



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

Thursday 20th October 2016

Issue Number: 844

Headmistress's News

The first half of term has flown by and as usual the Prep School has been a constant whirlwind of activity both in and out of the classrooms. The children and the staff have been on excellent form and I would like to thank them all for their enthusiasm and hard work so far.

Mr Wicling spoke to the children in assembly on Monday about our theme of 'persistence' this week, highlighting his time as a cricket coach and the importance of doing our best at all times; a continued effort brings rewards, something I feel all of our children have really understood and embraced over the past year. This was ably demonstrated again on Tuesday when Catherine Stephenson, a Year 8 pupil and former preppie, showed how her persistence of playing the violin over recent years has paid off. She entertained us all with a wonderful collection of pieces, accompanied by Mr Dearsley, leaving us all feeling very inspired.

This week, 43 Year 6 children and 6 staff have been immersed in the cultural, historical and educational sights of London. This annual trip really is a highlight of the children's Prep School career and marks a coming of age as the children begin their preparation for Senior School. We have published bulletins and Tweets from Mr Seddon on the School website and Mr Ayres has provided a stunning collection of photos and videos on Facebook, should anyone wish to have a look at what they have been getting up to. We are all looking forward to hearing more about their adventures in the city following their return this evening. My thanks go to Mr Seddon, Mrs Robertson, Mr Ayres, Mrs Thirling, Miss McNulty and Mr Killeen for giving their time to provide the Year 6 pupils with this fabulous opportunity.

I would like to wish everybody a refreshing and enjoyable half term and I look forward to welcoming back our boarders on the evening of Tuesday 1st November and our day pupils on Wednesday 2nd November.

Laura Turner

Boarders News

The boarders had a fabulous weekend which kicked off with Miss Kulaszewski playing a game of 'Guess Who?' with the boarders on Friday evening. They all had a sticker put on their foreheads and they were encouraged to ask each other questions to work out what name they had been given. They all had great fun and some proved more difficult than others. On Saturday Mrs Priestley and the children loved making some useful items out of clay. They have fully dried out and are now waiting to be painted when the boarders return after half-term. After lunch Mr Killeen and Mrs Priestley took the children to Rock Antics to try out their challenging rock climbing walls. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the session and were eager to tell their mums and dads how they'd done when they got back to Old Courts. On Sunday some of the boys had a rugby match against Middlesbrough and, despite the horrible weather conditions, they played well and won their match. The boarders voted on what they wanted to do on Sunday afternoon and swimming was the first choice for them all so we went to the school pool and had fun practising how to dive. The Year 6 children finished packing for London on Sunday evening and set off straight after a hearty breakfast on Monday morning. Our remaining boarders have enjoyed the peace and quiet, but secretly they have missed their fellow boarders! Mrs Stewart helped Emily and Oliver make some orange juice by squeezing an orange and sucking the juice out with a straw, delicious! The children are looking forward to a relaxing half-term and spending time with their family and friends.

Mrs Killeen



Extended Care

As a reminder, we are happy to offer help before and after school with our breakfast club and boarders' tea facilities. We also offer flexi-boarding. Please see Mrs Killeen or Mrs Morse for more details.



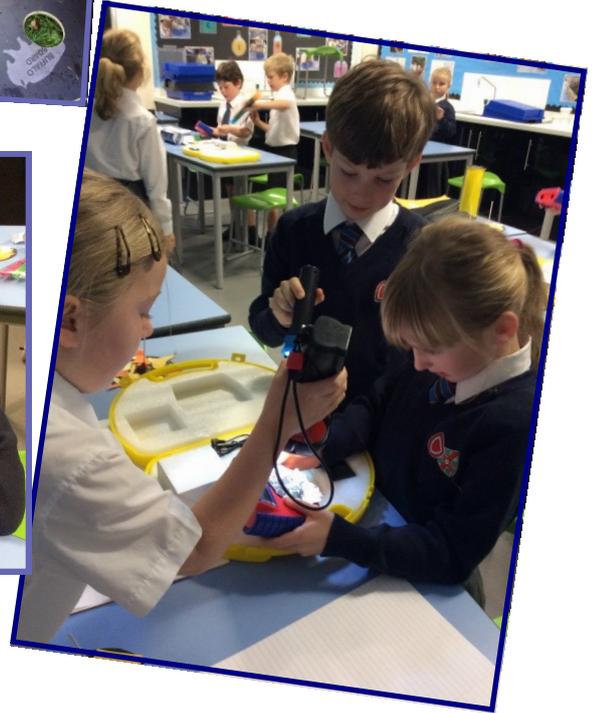


Conker counting!

Continuing with our conker interest in the Reception class, we have used them for our maths activity this week, placing them in the large Numicon pieces in the garden. Today we have been strengthening our hands by picking conkers up with tweezers! Whatever next?

