



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

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Headmistress's News

Yesterday one of our many highlights of the school calendar took place, House Singing. The hotly contested competition with a gospel twist saw the four Houses compete for the Scorton Shield. For those of you that were able to join us, I am sure you will agree that the quality of singing was exceptionally high and thoroughly enjoyed by all. However, Gilbert for the third time running, stole the show and became the 2018 victorious recipients of the shield. Well done Gilbert!

Today we were fortunate enough to welcome Mr Robin Fletcher CEO of the Boarding Schools Association into school, where he had the opportunity to tour our school, meet and have lunch with the Junior Boarding House children and officially open the house by revealing a plaque and planting a tree in the garden of the Junior House as part of the Orchard Initiative. This had been a lovely occasion and we were delighted that Prep School were able to be part of this special event.

The Year 6 pupils have undertaken final trial exams in preparation for the Entrance Tests to the Senior School that take place next Thursday. The children and teachers are working hard in preparation and I am pleased with their positive attitude and determination to give of their best.

The first three weeks of this term have flown by and I would like to wish the boarders an enjoyable 'family weekend'.

Laura Turner

Boarders News

This weekend Mrs Michelin visited Old Courts on Saturday morning. The junior boarders enjoyed the ever-popular bread making (and tasting!). They also relished the chance to make their own mask. In the afternoon there was fun running around in the snow with Mr Joy plus a visit to the sports hall for some indoor games.

On Sunday we all headed off to Infinite Air in Durham. I was impressed by their bravery as the boarders were jumping into the foam and air-bags from great heights as well as having an amazing time playing dodgeball on trampolines!

After the official opening of Old Courts today, the boarders are looking forward to a restful weekend with their family and friends.

Mr Robson



Music News

Examination Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Sophie Winnard who gained a distinction in her Step 2 Classical Saxophone examination and to Emily England who gained a distinction in her Pre-Preparatory piano examination. We are very proud of them and how hard they have worked to achieve such excellent results.

Chapel Choir

An amazing thirteen children from Years 5 and 6 have signed up to join Chapel Choir, which we think is a school record to date. This week they sang with Senior School Chapel Choir members for an excellent Matins service in Chapel. They sang a psalm and an anthem with wonderful tone and great joy. It is so nice to see Prep pupils participating in this exceptional ensemble and wanting to really raise their vocal game.

Woodwind Assembly

We were delighted to welcome Mr Donnelly and Ms Ferris into assembly this morning as they demonstrated a range of woodwind instruments from piccolo through to flute, clarinet, soprano sax and alto sax. We were treated to a range of stunning performances and many pupils got the chance to have a go themselves. We currently have around 15 school woodwind instruments available for hire. Should anyone wish to start learning, please collect a form from Mrs Morse.

We are very fortunate to have such experienced and fun woodwind teachers and hope that more children will gain a lifetime of enjoyment through the opportunities at Barnard Castle Prep School.

Dr Harrison



Fit for the Queen!

Year 2 had a lively debate this week. Their task was to decide whether The Queen would like The Flying Scotsman or The Bullet Train as her new Royal Train. They watched video clips and looked at images of the interior of each train to help them reach a decision. The children worked in pairs and gave a final presentation to the class. In the end it was a landslide victory for The Flying Scotsman, as the children decided that travelling at 100 miles per hour was quite fast enough. They thought that she would like the comfort and luxury of the carriages and might even have a chance to have a little nap. Tea and cakes would definitely be on the agenda during a ride on The Flying Scotsman! The Flying Scotsman is a historic train for a historic lady.



Wonderful Waterfalls

Geography has provided a little light relief in a fortnight of intense preparation for the Year 6 Entrance Test. As such, Geography homework has taken a backseat, but I am looking forward to the pupils' efforts once the tests are over. In the meantime, the children have enjoyed embarking on this term's 'Rivers' topic, exploring the importance of the role of rivers in the siting of settlements, the different stages in the life of a river and, this week's showstopper: 'Pop-Up waterfalls'!



Blast off!

All systems are go in Reception class this week. The 'Space' topic has turned to the ambitions area of rocket design. With a wealth of junk modelling materials the children designed and made their own rockets. Many of the models even had a small section for astronauts to sit in and huge fuel tanks. The children's interest and developing understanding of such a complex topic is moving at lightning speed!



Topical Tropical Rainforests

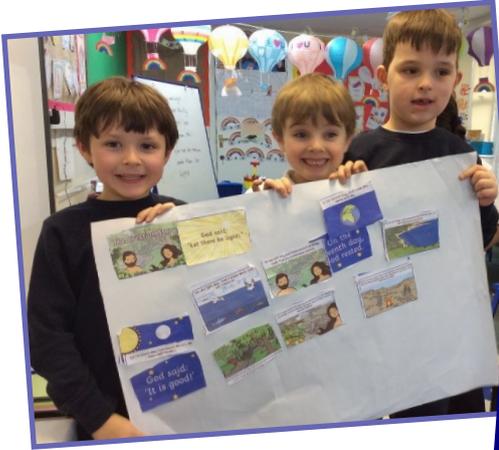
Year 4 have launched themselves straight into our new topic for the term on 'Rainforests and Climate Change'. Already in English, Science and Geography lessons we have looked layers of the rainforest, compared the climate of the rainforest with that of Barnard Castle and examined where tropical rainforests are located in the world. We know that the children will throw themselves into this



highly relevant and interesting work. Watch out for further updates throughout the term.

