



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

Friday 5th May 2017

Issue Number: 864

Headmistress's News

It has been lovely seeing you all at your child's parents' evening over the last week and I hope that you have enjoyed the process and getting to speak to all the teachers involved in your child's education. To conclude this new system, we would really value some feedback and would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete a questionnaire by following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DBX8F9D> by Sunday 14th May.

Very well done to everyone who went away last weekend to the Robinwood Centre in Alston. The weekend of outdoor, adventurous problem solving and team building activities was a great success. The children and staff threw themselves into the experience wholeheartedly and it has been most enjoyable hearing them all reflect upon their exploits. Well done to the children and thank you very much to Mr Ayres and his team. I am sure that the Year 4 children are eagerly anticipating their residential trip at Gibside in Northumberland next week and the excitement that it brings.

Next week, I am delighted that Mark Langley (Deputy Head from September 2017) will be visiting Prep School on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He will be out in the playground with myself around pick up time if you would like to meet him. Mrs Summerson-Brown (Yr 5 teacher from September 2017) will also be in School on Wednesday. We are hosting an open morning on Friday 19th May for new parents to see the School in its normal working environment. If you know of anyone who is considering the School for their children in the future please do pass this information on to them.

Have a lovely weekend!

Laura Turner

Boarders' News

The boarders had a fantastic weekend and spent the majority of it enjoying the sunshine. Mrs Michelin came armed with several activities on Saturday and the children were superb company all day. Firstly they completed their prep and reading before starting their dough ready to make some bread. Whilst the bread was rising they went to the Bowes Museum to play in the park. On their return they had lunch and then prepared the bread to go into the oven. Afterwards they played a board game before heading into town to explore. They spent time looking for games and toys and also had fun at the miniature golf. It was then time for tea so they headed home. After tea the house smelt of freshly baked bread and the children were eager to eat it for supper. We finished off the day by watching a movie. On Sunday we spent the morning at the Darlington Rugby Festival before heading to Bamboozles for a play. A fun weekend was had by

all and those who went to Robinwood enjoyed sharing their highlights at supper time.

Mrs Killeen



Robinwood 2017

The Trinity term roared into life last week as the Robinwood trip departed to kick off one of our busiest, and most rewarding, periods. With the snow, hail and sleet of last year's approach still fresh in our minds, we left Prep School in beaming sunshine (surely a sign of things to come!). It can be tempting to think that the pictures and videos are the same every year but, whilst many of the activities are the same, it is the photos and videos that truly tell the story of this Robinwood, each image capturing a moment unique to this trip, to this group of children and the special, often indescribable, thread that binds the pupils on this trip together. Please click on the link below to get a glimpse of what we got up to on this most magical of weekends. (Any of the pictures or videos in the Sway can be made bigger by clicking on them).

<https://sway.com/xNRBoZXNyzEJ8QDX?ref=Link>



Astounding assemblies!

Ella Turner superbly kicked off our informal assembly performances which will take place during Hymn Practice each Friday. She played some of her soprano saxophone pieces that she's preparing in order to gain her LCM certificate in a few weeks and her tone was absolutely delightful. The aim is to make informal performances frequent in order to help reduce performance anxiety and to help pupils become used to managing their nerves. Pupils are welcome to play whilst staff and pupils enter the hall for our Friday assembly, as well as in their class music lessons when time permits. There is no need to pre-book, just turn up and play! The time that your child has spent learning to date is also not a factor, so if they're a beginner and have a piece ready or if they're Grade 3, or perhaps an improvisation or composition, they are all welcome. We look forward to an array of dazzling performances each week.

Dr Harrison



Buzzing Beebots!

Reception class were introduced to the Beebots this week! The children developed their ICT skills



while they learned to programme the Beebots to move to a specific location on a map.



What is democracy?

Year 4 have launched a new project to coincide with both the local and general elections taking place this month. During the term we will be examining democracy from its origins to the affect it has on our daily lives. Initially we have tried to work out why it is used as a system of government and how our democratic system works. As part of this, all the children brought in newspaper articles that reflected the changing face of politics today. From Donald Trump's first 100 days in office; why we are having a General Election to the politics of North Korea and the issues surrounding Brexit. Listening to the children already, I think it is fair to say we have some budding Members of Parliament in our midst!



Year 6 have got SOLE!

Year 6 have started their History topic of 'The Victorians' with the introduction of SOLE lessons. These are Self Organised Learning Environments where the children answer a question and then explore the plethora of information that they uncover. This will lead to a variety of study with the children directing their own learning (under the close supervision of the teachers!).

So far it has proved very popular, with the children working positively with each other, keen to expand their knowledge and contribute what they have found out.



