



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

Friday 25th November 2016

Issue Number: 848

Headmistress's News

Christmas trees have arrived, Nativity rehearsals are well underway, carols are being sung and with only 30 days until Christmas, Prep School is beginning to get slightly excited! As parents are aware, the last two weeks of term are particularly busy and all parents should have received the Christmas events information sheet which was distributed with last week's newsletter. This sheet provides parents with important details with regard to timings and venues of key events such as the Nativity play, Christingle and Carol Services. A reply slip was also attached regarding the pantomime trip on Thursday 15th December and, if you haven't already done so, please can you return this as soon as possible to enable us to book the transport for this annual whole school trip? Should you need another copy of this form it can be obtained from the Prep School office or the Newsletter section of the website.

This week we also enjoyed the Year 3 pupils performing their African dancing and sharing their topic work on Kenya and Mr Ayres has enlightened us all at the Prep School with his Maths week. All children from Reception to Year 6 experienced a challenging but fun day run by the Happy Puzzle Company on Monday, which tested their thinking and logic skills. The Mathematical open evening last night was well attended and from talking with parents afterwards, was beneficial to all.

Our boarders are looking forward to their weekend at home and I hope to see many of you at our Michaelmas Market in Senior School on Sunday.

Have a lovely weekend!

Laura Turner

Boarders News

The girls at Old Courts were showing off their acting skills on Friday night. For a large chunk of the evening they dressed up, scripted and performed their own play. Meanwhile, the boys got cosy in front of the TV and watched a film until the girls were ready to perform. We all thoroughly enjoyed the show!

On Saturday, Mrs Small took the children to Prep School where they had great fun making Christmas decorations and playing games. In the afternoon, Mr Wicling took everyone to the sports hall to play a few games and work up an appetite before tea.

The boarders were very excited on Sunday morning in anticipation of our Christmas shopping trip to the Metro Centre. A great day was had by all and lots of gifts were purchased. The countdown to Christmas has begun!

I hope all the boarders enjoy the family weekend.

Mr Killeen



Wait a minute Mr Postman!

As announced in this morning's assembly, the Christmas post box will be appearing next Thursday, 1st December on the table near the kitchen for children to start sending Christmas cards. Please ensure that all cards are clearly labelled with the recipient's name and class. The Year 3 pupils will start delivering the Christmas cards next week.



A Colourful Christmas!

The annual Christmas Colouring Competition opens this Monday 28th November. It is available to all children from Reception to Year 6, so if you would like to take part, please come to the Prep School office and pick up a copy on Monday. Entries are due to be handed in on Wednesday 7th December. Good luck and happy colouring!

Wheely Good Fun!

Year 1 have been busy learning all about wheels and axels in their DT lessons. They have started to make their own moving vehicles and they are all very proud of their big red buses. They are gearing towards designing and making their own sleigh for Santa.

Exciting times ahead!

How touching!

As Reception pupils continue to investigate how they use their senses, this week they carried out a 'touch test'. They discovered that it was much more difficult to identify what was in the box with a sock on their hand. Some really super describing words were used to tell each other what the objects felt like.



Taking a Walk on the Wild Side ...

Our new Science topic in Year 4 is 'Habitats' and to begin our investigations we went for a walk around the School site to search for ecosystems.

