



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

Friday 2nd December 2016

Issue Number: 849

Headmistress's News

As we have marked the Advent season in our assemblies this week it is fair to say that anticipation is eager as we enter the festive period. The Nativity display is being put up outside the Reception Classroom as I write, the decorations made by the pupils now adorn the trees in Mrs Morse's office and in the foyer and the glitter trail leading towards the classrooms have all helped us to get into the Christmas spirit. There are many good examples of how Christmas can enhance teaching and learning throughout the School and right across the curriculum. Additionally, the Nativity production and the Carol Services provide opportunities for furthering literacy, drama, music, public speaking and other creative skills as well as fostering the community spirit that encompasses the School. I do hope parents, family and friends will be able to join us for the Christmas events in Chapel. The Nativity play and Carol Services are real highlights of our School year.

The Prep School Council have proposed a 'Christmas Jumper' day on Friday 16th December, the final day of term, to raise money for the Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day Appeal and we are happy to support this initiative on a voluntary basis. Therefore, should they wish, children may come to School in their uniform, replacing their School jumper with a Christmas jumper on the last day of term. Those children wishing to take part should also bring a suggested donation of £1 into School for Save The Children, which their class teacher will collect at morning registration. This will also add a real sense of festive spirit to our Christmas lunch which has now been changed to the final day of term.

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Small as she begins her maternity leave, awaiting the safe arrival of Baby Small number two! From January, I am delighted to announce Mrs Anne Lee, an experienced Art and Design Technology teacher will be joining the Prep School team and maintaining the good work that Mrs Small has established. Mrs Lee has been with the School for a few years now, predominantly helping out with the Senior School Art department. We are delighted to have her share her expertise with us for the next few terms.

Have a lovely weekend.

Laura Turner

Boarders News

The boarders returned on Sunday night after having a fun filled family weekend, they all came back very excited and armed with advent calendars. Could there be a certain day approaching? As we head into December, it's beginning to look and sound a lot like Christmas. Everyone in the boarding community is looking forward to our Festival of Nine Lessons and carols followed by a delicious Christmas dinner next Sunday. We are also all looking forward to having our very own Old Courts Christmas Day before the rest of the festivities.

This week the boarders made their own playdough and had great fun moulding all kinds of strange and peculiar works of art!

Mr Killeen



Get off your horse and drink your milk!

On Monday, Year 1 created some fantastic hobby horses as part of our 'Toys' topic in History lessons. The children took great care in creating some beautiful horses, complete with multi-coloured manes and eye catching bridles. At the end of the day the children enjoyed playing with their hobby horses and riding off into the sunset at the end of the day!



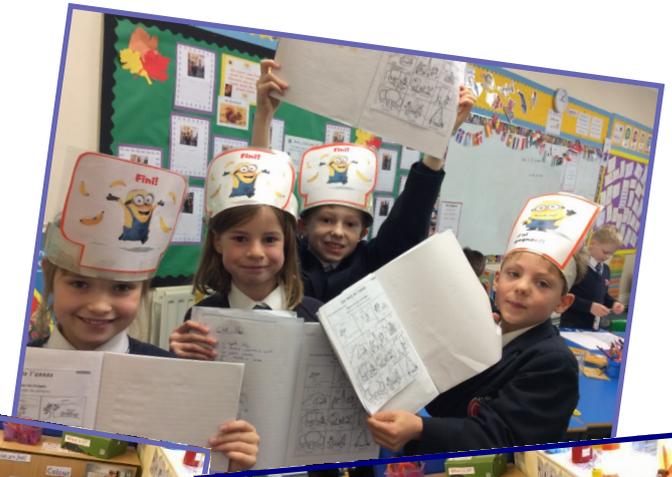
London's burning!

As part of their Fire of London project our Year 2 children have been comparing and ordering iconic London landmarks. They looked carefully at different buildings, examined materials and possible construction methods to determine their age. They were very impressed by the design of two very modern structures, The Gherkin and The Shard.

After careful construction, our own Tudor house models were finally completed. Luckily they went home and escaped the flames of The Great Fire of London.