Art Competition

The standard of work for this year's Bank Holiday Art Competition was of its usual very high standard, mainly due to the excellent preparation that took place during the holiday weekend.

The theme of 'My Favourite Book Cover' was approached with great enthusiasm, showing some highly original and creative ideas.

The winning entries will be announced next week after a very difficult judging process.

Mrs Lee

Sports News

Tennis v Durham High: U8

On Wednesday afternoon the U8 tennis team went to Durham High School for a tournament against Choristers School and Durham High. The teams were split into two groups. The first group of four played two matches each whilst the second group of four took part in a number of ball activities. Both the tennis matches and ball activities allowed each school to build up points. At the end of a wonderfully sunny afternoon, the Prep School team were victorious, winning the tournament with 256 points. Well done to all the players.



Mr Seddon all to ourselves!

Year 1 were lucky to have a lesson with Mr Seddon this week.

In Science the children have started their topic 'Ourselves'. They thoroughly enjoyed drawing around Charlie and labelling all the parts of his body.



It's hammer-time ...

Tools at the ready for our Denbuilding Day on Sunday 21st May! We're taking donations of all building materials now so if you have any planks, pallets, plastic or any other useful stuff, please bring it to School and leave it on the grass at the bottom of the Prep School drive. We'll create a store here for the next couple of weeks until the big day. Last year's event was a huge success and just as popular afterwards when all the children got to play in the dens. All families are welcome to come along on the day and build a den either as a family or by joining others in a 'team'. It's not a competition and there are no prizes, though family honour may be at stake! There will be bacon sandwiches on offer (expertly cooked by the Hayward family) at £1.50 each to include tea, coffee or juice and picnics are welcome. We start at 10.30am and expect to finish by 1pm. We hope you can join us.

One small step for man!

Year 6 were pleased to hear this week that Clara Rowbottom, 6R, contacted Barry, a family friend, who was a NASA scientist for twenty years. Now retired, Clara emailed him with a number of questions for advice and information about his career as a scientist. The results were interesting and informative and, I hope, inspired our young scientists. Well done Clara! **Mrs Seddon**

What advice would you give to any young scientists?

Go for it. Modern scientific study requires a good deal of experience and background. Acquiring that background and experience is challenging. On the way, you will study various topics that may not seem related to your interests. At some point, you'll recognise that those studies were helpful and often necessary to develop the inquiring mind that is key to scientific study. Don't let the challenges get in the way of your aspirations.

Which NASA base did you work at?

I worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. JPL is well known for the launch of the Mars Rovers. I never worked on the Mars projects. I probably can't tell you much more than you might find online. If you're interested, I recommend that you look up the information that is available at the following website: <https://mars.nasa.gov/mer/home/>

What was the most exciting thing you did at NASA?

As a lead developer of NASA data systems, I worked directly with the scientists who would use the data products we generated. I became involved with various issues associated with Earth science research. I met well known oceanographers, atmospheric chemists, climate change scientists, hydrologists, geologists and agricultural scientists. These folks were very intelligent and had fascinating experiences which they often shared. They were also very hard working individuals. They were deeply dedicated to their research. I very much respected these scientists and the contributions that they made.



Spacecraft that Barry worked on for five years. This spacecraft is now circling the earth. The data from this spacecraft provides global measurements of soil moisture.

Moving on up!

In preparation for moving up into Year 3 next September, our Year 2 children have been set a series of 'moving up challenges'. These include fastening shoe laces, tying ties, displaying increased independence and being responsible for their own possessions. They have risen to the challenge with determination and enthusiasm and are already celebrating each other's achievements. Well done Year 2!



Meet our angle family

Can you guess the angle? In Maths Year 3 have been working on identifying different angles, specifically in country flags and different objects in the classroom.

Why not challenge your child this weekend to see who can find the greatest number of angles in an everyday object!



Having fun in the sun!

In PSHE we have been talking about how to keep safe in the sun whilst at the beach. The children came up with some great ideas in their groups and were able to share them at the end of the lesson.



In English we have started planning our class talks. Each member of Year 5 will plan and present their talk on their chosen topic. Mrs Robertson and Mrs Killen are looking forward to seeing them.