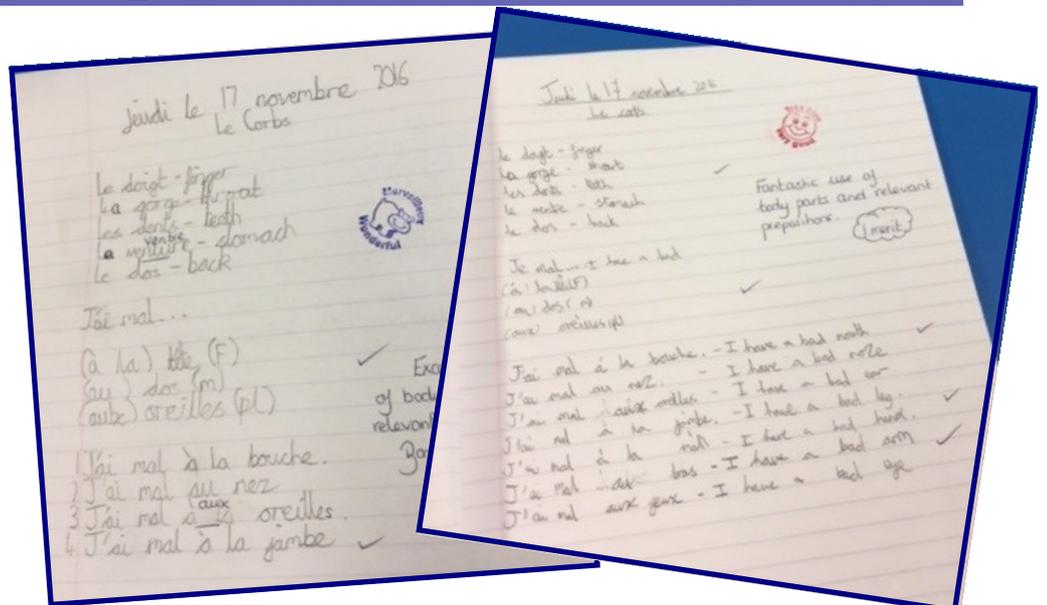
We discovered that trees contain a multitude of creatures, living in the roots, on the bark, inside the trunk and in the branches. We took photographs, discussed the environment and learnt lots of new vocabulary relating to the topic. Using the information we learnt we will be graphing our results, creating food chains and preparing for our visit next term to the Centre for Life in Newcastle.

We all decided that the best words to describe the School environment were, wet, windy, cold, noisy and full of life!



Très bien!

Year 5 have been learning about different parts of our body and illnesses in French. The children have been practising with songs and games to help recall new vocabulary and many have taken the challenge to use prepositions based on the gender of nouns to create appropriate phrases. They produced some super work with some challenging concepts.



Sport News

Rugby v St Olave's and the Grammar School At Leeds: U11, U10

The Year 6 boys and the U10B team travelled to York for a triangular fixture last Friday. The U10s were, at first, a little overawed by the strong opposition and conceded tries in the first half in both games. To their credit, however, they came back strongly in the second half and put in some great tackles and ran strongly when they had the ball. This resulted in tries of our own from Matthew Collinson, which increased our confidence and enjoyment. The Year 6s were split into three teams with the Bs and Cs both having two close games. The Bs, in particular, had to work hard as they were constantly subbing players on and off with the A team. Scorers for us were Harry Metcalf, Jack Roberts, Freddie Hendrix, Henry Turnbull and William Te Lintelo. The A team played some of their best rugby of the season and were notably stronger in their organisation in both attack and, in particular, defence. This led to Johnny Burgess and Daniel Newell scoring in a 2-1 win against St Olave's and Johnny also finished off a great move to score the only try of the match against GSAL. Well done to all the boys who braved what were not nice conditions to play in. **Mr Seddon**

Rugby 7s Tournament at Giggleswick: U11

We enjoyed a successful day at the Giggleswick 7s Tournament on Wednesday. We had the opportunity to play some different schools and during the course of the afternoon, the standard of our play improved as we got used to the tactics of the shortened version of the game. We lost our first game (suffering from the long journey?!) but then recorded three good wins when our attack and support play was first class. In one match we created so many chances that Harry Metcalf was able to score seven tries, surely a School record. In a thrilling final match we scored one of the best tries of the season before the match ended up a 2-2 draw. Well done to all the boys who have come on leaps and bounds as rugby players during the course of the term. **Mr Seddon**



Hockey County Cup: U10

The U10 team took part in the County Tournament at Durham School yesterday. The first match was an exciting one against Durham. With end to end Hockey, the girls got into their stride and scored two lovely goals to win the match. The second match was against Choristers and, although we did compete strongly, Choristers managed to take their goal scoring chances to win. In the final result we were runners up in the County Championships. All the U10 girls have made good progress this year. Well done. **Mrs Seddon**

Spot on!

