



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

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Headmistress's News

Happy New Year! It's good to be back and as usual at this time of year, there is a fresh impetus to School life, not only owing to a good holiday but also in light of all of our new year's resolutions. A new year brings new opportunities which has been our theme this week. The idea that we can make a fresh start is an attractive one and this is particularly the case after a restful holiday. I have enjoyed listening to the various resolutions that the children are going to work on this term, from reading more books every week, to trying hard to improve handwriting and even eating no cakes or sweets for two years - not my kind of resolution I have to say! It is very encouraging to note the children's enthusiasm and, as I pointed out to them, it is important that we maintain these resolutions and use them as stepping stones for making good choices in our lives.

You will have received a calendar for this term and will see that we have yet another busy term, beginning with our Year 4 children visiting The Centre for Life next Thursday and our Year 5 and 6 House Football and Netball matches next Friday.

Watch this space for The Barney Way magazine which has been given a new look for 2018 and will be making its way to you as soon as it arrives back from the printers so you can reflect on all the exciting things Prep School got up to during the Michaelmas Term.

As always, we have a busy term ahead which I am sure will provide many excellent experiences for children, staff and parents alike.

Have a lovely weekend.

Laura Turner

Boarders News

Following a beautiful dusting of snow during the break in Barney, the boarders returned on Monday evening and Old Courts was buzzing as the children reconnected and shared stories about their Christmas holidays spent both locally and as far afield as Northern Ireland, Germany, Cyprus and Oman. It was great to see them all again, returning refreshed after quality time with their families. Everyone seemed to bring back a new gadget or toy that Santa had delivered, including the world's smallest table football game! We are delighted to welcome a new Year 6 boarder, Frazer Wallace to Old Courts and he has settled in really well. Everyone is back into the routine and looking forward to a term full of fun, activities and learning opportunities. **Mr Robson**



Medicines

If your child requires prescribed medicine during the School day, it needs to be handed in to the Medical Centre in its original box with the prescription details (dosage, etc). We have attached a form with today's email which also should be completed and sent in with the prescribed medicine. Homely medicines, such as cough sweets, can be handed in to your child's class teacher.

We have lift off!

Reception have started the term with huge enthusiasm for the new 'Space' topic. Here are a few pieces of information that have sparked their interest:

Ed - "We live on Earth."

Flora - "The Sun helps us live because it keeps us warm."

Edith - "We have water and land on Earth."

Thomas - "The Sun isn't a planet. It isn't moving."

What a great start. Isn't that out of this world?



It's all going swimmingly!

Happy New Year! This week Year 1's very first lesson of the term took place in the swimming pool. The children enthusiastically took part in all the activities set by the swimming coach and had great fun in the water! In our Art lesson, we learnt about the artist Janet Bolton and made fabric pictures inspired by her.



Science news

Year 6 – Electricity – 'Electric Celebrations' topic

Dare our Year 6 pupils enter the Dragons' Den and market their very own inventive festive lights decoration? Can they use motors, switches, bulbs and buzzers to make their product the stand-out choice of the dragons?



Year 5 – Forces – 'May the forces be with you ...' topic

A rare and valuable meteorite has just landed on Earth and the National History Museum is sending in a recovery team to retrieve it. As the remote part of this retrieval team our very own Year 5 pupils need to overcome an array of challenges that will require them to put their knowledge and understanding of forces into action. May the forces be with you ... them...

Crazy Science Club

Remember the time when you discovered something AMAZING! That WOW moment when you just could NOT believe your eyes! Well, this is what 'The Crazy Science Club' is about. A visually memorable, FUN, and engaging club that helps children learn Science and want to go home and do MORE!



Say hello to Dr Honeydew Bunsen and Beaker, the Science departments' new mascots!



Extra layers!

Due to the cold weather, pupils may bring skins, or extra layers, and wear woolly hats and gloves during PE and Games lessons.

Please can you ensure all items are all clearly named to avoid an overflowing lost property basket! Thank you.



New year, new start!

To start off 2018, the Year 5s have been looking at what the word resolution means. The children discussed some resolutions in groups before deciding on their own personal goal with regard to School life and the term ahead. The children used smaller targets to help make their new year's resolution more achievable.



Solving a problem

This week to get our brains working after the excitement of Christmas, Year 4 have been investigating different ways of explaining subtraction. They hope to share their understanding with a Pre-Prep class in the next couple of weeks. Using Numicon, number lines, hundred squares, blocks and digit cards, we looked at a variety of concrete and visual methods. It was a super way to re-establish our themes of team work and collaboration.