Year 5 erupt!

Year 5 had great fun in Geography this week when we 'erupted' the volcanoes they had made for takeaway homework. We used vinegar and bicarbonate of soda to create a reaction which caused the volcanoes to 'erupt'. The children learnt so much about the different parts of a volcano and what causes them to erupt in 'real life'.



Busy little beebots!

Sixteen excited Year 1 pupils enjoyed using the Beebots in our Computing lesson this week. They learnt how to set the Beebot a sequence of instructions to follow. In our Religious Education lesson the children listened to The Creation Story then sequenced the story in small groups.

Get into the groove!

Year 3 enjoyed their trip to the Bowes Museum this week. Complementing classwork on their 'Groovy Greeks' History topic, the children took part in story workshops based on paintings and artefacts, designed their own mythical beast and made some beautiful pots, based on Ancient Greek designs. Our sketching time in the paintings galleries was a chance for them to choose and discuss their favourite paintings and it was lovely to see how engrossed



Gilbert bring down the house!

This year's House Singing festival featured a range of spiritual and gospel songs. We were honoured to welcome Reverend Basil Meade MBE to adjudicate. Basil is renowned for co-founding the gospel scene in the UK and for being heavily involved in educational projects throughout the year. This year's competition featured a range of solos, group work, movement, careful positioning and the children clearly revealed an enormous amount of enjoyment which could be seen on all their faces. Incredibly Gilbert House won the event for the third year running. The work that the children and the House teachers put in was very evident and the combination of thorough enjoyment and high standards made for a very special day. Well done to all!

Dr Harrison



every one of them became during this task. A super day, which has already inspired some great creative ideas to build on back in School.



Maths Puzzler

It was great to see so much interest in last week's puzzler! Congratulations to Benjamin French, Mila Johnson and Rhys James who all worked out that when you write the entire time and date, you get the numbers 1-8 in order 12:34, 5/6/78. Well done to everyone who had a go. This week's puzzle is another favourite of mine. Outside my room is a puzzle asking you to make the numbers 1-100 using only 4 digits, they cannot be combined (e.g. 3 and 4 cannot make 34) and you can only use each number once. Follow the instructions on the sheet, and if you can find a solution write it down and leave your name.

Good luck!

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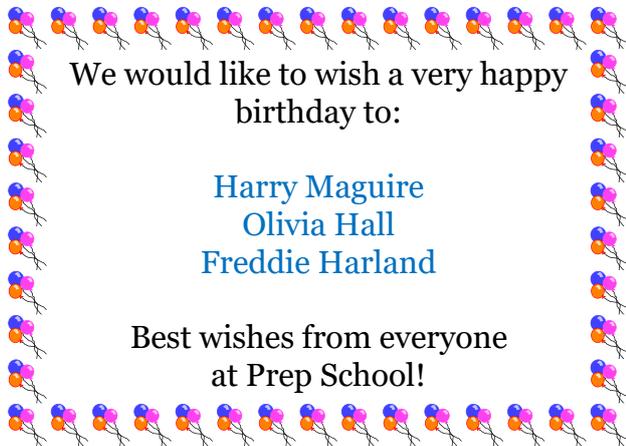
Awards This Week:

Music Certificates:

Sophie Winnard - Distinction Step 2 Classical Saxophone
Emily England - Distinction Pre-Preparatory Piano

Merit Certificates:

Dominick Armstrong, Lilly Cassidy, James Harburn,
Harriet Hatton, Annabel Jackson, Arabella Milbank,
James Nath, Edith Smart, Theo Swan, Freya Turner,
Flora Whitaker, Fenella Heagerty, Isabelle Shield,
Francesca Wilks, Matilda Chapman, Georgina Chapman



Forthcoming Events

January

Fri 26 Woodwind assembly for pupils, 8:50am
 Year 5 & 6 House Cross Country, Football and
 Netball, 2pm
Sat 27 Exeat Weekend
Sun 28 Exeat Weekend
Mon 29 Netball v Durham High: U9, U8, 2:30pm
Wed 31 Football v Aysgarth: U11, U10 (H)

February

Thurs 1 Senior School Entrance Tests for Year 6
Fri 2 Football, Hockey & Netball v RGS & Yarm:
 U11, U10 (H), 1:30pm

Headmistress's Commendations:

Francesca Wilks
Vivi Gledhill
Caitlyn McLean
Hetty Barwick
Georgina Chapman
Freddie Wilks
Tom Body

Well done!

App of the Week

Hopscotch



Key Stage 1 and 2

In preparation for our Safer Internet Day, the app this week is a perfect one for helping you to start coding, or to enable you to build on your coding knowledge.

Hopscotch focuses on making coding easier via graphical elements that children can drag and drop to build up programs. It is very similar to Scratch but for iPads. It works by dragging and dropping colourful blocks of code to build routines. These routines can then be saved and attached to different objects and activated by different events on the iPad (such as "when the iPad is shaken" or "when the iPad hears a loud noise"). So you could, for instance, program a bear to do a somersault every time you clapped your hands.