Last Friday saw Prep School going spotty for Children in Need. We were so impressed with the innovative way children wore their spots - from socks to stickers on their faces! The School Council led the way, running activities at both break and lunchtime, all involving balls and circles. A competition was held for each event and the winners received Children in Need inspired prizes. We raised an impressive £277.18p and our thanks go to all the children for supporting the day so well. Special thanks to Izzy Hawkins for making cakes to be sold alongside the ones provided by the kitchens. We would also like to thank Mr Baker and the ladies in the kitchen for making so many cakes and biscuits for us to sell. Well done to all the School Councillors and those extra volunteers for assisting with the activities.

Miss White and Mrs Small



Dazzling assembly!

It was Year 2's assembly this week and our Diwali theme continued. As the children of Prep School entered the dimly lit Atkinson Hall, they were met with a row of flickering clay Diya lamps and Indian music playing quietly in the background. The Year 2 pupils confidently explained the traditions and significance of Diwali and acted out the story of Rama and Sita. Next they showed photographs of their Diwali celebrations with Year 1 last week. 2P are rehearsing hard for their Nativity and looking forward to celebrating Christmas in the coming weeks!



Africa comes to the Atkinson Hall!

On Tuesday night, the Atkinson Hall came alive with the sights, sounds, animals and even smells of Kenya. Year 3, dressed in animal costumes, put on an evening of African dance, poetry and artwork, which we were delighted to see so well supported by friends and family. The children introduced each section of the programme and it was fabulous to see how confidently they were able to recite poems learned by heart, share their poetry compositions and recount facts from their research in Geography lessons. Vibrant art work was displayed around the room, providing a great opportunity for the children to show off pieces they have all taken so much care over this term. Whilst refreshments were laid on as the audience arrived, the children also provided mid-performance canapes, in the form of Ugali; a Kenyan cornmeal-based bread which the classes had helped to make together. An energetic performance of 'Jambo Bwana' was accompanied by four enthusiastic djembe drummers, before the children came back for an encore of their first dance. The children were deservedly proud of what they achieved – very well done Year 3 and many thanks to all the adults involved in making the evening a success!



Maths Week

This week has been Maths Week and what a week it has been! The Happy Puzzle company kicked things off on Monday with their fantastic 'Brain Blasters' sessions. Every child from Reception upwards not only got to develop practical problem solving skills but also critical thinking and, in line with Mr Wicling's fantastic assembly on Tuesday, they learned valuable lessons about collaboration and team work. It was brilliant to see pupils so engaged and so open to challenge; having to work in groups to solve the puzzles allowed many to see mathematical concepts in a new light and enhance their understanding whilst having fun in the process.

Throughout the week, pupils in Years 3-6 have been taking part in the inaugural House Maths challenge. With each House, in each year group, split into teams of three, the children have again honed their collaborative problem solving skills, working against the clock (and the other Houses) to solve both number and shape puzzles. Everything from Year 4's world famous 'Crunch' to 'Countdown', Tangrams and even some fantastic Tarsias were used. I have been lucky enough to be in most sessions and the titanic duel between Grenville and Raleigh in the Year 5 round provided drama of the highest order. The scores are still being collated as the newsletter goes to print so expect a full breakdown next week!



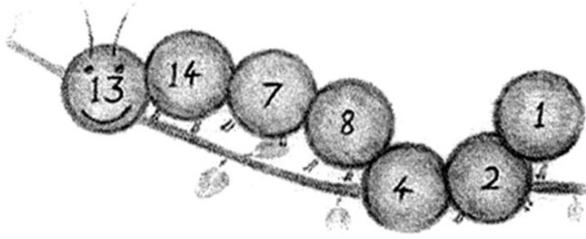
Lastly I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended last night's superb Maths Open Evening. It was great to see so many people there and to show off what an amazing subject Maths is at Barney. I would like to reiterate my heartfelt thanks to Mr Wicling, Mrs Hairsine and Mrs Morse, as well as the rest of the staff and all the Year 6 pupils who helped to pull it all together. If anyone was unable to make it but would like copies of the literature from the evening, please do not hesitate to contact me (sta@barneyschool.org.uk).



