



BARNARDCASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Bigger Better Barney Letter

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The Time Of Your Life!

The Prep School children lead busy school lives. As a result, it is important that they learn to make the most of the time they are given to do things. Indeed this is one of the highlights of the school, the children enthusiastically take on the opportunities that are provided for them. It is appropriate therefore that this week's theme has been 'making the most of time'. We have looked at how time passed cannot be regained and how important it is to concentrate on extracting the most value from each lesson, activity and play time throughout the day.

In a way this links into our theme of the term which is to be better organised. In assembly this week we discussed how the children might use their changing time before and after sports more carefully to ensure that they do not misplace any of their clothing or even wear somebody else's clothing home. With regard to this latter point I would be grateful if parents could keep an eye on name tags to make sure that the children bring the correct uniform and sports kit home each night. Obviously returning misplaced clothes depends entirely on whether everything is named clearly and I cannot stress enough how important it is that parents make sure that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly and indelibly named.

We have the first boarders' exeat of the term this weekend which is preceded by the Netball and Football House matches for Years 5 and 6 on Friday afternoon at 2:15pm. I would like to remind parents that they are welcome to come and watch the House matches and I would like to wish the boarders and their families a very enjoyable weekend.

Carl Rycroft, Headmaster

Pre-Prep Open Morning

In an effort to showcase our outstanding Pre-Prep for prospective parents, we will be holding an Open Morning on Friday 24 February, 9:30am to 11:30am. Our intention is to show the Pre-Prep in action to parents who are considering sending their children to the school. This will be the first time that we have tried an open morning during the school week and we hope that it will be of interest. Should parents be aware of anyone who is considering our Pre-Prep Department please encourage them to telephone Sarah in the Prep School Office on 01833 696032 or direct them to our website <http://www.barnardcastleschool.org.uk/admissions-open-day.asp> to register for the open morning.

Super Special Mentions

This week we were delighted to award certificates to:-

Kohana Armstrong	William Hutchinson	Charlie Coulthard
Sebastian Waiter-Westgarth	Grace Young	James Hodgson
Jonny Ross-Mitchell	Arabella Michelin	Sam Metcalfe
Harriet Callender	Thea Maidwell	Phoebe Heintz
Joseph Gibbons	Imogen Parish	Matthew Forster
Melissa Saunders	Martha McAllister	Ralph Makepeace
Amelia Edmunds	Christopher Simpson	Liam Rusk
Louis Rogulja-Hodge	Cameron McKnight	Guy Atherton
Daisy Oliver	Ewan Callender	Well done!

Boarding News

The boarders enjoyed watching the film, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, on Friday evening. They ate some of their tuck whilst watching the movie and then had a relatively early evening as the Year 6 children had to be on form for their entrance tests the following morning.

The Year 6s were in good spirits when Mr Seddon arrived to take them to the entrance tests. The remaining boarders enjoyed playing with the twins and had some time on the Wii playing Just Dance, even Mr Killeen had a couple of goes! In the afternoon Miss Sanderson and Mr Killeen took the younger boarders into town to spend their pocket money. As it was cold and wet they stopped off at the NeST for a hot chocolate. Mrs Killeen joined them and had a walk around town before venturing back to Old Courts to meet the Year 6s who'd worked hard all day. As a treat Mr and Mrs Killeen ordered a takeout and there were pizzas, Chinese food and Indian curry all on the menu. They thoroughly enjoyed it and ate every scrap.

The children finished off colouring their dream house designs and they are almost complete ready for Mrs Killeen to award each team up to 100 points. On Sunday Mr Killeen enjoyed watching the six rugby boys in their matches at Bishop Auckland before returning briefly to Old Courts to collect the horse riders ready for their lesson. Meanwhile some of the Year 6s and Mrs Killeen went for a walk into town to spend some pocket money and have a drink and a muffin. Sunday evening seemed to fly by. We went to Prep School to use the laptops and then had Harriet's birthday cake. As always we were pleased to get into bed but sad that the weekend was over!

Mrs Killeen

Year One Go Walkabout!

Last week, Year 1 went on a 'detective walk' around Barnard Castle to support our work in Geography and Design Technology. We looked at different styles of buildings and talked about what they might be used for and what materials we could identify on the walls and roofs. We walked down a road where there were lots of semi-detached homes, which were quite new, and then past a row of terraced houses which were much older. We investigated how the house numbers were in a special pattern and we followed our route carefully on a big street map. We even found a house with a blocked up window, so we learned a bit about 'window tax' as well. We left school in bright crisp winter sunshine, but by the time we reached NeST we were treated to wind, sleet and horizontal rain, so we zipped up and headed back at a very brisk march! This is what some of the children had to say:-

"We got biscuits. We were very wet" Jonathan Burgess

"We saw a grand gate of stone" Daniel Richardson

Mrs Michelin

Hockey v Yarm School

The Under 11A and B Hockey teams also played Yarm School on Friday. They were two very competitive matches which highlighted the development of our girls. The A team narrowly lost 2-0 while the B team reversed that score line for an impressive win. The girls used the width of the pitch well with Charlotte Martin and Ellie Dalton scoring two good goals. Well done to all the girls.