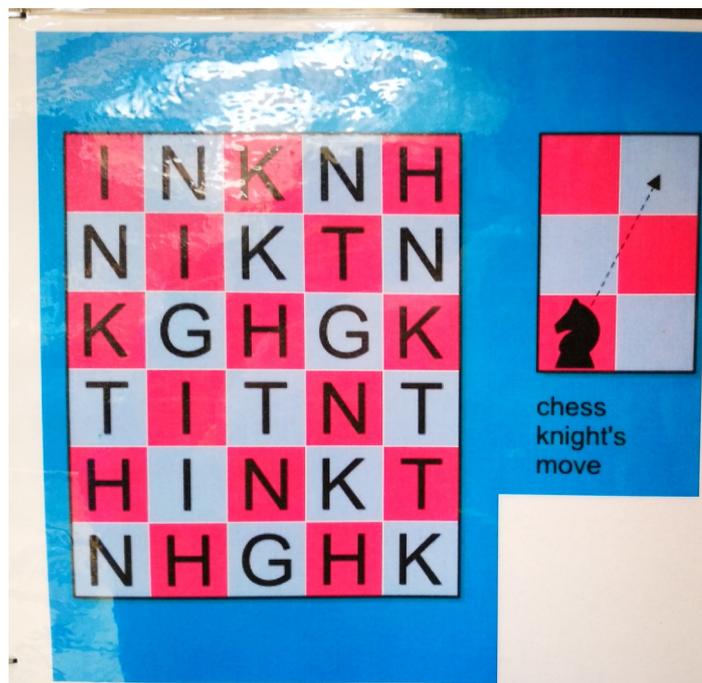
History in the making!

At the end of last term, a small group of Year 2 children entered a History Competition organised by '60 Second Histories', an educational team which produce short films and educational materials to support History in schools. The aim of the competition was to name an EPIC era and create a presentation about it. This could be an essay, song, model or even a film. As Year 2 were nearing the end of their railways topic, they decided to create a presentation on George Stephenson and The Age of Steam. Joe Rutherford, Sophia Hare and Ella Turner created a dramatization portraying the life of this historical figure with the rest of Year 2 supporting through the film making process and, with very little time to spare, sent off their entry with high hopes that it would be looked upon favourably by the judges. Earlier this week they received an email announcing that the standard of entries had been very high but the judges were thoroughly impressed with their presentation. Their short film had been awarded a 'Runner Up' prize which was thrilling as our children were the youngest to be selected amongst entries from much older pupils. We are now awaiting a History 'goodie bag' and their entry can be viewed on the EPIC era website <http://myepicera.co.uk/gallery>. Mrs Priestley



Maths Puzzler

Sadly no one managed to produce an answer to last week's puzzler so it gets filed with the, albeit very few, unsolved puzzlers.



This week's puzzler comes straight from the brand new Knight's Quest at Robinwood. Can you spell the word KNIGHT using only the moves a knight makes in chess (an L shape - 2 squares then 1 square).

Answers, as always, to me by Wednesday please.

Good luck!



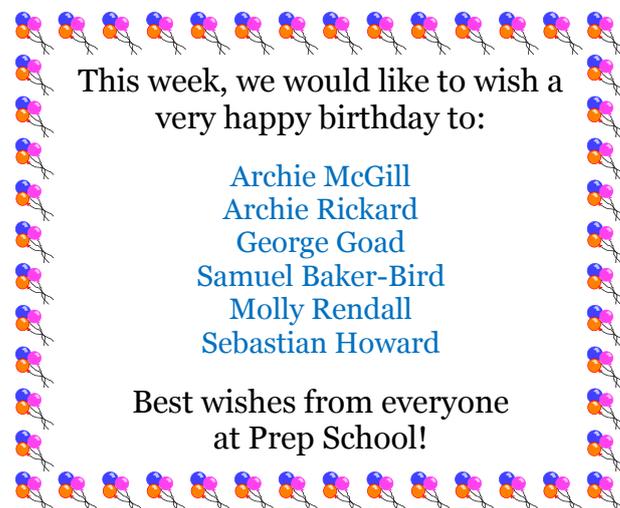
Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

May

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| Fri 5 | Rounders v Ashville: U11A, B & C (A), 2pm
Cricket v Ashville: U11A & U10A (A), 2pm |
| Mon 8 | Class Photographs by Tempest
<i>(all pupils to wear summer uniform please)</i> |
| Tues 9 | NSPCC workshops for Years 5 and 6 |
| Wed 10 | Reception class medical screening
<i>(opt out forms sent home with children, please only return if you do not want your child to take part)</i> |
| Thurs 11 | Rounders v Queen Mary's: U11, U10 (H), 4pm |
| Fri 12 | Year 4 residential trip departs at 9am |
| Sat 13 | Exeat Weekend |
| Sun 14 | Year 4 residential trip returns approx. 4:15pm
Exeat Weekend |





BARNARD CASTLE
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Prep School Open Morning

Friday 19th May
09:30-11:30

Senior School Open Morning
Saturday 20th May 09:30-11:30

