



BARNARD CASTLE  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# The Barney Buzz

Friday 2nd February 2018

Issue Number: 889

## Headmistress's News

Another busy week has passed and our theme this week of 'Facing Fears' seemed quite apt when our 39 Year 6 pupils sat their Entrance Exam for Senior School with Dr Truss in the Atkinson Hall. Although I have been away from school over the last few days, my thoughts have been with the children and I know that they will have done us all proud. Following on from this, there is no rest for the Year 6 children now, as they go steaming ahead into the various components of their Achievement Award, beginning with their First Aid module on Thursday.

Monday also sees the launch of Internet Safety Week in the Prep School with workshops and events for the children, led by Miss White, throughout the week to support National Safer Internet Day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The children's safety is paramount in all that we do but particularly when the children are online; iPads, computers, mobile phones, watches are all seemingly integrated now as part of children's daily routines, so this is an important week for Prep School to ensure that the children are receiving the correct messages and behaving appropriately. On Wednesday there will be the opportunity for Year 5 and 6 parents to meet with Madame Strachan to discuss the French Trip. This meeting begins at 6:30pm in the Atkinson Hall.

We are approaching the time of year when we celebrate the founding of Barnard Castle School. We are a school steeped in history and it is important for us to recognise this each year with our Founders' Day Service. This takes place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 1pm in the School Chapel. Parents, friends and relatives are warmly invited to attend this service during which we give thanks for the foundation and development of the school. As a reminder, school will finish at 2pm for Half Term on this day.

The week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February is also our Open Week and I would warmly encourage you to invite friends who may be interested in the school to come along and have a look at the wonderful things that we do on a daily basis. Have a good weekend!

**Laura Turner**

## Boarders News

We are pleased to include some photographs from last Friday's official opening of the refurbished junior boarding house, Old Courts. Mr Robin Fletcher (CEO of the



Boarding Schools' Association) enjoyed lunch with some of the boarders and a tour of the boarding house.

This was followed by the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the occasion and the planting of a cherry tree. Barnard Castle School becomes the 135<sup>th</sup> school (in our 135<sup>th</sup> year!) to join the international 'Boarding Orchard', an initiative launched by the BSA in 2014. The trees symbolise the 'tree of knowledge' and demonstrate each school's commitment to growth and caring for the environment. Shortly after the celebrations the boarders headed off for their much anticipated family weekend.

**Mr Robson**

## Internet Safety Week 2018

Next week is Internet Safety Week and I will be running a series of workshops for all children in the school as well as taking assembly on Monday.

The theme of this year's international campaign is **Create, connect and share respect**: A better internet starts with you!

Tackling this theme we will be exploring children's well-being and ways in which they can look after themselves online. If you would like any more information or advice on the subject, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me (aaw@barneyschool.org.uk).

**Miss White**



## Sport News

### Year 5 & 6 House Cross Country, Football and Netball

On Friday we had an array of House matches which were highly competitive. In the Cross Country, as every person counted, it was a real team effort with each place being important to the end result. We averaged out the results for both girls and boys and Raleigh won convincingly, even though Grenville came first (William Hutchinson) and second (Frazer Wallace) in the boys' event, while Lydia Dixon (Gilbert) and Thea Wilks (Raleigh) led the girls home. On the Football field, Raleigh again dominated with four wins and two draws over both A and B competitions. Gilbert's B team were strong and led them into second position followed by Drake and Grenville.

For those still standing after the House Cross Country, there followed a closely-fought battle for the Netball Shield. Grenville was suddenly reduced to five players, so their opponents kindly recalibrated to play High 5. With goals scored in every game and a high level of enthusiasm and competition from the girls, this proved to be a very pleasing afternoon of netball. There was some excellent defensive play from Drake, amazing team spirit from Grenville and high scoring from Gilbert and Raleigh. With the latter teams winning two matches apiece, the victors were decided on goal difference. Gilbert had scored a higher number of goals, so were crowned House Netball champions. Well done girls.

