

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

Newsletter Friday 22nd March 2019

"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 found out about Shrove Tuesday around the World.

## 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 1st April &  
Tuesday 2nd April**  
Parent Consultations

**Wednesday 3rd April**  
World Book Day  
dressing up

**Friday 5th April**  
End of term

**Tuesday 23rd April**  
Start of Term 5  
9:30am School Mass

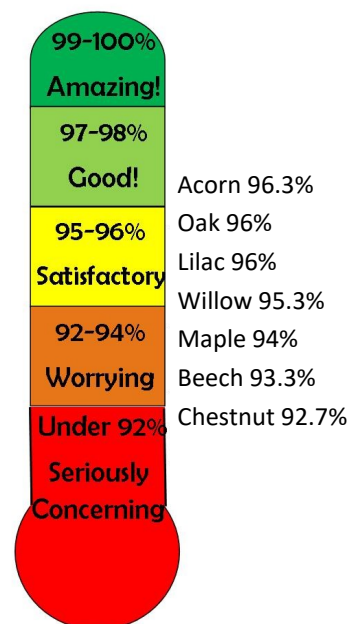
**Thursday 25th April**  
PTFA AGM  
7:30pm

## Attendance

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

**Overall attendance last week: 94.7%**

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



## This Week at School

Our PTFA AGM is being held on Thursday 25th April: please consider if you are able to be a part of the committee and come along to the meeting to hear and share ideas about fundraising for the school. Your support is greatly appreciated and you will have heard on the news how our budgets are getting tighter and tighter.

A huge thank you to everyone who bought a book or two at the book fair. Over £550 was spent and as a school this will enable us to be able to buy books from the commission. Thank you again!

I am also pleased to report that for Red Nose Day we raised a grand total of £240.29. Thank you all for your kind generosity and support for this worthy cause.

## Able Writers at St Barnabas

The school was visited by Ed Boxall on Wednesday for an able writers day workshop. Ed is an author, illustrator and poet who has just published a new collection of poems about friendship called 'Me and My Alien Friend'. Children from Chestnut and Maple class were joined by children from Years 3 and 4 from five other local schools. Ed made us think about building up vocabulary in order to give us a bank of ideas to pull our writing from. We thought about our senses and how they can give us words that spark different ideas. And we imagined the possibilities that a small object could give us, whether that was mundane or magical. And that saying any writing out-loud made it sound better as we thought about the sounds of the words as well as the meaning,

We learned about the importance of drafting and editing your work. And so these poems are, perhaps, not finished yet....

### **The Apex, Woodland Hider**

The apex is deadly  
But has no evil claws  
It doesn't run  
It slithers across woodland floors  
The apex can camouflage by slithering up a tree,  
It can do this more excellently than you or me!  
As soon as you walk past,  
Dinner time for him  
The Apex should give you the shivers,  
He is not blind,  
Beware...  
He could eat you next!

*Willow year4*

### **The Flying Falcon**

Sand soft  
Salt water smell  
Dark green  
Misty, musty, scaly skin  
The flying falcon  
Screechy sound  
Long as a door  
Heavy as a water melon  
Furry, burry falcon  
Grass smell  
The flying falcon

*Nikhil year3*



## Class News



### Acorn News

This week in Phonics we have learnt the digraphs oo (as in book) and ar (as in car) and or (as in fork). We have looked at the high frequency words get and got, and the tricky word, she. In Maths we have been learning about capacity. Capacity is how much something can hold— we used water, pasta and cubes to show whether the container was full, empty or half full. We also talked about which containers would hold the most and the least. In RE, we watched a video about Palm Sunday and talked about why Christians make a palm cross. Some of us then made our own palm leaves. We've seen a great improvement in the children's writing this week, with lots of children wanting to have a go. We encouraged labels for our models to tell everyone what they are. In PE we practised balancing using bean bags of different parts of our bodies, some parts were trickier than others! In Forest School the children had the opportunity to practise their whittling skills using a potato peeler and a carrot. They also made funny faces out of clay which we stuck to the trees. The children have really enjoyed using our new book corner, they have been reading stories at the snack table and retelling familiar stories using our storytelling shelves. Well done to our 'Star of the Week' Henry for a great effort with his reading and phonics this week.

### Willow News

This week has flown by! In English, the children have been using similes and adjectives in their writing. This has included writing a description of themselves and things that they might have in a magic box. In Topic work the children have been learning about Grace Darling and how she and her father rescued people from a storm. In Maths the class have been completing tally charts, drawn block graphs and interpreted pictograms. The children have also been answering questions related to the data they have collected and are being more confident in writing number scales. The class have been practising counting in 2s and 10s and looked at what happens when you add 10 to any 2 digit number. In RE the class talked and wrote about the events in the Easter story leading up to Jesus' death. The children drew and decorated crosses and wrote about events from the story. The children also sequenced pictures from the Easter story. In PE the children continued developing their gymnastics skills on Tuesday and developed their ball skills in a range of playground activities on Thursday. The class has continued to impress the adults teaching them because of their teamwork skills and it has been lovely to watch them encouraging each other to do their best.

### Beech News

This week Beech Class have been busy finishing off their quest stories. They started by verbally writing their last chapter using picture clues before moving on to writing them in their books using all the skills they have been learning in class so far. In Maths they have moved on to drawing and understanding block graphs. We took data from the class on their favourite fruit and created block graphs on the computers before answering different questions on the graph. In PE they continued with dance learning about shadows and how to copy movements.

