

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

**Newsletter Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

*"Living & Learning together"* [www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk)



Our School Christian Values are Love, Trust, Perseverance, Reconciliation and Compassion.

This week we explored books as part of our book week

## 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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## PTFA

Acorn Cake Stall  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March

## Red Nose Day- Next Friday

Wear something red and bring a donation. Please note no red hair for the children who are going swimming

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## End of Term Mass

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March  
9.30am

St Barnabas' Church

**Please note correction of date.**

## Year 6 Residential Trip

Year 6 parents your next instalment for the residential trip is needed. Please see Mrs Scammell in the office.

## Attendance Challenge

*As a whole school we have an attendance target of 96% to achieve. Here is the breakdown for each class:*

Acorn	94.7 %
Willow	96 %
Beech	97 %
Maple	94.3 %
<b>Chestnut</b>	<b>97.9 %</b>
Lilac	98.9 %
Oak	96.9 %



## This Week in School

We came back to school to see that Mrs Watkins had been busy in our school gardens and had planted some beautiful plant holders near the hall. We are so lucky to have her keep our gardens looking so good.

You will also notice we have a new shed outside the hall which will help to store new PE mats to support our Gymnastic teaching.

Year 5 went on a special trip on Wednesday to the Herstmonceux Observatory and were very well behaved. The trip started a little later in the day and this enabled the children to do some star and planet gazing.

This week we interviewed for the position of Deputy Head of the school and I am pleased to inform you that Mr Mackinnon, who currently is teaching in Year 2, will be joining us permanently in September in this role. We also interviewed for an admin assistant for the school office and from April Jeni Reeves will be joining us.

Another busy week!

## **This week in class:**

### **Acorn**

This week we have been learning the oi and ai digraphs in phonics. We have been reading the book 'Oi Frog!' and writing our own rhyming sentences inspired by this book. In Maths, we have been learning about flat and solid shapes and we have been looking for solid shapes around the school site. We have begun a new Dance project around the theme of Easter and we have begun to learn about the Easter story in RE.

### **Willow**

This week Willow Class have been learning about Florence Nightingale and her impact on Nursing. The children have started to research facts about her and have thought about other things they would like to find out. In English the children have been thinking about how to use punctuation in our sentences. In Phonics they have been learning about different ways to make the 'ee' sounds and practising reading and writing tricky words. The children have been using the iPads to access My Maths and Phonics games. The children have been learning about multiplication in Maths and completing number sequences.

### **Beech**

In English, we have been retelling the next part of Sir Alwen's quest. We verbally rehearsed and then used whiteboards to create sentences using the and/but/because/or connectives. We then used and applied these skills to create a section of narrative writing. Finally, we spent time reading through, reflecting upon and then editing our writing. In Maths, we continued to solve problems involving money. We applied the skills we had developed while completing addition problems, to add values of money using the partition method. Next, we used our reasoning skills to answer True or False statements about money. In ICT, we continued to use the repeat function to programme instructions and create incredible patterns.

### **Maple**

As part of our focus on fractions we have been working out fractions of sets. We have also been looking at different representations of fractions and have enjoyed playing games to make sets of equivalent fractions. Well done Maple Class for your enthusiasm!

Following on from our dictionary skills work last week, we have been tackling thesaurus to find ways to improve our writing. We have been detectives, finding alternative words, and also magicians, transforming sentences by choosing a wider range of words. The children have shown real progress in their ability to improve their writing independently.

We have begun our Easter unit in RE and will be looking at Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the unfolding of the story.

### **Chestnut**

This week Chestnut Class have been using Lego to look at equivalent fractions. In English they have been looking at compound sentences and how to make them interesting. They have been using information about the making of the Harry Potter films to extract information and talking about what would be useful features of a non chronological report.

In English the children wrote the final draft of their 'Property Advert', including persuasive techniques, adjectives, different sentence types and a range of punctuation. In Maths they identified a range of angles inside shapes and looked at how to measure the angles, accurately, using a protractor. The children had a lot of fun in Science, they observed candles burning inside a glass and watched as the oxygen levels diminished. They managed to prove that there were gases inside the glass, by placing the candle on a saucer of water and observing the reaction.

### **Lilac**

In Maths this week in Lilac Class, we have been developing our knowledge about decimals. We have been multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and been thinking about decimal places and place value. We have also been solving problems about decimals, using the four operations, focusing on where to place the decimal point. In English, we finished our non-chronological reports about endangered species living in Belize. We used this work to design and create our own individual leaflets about why we should adopt these animals, using a range of persuasive language. As part of Science week, we went to the Observatory and Science Centre at Hertsmonceux. There were lots of 'hands on' practical science activities about space, gravity, force and colour and light. We were also given two science presentations - one was about earthquakes, volcanoes, tornados and chemical changes and the other was about telescopes. As it was a clear night, when it became dark, we were able to see Venus through the telescope! In Art this week, we have been designing Mayan necklaces.

### **Oak**

In our English work we have started a new piece of writing set in the future. It is based on a short animation called 'Replay'. The children have written some very descriptive pieces of writing and have had to think carefully about how the characters were feeling. We have also been practising our reading comprehension skills and recapping determiners.

Our focus now in Maths is preparing for the SATs. We have revisited BODMAS, division, decimals and column methods. All of the children are working really hard.

In Design and Technology, we have started to construct our model mountains!

St Barnabas  
School & PTFA



# EASTER HOP!

**Thursday 30th March**

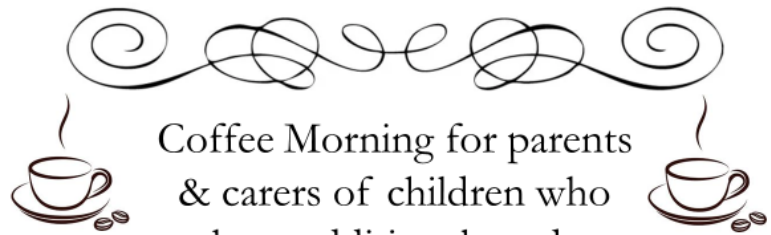
A sponsored half hour hop skip and jump...

Fun activities around our Hop course raising money for the school

Sponsorship forms in book bags or from the School Office!

Get active this spring - for a great cause!

## Treasure Chest



Coffee Morning for parents  
& carers of children who  
have additional needs  
17<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am  
At River Centre

Please contact Ro for further details: rowenabanks@gmail.com or 07816975130



Something to think about:

Is it ever possible to learn  
nothing?

**A request from Mrs  
Smallcombe:**

If you have any  
children's books at  
home with dual  
languages that you no  
longer need we would  
like to start a small  
library here in school.

And lastly.....

Thank you to all Drama club cake makers. Their cake sale on Thursday was a great success raising £83.00

Well done to Willow Class who achieved this week's Caretaker Award!

With best wishes

*Moirá Duncombe*

@StBarnabasSchoolTW