

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 13th January 2017

"Living & Learning together" www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.
This week we found out about Love.

Dates and Reminders

Please remember to book with the school office at least 24 hours in advance if you require After School Club.

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## Dates

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January  
1:30pm Year 5 Class Mass

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January  
1:30pm Year 4 Class Mass

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
1:30pm Year 3 Class Mass

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January  
1:30pm Year 2 Class Mass

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January  
1:30pm Year 1 Class Mass

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
9:30am Whole School Mass  
Ash Wednesday

You are very welcome to attend!

## School Open Afternoon

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
@2:30pm

Come and visit your child's classroom and look at their books.

## Attendance Challenge

*We are challenging the school again to strive for 96% attendance.*



## This Week in School

We end this week with some snow!! Thank you to all those who helped and offered to help clear our playground today. If we ever need to close the school we will use ParentMail and the following website (<http://www.kentclosures.co.uk/>). It is always a difficult decision if ever we close the school but the safety of the staff and children are paramount.

This week a group of our Year 5 and 6 children went to the Angel Centre in Tonbridge to take part in some athletics competitions. The team performed well and showed exceptional sportsmanship- well done team, Mrs Tompsett and Mrs Brown. Next week it is some of our younger competitors turn.



Fr. John gave our school a very special blessing this week, which you can see by the front door.

The children are completing reviews about the school to help inform us what our pupils think of their school. One of our older children wrote that St Barnabas' was good at: *'Inspiring people to learn more every day,'* ..... what more can I say!!!



St Barnabas PTFA

# QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 20th January

in the School Hall



All proceeds to a great cause - St Barnabas' PTFA!

St Barnabas CEP, Quarry Road TN1 2EY

## A note from Dave:

A call out for the following to help with the Lantern Parade on the 4th Feb, we need people to prepare, cook, and serve food at the end of the parade. All profits go to the PTFA.

**CREATE** also needs volunteer stewards for the parade - if you know of anyone who might want to help please let me know

Finally on the morning of the parade we need some help putting up the festoon lights all around the playground. Any help gratefully received contact Dave on 07966190428 or [dprodrick@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dprodrick@st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk),

Thank you.



## Keeping safe online

You might have seen recently the report about keeping safe online. We will be sharing tips and information through the school Newsletter and Website.

# **It's private...** Make sure your page is private. You can do this in your Facebook privacy settings. Click in the lock icon in the top right hand corner of your page, and then click on the 'Privacy' tab to change your settings.

## Free School Meals

The way in which schools are funded has changed and it is therefore important for the school to record children who are eligible for free school meals accurately. If you receive one of the following benefits you may qualify for free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Child Tax credit (not including Working Tax Credit) if the household income is below £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance.

You can apply easily using this website: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent/apply>

Even if your child is in Year R, 1, 2 and so receiving free school meals under the Universal Offer, we would still kindly ask you to complete the form above. The information will remain confidential.

## **This week in class:**

### **Acorn**

This week we have been learning the 'u' and 'b' phonemes in phonics. We have been learning to write labels for our drawings and we are beginning to write short sentences. In Maths we have been learning to measure how long something is using non-standard measures (e.g. small bricks). We have been having lots of fun in our Doctors' role play area and have begun yoga lessons in PE.

### **Willow**

This week Willow Class have been learning about time in Maths. This has involved thinking about analogue and digital times shown on a clock for o'clock and half past, sequencing and answering questions about days of the week and months of the year. In English we have been working on using conjunctions (connectives), full stops, question marks and exclamation when writing sentences. On Thursday the children wrote about the superheroes they had invented. In RE we have been learning about the story of Joseph the Dreamer and have talked about why the Bible is important to Christians. In Phonics we have been reviewing some letter sounds and tricky words. We will be doing some work on split digraphs over the next few weeks. A quick reminder that Willow Class have started PE lessons on Monday and Wednesday again. PE kits need to be in school, particularly on those days.

### **Beech**

In Maths we are developing our number frequency skills, getting quicker at adding numbers together, with single and two digit numbers. We played 'Zap the Digit' to help us understand place value, using our tens and units. Challenge Beech Class to give you a game over the weekend. In English we are using the simple past continuous tense and the simple past tense in our holiday recount writing. Beech Class are also squeezing in some adverbs to create some exciting adverbial phrases. In RE we retold the 'Captain of the Storm' with percussion instruments and then talked about who helps us when we feel frightened.