**Mr Wicling and Mrs Thompson**

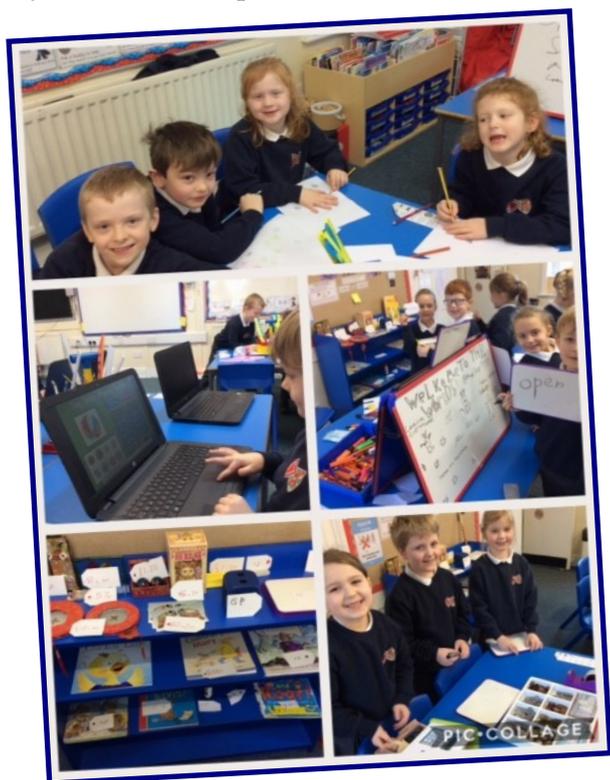
### Netball v Durham High School for Girls: U9, U8

On Monday all the girls in Years 3 and 4 travelled to Durham to play their first Netball fixture of the season. It is fair to say that 'excitement' was flavour of the day, with some basic rules and skills being temporarily forgotten in the novelty of playing on a different court in unfamiliar surroundings! The U9 A team held their nerve however, and played some excellent Netball against DHSG's A team, winning 2-1. The B team also played against Durham's A team, losing 3-0. The red and yellow squads played with enthusiasm, but were sadly unable to score, with games ending in draws or narrow losses. This was an encouraging afternoon of Netball against one of the best netballing schools in the area, particularly when acknowledging that our U8s were playing against older girls. Hopefully the girls now realise what is required in a competitive match and will bring some focus and determination to their next fixture.

**Mrs Thompson**

## Money, money, money!

Year 2 have been investigating money in their Maths lessons this week. Practical activities have included constructing a class shop, creating money rubbings, using the computers to access interactive games, creating different amounts using various coins, counting money and finding change. The pupils were interested to discover that George Stephenson was on the old £5 note. It is a very practical topic and we hope that 2P will have fun at home counting their pocket money and finding opportunities to buy items at the shops.



## Movement is key!

Reception have been working really hard this term to improve the movements and throwing they learned in the Michaelmas term. We have been using a circuit style activity to help us to do this, although the children like to refer

to it as an 'obstacle course'!

The circuit involves various stations, working on different areas of development: throwing a shuttle against the wall for our throwing technique; ladders for improving our running technique; fast feet to help with dodging when in game situations. They have all worked really hard and I am pleased with their progress so far.



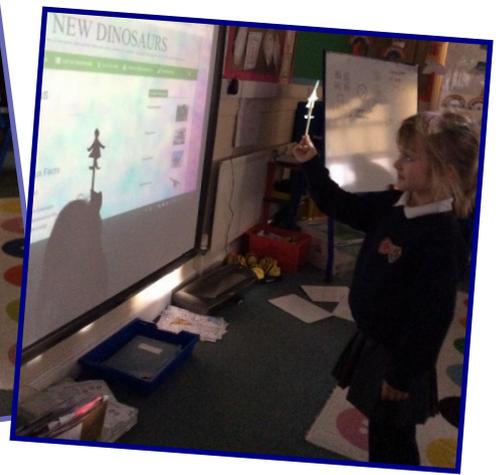
We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

**Bertie Swan**  
**Louise Newcombe**  
**Jack Baptist**

Best wishes from everyone  
at Prep School!

