



BARNARD CASTLE  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# The Barney Buzz

Friday 1st December 2017

Issue Number: 883

## 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, especially as we have all opened the first door on our advent calendars this morning. The decorations made by the pupils now adorn the trees in Mrs Morse's office and in the foyer and yesterday's snow flurry, along with 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 are also getting in the Christmas spirit and this year are planning two Christmas Movie nights in the final week of term when all clubs and activities have been cancelled. They have also once again proposed a 'Christmas Jumper' day on Friday 15th 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 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 will be on the final day of term.

Today we have welcomed Mrs Small back to School from her maternity leave and all the children were excited to see her. I am delighted that Mrs Lee is also going to be with us until the end of the term as she hands over all of the hard work that she has been doing with the children. Mrs Morse has a collection envelope in her office should you wish to contribute to her thank you gift.

Please could I remind you that staff are not available to look after pupils until 8.15am in the Atkinson Hall, therefore, if you do need to drop your children off earlier than this please let Mrs Morse know so that she can book them in for breakfast and make Mr Robson aware to expect them in the dining hall. The children can be dropped off at the dining hall any time from 7.30am and will be given breakfast before they are brought over to School. The charge of £6 will be added to the end of term bill.

Have a lovely weekend.

**Laura Turner**

## Boarders' News

It's certainly starting to feel like Christmas in Old Courts. As the boarders arrived back after the family weekend the carols and festive songs were playing and we decorated the tree. Many of the children brought their own advent calendar and Christmas bauble and we had a little trouble getting the youngest boarder Henry to put the star on the

top! With the cold weather upon us the focus has moved away from outdoor play to indoor fun with board games, crafts and building.

**Mr Robson**



## Beautiful Barney Baubles!

If you have been in Mrs Morse's office lately, you may have noticed the rather beautiful Christmas tree and upon it, in addition to the lovely decorations made by our pupils, some rather fetching Barney branded baubles!

If you would like to order one of these Prep School branded baubles to adorn your tree at home, and as a keepsake, they will be available from Monday 4th December at a cost of £4 each.

An order form has been attached to today's email for you to complete and return with payment to Mrs Morse.

**Merry Christmas!**



## Kings for a day!

This week the Reception class made some super jewel encrusted crowns with Mrs Rowlandson, while learning about the role of the three kings in the Nativity story.

I am sure you will agree that everyone looks rather regal!



## Everything's changing!

In Year 2 we have been observing and discussing reversible and irreversible changes linked to our 'Changing Materials' topic. After a couple of failed attempts at breaking eggs into a bowl we watched an egg being fried in oil. Before it was cooked, the children thought of adjectives to describe the raw egg and some of these were 'slimy, gooey, runny, transparent and like jelly'. As soon as the egg entered the hot pan it changed immediately. The white hardened first, then afterwards the yolk started to go solid underneath. Words to describe the egg now were 'rubbery, flat, solid, white, sizzling and bubbling'. We popped the yolk and it was still runny on the top. Very soon as the yolk cooled it started to harden too. As a class we decided that this was an irreversible change. Other examples were the bread we made earlier in the term (soft dough cooking), a burnt match, ripped paper, toasted bread and popcorn popping. Some reversible changes that we observed and discussed were wax and butter melting, rubber stretching, water turning to ice then back to water and chocolate melting then hardening again as it cools. Next week we are looking forward to investigating and timing chocolate as it melts and discovering areas of the School where ice melts the quickest. We are hoping for lots more snow to help us with our investigations!



## Festive fun!

What a fun week it has been for Year 1 in the lead up to the start of advent. We have started to feel excited about Christmas after spotting all the decorations and Christmas trees around School and thoroughly enjoyed making our own decorations ready to be put on the tree. This week we also made calendars, talked about advent and worked hard for the forthcoming Nativity.



## During the war!

Year 5 have been writing poems all about the war. They have been using their senses to give them inspiration. All of the poems were brilliant and we have chosen a couple for you to read below. In History we have been looking at how important religion and sacrifice was to the Aztecs. We also had a very busy week in Maths, with Grenville coming out on top in the Year 5 House Maths.



Adventures of War	Adventures of War
Gunpowder up my nose all the time, Mist on my numb hands and cheeks, Blood making red carpets on no man's land, Bodies lying on me, stopping me from breathing, People blown up by grenades, flying up in the air.	Loud guns firing and screaming in my ears, Dead people everywhere, I see people dying, I scream like a baby, Barbed wire stopping me from getting to the other side, The trenches are deep and filled with German soldiers, The cold air blowing across my face drying my lips.
Massive rats in the boggy trenches, Horses and carts on no man's land waiting for the injured, Watching all of your good friends dying, You can smell breakfast cooking in the German trench, Thinking of home, how better it would be if I were there.	Rats scratching my feet as they look for food, Red slugs in my hair laying eggs, Mud in my face worms wiggling about, Gunpowder smells blows across the trenches, My gun is loaded ready to shoot the Germans.
By Jake Lawson	By Oliver Stubbs

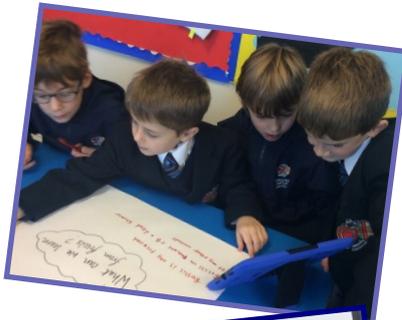
## Arts in the African Hall!

