

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

# Newsletter Friday 17th February 2020

*Each child is uniquely created and loved by God.*

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



Our **School Christian Values** are Aspiration Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion. We have found out about Christenings and the words behind our hymn: 'When a Knight won his spurs,'

## 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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## Dates

## 7th February School Disco

**17– 21 February**  
Half term

**25 February**  
KS2 Smoothie bike

**26th February**  
Ash Wednesday Mass  
9:15am  
All welcome

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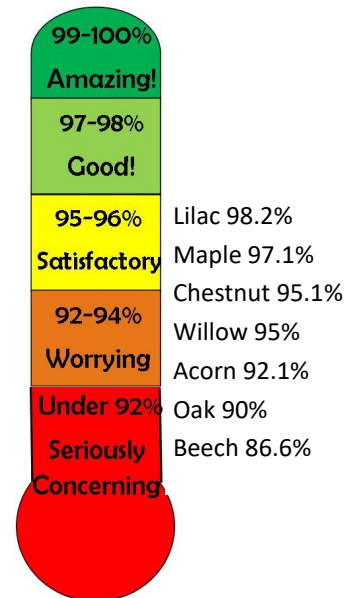
With the colder weather please do make sure your child has a coat, their PE kit and a named water bottle.

## Attendance

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

**Overall attendance last week: 93.4%**

Do remember we start school everyday  
at 8:45.



## This Week

What a week of weather and I think we still have some more challenges ahead!

Our clubs have started again for this term and I know there was much excitement, especially for our new Boxing Class. Please can I remind everyone that if your child is unable to attend a session to please let the teacher/office know.

On our website we are currently adding this term's topics and also a blog about Maths at St Barnabas. One of the blog posts is about times tables and their importance. Do have a look and keep visiting as more posts are added.

You might have noticed that next door to us the building site is again in operation and the scaffolding has gone up! Over the next few weeks the builders are going to be having ready-made parts or modules of the new houses delivered; they hope to ensure that any traffic jams are kept to a minimum.



## Class News



### Acorn Class

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas holiday, we have begun to get back into the swing of school. In Phonics, we have been recapping all the sounds we have learnt already and introduced j (as in jam), v (as in van) and w (as in web). We have practised reading and writing words with these sounds in. In Maths, we have introduced the number 0, we know that zero is the first number and it means none. We have also been learning about 'time', we have talked about the days of the week and which days we go to school. Miss Traviss got a delivery of a calendar and we enjoyed adding our birthdays and other important events to it. We have read the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears ready to put the story in the right order on Monday. In PE, we have continued our gymnastics work and used the benches to demonstrate different animal movements across, along or on and off the bench. We continued 'Write Dance' and used the movements we have learnt so far to draw a volcano to music. Some of us followed instructions on 'how to draw a...' sun with Miss Burkinshaw and practised using our phonics to support our writing. During our child initiated learning time, we have started to develop more of an interest in writing. We are using the sounds mats to have a go at writing simple words. Lots of us enjoyed making cat masks, after a suggestion from Miss Traviss. We have used a huge variety of skills and had to problem solve in order to create our masks. Congratulations to Heidi our 'star of the week' who has taken home Nick the Monkey.

### Willow News

In English this week, Willow Class have been learning about imperative (bossy) verbs and generated instructions for making a jam sandwich. The children worked hard to make sure that they got the instructions in the right order. In Phonics, we have been learning about the 'ur', 'er', and 'ir' phonemes and looked at where they come in words and we have learnt about the spelling pattern for the 'oy' and 'ay' phonemes. Our current topic in Maths is adding and subtracting within 20. This week, the class have been finding all the number bonds for the numbers 2 to 10, adding 2 one digit numbers together and subtracting numbers without bridging 10. As part of our RE lesson this week, the class learned about the story of the pharisee and the tax collector and talked about why Jesus told people this story. One of our Science topics this term is animals, including humans, and we started learning about animal groups and the features of 'living things' this week.

