



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

Friday 8th September 2017

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Headmistress's News

A very warm welcome to the start of a new Michaelmas term and a very special welcome to all of our new pupils and their families who have joined the Barney community this week. It was wonderful to see so many of you here on our induction evenings on Wednesday and I do hope you found these beneficial in supporting your child this year.

The children are quickly finding their feet and establishing new friendships and I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to children excitedly exchanging stories and adventures that they have encountered over the summer holidays. I have been delighted to see that all the children are all ready to persevere and work through any challenges and problems that may lie ahead for them this year. The enthusiasm with which the children embrace tasks is indicative of the positive approach to School life at Barney.

Looking forward, the activities programme starts next week and I am delighted once again with the range of activities that are on offer. Thanks to the enthusiasm and expertise of the staff, our aim is for children to experience a combination of extra-curricular activities and play time over the course of a School year. The children should not expect to undertake all the activities of their choice each term, particularly when an activity is oversubscribed, however they will be able to take part in activities each term. It is also important to leave some lunch time periods free for play and also to be aware that there will also be homework to undertake after School.

The School Council elections take place next Wednesday and I am grateful to all those children who are putting their names forward for the election. It is good for the children to participate in democracy in action and I hope they all enjoy the experience.

The children at Barney have a variety of curricular and extra-curricular experiences to encounter; I believe that this nurtures their extraordinary capacity for understanding, problem-solving and creativity. Most of all, this allows us to foster endeavour, community, integrity, enjoyment, compassion and duty, which have been the values of Barnard Castle School since 1883.

Despite being back for only three days, I am delighted that we have all returned in full swing. We even have our first fixture at Mowden Park this evening with all our U11s being given the opportunity to play in a stadium environment; what better way to kick start the season!

The Prep School has come back to life again with children's smiles and laughter and I very much look forward to a happy and successful academic year for us all.

Laura Turner

Boarders' News

The Junior Boarding house launched successfully on Tuesday afternoon and pupils, parents and staff were thrilled to see the refurbishments made over the summer to Old Courts. We have welcomed many new faces to the house and all have settled in well. The Year 7s have moved up into the Senior School and had some fun integrating with a tug-o-war competition. At the end of a busy first week we are looking forward to going to see Kynren on Saturday night in Bishop Auckland.

Mr Robson



A warm welcome!

The first week in Year 1 has been full of excitement, meeting new friends and learning the expectations of the Year 1 class. The children have been so welcoming to me and have helped me learn the routines of the school and I am so proud to be the teacher of such a wonderful group of children. I look forward to watching them grow and develop over the coming months.



Great balls of fire!

In Year 2 we have had a busy and enjoyable start to the new school year. The children returned looking very smart, refreshed from their many adventures and ready to embrace the challenges of the year ahead. It has been lovely welcoming four new children to our class! Our main topic this term is The Great Fire of London and 2P were very interested to hear how this fire started and why it spread so rapidly. They have enjoyed creating atmospheric pastel silhouettes of London and the River Thames and will soon re-enact scenes from the great fire in their drama lessons and write diaries based on the observations of Samuel Pepys.

A super start!

A warm welcome to our new Reception class! Mrs Bale and Miss McNulty are delighted to be joined in their new-look Reception classroom by 20 new pupils. The children have made a very positive start to term and lots of merits have been given for helpful and polite behaviour.



Who will get your vote?

We are happy to announce the launch of our new School Council campaign. Over the next week children will be writing manifestoes, discussing the qualities needed to be a good School Councillor and deciding whether they would like to represent their class. Barnard Castle Preparatory School Council is an integral part of the day to day life of our School, teaching the children about democracy, independence and responsibility. We encourage as many children as possible to put themselves forward to represent their class. Each class in school has one council representative as does Old Courts to provide a voice for the boarding community. Those elected will be asked to attend a meeting once a week to carry out various projects and charity work. An important aspect of being a councillor is to bring suggestions from their peers to meetings to be put forward for discussion. A shortlist of suggestions will be presented to Mrs Turner each term for consideration. Another important role of the councillors is to inform the whole School and keep them up to date with current projects and initiatives; this will be done during assemblies and also class time. The election will take place on Wednesday 13th September in the Atkinson Hall. Watch this space for the election results!