Tuesday saw the eagerly awaited African Arts Evening, a show created and presented by our Year 3 children. They gave four terrifically energetic dance performances, with some impressive rhythm and co-ordination running through the group. The children had made traditional Kenyan food which they offered to the audience, before returning to the stage for 'Jambo', a singing and drumming piece. The poetry recitals and information presentations were confident and clear and the children were so proud to have all their own poems, their Geography 'scrapbooks' and their beautiful art work on display around the Hall. The children's smiles were a noticeable feature, and it was lovely to see this self-assurance, enthusiasm and joy really shine through. We were delighted to see a great number of family and friends come to support this event, and would like to congratulate the children again on a superb evening of entertainment!



## Fossil facts

Year 3 enjoyed a SOLE (Self Organised Learning Environment) session this week. Presented only with the question 'What can we learn from fossils?', six iPads and six sheets of paper, the children joined together to explore their ideas before presenting their research to the rest of the group. Fascinating results and brilliant to see such engaged learners!



## App of the Week:

### Classic Words



A fabulous app this week to share with you and one that is living on my own iPad at the moment! Classic Words allows you to play a Scrabble type game against the computer brain. Choose the difficulty level (from beginner to expert), pick a word list, and use your strategy skills and vocabulary to try and defeat the brain! Create and place words on the board and boost your score by placing letters on the high scoring Double Letter, Double Word, Triple Letter and Triple Word squares. Use all seven letters from your rack to play Bingo and get a 50 points bonus. Will you play strategically enough to outwit the computer and its extensive vocabulary?

## Baby it's cold outside!

The children were thrilled with the arrival of the snow yesterday and thoroughly enjoyed playing outside. As a reminder, please can you ensure children bring coats, hats, scarves and gloves into School so that they can enjoy their break times in the playground.

Please also send extra layers for pupils to wear during Games lessons. Where possible these should bear the School logo, however, if they do not have skins, they can wear long sleeved t-shirts underneath their Games kit and also wear hats and gloves during the outdoor sessions.



## Sports News

### House Hockey & Rugby

On Friday afternoon the Year 5 and 6 children excitedly headed out for the House Hockey. After each team warmed up individually they were ready to commence battle on the astro-turf! It was a round-robin competition so each House played one other. There was some super Hockey skills on display and the majority of the games were closely fought. The winners were Gilbert, followed by Drake, Grenville and Raleigh.

The House matches were also a huge success for the boys, with some excellent Rugby being played throughout the afternoon. Raleigh were the strongest side and deservedly won the event with some fine performances. Grenville struggled on the day but kept going until the end with Gilbert and Drake coming second and third respectively.

**Mrs Summerson-Brown & Mr Wicling**

### Swimming Gala: U11

On Monday we ran the U11 Cluster Swimming Gala. It was a competitive event with five schools all competing in different strokes. Overall, we tried extremely hard and the boys won the relay along with some of the individual events. The girls were not quite as successful but it was great to get in the pool and test ourselves against other schools.

**Mr Wicling**

### A Marvellous Morning of Maths!

Wednesday saw the keenly contested House Maths Competition for Years 3 and 4. Every child was involved, completing a series of challenges for their House. The event began with a selection of questions and word problems relating to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Working under timed conditions, the children took it in turns to choose a question and work it out in their team. Points were awarded according to the trickiness of the question. Following this, there were a series of shape problems to be worked out, creating a square, a letter F and H using cut out pieces of paper, before the bonus round of a very tricky colours and shape puzzle.

The morning's mathematical foray ended with Crunch for the Year 4 children and 'Make the Biggest Number' for the Year 3s.

We were so impressed with the level of involvement by all the children and the high standards of Maths that they showed us. I can announce that the winners this year were Grenville, followed closely by Raleigh, Gilbert and Drake. Well done to you all!

Our thanks to Mr Wicling for organising the session as well as Mr Joy and Mr Killeen for assisting the children.

**Miss White, Miss Strachan, Mrs Michelin**

### Once upon a time ...

Some of the Year 6s put their powers of persuasion to the test this week and took on the roles of various fairy tale 'baddies' to convince a jury of their peers that they were not as evil as the storytellers would have you believe. From The Big, Bad Wolf explaining that he was only hungry and did not mean to damage any pigs' property, to an ugly stepsister telling us that Cinderella really was not as perfect as people might think. They all gave some very convincing arguments which would make many people question everything they have ever read!