### Beech News

In English, we have been creating instruction texts on how to make Mrs Atkinson angry. Last week we explored how to use bossy (imperative) verbs to create simple instruction sentences. Then we practised using the conjunctions and/because/so/or to add extra clauses to our simple sentences. This week we have focused on using sequencing vocabulary and adverbs to add precision and detail to our instructions. We also added an introduction to our work before putting all these skills together to create a final draft. In ICT we looked at gathering information and how pictograms can show this information and in PE we started to piece together our dance moves from the last two weeks.

In Maths, we have continued to explore the concept of equal groups. We built alternative arrays for target numbers and solved reasoning problems relating to multiplication. Finally, we explored how our ability to count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 can be used to help solve multiplication problems. If you want to practise any Maths skills this week, please focus on counting forwards and backwards in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. In Science, we began to explore the concept of dissolving.

### Maple News

Maple Class have travelled back in time to ancient Egypt this term. We have been reading 'The Egyptian Cinderella' by Shirly Climo. It is one of many versions of Cinderella that exist all over the world. In this version, Rhodopis, a slave from Greece, is bullied by the Egyptian servant girls who won't let her come to see Pharaoh because they are jealous of the rosy red golden slippers she has. Things go from bad to worse when a falcon steals one of the slippers leaving Rhodopis crying. Later, the falcon drops the slipper into Pharaoh's lap! He takes it as a sign from the god Horus and, after searching the whole of Egypt, he finally finds and marries the owner of the slipper - Rhodopis.

Before we read the book, we tried to predict what the story would be like. Then, we examined the similarities and differences between the versions of Cinderella. The story compares the appearance of the servant girls to that of Rhodopis, so we have used comparative conjunctions to write sentences comparing the physical characteristics of Egyptian gods. We also spent some time learning how to use a thesaurus to improve our word choices and writing similes to describe characters from the story. We have built on this by thinking of what Rhodopis would have been feeling through the story; when she was kidnapped and sold as a slave, when she was teased, when the servant girls refused to take her with them and when the falcon took her slipper. A powerful technique that Shirly Climo uses in the story is to show emotions through actions not just tell the reader what the characters are feeling. We used this 'show not tell' technique to describe feelings through the story.

In Maths, we have been multiplying two digit numbers by one digit numbers. We have used counters and place value charts to help us keep track, especially when we need to regroup ones into tens. And it can be even more complicated when we regroup tens into hundreds.

We have been blessed in our RE topic of Sikhism by having Mrs Delaney in the class on Thursdays. She is a Sikh, although she married a Christian, and has been able to answer so many of the questions that we asked. She has explained the 5 Ks which are the ways Sikhs express their devotion and we have begun to learn about how the Sikh faith was founded by Guru Nanak. We are looking forward to learning more from her this term.





## Class News



### Chestnut News

This week we began a new text in our whole class reading sessions. The children tackled *The Iron Man* with real enthusiasm last term and we have enjoyed our first chapter of *Varjak Paw* by SF Said. It promises to be an interesting read with lots of opportunities to explore language and narrative features.

With our focus on persuasive writing this term, we have been considering what the particular features of this genre are. Before we begin to work on our first piece of writing, we are making sure we understand and can use all the persuasive devices we listed. We will be practising writing in present tense, using a range of connectives and conjunctions, adding strong adjectives and powerful verbs and constructing rhetorical questions. Spelling and grammar work has again been linked to apostrophes with a focus on possession with plurals. This was really challenging and the children have another chance to practise it in their home learning.

In Maths we have been learning to calculate the perimeter of a rectangle using grids and also measurements. We have tackled some problems relating to missing side measurements when we have limited information such as the perimeter and only one side measurement.

We developed our understanding of states of matter this week. We examined 3 different balloons - one filled with gas, one with water and one with ice. We thought about how to classify these and explain our decisions. We learned about how particles behave in all 3 states and then drew diagrams to demonstrate our understanding.

In topic work, we did a brainstorm of local, national and global issues we care about. I was incredibly impressed by the breadth of knowledge the children had and we will be using their ideas to develop our learning and think about our topic title 'How can we make a difference?'

Finally, in RE we began our unit on Gospel with the question 'What kind of world did Jesus want?' We discussed parables as stories we come across in the accounts of the Gospel in the New Testament that teach us about what Jesus was thinking. We thought about things that are precious to us and regular activities we carry out. We linked this to the calling of the first Disciples and how they had to give up what they knew to follow Jesus.