An enlightening lesson!

Year 3 pupils have been using data loggers to measure lux readings. After predicting which materials might give the highest or lowest readings, they took a range of measurements and recorded these in a table. It was great to see how well the children worked together and used their findings to make statements about how much light travelled through each material.



Autumn Acrostics!

Following our wonderful Harvest Festival, Year 2 have been celebrating the Harvest and writing acrostic poetry.

*Hedgehogs hibernate in the autumn
 Around the corner is a combine harvester
 Ripe fruit growing on the trees
 Vegetables collected in our big brown chapel
 Eggs in the chicken coop
 Sun and rain help the vegetables to grow
 Thankful for all the food God provides*
 Ella Turner

*Harvest time
 Apples are ripe
 Ready to harvest
 Veggies looking good
 Eggs will be tasty for tea
 Some hedgehogs sleep in the night
 Thank you so much God!*
 William Jackson-Ward

What a drama!

Year 5 are studying Judaism in RE lessons with Dr Harrison and Mrs Killeen. We often use drama as a way to help us understand stories. Drama also helps us to appreciate how different characters feel and to see things from their perspective. This week we were trying to get our heads around a complex story about a Pharaoh deliberately making his slaves suffer and God exacerbating this by making the Pharaoh "hard of heart" (Exodus 5:12).



Sport News

Hockey Skills Workshop: U8 and U9

There was a very busy AstroTurf on Monday afternoon as we hosted a skills tournament for five schools. The AstroTurf was alive with movement with all 65 children busy working on their Hockey skills and developing their game play. They all had the chance to play some competitive 5-a-side matches, being coached by their teachers throughout to improve game awareness. It was clear that all the girls who participated enjoyed the experience and learned a lot from the afternoon. **Mrs Seddon and Mrs Hairsine**



A step back in time

This week, to complement our work on the Romans, Year 4 were transported to Britain AD60 to explore the rebellion by Boudicca against the Roman Army. The children chose characters; a Roman Trader named Rastus, a slave from Gaul called Venelli, the Roman Governor of Britain who was Tiber, Drest a Celtic farmer, Milo the Roman soldier or Boudicca herself.

In their groups they formed arguments and were questioned in a rather aggressive hot seating session (all in good humour of course!).

It was a super opportunity for the children to place themselves in time and imagine what life would have been like for each of the characters. On the whole

it was decided that being a slave would not have been fun, being Tiber would have been great, Boudicca was an amazing warrior, Milo enjoyed fighting, Drest didn't want to fight and Rastus wanted everyone to get along so he could sell his wine and olive oil!



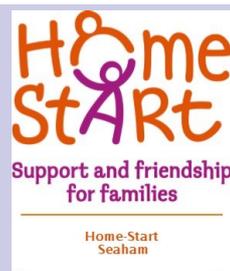
Christmas Shoeboxes

This year we will be gathering Christmas Shoeboxes for needy families across the North East of England. They will be distributed through the wonderful charity Home-Start Seaham, a predominantly volunteer group of 'surrogate aunts' who provide vital support to struggling families with young children.

The idea is to fill a shoebox with gifts and supplies, decorate your box and affix a label marking what age the box is suitable for.

This is optional but we hope that we will receive a good number of shoeboxes filled with gifts to be distributed. Shoeboxes should be brought into school before Wednesday 23rd November, which is the collection date. Further details will be sent after half-term.

Thank you in advance for your support.



London Calling!

The Year 6 pupils are having a fantastic time in London this week. We look forward to welcoming them back to school this evening and hearing all about their adventures in the big city! A full report will feature in the next edition of the newsletter but in the meantime you can see what they have been getting up to on our school website, on Facebook and via Twitter.



A hair-raising lesson!

This half term Year 1 have been learning about staying safe on the computer. They sang a fantastic song all about thinking before you click and remembering to tell someone if something seems unusual. They created some brilliant posters and have approached lessons on the computers very sensibly. We are currently exploring

Paint and using it to achieve a variety of outcomes. This week pupils took a line for a walk and used the fill tool to give Harriet a wild and wonderful hairstyle. They enjoyed going over to Senior School to use the computers and are looking forward to more exciting lessons this term. **Mrs Small**



Creative crafters!

The pupils in our various Art and Craft clubs have recently enjoyed some Halloween inspired activities. Before departing for London, Year 6 made some origami bats, getting creative with the various eyes and teeth they added to their designs. Year 5 made their own pompoms which we turned into a group of very odd looking spiders! Year 4 also enjoyed some origami and made a fantastic selection of ghoulish ghosts while the pupils in Years 1 and 2 created some spooky Halloween coasters!



Have A Go!

Any pupils that sing or play a musical instrument have been invited to take part in the Have A Go Concerts after half term, if they wish. This is a relaxed, informal event.

