

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 20th September 2019

Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.

www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk



Our School Christian Values are Aspiration Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. We have found out about Ruth and the importance of trust.

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.

If your child cannot attend a club session please do let us know so we are not contacting you at the end of the day.

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## Dates

21st September:  
School open  
Heritage Event  
9:30am

27th September:  
Macmillan Coffee  
Morning, 8.45am

11th October:  
Harvest Festival  
School Disco tbc

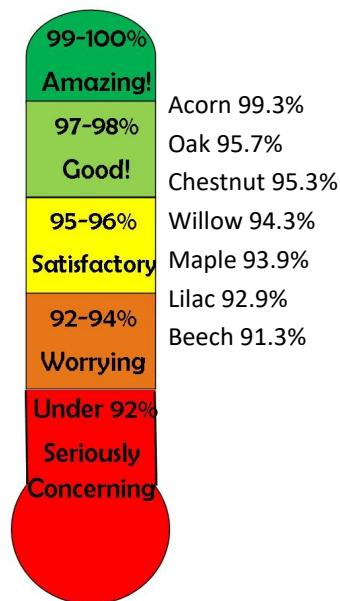
21st– 25th October:  
Half Term

## 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 everyday at 8:45.



## This Week

Another busy week, with the children settling into their work well and really challenging themselves. This is very much the case in our PE lessons. The older children have been challenged to run and complete a long distance, and over the next few weeks, to better their times.

Mr Luckhurst is our sports teacher who helps us teach PE. As you are aware from last week's newsletter we are aiming to achieve our Gold Sports Award. To help us in achieving this we need to share what we are doing and with this in mind we have set up a twitter feed [@PEStB1](https://twitter.com/PEStB1) so we can share our progress.

We do need your help as we need a logo for the twitter feed... can you help? Draw your design and hand into Mrs Duncombe by Friday 27th September. There will be a prize for the winning design.



## Class News



### Acorn Class

It has been lovely to get to know the whole class this week and we can see lots of lovely friendships forming. We have continued learning the school routines, particularly tidying up after we have finished playing somewhere and using toys respectfully.

We have started Phonics and have been looking at using our listening skills, we focussed on general sound discrimination – environmental sounds. We played sound lotto where we listened to a sound and had to guess what it was, we went on a listening walk around the school to see what we could hear and we listened to the descriptions and had to guess the animal.

We have enjoyed lunchtime in the hall and have started to understand the routine. Most of us finished our lunch each day which was fantastic. We also had some playtime with year 1 and year 2 children to get us ready for next week.

We have enjoyed playing on the bikes this week and continued to learn why it is important to share and take turns. Lots of 'cooking' has been happening in the home corner has well.

### Willow News

This week in Willow Class, the children have been continuing to write simple sentences in our English lessons. Our focus for this week has been using finger spaces between words, ending sentences with a full stop and using some describing words to add more detail to our writing. In Phonics we have been reviewing the digraphs and trigraphs that the children already know and have learnt some new letter sounds (ou, oy, ir, ue). The children have also been practising their cursive letter formation for m, n, e, g, i and j. In Maths this week, the children have been writing the numbers and number words for 0 to 10 and ordering them correctly. The children have also been finding missing numbers in number sequences and matching numbers to groups of objects. In RE the class retold and sequenced the story of the Lost Son and have been talking about how the importance of forgiveness and reconciliation. In Science we have started talking about materials and looked around the classroom to find out what objects are made of plastic, wood, metal, fabric or paper. In PE, the children have been developing their football skills and playing team games. It has been a busy week!

### Beech News

In English we have been writing first person descriptive sentences from the point of view of a child experiencing the Great Fire of London. We used prepositional phrases, verb phrases and expanded noun phrases to create our own sentences. In Maths, we explored 2-digit numbers. We used place value cards to make a range of different 2-digit numbers and then used numicon, 10 grids and counters, coins, 100 beads and dimes blocks to represent each 2-digit number in a variety of different ways. In Topic time, we continued to investigate everyday life in 1666. We examined primary and secondary sources of information relating to houses in London and then used a computer programme to create a visual representation which demonstrated our understanding.

