

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

Newsletter Friday 9th December 2016

*Living and Learning Together* [www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)

## Dates and Reminders

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>  
December 9:30am  
KS1 Nativity  
in  
the school hall

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>  
December 9:30am  
KS1 Nativity  
in  
the school hall

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>  
December  
6pm  
KS2 Christmas  
Concert in the  
Church

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>  
December  
Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>  
December  
school finishes @  
3pm

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Does anyone  
have a 'sheepdog'  
onesie that Mrs  
Barter can borrow  
for her class?



## This Week in School

Well done to those brave souls who went and sang in the Royal Victoria Place last Saturday. The singers raised £80 towards costumes for their Christmas production. The singing was well received and we had one of the local headteachers email me to say how fabulous they were!

### Productions

Our Christmas preparations have continued this week and the children are trying very hard to learn their lines and remember what to do. We look forward to the performances next week. Please remember all children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are expected to attend their Carol Concert on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### Attendance

Our School Attendance Officer came into school to review the attendance of individual children. Children who have lower than 90% attendance are monitored closely and if their attendance gets lower than 85% then you are invited into school to see if we can help.

It is really important that you phone into school when your child is off, and give the particular reason for the illness not just 'ill'. Also please can we ask that when signing the late book that we have a reason for lateness and not just 'late'.

### After School Arrangements

Please note that if your child is waiting in the reception area after 3:15pm they will be taken to our After School Club and you will be charged for the time they are there.

And finally a gentle reminder that the children should have their PE kit in school every day. This week in one class we had half the class without their kit. PE lessons are an integral part of the curriculum .

Please remember there are no clubs next week except for the Drama Club rehearsal.

## This week in class:

### Acorn

This week we have been learning the r phoneme and making rainbow collages with tissue paper. We have begun to write simple sentences together and have been talking about full stops. In Maths, we have been learning to subtract from groups of up to 10 objects, and have been learning to read number sentences (e.g.  $10-5=5$ ). We also made a messy tray of rainbow spaghetti; we played in it and discussed what it felt, smelt and looked like.

### Willow

This week Willow Class have been working on developing their problem solving skills in Maths and finding all the possibilities when answering questions. In English we have been talking about character descriptions and how we can use describing words in our writing. The children generated their own adjectives and similes about Father Christmas. In Art the children drew their own seascapes based on Turner's pictures. We have been practicing for our Christmas play and are looking forward to performing it next week.

### Beech

Beech Class have been practicing their Nativity Play so brilliantly and you are all in for a treat next week! In English we are learning about speech marks, through the books 'The Snow Dragon' and 'The Noisy Stable'. It is quite tricky to open and close the speech marks in the right place, so if you have time at home, Mrs Banner exclaims "practice together!" In Maths we are continuing to use money in working out different combinations of coins to make 20p. RE led us into a time of prayer and reflection thinking about Jesus as the biggest gift God has ever given us. We looked at children around the world who are very poor and may not receive a gift this Christmas. We wrote prayers for these children and thought about the meaning of the word compassion.

### Maple

Our Maths focus at the moment is measure. We have been working on our measuring skills using mm, cm and m. We worked on a class investigation into the number of 30cm rulers that would fit into a metre stick, 2 metre sticks and then how we could prove this even without equipment. We were very busy with chalk on the playground. In English we have been improving our comprehension skills with some Christmassy texts. We have worked on summarising key information from paragraphs, checking unfamiliar words and writing answers in full sentences. This is a skill that the children will need all through school and beyond, and we are very pleased with the progress they have made and their confidence in handling big chunks of text! We have continued handball and tag rugby in our PE sessions and are very fortunate to have sports coaches in to learn from.

### Chestnut

Chestnut Class have been looking at what method to choose when answering equations - mental or written methods. We have looked at using a bar model to help us understand the different relationships numbers can have. In Maths the children worked on an area/perimeter investigation. We will not be using MyMaths before Christmas for homework.

In English we have thought about being brave and what this means. We finished reading our class book 'How to Train Your Dragon' and wrote book reviews about it. We have then thought about the different characters in the book and designed a new character for a sequel. The children also examined the features of a Haiku poem (Japanese poem linked to nature, 3 lines, 5/7/5 syllables). They planned their own winter-themed Haiku. In Science the children looked at the human skeleton, learning the names of some of the bones and finding out some fascinating facts about the skeletal system.

### Lilac

This week the children have explored time and how to solve problems linked to time. They have begun to look at how to read timetables and are really trying hard to read analogue and digital times accurately. In their topic work they have found out about how transport changed in the Victorian period, which helped them in their English lesson where the children have written formal letters linked to their Victorian topic, to argue either for or against the creation of the railway. Miss Charles popped in on Thursday and it was lovely to see her, she is aiming to be back with us next week. Lilac Class were very excited that they were the winners of the Rainbow Café and had a special lunch on Wednesday chosen by the class.

### Oak

It was Oak Class's Greek day on Thursday and it was great fun. The children made some wonderful shields, decorated pots, wrote their name in Greek, ate some traditional Greek food and they even had a go at some Greek dancing!

We have been continuing to write a newspaper report about the Trojan Horse in English and in Maths we have been working on our arithmetic skills.

## Attendance –

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 96% to achieve. Last week the best class was Acorn- well done. Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	98 %
Willow	94%
Beech	96.3 %
Maple	96 %
Chestnut	92.9%
Lilac	94.8 %
Oak	97.1 %



The banner features the Easyfundraising logo at the top center, with the tagline 'feel good shopping'. Below the logo, the text 'Collect FREE funds for us when you shop online the easyfundraising way' is displayed. The banner is decorated with school-related icons like a green lunchbox, a purple pen, a blue eraser, a yellow notepad, a blue ruler, and a blue set square. At the bottom, there is a three-step process: 1. Join (with a heart icon), 2. Shop (with a shopping basket icon), and 3. Collect (with a gold coin icon). Below the process, logos for partner retailers are shown: amazon.co.uk, John Lewis, Thomson, ebay, viking, Argos, and Sainsbury's.



## Something to think about:

Is the gap between the notes music?

Have a lovely weekend- have you tried to log onto MyMaths yet our new online Maths Home learning?

Our School Nurse should be coming to the coffee morning on Monday.

Maira Duncombe @StBarnabasSchoolTW