 5:00-6:30pm

£4 donation per session

17th & 31st January, 14th & 28th February, 14th & 28th March 2019

Held at: St Philip's Church, Salisbury Road, Tonbridge, TN10 4PA

For more information, contact Vicky at clubs@space2beme.org.uk or call her on 01622 764566 or 07872 060456

Registered charity no. 1140764

Space2beme.org.uk

info@space2beme.org.uk

Tel 01622 764566



The school is taking part in the Bag2School textile recycling scheme.

Your filled bag(s) should be brought to school on **Wednesday 30th January**, and should be left by the wall by the bicycle park at the top of the playground. Please do not bring your bags in on any other day as we cannot store them for you!

Have a wonderful and hopefully warm weekend

With best wishes

Moirá Duncombe

@StBarnabasSchoolTW