We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

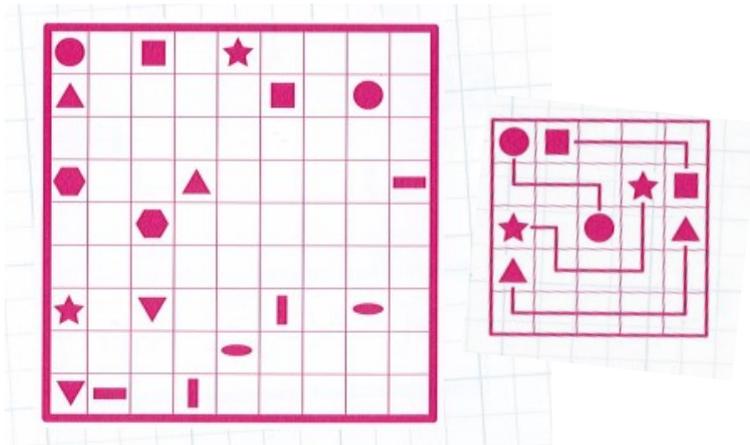
Shivraj Sehgal  
Oliver Stubbs  
Minnie Wilson  
Callum Gaffney

Best wishes from everyone  
at Prep School!

## Maths Puzzler

Congratulations to Benjamin French, who correctly worked out that if my lazy cat sleeps for 50 minutes every hour then he would have slept for 20 hours a day!

This week I'd like you to try and connect up the shapes in the square below (triangle - triangle, star - star etc.). Lines cannot cross or go diagonally and only one line is allowed in each square. Please see the completed square below as an example.



As always, answers to me by next Wednesday please.

Good luck!

Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk



## Forthcoming Events

### December

Fri 1	<del>County Hockey: U11 (H), 1pm</del> <b>Cancelled</b>
Wed 6	Christmas colouring competition closes Rugby v Mowden Hall: U10A (H), 3pm Hockey v Mowden Hall: U11A, U10A (H), 3pm
Thurs 7	Reception class audiology tests
Fri 8	Pre-Prep Nativity, Chapel, 2pm
Sun 10	Boarders' Carol Service, Chapel, 5pm followed by Christmas Dinner
Mon 11	Reception Class visit Santa at Raby Castle Barney Friends' Christmas Lunch, 1pm Y3&4 Carol Service with Christingles, Chapel, 4pm <i>Children in Harmony Choir attend both services</i> <b>All Year 5 &amp; 6 pupils stay at School for tea</b> Y5&6 Carol Service, Chapel, 7pm
Tues 12	'Film Night' for Years 5 & 6, 3:30pm-4:45pm
Wed 13	Flu Immunisations for pupils in Reception to Year 4 'Film Night' for Pre-Prep & Year 3, 3:30pm-4:45pm
Thurs 14	Pantomime 'Robinson Crusoe' at Durham
Fri 15	Christmas Jumper Day for charity End of Term Gathering for pupils, 9am Prep School Christmas Lunch for pupils and staff Term finishes at the end of the School day Buses depart 5:10pm, as usual

## Awards This Week:

### Special Mention Certificates:

James Nath, Arabella Milbank, Dylan Dougal, Caitlyn McLean, Charlie Bridges, Adam Lee, William Jackson-Ward, Alfie Simpson, Freddie Harland, Sophia Hare, Edwin Barwick, Megan Brown, Ben Arnold, Dermot Metcalf, Benjamin French, Ellie Derrick, Zara Dobson, Lottie Baptist, Samuel Baker-Bird, Callum Gaffney, Tabitha Hilsdon, Thea Wilks, Harry Maguire, Shivraj Sehgal

### Merit Certificates:

Fenella Heagerty, Isabelle Shield, Theo Swan, Flora Whitaker, Francesca Wilks, Jack Baptist, Vivi Gledhill, Sebastian Howard, Caitlyn McLean, Megan Sunley, Dominick Armstrong, Lilly Cassidy, Teddy Hall, James Harburn, Harriet Hatton, Annabel Jackson, Edith Smart, Ed Wicling, Finlay Toyne, Liberty Forsyth, Rory Metcalf, Dougie Ross, Talitha Hayward, Clara Metcalfe, James Nath, Finley Cable-Jones, Alexander Carr, Fiore Catellani, Dylan Dougal, Reuben Hosking, Oona MacConachie, Joel Morgan, Sophie Richardson, Tom Staley, Peter Stevenson, Lucy Willsmore, Celine Jolley, Felicity Richardson, Annie Barker



### Headmistress's Commendations:

Lilly Cassidy  
Teddy Hall  
Kieran Armstrong  
Charlotte Blenkiron  
Tilly Gray  
Sophia Hare  
Freddie Harland  
Alexander Howard  
Harry Milbank  
Alfie Simpson  
Ella Turner  
Freddie Whitaker  
Isobel Heagerty  
Isabel Warren  
Esme Berend  
Annie Barker  
Joseph Green  
Archie Pepper  
Shivraj Sehgal  
Ed Wicling  
Benjamin Dixon

Well done!