### Maple News

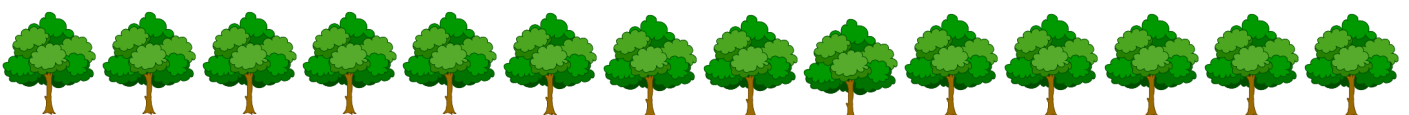
Maple Class have been carrying on exploring the ancient past through Satoshi Kitamura's 'Stone Age Boy'. This week, we began by making deductions - where we are pretty sure we are right, based on what we can see. And inferences - when we have a good idea what is happening and make a sensible guess. We used magnifying glasses to look really carefully at the illustration of the middle stone age camp that the boy in the story wakes up in. It is full of people being busy. Some of the things they are doing are still the same today, like looking after children or tidying up. Others are things we have only read about before, like making tools from an antler or attaching a sharp stone, that has been carefully shaped, to a straight stick to make a spear. There are also things that we are less certain about - is the lady making little loaves of bread or cutting up fish? What are the people doing when they are rubbing a round stone over a large flat stone? We used our inferences and deductions to inform letters we wrote. We imagined that we had gone back in time to the Mesolithic times and that we could send a letter back home to a friend or family member. In our letters we explained all about the camp, where we slept, what we ate, and what we could see. We described the camp using our five senses (we thought it would be very smelly with all the fish and nowhere to wash). We have also been learning how to use a thesaurus, not a dinosaur but a kind of dictionary that can suggest alternative words. We used our thesaurus skills to improve part of the story where the boy and his friend, a girl called Om, join in a reindeer hunt. We thought it would have been very exciting.

We used our new skills or deductions and inferences in Topic by trying to work out what some Mesolithic artefacts can tell us. What do we know for certain when we look at them, what can we infer, and what else do we want to know? Some of the artefacts we thought about came from Star Carr, a site in Yorkshire that has the earliest evidence of jewellery in Britain, a pendant carved and pierced to put on a string or thong that is 11 thousand years old. At Star Carr there are also antler headdresses, we tried to imagine whether they were used to hide and sneak up on deer, or as a representation of a spirit animal, part of a Mesolithic religious ceremony. Perhaps they were both.

In RE we have continued to examine The People of God through the story of Noah. We explored what a covenant was and we thought about what agreements we knew about. We realised that rules can be helpful, we need them to play sports and games, and keep us safe. We thought about how there are some bad things in the world that we cannot change but many things that we can improve. We made promises about what we would, or would not, do to make our class, our school and our world a better place.

Science this week was looking at the three main kinds of rocks, igneous, which are made by volcanoes, sedimentary, which are made of small pieces of rock in layers, and metamorphic, which are sedimentary rocks cooked deep within the Earth. We made our own sedimentary rocks from sands and soils, imitating the compacting pressure of the earth by using a few drops of water to hold the layers together. It has given us an insight into why some rocks look the way they do, and what the forces at work in our world are like.

This week in Maths we finished looking at place value; ones, tens and hundreds. We have discovered that counting in fifties is as easy as counting in fives if you think about it, and we are starting to think about three digit addition and subtraction by noticing that adding hundreds can be just like adding ones, except there are few more zeros to keep an eye on. Well done to all the children who completed their MyMaths this week. We are really glad some of you found it fun.





## Class News



### Chestnut News

We have continued our whole class reading of *The Magic Finger* and have been working on reading fluency and picking out key points using quotes from the text. It is interesting to discuss what is right and wrong about using the powers of the Magic Finger!

In English, we have had a week to focus on our dictionary skills. We have worked in pairs to check correct spellings, definitions, subtle differences between terms and also putting words in the correct alphabetical order. These are all skills that we will need over the coming year to help us with our writing. We have also been revisiting the use of the possessive apostrophe. This week we have looked at single nouns - yesterday we talked about it being Miss Swannell's birthday! Homework this week is making sure we can use the apostrophe in the correct place when something belongs to one person or thing.

We have continued to work on place value understanding in Maths. We have practised rounding numbers to the nearest ten. We have gone over the rules we can follow and then applied them to rounding to the nearest hundred. We have been able to see what is different and what remains the same. To secure our knowledge, we have worked on reasoning and clear explanations of the processes we go through when rounding a number. We have all enjoyed work on counting in thousands. Well done Chestnut Class for having a really confident and enthusiastic approach to your number knowledge.

We have begun to think about the RE theme this term: Creation. We looked at some wonders of the natural world, including incredible footage of a male puffer fish spending a solid 7 days creating a nest on the seabed. We went on to look at other extraordinary features of the natural world before thinking about something that we consider to be a wonder. We will be moving on to look at the text from Genesis which tells the Christian story of creation.

In Science we have thought about our basic understanding of electricity. At first we thought we didn't know much, but we had a very interesting discussion which generated a lot of ideas! We also thought about what effect electricity has on appliances. Thinking about common household appliances, we decided whether electricity made changes to light, movement, heat or sound.