Bonne Anniversaire!

Year 4 have been learning how to tell a friend the date and month of their birthday. They are doing a great job counting to 30 and beyond! **Mrs Michelin**



Bonnie wee biscuits!

Reception enjoyed making and eating shortbread when learning about St. Andrew's celebrations this week. This topic just gets better and better!

Activities

Please note there will not be any lunch time or after school activities during the last week of term (week commencing 12th December). Children may of course, still stay at school until 5pm and buses will run as normal.

Sport News

Year 3 & 4 House Hockey and Rugby

On Monday afternoon, the Year 3 and 4 children took part in the House Hockey and Rugby matches. As it is early in the year this event is always a little disjointed but the children all had great fun. Representing your House is always a thing of pride and in the late November weeks it keeps the competitive edge firing. Congratulations to Drake who won the Rugby and Grenville who came out on top in the Hockey. **Mr Wicling**

Swimming Gala: U11

On Monday we hosted the annual Swimming Gala. Five schools competed with a boys and girls team from each. It was an excellent afternoon with our boys coming second and our girls coming third overall. A positive performance from all those who took part - well done. **Mr Wicling**

County Hockey Cup: U11

Friday afternoon saw the exciting County Hockey Tournament being held at Barney and the U11A team were victorious! First up was our match against Bow and the girls displayed some of the best Prep School Hockey I have seen. They played with their heads up and as a 'team'. With many lovely passages of play it didn't take long for the girls to score their first goal and after the first bang on the backboard it wasn't long before the score rattled up leaving them with a 8-0 win. Next the girls played Choristers and they managed to hold the majority of possession, again showing the strength of the team. Despite Choristers' efforts, they secured a 4-1 win and their position as County Champions. A fantastic effort from all the girls and they should be extremely pleased to have made it through to the next round in March where they will face other winning teams from the North. **Mrs Hairsine**



I wanna read!

Emma Warner Reed will be coming into school to read an extract from her new book and give a mini-workshop to inspire creative writing with the Year 3 and 4 pupils next Wednesday 7th December. She will have copies of her new book Dotty and the Chimney Thief to buy at £7.99 or £15 for both books in the series should children wish to bring in some money for a signed copy.



Making a meal of it!

Year 5 have been busy in RE lessons learning all about the Seder meal for the Passover festival. We made some charoset out of apples, walnuts, orange juice, cinnamon and raisins. The children enjoyed trying it and had fun learning all about the other elements of the Seder meal.



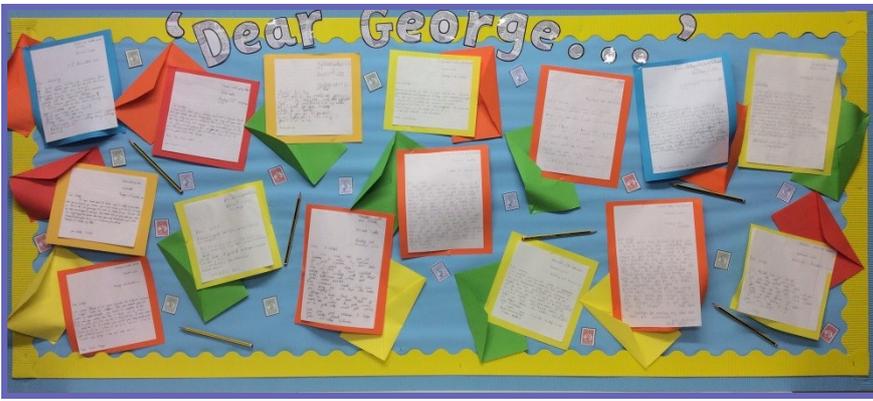
Putting Prep School on the map!

Year 6 have been getting to grips with map reading this term. Four figure grid references are now considered a piece of cake, but six figure ones are a little more problematic, as there are no actual lines on the map to help!

By dragging and dropping symbols onto a IWB MAP, children are able to test their accuracy and to refine their skills.

In fine song!

