

On Friday we had our Celebration Assembly and we presented four of our children who had been highlighted for showing true resilience and perseverance when completing a 13-mile bike ride. Well done to Tom, Sam, Ardi and Lejla.



Class News



Acorn News

This week in Phonics, some of us have recapped the digraphs sh, th, ng, ai, ee and oo and we learnt the tricky word "you". Some of us have recapped the sounds t, p, i, n, m, d and the phase 2 tricky words (the, to, I, no, go, into, of & put). In Maths, we have been learning all about the numbers 14, 15, 16 and 17. We made the numbers using numicon, counted out that number of objects, drew pictures to demonstrate how many and used tens frames and counters to show the number. In RE, we continued our work on promises and read about Abraham and Sarah and God's promise of lots of children. We read the story of Growing Frogs and went to the school pond to see the tadpoles as we were too late in the year to have some in our classroom. We will visit them again to see how much they've grown. We have continued our focus on writing this week and we are still writing speech bubbles for our favourite characters. Lots of the children have enjoyed writing their own helicopter stories this week with some support from an adult. We have also tried to incorporate writing in to other areas of our play, like adding labels to our racing track. Some of the children were painting and wanted to make the colour purple, they mixed red and blue to find it made purple! Well done to Rosie our 'star of the week' for independently making her own book then writing her story without adult support.

Willow News

In English, Willow Class have been learning about how to use commas in a list and how to write a postcard. Everyone has been trying hard to develop their letter formation and cursive writing. In Maths, the children have been adding equal groups, drawing/making arrays and learning about repeated addition and early multiplication skills. The class have been continuing to work on counting in 2s.

As part of our topic "How to be a great explorer!" the class have been reviewing what they already know about explorers, learning the names of the continents, looking at locations around the world on Google Earth and thinking about equipment which explorers need. In Science, we are learning about different types of plants and have thought about what plants need to survive. In PE the children are developing their athletics skills and have been running in rallies.

Beech News

In English, we have been writing a recount of our trip to the park. We used headings and subheadings to organise our ideas and a range of different connectives to create complex sentences. We also focussed on using adjectives to create expanded noun phrases. Finally, we explored how exclamation and question sentences could be added to add interest for our readers. In Maths, we have been revisiting all the different addition and subtraction skills we have learned this year. We then explored how these skills could be used to solve a range of different arithmetic and reasoning problems.

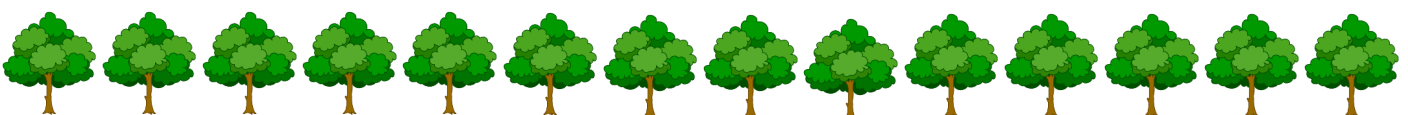
Maple News

This week Maple have been describing the world of the Jumblies from the poems of Edward Lear. We have used our imagination to find names and describe the characters of the Jumblies. Edward Lear did not tell us very much about them, and so we have had to look for clues in the poem that help us. Here are some of the things we decided the Jumblies were - brave, adventurous, weird, silly, unusual, clever, colourful, small. We also had to use our imaginations to describe the places they went. Edward Lear gives places wonderful names like 'The hills of the Chankley Bore', 'The Western Sea' or, 'The Terrible Zone'. We have imagined what these places might be like. Perhaps the Terrible Zone is 'Dark and full of caves and like a maze when you try to go through it.'

In Maths this week, we have been carrying on looking at fractions. We have been learning to count in fractions, which is easier if you think of the fractions as slices of pizza. We have been able to find fractions of amounts and we understand that finding fractions is a bit like dividing. We are starting to look at the way that fractions can be equivalent; like the way two quarters are the same as one half.

In Science, we have been looking at what happens when plants are not given the things they need to live. We have been looking after some of our flowers really well but others have been kept in the dark, or not watered, or had all their soil taken away, or kept really cold or not given any room to grow. It has been very interesting to see how well some of the flowers are growing and work out why some of them are dying.

Looking at plants has meant that we were ready as well as excited to go to the Kent Living Land exhibition at the Kent County Showground with Chestnut Class this Thursday. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole day but we made a list of the things we appreciated most, they were: dancing sheep, chickens, birds of prey, stroking horses, bunny rabbits, baby lambs, pigs, piglets, cows, eating sausages and red peppers and radishes and apples and lunch when we were hungry, sitting in a lifeboat, weaving, getting given grass seeds and cress seeds, making rope and bringing it back to school. Maple Class really hope they can go back in Year Four because there were so many things they missed.





Class News



Chestnut News

On Thursday, we enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Living Land show at the Kent County Showground. The children got hands-on experience with a huge range of farm animals, produce and agricultural equipment. Particular highlights seemed to be the dancing sheep (yes, they really did!), birds of prey and lamb petting. We had the opportunity to get up close to a huge combine harvester, press apples, churn butter, milk a 'cow' and watch sausages being made by hand. It was a really enjoyable day and Chestnut Class were excellent ambassadors for our school. Well done!

