

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 4th November 2016

Living and Learning Together www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Dates and Reminders

From Monday we will be selling poppies.

We will also have a variety of poppy gifts that can be bought:

Friendship bracelet- £1

Ruler £1

Wristbands
50p

Reflectors
50p

On Friday we will be stopping at 11am on the playground to mark the end of the First World War.

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Please name water bottles.

Book fair orders back by the 16th November please.



This Week in School

The weather has certainly changed this week and on Thursday I was having to de-ice the car! Do remind your child to bring a coat everyday.

We have had several visitors this week which is always lovely. On Wednesday we had Bishop Norman visit us in the morning. He took part in a question and answer session in our Act of Worship and then visited every class. He was very impressed with our singing and also the questions the children were asking him. In Year 1 the children drew him and their pictures are quite lifelike!

On Wednesday we also had Mr Luckhurst come in and teach PE. He will be coming in every Wednesday to work with some of the classes. I know the children enjoyed themselves and he emailed me to say how fantastic Years 1, 6 and 3 were- well done children.

On Thursday we had four local headteachers come to visit our school to complete what is called a learning walk. This is when we walk around the school and look at a specific area. The headteachers were impressed with lots of what they saw which included the behaviour of our children and the presentation in books. There were a couple of suggestions on how to make our books even better.

Today we had our PTFA AGM and it was lovely to see so many parents working with us. We were discussing ways forward to make our Discos even better and of course our school Christmas Fair.

At lunchtimes we have started a Rainbow Café- do ask your child what they have to do!

This week in class:

Acorn

This week, we have been learning the 'p' phoneme in phonics; we have been printing poppy pictures and learning about why we wear poppies at this time of year. We have been learning to write the 'p' grapheme and making words such as pit, pin and pat. In Maths, we have been exploring how many ways we can find to make 5 by adding two groups of toys together. We have been playing with counting toys and marbles in our glittery water tray and printing with Duplo bricks to show these number bonds to 5. Our messy tray has been filled with pumpkins this week and the children have loved smashing and cutting them up, exploring what is inside.

Willow

It has been lovely to see the children back at school this week and everyone enjoyed catching up with their friends on Monday. On Monday we reviewed the letter sounds and tricky words we already know and have been looking at which groups of letters make the same sound (e.g. ai, ay, a_e all make an 'A' sound). The children have been practising their spellings in class and including them in sentences. On Tuesday the children did a piece of story writing based around a photograph of a rock archway on a beach. The children had some amazing ideas for their stories and about what the golden light coming from the archway could be! We have been using our problem solving skills in Maths to answer questions involving addition and positional language. We have also been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and writing 2 digit numbers correctly.

On Wednesday we had two visitors. Mr Luckhurst came in to teach PE in the morning and the children practiced their throwing and catching with him. Mr Luckhurst will be working with us each Wednesday morning from now on. After Act of Worship Bishop Norman visited our classroom and the children enjoyed asking him questions and looking at the things he had brought with him. As part of our RE topic we are talking about special people this term so we drew pictures of Bishop Norman with his cassock, crozier, ring, mitre, pectoral cross and cincture. The children have also been practising their cursive letter formation. We have been practising 2 letters each day and the children have enjoyed trying rainbow writing with different coloured pencils.

Beech

Today was our first lesson about 'Weddings' in R.E. We discussed our experiences of weddings and what the promises made between the Bride and Groom mean. On Thursday 17th November we will be holding a pretend wedding in the church with Fr John conducting the ceremony. More information to follow!!! In Maths we created a pictogram from tally information about favourite fruits. English continued with more poetry composition based on 'The Sound Collector'. In PE we showed off our catching skills with some of Beech Class throwing up the ball and clapping 4 times before catching it

Maple

In English we are looking at traditional tales from other countries and have focused on 'The Tiger Child'. We used the story to help us write sentences containing prepositions, and the children have made a huge list of the language they can use to give information about the location of an object or person.

The hard work the children are putting into learning their times tables has been evident this week. We have been using this knowledge to solve problems and explain the rules of multiplication. The focus has been not only on calculating correctly, but being able to explain why it is correct.

As part of our Science topic, rocks fossils and soils, we made our own 'fossils' using plasticine, shells and plaster of Paris. It was exciting to see the results when they were all dry.

A reminder about PE kits being in school all week! We have a few children who are missing out on this session which is a compulsory part of the curriculum (as well as lots of fun).

Chestnut

Chestnut Class have been investigating money this week. We have been looking at the different methods we can use to add large amounts of money together. In English we have focused on scanning text to find information to answer questions and thinking about how different characters would feel after the events of Thor'sday Thursday from our class text. We have started to build our Anglo-Saxon houses that we planned last week and look forward to finishing then next week.

The class have been describing familiar settings, focusing on how to improve their writing with noun phrases and adjectives. In Maths the children have been classifying 3D shapes and sorting them using Venn diagrams. In RE the children looked at how Christians listen to the bible, leading them to reflect on who they listen to.

Lilac

In Lilac Class this week we visited Standen House and learnt more about William Morris and his designs. We also learnt a lot about his life and why he liked Standen House so much. We also found out about life in the house during the Victorian period, for example, how children were treated, how food was prepared and what happened at meal times. Lilac Class also explored the grounds. We ate our picnic overlooking a beautiful view and a field of cows! We ended our visit sketching the house and some of the grounds. For English this week, we are going to start planning our own information leaflets about Standen House, using persuasive language. In Maths this week, we have been looking at the relationship between fractions and decimals. In RE we have been thinking about why Jesus had so many followers and what qualities make a good friend. For Science we have been learning about what a solution is and how a substance can be recovered from a solution.

Oak

We have started to look at the Greek myth of 'Theseus and the Minotaur' in our English work. We have been focusing on writing a character description of the Minotaur, trying to make it as detailed as possible.

In our Maths lessons, we have been learning about the different parts of a circle and practicing using a compass correctly. We have also been revisiting place value.

In Science, we continued our work on the human circulatory system and we were looking at the effects of exercise on our pulse rate.

PTFA dates coming up...

Saturday 12th November Craft Workshop

Saturday 26th November PTFA Christmas Fayre 11- 2pm

Saturday 4th February Lantern Parade



Think, think, think

Something to think about:

As you go around Tunbridge Wells how many hexagons can you see?

Have a lovely weekend and keep safe if you are going to any Firework events.

Moira Duncombe

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