



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

Friday 9th December 2016

Issue Number: 850

Headmistress's News

I am very much looking forward to our Pre-Prep Nativity this afternoon, A Miracle in Town, and I do hope parents, family and friends will be able to join us for this event with festive refreshments served afterwards in Senior School to get us into the Christmas spirit. In addition to this, the Christingle and Carol Services are real highlights of our School year and these take place after School on Monday. Family and friends are warmly invited to join us in the School Chapel at 4pm for the Years 3 and 4 service and at 7pm for the Years 5 and 6 service.

Looking ahead to next week, the excitement is mounting with a variety of Christmas events taking place, including a visit to Father Christmas, the pantomime and our Christmas Lunch on Friday, complete with a Christmas jumper as a festive addition to our School uniform. I am delighted to announce that as our new building and Science garden have now been officially signed off, we have decided to officially name it. In keeping with the project designed for our Centenary year, we have aptly named it 'The Centenary Building'. We have decided to hold a small opening ceremony with the children on Wednesday morning before Chapel and it seems very fitting that Mr Seddon will do the honours of opening this building as he too celebrates his Centenary teaching term. We are all looking forward to this special event.

Laura Turner

Boarders News

The boarders had a fantastic time with Miss Kulaszewski on Friday, making decorations for the Old Courts Christmas tree. They all had great fun as could be seen from the trail of glitter around the house! Saturday was another fun-filled day with Mrs Michelin arriving with a bag full of activities for the boarders. First they wandered down to School and made iced cookies for our tree, along with scrumptious jam tarts. Afterwards they made the most of the fine weather and played on their scooters before making a batch of fantastic Christmas crackers. Meanwhile the Year 6 boarders enjoyed a taster session at Senior School to see what's in store for them next year. We had a calamitous time on the evening decorating our tree when we had to start all over again after it fell! Following breakfast on Sunday morning, a couple of the boys were in action for Barney Rugby Club against Bishop Auckland whilst others listened to music, wrote Christmas cards and played games together. In the afternoon, everyone went swimming in the School pool and enjoyed diving, bombing and generally having fun. The final activity for the day was making stockings for Santa's visit to Old Courts.

Mr Killeen



It's cool in the pool!

Year 2 have had a great term swimming at Teesdale Leisure Centre this term. They have perfected their techniques and mastered dives and floating positions. This week they practised life saving skills whilst wearing shorts and t-shirts to enhance a real life scenario!

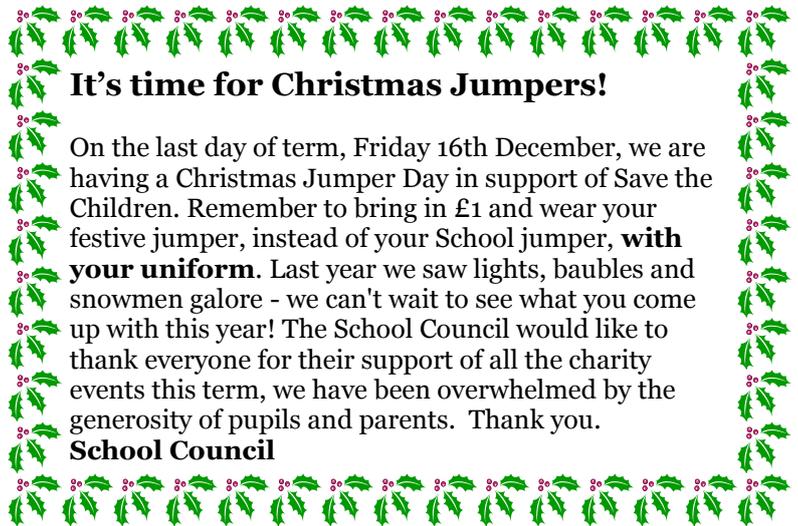
They are looking forward to their final session next week where they will be having Christmas fun in the pool!



It's in the bag!

The Senior School are collecting old clothing, bedding, curtains etc. to fund raise for their Rugby and Hockey tour and their trip to Sri Lanka next summer. If you are having a pre-Christmas sort-out, we would be most grateful if you could bring your unwanted items into School. Please deliver in dustbins bags, or you can pick up 'Bags 2 School' bags from the Prep School Office or the Senior School General Office. Items include: clothing, shoes paired and tied together, handbags, hats, bags, scarves and ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels and blankets. They DO NOT ACCEPT School uniform, pillows, cushions, duvets, blankets, carpets, rugs or corporate clothing.