Finally, in our topic sessions, we have learned about the different stories relating to the foundation of Rome. We learned about the different stories and considered which was most likely to be based on fact. We have been fortunate to have seen some fantastic photos and a piece of volcanic rock brought in by Finn and also a piece of volcanic rock brought in by Ruby. We have been investigating Roman mosaics too. We have looked carefully at some designs and will be creating our own over the next week.

### Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been busy working with numbers up to 10,000. We have been rounding these numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000. We thought about why numbers are either 'rounded up' or 'rounded down', using our knowledge of place value. In English, we created mind maps with our talk partners and planned then started to write our introductory paragraph for our first piece of extended writing. We are writing a diary account by the Conquistador Hernan Cortes. In 1519 he led the expedition into the tropical rainforest of Mesoamerica in search of gold and other riches. We did a lot of whole class brain storming and developed our own word bank of 'Fabulous Vocabulary' that we wanted to use in our story. In RE, we focused on important key words that Christians use when describing God: Omnipotent, Omniscient, Spirit, Holy, Loving and Eternal. We were involved in a lot of class discussion and explored in some depth the meaning of these words.

In Science, we continued with our research about different aspects of our Solar System and Charlie brought in to share with us some very interesting research that he did at home about meteorites. Sam also brought in to show us his superb reference books about our Solar System and the Constellations. In Art and DT, we continued with our whole class tropical rainforest frieze and started to make our Mayan people based on our designs. We used card, split pins and a variety of materials. In PE, we have been practising our long distant running and playing invasion games.

Lilac Class will be visiting the Science Museum at Herstmonceux on Thursday 17th October where there will be hands-on practical activities, a Sun, Moon and Earth workshop and a Telescope Tour.

### Oak News

It's been a busy week in Oak Class.

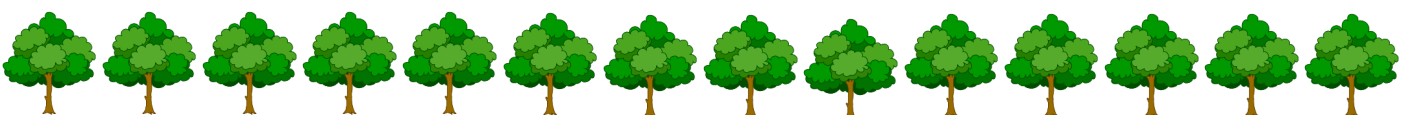
In Maths, we have been continuing our unit on place value. We started the week working on rounding and can now round numbers to the nearest million and sometimes nearest billion! We then moved on to negative numbers, using them with addition and subtraction and applying them to real life situations.

In English, we have been completing our biographies on famous Ancient Greeks. We then put our new knowledge into a PowerPoint which we presented to the class. Everyone learned some really interesting facts. For example, it is said that when Alexander the Great died, it was said that he was reportedly immersed in a golden sarcophagus brimming with honey.

In Science, we have been learning about adaptation and how it happens. We also looked at how animals such as polar bears and camels have adapted to the surroundings and discussed what their ancestors may have looked like.

Our RE topic this term is Creation. This week we have looked at the creation story told in Genesis and considered how it make us feel and what questions it generates. We had some really interesting ideas on the importance of the creation story and will start to investigate the meaning behind it next week.

**Next Friday 27th: Macmillan Coffee Morning in the staff room straight after drop off, donations of cakes (home made or shop bought) very welcome. If we have lots of donations there will also be a cake sale after school in the playground. Please bring donations of cake to the main entrance into school on the Friday morning.**





## Something to think about

What is the smallest 4 digit number that you can make using these cards?

7 2 3 8

A 3278

B 3278

C 2387

D 2378

**EASY PEASY**  
and it's  
**free**

Help us by collecting **FREE donations** every time you shop online. Follow these three easy steps...

- 1. Join**  
Head to easyfundraising, search for us to start raising.
- 2. Shop**  
There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board, so pick the one you want and start shopping.
- 3. Raise**  
After you've made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost whatsoever!

amazon.co.uk John Lewis ebay TESCO Sainsbury's Booking.com Argos

If you haven't already done so, please sign up to 'easyfundraising'. Just by shopping online you can earn money for St Barnabas at no cost for you. Just click on the and select St Barnabas CE VA Primary School as your chosen charity. Please take a look and sign up today.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/login/>

Have a wonderful weekend and do remember that the school is open on Saturday as one of the Heritage Events this weekend.

With best wishes

*Moirá Duncombe*

@StBarnabasSchoolTW