Miss White

Dem bones, dem bone!

To start our work in Science on 'Moving and Growing', Year 4 has spent some time identifying bones in the human body using our handily half-sized skeletons! The aim will be for all of the children to be able to name and locate many of the bones in the body. This is a great interactive task to get the whole group collaborating on a project, communicating effectively and aiding each other with memory skills. These are of course several of the skills that we work on most frequently in Year 4.



Thursday night takeaway!

Year 6 spent Thursday evening working on the first of their new look takeaway homework - in this instance a timeline on the History of London. The pupils were given the freedom to interpret the task in any way they saw fit and enough iPads to ensure co-operation and collaboration were at the heart of what they did. Takeaway homework will form an important part of how we as a School use homework going forward.



New challenges

The Year 3 children have settled in extremely well, welcoming new starters and are very quickly beginning to forge new friendships after the long



summer break. They have worked extremely hard this week in adjusting to challenges which face them in Prep School and should be proud of their achievements.



Fizz, pop, bang!

Science lessons have got off to an explosive start this week. Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed exploring the effects of the chemical reaction between Diet Coke and Mentos. I am looking forward to many more exciting experiments in the coming weeks.

Mr Langley



Leaping into action!

Year 5 have had a brilliant start to the year. In Maths we have done a leapfrog investigation and the children worked collaboratively to come up with a formula. In English they have been writing their School Council manifestos. The children are oozing enthusiasm and we look forward to a creative and productive year!



Maths Puzzler

Welcome back! Inspired by some of the origami I saw from pupils during the Enrichment Jamboree over the summer, this week's puzzler is a simple one that involves A4 paper. It is also one of the featured problems on rich.maths.org (solutions can also be submitted to them if you'd like).

In how many different ways can you halve an A4 sheet of paper?

Have a good explore and see what different ways you can find. Don't be afraid to be creative!

How will you know if they are halves?

As always, answers to me by Wednesday (either in person or by email—see below) for a mention in next week's newsletter and to gain three valuable merits for your House!

Good luck!

Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk



Start of term admin!

Please could you complete and return the General Consent Form if you haven't done so already. This gives permission for your child to attend all School trips and fixtures this academic year. A copy is attached to this week's email and is also available on the Parent Portal.

Please could medical forms be completed and returned as soon as possible for all new pupils to the School.

You will have received a copy of this term's calendar in your child's book bag this week. This is a whole school calendar with entries in green for the Prep School. The calendar is also available on the School website, the Parent Portal and we always list forthcoming events (below) in each week's newsletter. Please check this each week for any changes to the printed calendar.

Forthcoming Events

September

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| Fri 8 | Individual and sibling photographs
Rugby v Yarm & Cundall Manor at Mowden Park Stadium: U11 (A), 4:30pm |
| Tues 12 | LEPRA Assembly for pupils |
| Wed 13 | Barney Friends' meeting, Clarendon's, 8:45am
School Council Elections
Whole School Photograph
<i>As a reminder, all pupils will need to wear their full school uniform to School on this morning</i> |
| Thurs 14 | Year 4 Trip to Arbeia Roman Fort |
| Sat 16 | Rugby v Sedbergh: U11A&B (H), 1pm |

Awards This Week:

House Certificates:

Drake: Lauren Baxter, Harriet Robson, Dougie Ross, Fred Dullage, Nicol White, Olivia Hall, Harry Milbank, Alfie Simpson, Finlay Toyne, William Watson, Sofia Wilson

Gilbert: Kelvin Bell, Oscar Hewitt, Henry Jenkinson, Kieran Armstrong, Benjamin Dixon, Liberty Forsyth, Tilly Gray, Alexander Howard, Isla Morgan

Grenville: Sian Davidson, Scarlett Williams, Bella Bland, Emily Davidson, Isabel Fall, Charlotte Blenkins, Sophia Hare, Freddie Harland, William Jackson-Ward, Henry Johnstone, Louise Newcombe, Joe Rutherford

Raleigh: Clara Metcalfe, Henry Walder, Isobel Heagerty, Alex Metcalfe, Rocco Catellani, Charlotte Owens, Matilda Owens, Ella Turner, Freddie Whitaker

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

Rory Metcalf, Dexter Thomas
Vivi Gledhill, Mirabelle Harrison
Isabelle Shield

Best wishes from everyone
at Prep School!