Mr Ayres

Maths Puzzler

Well done to Rhys James and Benjamin French who both solved last week's puzzler. The correct answer was E) 9036 which should have been 6039 - a difference of 2997.



This week's puzzler comes from a slide I used at last night's Maths open evening. What is happening with my caterpillar? What would it look like if the number on its face was 34? What is the longest caterpillar I could make using a number less than 50 as the start?

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

Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk



Awards This Week:

Merit Certificates:

Jack Baptist, Dylan Dougal, Vivi Gledhill, Megan Sunley, Alex Banner, Georgina Chapman, Matilda Chapman, Isla MacConachie, Freddie Wilks, Nathan Willoughby-Brown, Alexander Howard, Finlay Toyne, Oscar Bennett-Collins, Violet Heintz, Emily England, Samuel Baker-Bird, Talitha Hayward, Rhys Jenkins, Henry Manley, Euan Metcalf, Thea Wilks, Rachael Richardson, Henry Turnbull, George England, Fiore Catellani, Caitlyn McLean, Sophie Richardson, Peter Stevenson, Lucy Willsmore, Freydis Blake, Matthew Killeen, Rory Metcalf, Alexander Milbank, Bertie Swan, Dexter Thomas, Edwin Barwick, Jemima Burton, Albie Kingsbury, Katy Sludds, Edward Baker, Harry Metcalf, William Shield, Scarlet Sinclair, William Te Lintelo, Mia Pegram, Thomas Blenkiron, Katie Riddell

App of the Week:

Flags of the World Quiz

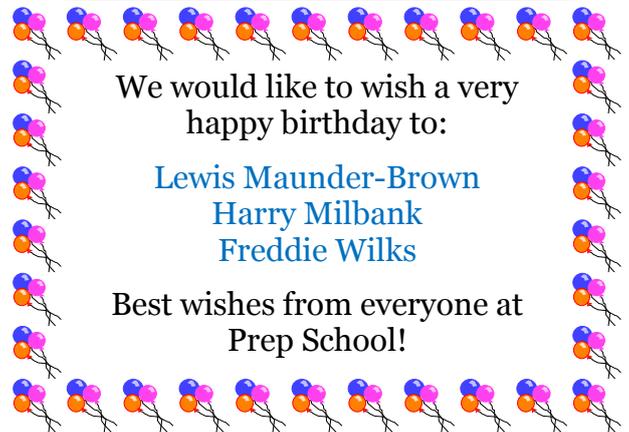


An international feel for this week's app of the week inspired by the PowerPoints that Year 4 are creating in Geography lessons. The game is simple but very tricky, and according to the designers of the app it has only been successfully completed by 2% of those who have started it!

You are given clues as to the country by boxes representing the number of letters - fill in the boxes with the name of the country and move on to the next.

I would love to know how you do!

Miss White



We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

Lewis Maunder-Brown
Harry Milbank
Freddie Wilks

Best wishes from everyone at
Prep School!



Headmistress's Commendation:

Rory Metcalf
Megan Brown

Well done!

Forthcoming Events

November

- Fri 25 Boarding parent/teacher meetings
- Sat 26 Exeat
- Sun 27 Exeat
- Michaelmas Market, Senior School, 10:30am-3pm
- Mon 28 Christmas colouring competition opens to all pupils
Years 3 & 4 House Hockey & Rugby Matches, 1:45pm
Swimming Gala: U11 (H), 2:30pm

December

- Sat 3 Bridging the Gap for Year 6 pupils

Christmas Events

As a reminder, please can all the pantomime reply slips be returned by Friday 2nd December at the latest?

In a change to the calendar, Prep School will now be enjoying their Christmas lunch together on Friday 16th December - yum, yum!