The bags will be collected mid January 2017.



It's time for Christmas Jumpers!

On the last day of term, Friday 16th December, we are having a Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children. Remember to bring in £1 and wear your festive jumper, instead of your School jumper, **with your uniform**. Last year we saw lights, baubles and snowmen galore - we can't wait to see what you come up with this year! The School Council would like to thank everyone for their support of all the charity events this term, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of pupils and parents. Thank you.

School Council



We all wanna read, and write!

Wednesday afternoon saw the eagerly anticipated visit from local author Emma Warner-Reed. Children in Year 3 and 4 had read a prologue from one of her books and were keen to ask lots of questions, both about the text and more generally about how to be a writer. They were then introduced to 'Flash Fiction'; an increasingly popular genre, where the challenge is to condense a story to its most minimal form. Given a short excerpt, the children worked in groups to develop maps of character, setting and events, guided and encouraged by Mrs Warner-Reed. It was fabulous to see how intensely every child engaged with the writing process, shared ideas and poured their imaginations on to paper. Some children had brought samples of their own writing to show to our visitor, and others were pleased to come away with signed copies of her recent books. There was no stopping Year 4, who continued the project individually in the following lesson. This was the extract, followed by a couple of examples of what the children were inspired to write:

"He stood on the frozen water with his hand outstretched, calling her. 'Come on. It's quite safe. I promise.'" (from Dotty and the Chimney Thief)

Scarlett got scared and was afraid of the frozen death trap. Bob suddenly ran on to the ice and screamed! By Minnie Wilson

But as soon as the weight of Cassie touched the ice it made a CRUNCHING sound, then a CRACKING and then BOOM! Shoots of water went everywhere. By Ned Michelin

If you fancy having a go, you can find details of it at www.thedottyseries.com where there is a different challenge to enter each month – hurry though, this one closes on 31/12/16. Good luck and happy writing!

Mrs Michelin



Sport News

House Swimming

On Monday the Year 5 and 6 boys and girls competed in a House Swimming Competition. We haven't done this for a few years but all the children were ready to battle in the pool with some very impressive performances. Raleigh and Gilbert were very close in both age groups and came out level in Year 5. However, Gilbert pipped Raleigh to Year 6 Gold and overall victory.

Mr Wicling



As cold as ice!

Year 5 have continued to experiment with changing states. This week we made icebergs and timed rates of melting as well as looking in detail at the patterns in the ice. 5K also entertained us all with their Christmas Assembly yesterday.



Wait a minute Mr Postman!

Christmas preparations are in full swing in Prep School, with decorations up, performance rehearsals and children have been sharing their own festive spirit with sending cards through the School. Year 3 are very enthusiastic in their role as 'Christmas Postman', collecting, organising, counting and delivering the huge number of cards that have been sent this week. The postbox will remain open until Wednesday 14th, so there is still time to get your cards written and delivered.

Discovering Darwin!

This week Year 4 have been researching their first Great British Scientist, Charles Darwin and his adventures to the Galapagos Islands aboard the Beagle. This has linked in with our Habitats and the principles of Animal Adaptations which we will follow up further with our trip to the Centre for Life next term.



Super Shields!

To complete our Kenyan topic, Year 3 pupils have been finding out about Masai tribes, life in the Masai Mara and tribal traditions. The children were inspired by the shields used for protection and have designed and created their very own.

Practice makes perfect!

It's full speed ahead towards Christmas for Year 6 as they prepare for the Carol Services on Monday. Many of our long serving 'Preppies' are excited about their important roles in the services. They are really enjoying learning their version of Tony Christie's 'Is This The Way to Amarillo' while the readers are practising hard.

We are also looking forward to entertaining the residents of Charles Dickens Lodge next Friday afternoon with some Christmas songs and readings.



Taking in the view!

On Wednesday afternoon Year 1 went exploring with Barnaby Bear. All the children were overwhelmed by the size of the School grounds. A hike to the top of the School fields allowed the children to draw a field sketch of all they could see. Barnaby especially enjoyed taking in the magnificent view.



Hotel Insectors!