We were delighted to welcome Mr Coulson, one of our singing teachers, to assembly on Tuesday along with a former Prep School pupil, Grace. Grace sang 'Hushabye mountain' to us all beautifully. Mr Coulson had us all playing fun singing games and challenged us with a round that consisted of three different songs (Don't Put Your Muck in our Dustbin, Fish and Chips and Vinegar, and One Bottle of Milk). We then got to sing "Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud" with Mr Coulson. We were in very fine vocal form whilst thoroughly enjoying ourselves! If anyone is interested in pursuing singing lessons, please let Dr Harrison know.



Dear George

Year 3 have been looking at the persuasive writing genre and decided to write to George (of Marvellous Medicine fame) to try to stop him from giving Grandma the medicine! They had great fun arguing the pros and cons – here are a couple of examples:

*Dear George,
I have heard what you are doing and it is not good!
You're so clever and obviously you're a good boy but there must be another way.
She is horrible to you but you must not do this.
It is too dangerous and you might die.
Do not do this!
Best wishes
Ben*

*Dear George,
I have heard about the terrible news and I am really worried about what you are doing to your Grandma. You must stop this right now. I'm so sorry you have to deal with your Grandma: It must be terrible for you. She must make you so sad and angry and I understand that she makes you feel awful, angry, annoyed and stressed.
But have you really thought about your actions? What if the house falls down? Where will you and your parents live?
Thank you for reading my letter.
Yours sincerely
Mirabelle*

Check mate!

Last Friday saw ten intrepid chess players from Years 4-6 take part in their first Chess match against Crook Primary School who were preparing for a major competition in Newcastle the following day. They provided a tough test for our fledgling team and whilst there were some titanic struggles, Crook showed their quality taking the lions share of the points. Edward Baker, who up until this term had barely played chess, came away with a well deserved victory. Needless to say every player conducted themselves brilliantly and learnt a lot about the game by playing new opponents.



House Maths

House Maths proved to be not only a real success but an absolute nail biter too! Each of the year groups competed fiercely and it was really pleasing to see the level of engagement and competition present in each clash. A year group win gave a House 4 points, coming second 3 points etc. When the dust settled, Raleigh emerged victorious by a single point with Gilbert a close second after they finished second in three of the four contests. A fantastic end to a great competition and something that I am sure will grow next year.
Mr Ayres



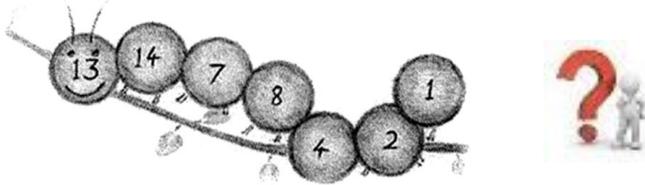
Christmas lunch countdown ...

If you've been tempted by the stilton crumble and twice-cooked belly pork but still haven't booked your seat at the Barney Friends' Christmas Lunch, this coming Monday is the deadline for your order and deposit. It's a great occasion so do try and join us on Monday 12th December at 1pm at Clarendon's, in Barnard Castle Market Place. At £20 a head it's a fantastic value three-course lunch, followed by the Christingle and Carol Services in Chapel for Prep parents.



Maths Puzzler

Congratulations to everyone who solved last week's caterpillar puzzle. Starting with the head we add 1 to any odd numbers and halve any even numbers, so a caterpillar with a head of 34 would look like this:- 34,17,18,9,10,5,6,3,4,2,1



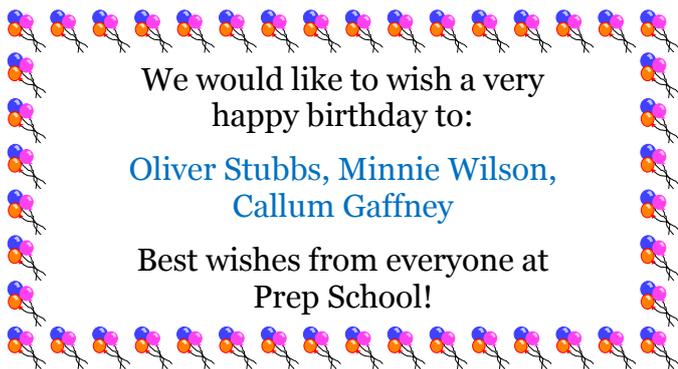
I had a pupil tell me this week that they really wanted to be a teacher because there's always cake in the staff room!