### Maple News

Maple Class have been writing newspaper reports about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. The tomb was found in 1922 by Howard Carter, an archaeologist working in Egypt, who had spent five years searching for it. He was funded by Lord Carnarvon, a rich British aristocrat with an interest in Egyptology. The discovery of the intact tomb and its wonderful treasures shocked and delighted the world when newspapers reported it. Maple Class have loved learning about a real story that has characters and events as exciting as any fiction book. We have learned that our newspaper reports need: headlines in bold to attract attention, the 5Ws (who, what, where, when, why) to give us key facts, quotes correctly punctuated to tell us what people actually said, and an introductory paragraph that tells us the most important parts of the story.

In Maths we have been continuing to look at perimeters, the length around a shape. We have learned how to measure them and also how to calculate them if we only have a small amount of information about their lengths.

In Science, we have designed, explained, built and tested modifications to cars to allow them to be steered through a simple obstacle course without touching them. We have used our knowledge of friction, air resistance and magnets to use forces that can either attract or repel the cars allowing them to travel to the end of the course. We have been able to explain which force we used and why, and we have timed each other to see which was the best design.





## Class News



### Chestnut News

We have enjoyed a really different approach to poetry in whole class reading this week. We have studied a poem within a film. Junk - the story of Jasper O'Leary - follows a completely different pattern with different language nuances. We have analysed how it is read as part of the film, featuring long pauses, which is very different to how we would usually perform a poem. In English, we have been planning kennings about objects or people. We have thought about layout (shape poems), punctuation and rhyme. The children have shown great imagination and understood how kennings are about giving clues about subject matter.

We have moved on to multiplying by 11 and 12, using a variety of methods. We have worked on factors of numbers by making arrays. We used counters and cubes to set out different arrangements of a product. We are now working on different methods of multiplication - using number lines, base ten and part whole models.

In Science we have been learning about the water cycle. Through our learning about states of matter, we have been able to understand evaporation condensation and precipitation.

We have been learning about different types of maps in our Topic sessions. This week we thought about the features of and uses for these maps. We have also been annotating an aerial photo of the school and surrounding area. Over the next few weeks, we will be using this to create our own map of a route from the church to the school, and around the school grounds.

It has been lovely to see so many families at the Book Fair this week from Monday to Thursday!

### Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been dividing 4-digits by 1-digit where the answer has included a remainder. We then moved onto learning about equivalent fractions where we quickly discovered that we needed to draw on our knowledge of common factors, multiplication and division. In English, we have been busy drafting letters to the Editor of The Times in 1901. The date was Wednesday 23rd January 1901 (the day after Queen Victoria's death) and our letters were about how the development of the railways during her reign had transformed people's lives in Britain, particularly the lives of the poorer people. In RE, before our Class Mass, we were shown the fourteen Stations of the Cross by Father John that are hung on the walls of the church and he explained to us what each was depicting.

In Topic this week, we finished learning about what the Victorians did during their leisure time. We learnt about the importance of parks and how Victorians enjoyed visiting the zoo. In DT, we have continued designing our Mrs Beeton Cookery Books and sewing our pin cushions. In Art, we have been creating our own repeated patterns based on the themes of nature, inspired by the work of William Morris. We have also been learning some useful French phrases and finding out where the main cities are in France.

### Oak News

This week, we have started our new Maths topic of ratios. We started off by thinking what ratios actually mean and represent, before considering the links between fractions and ratios. We also thought about how ratio relates to shapes by enlarging and decreasing them by scale factors.

In English, we are working towards our big piece of writing this term: a Greek myth. We started the week by reading and watching some well known myths and coming up with a list of criteria for a good story. We then moved onto setting and character descriptions, trying hard to use figurative language and 'show not tell' techniques. Finally, we plotted out the main events of our own stories so we are ready to start writing next week. Additionally, we have been polishing our grammar skills, focusing on adverbial phrases and determiners.

In Art, we are continuing to make our Greek theatre masks. Last week, we constructed the base for our masks using strips of paper and a flour and glue mix. This week, we started to build on additional features such as wrinkles or bulbous noses. They are really starting to take shape and we managed not to be quite as messy as last week.



## Something to think about



Write one thousand, three hundred and eight as a number.

A 1038

B 1308

C 1380

D 3108

### PTFA AGM Thursday 25th April in the School

At the AGM each year we appoint the offices of the Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary of the PTA.

This year we are also keen to have new roles - parent PTA 'Class Representatives' from each year. The Class Reps do NOT have to attend every PTA meeting, but they will be asked to read the minutes and be contacted with queries, to then discuss with other parents from the year group and feedback to us.



At the AGM we will be discussing the PTA aims for the year (what we'd like to spend money on) and what fundraising activities we'll be planning to achieve these.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for either please let us know via the PTFA email address: [ptfa@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

I am sure you will be as pleased as we are to hear the news that Mr Mackinnon and his wife had a baby girl yesterday. We send the whole family our best wishes and we look forward to meeting Miss Mackinnon soon.

Have a lovely weekend!

With best wishes

*Moirra Duncombe*

@StBarnabasSchoolTW