Reception class have had a huge interest in minibeasts recently. The children find them in the garden at School and some children have even built 'hotels' for them at home! So it seemed only fitting that we visited the new minibeast habitat in the Science garden and gave Mrs Seddon the benefit of our expert opinions. The children introduced lots of leaves and some additional creatures to the palatial 'hotel' and have booked themselves in for a minibeast mini-break next term to see if visitor numbers have increased.



Taekwondo success

A Baek Ho Taekwondo grading exam took place at Butterknowle village hall on Sunday 4th December. Grandmaster Bryan Whiley, 8th Dan was the grading examiner. I was extremely proud of all of the students who took part. Very well done to Niamh Hennessy and George-Louis Boulton who were promoted to Yellow tag; George Goad, Harry Forrester and Thomas Rothwell who were promoted to Yellow tag. William Shaefer who was promoted to Green belt and Joe Arnold who was promoted to Blue tag. I'm very proud of all of you and it just shows with training weekly, perseverance and dedication what you can achieve! A special mention to George Goad who has worked very hard for his new belt. Well done all of you!



Miss Lee, Taekwondo Instructor

Activities

Please note further to the notice in last week's newsletter, the only activities that are on next week are Hip Hop Dance and Ballet on Tuesday. All other lunch time and after school activities are cancelled. Children can, of course, still stay at school for milk and biscuits or prep, as usual.

Headmistress's Commendations:

Niamh Hennessy
Benjamin Pelly
Theo Te Lintelo
Benjamin French
Poppy Barlow
Harry Metcalf
Jake Roberts

Well done!

Maths Puzzler

Congratulations to everyone who solved last week's Cake Puzzler. One way to work it out was to take the five lunch times, multiply that by the number of each year group and multiply that answer by how many people are in each year group. We end up with a heart stopping 225 pieces of cake being eaten over the week! If each cake has eight pieces the staff would go through 28 1/8 cakes a week!

This week sees the return of my favourite puzzler of the year - the Staff Secret Santa! This year's puzzle involves myself, Mrs Robertson, Miss White, Mr Wicling and Miss McNulty all buying presents for each other. Follow the clues to work out who bought what for whom.

There were no direct reversals, i.e. no-one gave to the person who gave them a present.

- Miss White gave Mr Wicling a desk tidy
- The person who received a cookbook gave a woolly hat to the person who gave the calligraphy set
- Miss McNulty gave a calligraphy set to the person who gave the desk tidy
- The recipient of the desk tidy gave a juggling set to the man who gave the cookbook
- Two people gave presents to people in their own year group

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:

Olivia Preston, Celine Jolley, Jake Lawson,
Jemima Burton, Poppy Barlow, Frankie Preston,
Harry Metcalf

Best wishes from everyone at Prep School!

Forthcoming Events

December

- 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:

Merit Certificates:

Tom Staley, Benjamin Pelly, Benjamin French, Lucy Harburn, Sophie McGill, Ned Michelin, Freya Pinwill-Price, Molly Rendall, Zara Dobson, Gus Living, Harry Sinclair, Seth Crisp, Oliver Dickinson, Daniel Raper, Archie Rickard, Bea Dolby, Charlie Thompson, Daisy Wilson, Jack Baptist, Oona MacConachie, Rocco Catellani, Isabelle Killeen, Jacob Killeen, Sebastian Metcalf, Joe Rutherford, Konrad Blake, Olivia Bridges, Mirabelle Harrison, Niamh Hennessy, Mila Johnson, Theo Te Lintelo, Isabel Warren, Ben Arnold, Emily Pegram, Matthew Collinson, William Hutchinson, Harry Maguire, Annabelle Metcalf, Lydia Dixon, James Binks, William Banner, Harry Sowerby



Christmas Appeal

A huge thank you to all the families who sent in Christmas Shoeboxes. We received over 200, which is fantastic! The shoeboxes have been delivered to four charities in the North East - HomeStart Seaham, HomeStart Teesside, Children North East and Safer Families.

Thanks to your generosity, some of the neediest families in our area will receive a gift this Christmas. Many thanks to Father Darren, Dr Harrison, Lady Gray and Mrs Swan for organising.



App of the Week:



Pic Collage for Kids

Pic Collage is a favourite amongst some of the teachers and this children's version is great as it is easy to use and lots of fun. It allows you to create collages of all your favourite pictures and send them to family and friends.

A great app for sharing the Christmas joy!