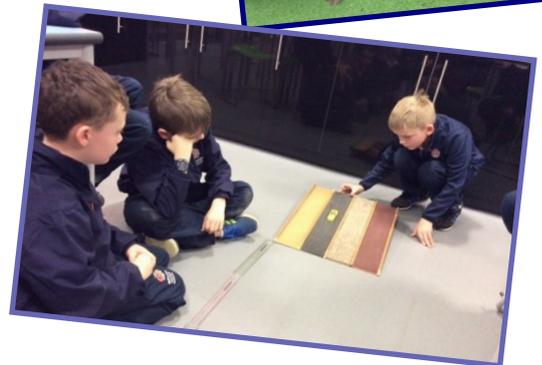


Working together

Year 1 and Year 2 had their first 'Hall Maths' lesson yesterday. It was a busy and exciting session with small groups of children working collaboratively to complete a series of tasks. The activities included investigating Numicon, accessing educational Maths games, solving multiplication problems against the clock, investigating numbers using Multilink and playing strategy games. The children worked very well together and it was lovely to see our Year 2 pupils supporting their younger friends. We are now looking forward to getting together again next week.

A force to be reckoned with!

Year 3 have been exploring forces this week and measuring how much force is needed to pull or push a vehicle on different surfaces. They looked at how a rough surface creates friction and how that affects the distance a toy car could travel.



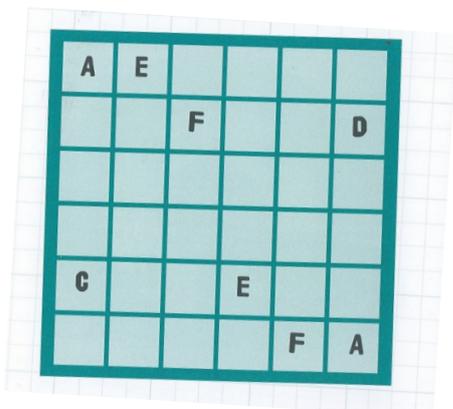
Light my fire!

Year 3 enjoyed their first Forest School session of the term yesterday. They hung seed heads for the birds and although the fire was reluctant to start in the light drizzle, they made toast and cooked vegetable soup.



Maths Puzzler

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and that Santa brought you lots of mathematical presents - Rubik's cubes seem to be particularly popular with 6A! This week's puzzle has a 'Sudoku-esque' feel to it. Can you fit the letters A-F in to the grid so that each row and column has only one of each letter? To make it more complex, identical letters cannot touch each other diagonally!



Good luck!

Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk



Welcome to Barney!

We were delighted to welcome two new pupils to Prep School this week - Leo Rokk to 2P and Frazer Wallace to 6A, Grenville House and to the Junior Boarding House

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

Emily Davidson
Flora Whitaker
Oscar Lawson

Best wishes from everyone
at Prep School!

Forthcoming Events

January

Thurs 18	Year 4 Trip to the Centre for Life
Fri 19	Year 5 & 6 House Netball & Football, 2pm
Tues 23	Year 3 Trip to the Bowes Museum
Wed 24	Year 6 trial tests
Thurs 25	House Singing for Years 3 to 6, Big School, 2pm <i>Parents welcome to come and support!</i>
Fri 26	Woodwind assembly for pupils, 8:50am Year 5 & 6 House Cross Country, 2pm
Sat 27	Exeat Weekend
Sun 28	Exeat Weekend

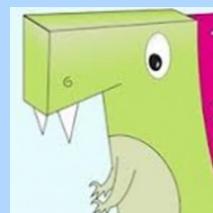
Headmistress's Commendations:

Toby Rutherford
Bertie Swan
Rory Metcalf
Alfie Simpson
Ella Turner
Finlay Toyne

Well done!

App of the Week

Daisy the Dinosaur



A nice app for the
Pre-Prep to start the new term!

Daisy the Dinosaur is a great introduction to coding for younger pupils. It takes them step by step through simple instructions, gradually building up sequences. From here, children can move onto a variety of other coding apps and then onto classic computing programs such as Scratch.

This term's calendar

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 and it is given to your eldest child in Senior or Prep School.

As a reminder, the calendar is also available on the School website, the Parent Portal and we always list forthcoming events in each week's newsletter. It is important that you check the newsletter each week for any additions or amendments to the printed calendar.

Please also refer to the School Sports website: www.barnardcastleschoolsports.org.uk This provides information for sporting fixtures this term. I have attached the letter explaining how the website works to today's email.