

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 3rd February 2017

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



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.
This week we continued to find 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

Wednesday 1st March
9:30am Whole School Mass
Ash Wednesday

You are very welcome to attend!

School Open Afternoon

Thursday 9th February
@2:30pm

Come and visit your child's classroom and look at their amazing work!

Message from Mrs Pring:

Many children are starting to use their My Maths accounts at home now. If you want to access your account on an iPad or tablet, then download the Puffin Academy app and you can access it through there.

If your child is having difficulty using their account then please let their class teacher know so that we can investigate why.

Attendance Challenge

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 96% to achieve. Well done to Oak who had the best attendance last week.

Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	96.67 %
Willow	85.67 %
Beech	95.67 %
Maple	96.00 %
Chestnut	92.20 %
Lilac	82.14 %
Oak	97.24 %



This Week in School

Although the weather has been very gloomy the children have continued to work hard and on Wednesday Mrs Atkinson and I completed an English Learning Walk across the school. We spent time in each classroom looking at the work completed and displays and we were very impressed! The children are taking pride in their work and writing lots!

Our Parent Governor election is still open so please do vote and return your forms by next Friday.

On Tuesday the staff are refreshing their knowledge on Safeguarding and so will not be in the office from 3:15 -5pm. Safeguarding is a key area for schools and we regularly update our knowledge

Thursday is our Open Afternoon. Do come along and see your child's work and look round the classrooms.

Last Friday I had a purge of all our lost property and have a rail of coats... please do have a look as they will be given to our PTFA for recycling.

I do hope the weather is kind for the Lantern Parade tomorrow and if you do go have a super time!

This week in class:

Acorn

This week we have been learning the j and y phonemes. We made jelly and talked about the changes we could see happening; we then wrote about this experiment. In Maths, we have been learning to add with numbers up to 20, and we have begun to learn to add by counting on from the first number. We have been working on doing this with counting toys and with numicon. We have been learning to draw simple pictures on the computer and have built a small world tray for our fire engines and police cars. In our play, we have been writing about ourselves, making birthday cards for our friends, building castles and caves as scenes for our role playing.

Willow

This week Willow Class have been continuing to learn about place value and number sequences in Maths. This has involved adding together two amounts of Dienes blocks and finding out the total number of tens and ones, finding the numbers that are one more or one less than various numbers up to 100, sequencing 2 digit numbers and counting in 1s and 10s. In English we have continued doing activities around the story of the 'Three Little Pigs'. The children have written about how to build a house for one of the little pigs and written a list of what the three little pigs should pack when they leave home. In RE we have been learning about the story of Jonah and have talked about times when we have done something wrong. The children have been fascinated by the story of the Chinese New Year and made their own Chinese lanterns on Wednesday.

Beech

In English, we have been creating character descriptions of a brave and fearless knight. We started by using our understanding of prepositional (where) phrases to generate sentence starters. We then applied our understanding of how to use adjectives to create some excellent descriptive sentences. Finally, we added sentences which gave the audience information about what sort of character the knight was. In Maths, we continued to expand our understanding of addition and subtraction. We practised counting forwards and backwards in jumps of 10 using a counting stick. We then applied this knowledge by using a hundred square and blank number line to solve addition and subtraction problems. In Science, we planned an investigation to find out if the amount of sunlight we give a plant will affect how well it grows. We thought carefully about how to control variables and plan a fair test.

In RE we talked about Jesus healing the man who had leprosy. This led into a discussion, about compassion for others. We wrote a prayer for those around us who need God's compassion at this time. Our dance, to the music 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams, is looking polished and ready to perform to each other next week. Beech Class are fantastic at choreography and working as a team to create different emotions in their dance. We are exploring watercolours in art by painting castles and reviewing our own art work to improve it.

Maple

In Maths we have been focusing on time. We have refreshed our skills in telling the time in full hours, half hours, quarter hours and five minute intervals. We made clock faces showing the 24 hour clock and tested each other on am and pm times.

We have worked very hard on creating neat copies of our explanation texts. We have been looking at editing our work so that it is all in the third person, present tense, and is set out in paragraphs. To finish our pieces, we have been adding photos of the processes we undertook to create natural dyes.

In RE we have been learning about the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. The children re-told the story from Moses being placed in a basket in the River Nile, to him handing on the Commandments to the Israelites. The class thought about their rules for a happy and peaceful classroom.

Chestnut

Chestnut Class have been having an exciting week focusing on our topic work. We have been looking at water. This has included pollution, flooding, the water cycle and much more. It has been lots of fun.

In English the children have been carefully planning an explanation about volcanoes, thinking about paragraphs, subheadings and sentence types. In Maths the class have been reading and understanding timetables and answering problems related to this. In Science the class made three different, homemade switches to work in a simple circuit. In RE the class read the 'Parable of the Wise and Foolish builders' and they then thought about what they build their lives on.

Lilac

In Maths this week, we have been continuing our work about fractions. We have now moved on from adding and subtracting fractions to multiplying fractions and mixed numbers by whole numbers. Mrs Duncombe has also been working with us in Maths this week. In English, we have been putting our final touches to our extended writing activity about being a Spanish Conquistador in 1519. We have also been performing our writing in the form of role play, portraying our character's journey across the Atlantic Ocean on a sailing ship, travelling through the dense tropical rainforest of Mesoamerica and finally discovering the ancient ruins of the mysterious Mayans. In Art and DT, we have started to design our own individual Mayan people and planning out mosaics based on images of Mayan art. In RE, we have been reading a selection of psalms from the Book of Psalms and Proverbs and thinking about how these help us live our lives. We also wrote our own psalms entitled 'Happiness', focusing on what aspects of nature make us feel happy and things we can do in our lives to feel happy. In Science, we have continued our work about the movement of the Earth around the Sun.

Oak

On Monday, the children were learning about the American artist, Albert Bierstadt and the way in which he used light in his paintings. Using his pictures as inspiration, they created a painting in his style.

Our English work this week has continued to focus on the book, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' and the children have been concentrating on writing the 'problem' part of their story. Once again, their writing has been very descriptive and they have all been incorporating imagery in to their stories.

We have been focusing on decimals, fractions and percentages in Maths along with revisiting area and perimeter.

For home learning last week the children were asked to research Charles Darwin and their knowledge was very impressive! In Science, they used this research to create a fact file on his life and discoveries.



Safer Internet Day 2017 will take place on Tuesday 7th February with the theme 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'.

As a school we will be involved and if you would like to know more please see: www.saferinternetday.org.uk #SID2017

For our younger children you might like to watch:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5kW4pl_VQw

For our older children you might like to watch this short video with them:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV3VkFg6ZFw>. It looks at privacy settings and social media.

Please do watch the clips before you watch with your child to make sure they are suitable.



Something to think about:

Are all ravens black?

And lastly.....

Have a lovely weekend

With best wishes

Moirá Duncombe

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