Due to an increase in Year 2 pupils taking individual music lessons we have now opened it up to them as well!

Parents are therefore welcome to come along and enjoy a range of musical talents on Thursday 3rd November in the Atkinson Hall. Years 2-4 will be performing at 2:30pm-3:30pm and Years 5&6 at 3:30pm-4:45pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Dr Harrison

Remembrance Day

During the season of remembrance, poppies will be on sale in Mrs Morse's office after half term. On Friday 11th November the children and staff will gather together for the Barnard Castle School ceremony of memorial cross-planting to remember those fallen heroes.



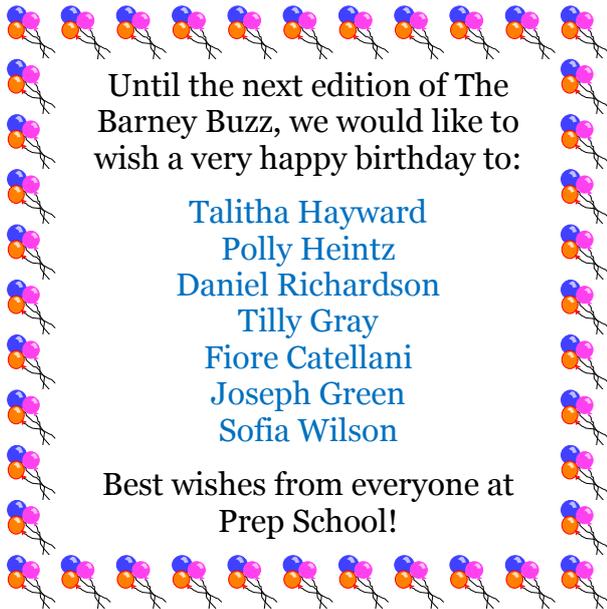
Awards This Week:

Special Mention Certificates:

Peter Stevenson, Lucy Willsmore, Adam Lee, Rory Metcalf, Ella Turner, Benjamin Dixon, Mila Johnson, Niamh Hennessy, Thomas Rothwell, Anna Metcalf, Ned Michelin, Molly Rendall, Emily Coggrave, Polly Heintz, Rhys James, Matthew Collinson, Samuel Baker-Bird, Thea Wilks

Merit Certificates:

Alexander Carr, Mirabelle Harrison, Ben Arnold, Frankie Preston, Jessica Raper, Lottie Baptist, Tom Body, George Goad, Lucy Harburn, Abygail Jameson, Sophie McGill, Freya Pinwill-Price, Theo Tweddle, Joe Arnold, Jemima Burton, Ellie Derrick, Zara Dobson, Polly Heintz, Jake Lawson, Gus Living, Oliver Stubbs, Matthew Collinson, Annabelle Metcalf, Theo Te Lintelo, Emily Pegram, Joseph Robin Truss, Seth Crisp, Charles Appleyard, Callum Gaffney, Phoebe Allman, Alex Banner, Hetty Barwick, Toby Rutherford, Charlotte Blenkins, Benjamin Dixon, Tilly Gray, William Jackson-Ward, Sebastian Metcalf, Harry Milbank, Ella Turner, Gus Living, Daniel Raper



Forthcoming Events

October

Thurs 20 Half Term begins at the end of the school day
School buses leaving as usual at 5:10pm
Year 6 Trip to London returns approximately 8pm

November

Tues 1 Boarders return
Wed 2 Term recommences
Thurs 3 Years 2-4 Have A Go Concert, Atkinson Hall, 2:30pm
Years 5&6 Have A Go Concert, Atkinson Hall, 3:30pm
Fri 4 Year 2 trip to the National Glass Centre, Sunderland
Hockey v Red House: U11, U10 (H), 2:30pm

App of the Week:

ArtifactSnatch



Maths Puzzler

Well done to Hannah Stirling and Rhys James who both worked out that myself, Mrs Robertson and Mr Seddon were actually playing Monopoly! This week's puzzler comes direct from HMS Belfast - A gun turret has three guns in it. Each gun could fire eight rounds a minute - how many rounds will the turret fire in a School day (ending at 15:30)?

Good luck!

Mr Ayres



Headmistress's Commendations:

Caitlyn McLean
Megan Sunley
Alexander Howard
William Jackson-Ward
Jacob Killeen
Konrad Blake
Mirabelle Harrison
Isabel Warren
Ellie Derrick
Matthew Collinson
Euan Metcalf

Well done!

A Happy Harvest!

We all thoroughly enjoyed Father Darren's Harvest Service in Chapel last Friday. Many thanks for all the generous donations which were delivered to a local food bank and our local nursing homes. Each year all of the pupils create harvest cards which are delivered throughout the local community. This year's cards were of a very high standard and were gratefully received by all.