Mrs Seddon

Netball v Yarm School

The Under 10 A and B teams travelled to Yarm on Friday for their first match of the season. The opposition had been playing since September so we were already at a disadvantage. We lost convincingly but the girls took a lot away from the fixture. We are looking forward to the Netball Tournament at Bradford School this Tuesday.

Mrs Killeen

Maths Puzzler

Well done to Phoebe Heintz who worked out the answer to last week's puzzler in a really systematic and well thought out way. To find the biggest product using 8,7,9 & 2 you need to use the two biggest numbers as the tens numbers and then share the units out so the smallest unit goes with the biggest ten – 92×87 gives the biggest answer. To find the smallest, simply multiply the smallest number you can by the smallest unit, in this case 789×2 . Well done Phoebe!

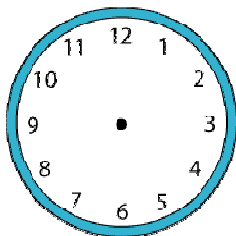
Time is a fixed unit and whilst a person's perception of time can change, time itself is constant. This week's theme has been time and how precious a fixed unit it is so I've dusted off an old puzzler I thought worthy of another look.

Reception - Year 3: Can you split the clock with two lines (like the hands of a clock) so that numbers on one side add up to TWICE the numbers on the other side?

Years 4-6: Can you split the clock with two lines (like the hands of a clock) so that both sides add up to a prime number?

Good luck.

Mr Ayres



Birthdays

This week the following children will be celebrating a birthday:-

Ricardo Allen, Victoria Gibson,
Abigail Pearse and Jake Vernon

Best wishes!



Football v Yarm School

The Under 10s had a very tough opening fixture against Yarm. We started slowly on a new playing surface, AstroTurf, which did not help our boys and we lost a few early goals. Going in 6-0 down at half time was rather demoralising but the boys showed a lot of character and won the second half 3-2.

The Under 11C team, which was largely made up of Under 10s, had a very competitive match. Again, they struggled early on with the different surface but improved throughout the game and created some really good chances which they, unfortunately, could not put away.

The Under 11 B team also had a competitive match which could have been won by either team. It ended up as a 1-1 draw, although the score could have reached double figures with the amount of chances.

Mr Wicling

The U11 A team kicked off their season with a very tough "Old Firm" game against local rivals Yarm. After a slow start they found themselves on a strange surface with a 2 goal deficit and a lot of questions to answer, and boy did they answer them. After a half time shake down they went out with real purpose and character and imposed themselves on the game, scoring 4 second half goals and creating chance after chance. Unfortunately the damage had already been done and they fell just short but learned an invaluable lesson about the importance of focus and application rather than relying on their undoubted natural ability. I am very proud of the determination they showed and the resolve they played with after the interval.

A special mention has to go to Man of the Match Jack "heart and soul" Nichols who covered every inch of the pitch and never stopped working for the team.

Mr Ayres

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Open weekly: Monday 8.45-9.45am & Friday 3-5pm
Spring Term: Sat 4th February & Sat 24th March 12-1pm

We stock a wide variety of school uniform and sports equipment but always need more. We are particularly short of sports socks at the moment and accept single socks for sale as well as pairs. We need more Senior School House ties, PE tops and sports tops (both hockey and rugby).

If you have any items for sale, they can be left in the office at Prep School or Senior School but please ensure you include your child's details if you wish to receive a share of the proceeds when sold.

NOW SELLING: We have in stock Mr Pepper's beanie hats (£8 each) and Young Enterprise water bottles (£4.50 each).

Forthcoming Events

January

- Thurs 26 Year 4 Trip to the Centre for Life
- Fri 27 Years 5 and 6 House Football and Netball, 2:15pm
- Sat 28 Exeat Weekend
Sportsman's Dinner, Big School
- Sun 29 Exeat Weekend
- Mon 30 Years 3 and 4 House Football and Netball, 2:15pm
- Tues 31 Rugby Tournament @ Bradford GS: U11, U10, U9
Netball Tournament @ Bradford GS: U11, U10

February

- Thurs 2 SATIPS General Knowledge Quiz

School Policies and Information

Parents are reminded that key School Policies are posted on the School Policy page of the website. Parents can also get copies of policies that deal with the following from the Prep School Secretary: admissions; behaviour, misbehaviour and exclusions; education and welfare provision for pupils with statements and pupils for whom English is an additional language; anti-bullying; safeguarding and child protection; equal opportunities; health and safety provision; school visits; and complaints. Copies of the parent handbook are also available should you have misplaced yours as well as a full staff list with qualifications.