### **Maple**

In English we have begun reading the book 'The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane', we are going to be basing our instructional writing on this text over the next few weeks. We have learned about making dyes for illuminated manuscripts and will be having a go at producing our own coloured inks. Using the book, we have looked at how we create clear and organised instructions, and use apostrophes to show that things belong to people.

In Maths we have been using times tables to find patterns and explain the connections between numbers. We have worked so hard on learning times tables and using them to answer practical division problems. The children have shown such enthusiasm for this and are making great progress!

We have begun a unit on the Old Testament in RE and leaned about Abraham and his faith in God this week. We thought about who we have faith in, and how that affects us. Over the term we will be learning about key figures from the Old Testament.

In Science we have brainstormed what we know about light, dark, shadows and the sun. We learned about light sources and things that reflect light or let light through. Over the next few weeks we will revisit our initial ideas about light and see what we have learned.

### **Chestnut**

Chestnut Class have been busy this week. In Maths we have been looking at arrays and factors in relation to multiplication and how these can help us to solve problems. In Maths the children also focussed on time conversions and solving time problems. We started to read the book 'Bird, Snake, Mouse, Wolf' by David Almond. We have used the idea of creation to think about the many wonders of our Earth and used persuasive writing to say which wonder we think is the best. We have written proclamations from the Gods about how wonderful they are to have created such magnificent wonders of the world in the story.

The children looked at 'Explanations' in English. They read several explanations and highlighted the key features. As a class we wrote an explanation about 'how to keep clean' (aimed at younger children). We have also been looking at homophones and creating silly sentences to help us remember them. In Science the children started a new topic; 'Electricity'. They looked at how electrical energy is converted to different forms of energy. They made a simple circuit and identified the written symbols for the components. In RE the children studied the parable of 'The Good Samaritan' and they then used role play to explore the story.

### **Lilac**

For English this week, Lilac Class have been writing poems about space using metaphors, similes and alliteration. We have been performing our poems to the class and have looked at space poems written by poets to give us inspiration. In Maths, we been ordering and comparing equivalent fractions and have been thinking about mathematical reasoning. We have started our topic about the Ancient Mayan Civilisation. We found out when the ancient ruins were discovered by the Spanish Conquistadors in the rainforests of Mesoamerica. We have also been examining photographs of ancient ruins and thinking about how they were built and who they were built for. In Science, we have continued our research about the Solar System, completing our own challenge cards. Our RE this week has been about the different books within the Bible and what they are about. Fr John came in to give us a talk about this and shared with us his Bibles written in Hebrew and Greek. We have also been thinking about what books we enjoy reading most and why.

### **Oak**

This week we have continued our topic 'Into the Death Zone' by finding out about different mountain types. We have started to plan and write reports and looked carefully at the main features of this style of writing. On Monday we took part in our year group Mass and asked some excellent questions about the theme of the local community.

We have been revising calculations and looking at translations of shapes.

Please note we are having a Year 6 Parents meeting regarding the SATs process on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 3:15 in the Year 6 classroom.



Something to think about:  
**When does loud start?**

**Event news**

Mrs Tompsett and Miss Stephens are organising a Zumbathon to raise money for Mrs Tompsett's marathon charity ARC.

You do not need to have any experience or be particularly fit. Come along and join in when you fancy, take as many breaks as you need or dance your way through the whole 2 hours. All are welcome the main aim is to have fun, get a bit sweaty and raise some money for a brilliant cause.

**When:** Friday 3rd Feb 7.30-9.30pm  
**How much:** £7.50

**Where:** St Barnabas' School Hall

We look forward to seeing you, regulars and newbies.

*Mrs Tompsett and Miss Stephens*

And lastly.....

Can I remind families that at the end of the day the site needs to be cleared by 3:15pm so that our After School Club can use the playground.

For our wet playtimes we are looking for donations of any of the following any art / craft items, complete simple jigsaws, games that can be completed in short periods of time and U rated DVDs. Please give them to Dave Prodrick or drop in at the office ~ thank you.

Enjoy the weekend and any of the snow that is still left!

With best wishes

*Moira Duncombe*

@StBarnabasSchoolTW