They're right! Each teacher eats the number of slices of the year they teach every lunch time, so Mrs Hairsine has 1 piece at lunchtime (because she teaches Year 1) whilst I have 6 pieces at lunch time (because I teach Year 6). Mrs Bale is the healthy one amongst the teachers and doesn't eat cake. How many slices of cake get eaten in a week? If each cake has 8 slices how many cakes do we need to keep the staff happy each week?

Please return your answers to me by Wednesday. Good luck!

Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk



We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

**Oliver Stubbs, Minnie Wilson,
Callum Gaffney**

Best wishes from everyone at
Prep School!

Forthcoming Events

December

- Sat 3 Bridging the Gap for Year 6 pupils
- Wed 7 Author Emma Warner Reed visits Years 3 & 4
- Thurs 8 Pre-Prep Nativity Dress Rehearsal, Chapel
- Fri 9 Pre-Prep Nativity, Chapel, 2pm
Hockey v Cundall Manor: U11 (A), 3pm
- Sun 11 Boarders Carol Service followed by Christmas Dinner, 5pm
- Mon 12 Reception class visit Santa Claus at Raby Castle
BF Christmas Lunch, Clarendon's, 1pm
Y3 & Y4 Carol Service with Christingles, Chapel, 4pm-5pm
Children in Harmony Choir attend both services
All Y5 & 6 pupils stay at school for tea
Y5 & Y6 Carol Service, Chapel, 7pm-8pm
- Thurs 15 Whole School trip to the Pantomime
- Fri 16 Christmas Jumper Day for charity
End of Term Gathering for Pupils, 9am
Christmas Lunch for staff and pupils
Term finishes at the end of the school day
Buses leave at 5:10pm as normal

Awards This Week:

Special Mention Certificates:

Sebastian Howard, Caitlyn McLean, Matilda Chapman, Isla MacConachie, William Jackson-Ward, Sebastian Metcalf, Benjamin Pelly, Theo Te Lintelo, Gus Coggrave, Harry Forrester, Joseph Robin Truss, Jonny Royle, Luke Banner, Lewis Maunder-Brown, Annie Barker, Isabelle Kerr, Bea Dolby, Lorcan O'Neill, Harry Metcalf, William Te Lintelo, Clara Rowbottom, George Stubbs, Sebastian Waiter-Westgarth, Daisy Wilson

Merit Certificates:

Alexander Carr, Sebastian Howard, Sophia Hare, Ella Turner, Jessica Raper, Sophie Winnard, Annie Barker, Ethan Davis, Rhys James, Celine Jolley, Felicity Richardson, Freddie Ross-Mitchell, Charles Appleyard, Callum Gaffney, Tabitha Hilsdon, Lorcan O'Neill, Joel Peart, Charlie Coulthard, Freddie Hendrix, Reuben Hosking, Charlotte Blenkiron, Tilly Gray, William Jackson-Ward, George-Louis Boulton, Megan Brown, Quinn Williams, Joe Arnold, Isabelle Hawkins, Clara Rowbottom, Poppy Barlow, Charlie Bridges, Adam Lee, Sophie Pegram, Frankie Preston, Polly Heintz, Bella Staley, Daniel Newell, Ossian McGregor-Towers, Molly Peart

App of the Week:

Habitat the Game

As Year 4 are learning about habitats at the moment, I thought a Science app might be a helpful one. Habitat the Game helps younger children to learn how to care for the environment whilst looking after a virtual polar bear.

Players must complete real-world actions -- such as turning lights off and conserving water -- to keep the creature healthy. By completing these tasks, players will progress through levels, increasing the health of their bear and earn badges of recognition for their efforts. Ultimately the goal is to save the world by improving the bear's health.

You can also find real world Habitats using the location settings in the game. Enjoy!