In the classroom, we have continued to explore a translation of the epic Anglo Saxon poem, Beowulf. We are working towards creating our own hero myths and are exploring the narrative of Beowulf to help us prepare. We have been working on the 'show not tell' technique of writing. Instead of explaining how a character is feeling, we have been describing their body language or how they act to create a more sophisticated piece of work. An important part of a hero myth is the monster he or she will face. We have been studying the descriptions of Grendel and Grendel's mother as a basis for creating our own monsters. We drew them and then described how they move using powerful verbs. We also identified all the powerful verbs we found in the text. Finally, we thought about how tension can increase within a single chapter of a hero myth. We created tension mountains for chapter 7 by ordering events and placing them up a 'mountain' with the most tense event at the top. In maths we have now moved on to fractions. We have been working on how to identify a fraction and using this skill to sort pictorial representations of fractions. We created our own fraction walls so we have a visual reminder of how many equal pieces a whole can be split into and what the resulting fraction is. We have also looked at fractions that are the equivalent of half.

We have been answering the question 'who were the Anglo Saxons?' in our topic session. We learned about the different tribes who eventually received this name and the places they originated from. We looked at where they settled and why they made the journey to these shores. We also thought about the impact of the end of the Roman Empire and how it created the opportunity for others to invade and settle. In RE we are now studying Hinduism and began by learning about the origins of the religion in India and the importance of water. We learned about the Indus River and the River Ganges and the ritual of bathing in these sacred rivers.

Lilac News

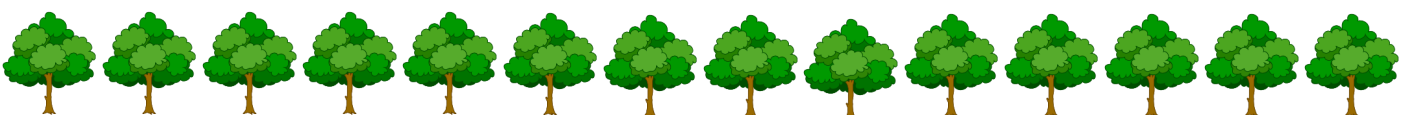
Welcome back to a very busy term! This week in Maths, we have continued with our work on fractions. We have been learning to add and subtract fractions with the same and different denominators. The latter has proved to be very tricky and we have been following a three step method to solve our calculations. In English, we have been writing poems about the sea using not only the conventions of poetry writing but also personification so that the sea takes on human characteristics. We read a selection of different poems where the poet used personification to inspire us. In RE, we have been learning about The Five Pillars of Islam and how Muslims incorporate these into their lives. We then thought about the pillars in our lives that 'hold us up' such as our family, friends, school and our religion.

In Science, we learnt about insects and amphibians that go through a complete metamorphosis when they reach adulthood. We studied the life cycles of the butterfly and the frog. In French, Miss Craven, who has been working with us this week, taught us some useful conversational French based on questions and answers that focused on telling someone our name, how old we were and where we lived. We then learnt the days of the week and French numbers up to ten. This was followed by us playing an exciting game of Bingo in French! In Topic, we have been learning about the journey of a river and how it is formed and where it ends up. We became familiar with words such as precipitation, meander, erosion, estuary and delta. We have also been busy labelling maps showing where some important rivers and seas can be found in the world and Great Britain. We did this by carefully looking at an atlas. We have also started to find out some facts about the Titanic and the different theories as to why she sank on Monday 15th April 1912. In Art, we have been working on close observation drawings of shells using soft pastels. We have been blending colours and thinking about light and dark shades as well as looking at the patterns of the shells. In PE, we have been developing our athletic skills.

Oak News

This week in Maths, Oak Class have been working on data and statistics. We began by learning how to calculate the mean, mode, median and range of a set of numbers, then moved onto drawing and analysing line graphs, as well as discussing how they are used and the kind of data they are used to represent. Next we looked at circles and practised drawing ones with different sized diameter and radius (some of us even managed to calculate the area and circumference!) We also looked at how to construct semicircles, quadrants and sectors. This is in preparation for our drawing and analysing of pie charts, which we begin next week.

In English, we started the week by completing our Greek myths. Everyone has worked so hard on them and Miss Mercer is so proud of what has been produced. We have also made a start on a dual monologue entitled 'The Hunter and The Hunted'. Over the coming weeks, we will be looking at a variety of texts and techniques used by authors to build tension before we complete our final piece of writing. In addition to the above, we have also been polishing our arithmetic, reasoning, grammar and reading comprehension skills in preparation for the SATs, which begin on the 13th May.



Something to think about



$3 + (2 + 1)$ is also equal to:

A $3 + 2 + 2$

B $3 - (2 - 1)$

C $(3 + 2) + 1$

D $3 + 2$

PTFA NEWS

At our recent AGM we had several new members join the committee and also several parents volunteering to be class reps. The committee consists of: Elizabeth Cullimore (Year 1 and 2) and Erica Stephens (Year 1) as Co-Chair; Amie (Year R) and Melanie (Year 4) as Co-Secretary; and John as Treasurer. Mrs Bullen is also a member of the PTFA as a staff representative.

The class reps currently are:

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------|
| Acorn | Amie Young | Year 1 | Dana Fowler |
| Year 2 | Elizabeth Cullimore | Year 3 | Gemma Cardon |
| Year 4 | Melanie Landri | Year 5 | |
| Year 6 | | | |

As you can see we have no parent reps for Years 5 and 6 so far, so if you are interested please let Mrs Duncombe know. Also if you would like to join the rep for your class please let them or Mrs Duncombe know - you will be welcomed with open arms!

During the meeting we discussed ideas to raise money for the school, ideas ranged from movie nights, to creating tea towel/ tote bags to a "Bangers and Bingo" night! Acorn Class have volunteered to hold a year group cake sale and this will be on the last Friday before half term. We are in the process of ordering a new PTFA noticeboard which will enable everyone to see what we are aiming to achieve this year.

Another event coming up will be the School Disco which is on Friday 17th May - more details later.

To help keep in touch, the PTFA have a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/559819767455846/> or St Barnabas PTFA.

Have a lovely long weekend!

With best wishes

Moiria Duncombe

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