App of the Week:

Times Tables Quiz! (Multiplication Trainer)



Year 4 are currently working on learning their times tables inside out, so this week we have an app to assist with this!

Times Tables Quiz! Asks you to solve as many problems as possible in a row, and in a timed situation no less. A tricky app for the faint-hearted, but such a useful one. Enjoy and let me know how you score.

Forest Schools off to a flying start!

Over the summer, there have been very exciting preparations going on to create our Forest School area at Prep School. With the very generous help, in terms of both time and resources, of a few parents, we already have a store shed, some beautifully carved boundary posts and carved log benches, handmade planters, a fire pit just waiting for some action, and the beginnings of a shelter, for when that winter weather really tries to spoil our fun!

This week, Year 3 children had their very first chance to explore the area, exclaiming with delight over the hidden animal carvings, identifying natural and manmade dangers, and have already named 'The Snake Tree', 'The Woods' and 'The Forest'. After helping to safely remove a splitting branch, and seeing the light rain coming across, they had great fun starting to construct shelters; they'll learn some anchoring and tensioning knots in the coming weeks, so as to make their structures more secure. We are just setting off on this adventure, so do look out for updates over the next few weeks!

Mrs Michelin



Activity Programme

Please see below a list of this term's activity programme, which will begin next week. If you have any questions please contact your child's class teacher.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Assembly (0850-0910)		Harmony Choir (Yrs 5 & 6)			
Break (1030-1050)	Five-a-side Football Club (Yrs 5 & 6)	Five-a-side Football Club (Yrs 5 & 6)	Five-a-side Football Club (Yrs 5 & 6)	Brass Group <i>(pupils who have brass lessons only)</i>	Woodwind Group Violin Starter Club (Yr 2)
Lunch (1230-1300)	Junior Choir (Yrs 3 & 4) Mindfulness Club (Yrs 5 & 6) *Yoga Club (Yrs 1 & 2) SOLE / Curiosity Club (Yrs 1 & 2) Gardening Club (Yrs 3 & 4)	Mindfulness Club (Yrs 3 & 4) *Hip Hop Club (Yrs 1-6) Lego Club (Yr 2) Ball Games Club (Yrs 1 & 2)	Orchestra (Yrs 3-6) School Council <i>(School Council membes only)</i> *Yoga Club (Yrs 3-6) Tag Rugby Club (Yr 3) Pre-prep Choir (Yrs 1 & 2) Chess Club (Yrs 3 & 4)	Mindfulness Club (Yrs 1 & 2) Lego Club (Yrs 3 & 4) Manga High Club (Yrs 5 & 6) STEM Club (Yrs 1 & 2)	Puzzle and Design Club (Yrs 1 & 2) Violin Group <i>(pupils who have violin lessons only)</i>
After School (1545-1645)	Art Club (Yr 6) Curiosity Club (Yrs 3 & 4) French Club <i>(up to half term)</i> (Yrs 5 & 6) German Club <i>(after half term)</i> (Yrs 5 & 6)	Netball Club (Yrs 5 & 6) Rugby Club (Yr 4) *Judo Club (Yrs 4-6) Art Club (Yr 5) *Ballet Club (Rec-Yr 6) STEM Club (Yrs 3-6) Dance Club (Yr 3) <i>(starts week 5)</i>	Football Club (Yrs 5 & 6) Netball Club (Yrs 3 & 4) Hockey Club (Yrs 5 & 6) Art Club (Yrs 1 & 2)	Hockey Club (Yrs 3 & 4) Rugby Club (Yrs 5 & 6) Gardening Club (Yrs 5 & 6)	*Taekwondo Club (Yrs 2-6) Football Club (Yrs 3 & 4)

* Indicates there is a charge for this club. £3 per session for Yoga Club; £3.50 per session for Hip Hop Club; £3.50 per session for Ballet Club (or £5.50 for Ballet and Hip Hop); £4 per session for Judo Club; £4 per session for Taekwondo Club.