### Lilac News

In Maths this week, Lilac Class have been finding factors and common factors of numbers. We have been drawing Venn Diagrams to clearly show the factors and common factors of pairs of numbers. We have also been identifying and sorting numbers into prime and composite numbers. In English, we have been examining our whole class guided reading text 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty. We have also used the beginning of Chapter One entitled 'Shilling Pie' as a basis for creative writing, where we have been exploring the thoughts and feelings of Jim Jarvis, the main character. In RE, we have started our new unit of work, People of God. This week we studied as a class Exodus 1:8-14 and 1:22 that tells us why the Israelites were persecuted by the Egyptian Pharaoh. In our talk partners we annotated these texts and wrote about what we thought they were telling us.

In Science, we started our new topic about materials and changing of properties. We grouped and sorted materials into such categories as 'flexible', 'water proof', 'transparent', 'conductors' and 'insulators' and talked about the different uses of materials. In Topic, we have been learning about the life of Queen Victoria and thinking about her character. In Art, we have been learning about Vincent Van Gogh who lived in London for a short time during the Victorian period. We looked carefully at his paintings 'Starry Night', 'Calm and Exaltation' and 'Wheat Field'. We talked about his painting technique and how he used his paint brush and paint on the canvas. In DT, a group of us started sewing our Victorian pincushions using running stitch and cross stitch. In PE, we have been practising our hockey skills and playing team games.

### Oak News

Oak Class have made a great start to the new term!

Our topic is World War and for the first half of the term, we are focusing on World War One. It has been really interesting finding out about all the different events that led to Austria-Hungary declaring war and discovering how other countries got involved. For the past two weeks, we have been working towards writing a newspaper report, either on the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand or Austria-Hungary declaring war. The whole class have done a fabulous job and have really considered how ordinary people would have felt.

In Maths, we are learning about decimals. So far, we have been multiplying and dividing with them and now we are working on converting them into decimals and vice versa. Everyone has got to grips with the topic well and is making good progress.

In Science, we are learning about the circulatory system and its functions. After looking at the layout of the system and understanding how it works, we had a go at making a working heart chamber using balloons, straws and jam jars. Not everyone was successful, but some of us did manage to get it to pump 'blood'.

A quick reminder about our trip to the Imperial War Museum on Monday. **Children need to be in school by 8:30am as we will be getting an early train in order to make the most of our time there. Each child will need a packed lunch, a waterproof coat and sensible walking shoes. We aim to be back at school by 4pm at the latest. Please don't forget to let me or the office know if you would like your child to walk home from High Brooms station.**



## Something to think about.....

On this day:



1773 Captain James Cook becomes 1st to cross Antarctic Circle (66 33' S)

1912 Captain Robert Scott's expedition arrives at the South Pole, one month after Roald Amundsen



### Does your child need a coat for the winter season?

We are a **FREE** service that offers collections of donated coats that we pass onto children who need them.

We accept donations of all children's coats, any age, as long as they are in a usable condition. We then pass them onto children and their families who need extra support during the winter season.

It is a completely free service and gives children something new and warm. There is no reason a child should ever be cold.

If you need a coat or you know someone who might please do get in touch via the email address below.



Find us on Facebook

**Coats for Kids**

# COATS FOR KIDS

With lots of local drop off donation points, it is could not be easier to help out!

To find your local drop off point or to request a coat please email:

[coatsforkidstwellsandtonbridge@outlook.com](mailto:coatsforkidstwellsandtonbridge@outlook.com)

Thank you for any support you can give this great service.

### Reading Drop In

We are starting a reading drop in from Tuesday 28th January at 8.20am for Acorn and Willow class children and their families.

This is an opportunity for you to come and read a story with your child and perhaps ask any questions or queries you have about helping your child with their reading.



The first session will be Tuesday 28th January, we hope you are able to join us and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

During this term we celebrate International Safer Internet day with its slogan "Together for a better internet". May we remind you that social networking sites are not an appropriate place to discuss any concerns you may have related to your child or the school. If you do have any concerns or issues, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Have a wonderful weekend and keep warm and dry!

With best wishes

*Moirá Duncombe*

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