## Me and my shadow

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed comparing numbers in Maths this week and completed a lot of practical activities in class to secure their understanding. In Science they have been looking at how shadows are created. They made shadow puppets and had fun playing with their puppets using the interactive whiteboard.



## What's your share?

Explaining and understanding fractions is a topic that usually takes us a couple of weeks in Year 4, however this time, trying a new approach has really helped. The children have been presented with a series of problems that they have had to solve and the results have been superb!

In the first case they were asked to share a cake between twelve people, eight adults and four children. Each adult had to have the same size piece and they had to be larger pieces than the children received. Using a combination of whiteboards, diagrams and blocks every child in the class came up with at least two solutions to this problem. In a Mr Ayres style puzzler – can you work out the answers?

The second problem involved money; three children were given a sum of money, £120, £60 and £30. The rest of the class were asked to choose who they would go to in order to have a share of the money, for example if five others chose £120 then each child would receive £20 each, whereas if only one other chose £60 then they would receive £30 each. If there were twelve children altogether, which amount would you choose?



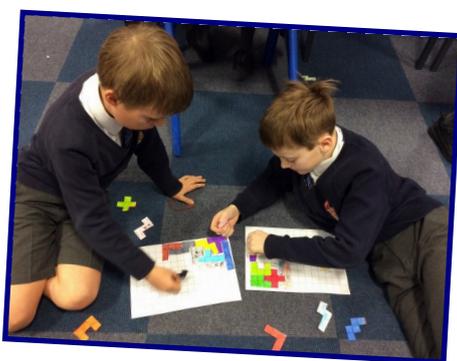
## Perfect pentominoes

Year 5 have had fun exploring pentominoes during our investigation sessions. They started by exploring all of the possible ways of putting five cubes together. Once we had found all twelve of them they then created a rectangle using all of their pentominoes. Our task this week was to use one or more of them to create a tessellation pattern. These will be displayed around the Year 5 area so pop along and have a look at their fantastic work.



## Use the force!

Year 3 put their growing understanding of forces and friction into practice in Forest School this week, using pushes, pulls and brilliant teamwork to prepare beds for planting broad beans and learning how to use a bow saw safely.

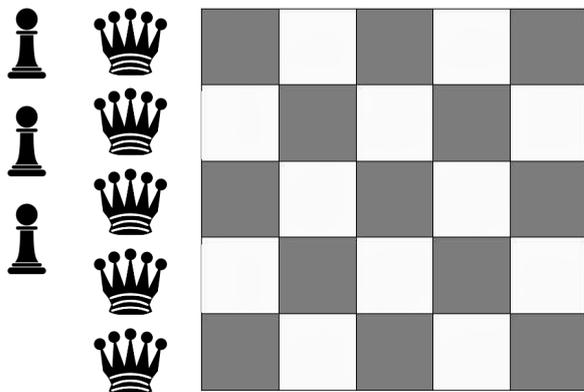


## Maths Puzzler



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the 'make numbers' puzzler outside my classroom last week. Nearly all the numbers were found and there were some really interesting methods.

This week's puzzle is chess related and loosely based on the famous eight queens problem. Can you place five queens on the board (five of the same counter works just fine) so that you can place three pawns on the board and none of them will get taken? If chess problems are your thing, the shredderchess.com has great daily puzzles and best move situations to improve your chess.



Good luck!

Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk

## Rising to the challenge!

After weeks of preparation and what seemed like an eternity of waiting, the Entrance Tests finally arrived for Year 6. A chance to advertise their talents and their abilities, the tests provide the pupils with an invaluable first step into the world of exams and all of the extras that come with it. Having sat mocks in the hall the week before, Year 6 were unfazed by the big day and set about it with the confidence and belief all of us had helped build over the past five months. Obviously cameras were not allowed in the hall during the test itself but I have included a picture of some of Year 6 setting their own learning targets in Maths, taking charge of their own revision and planning out where to focus their efforts. This self-led learning proved immensely popular with pupils and highly effective from our point of view. Pupils now begin their Achievement Award in earnest. We are all immensely proud of the way in which they have risen to this, and every other challenge set over the past few months.



### Awards This Week:

#### Special Mention Certificates:

Isabelle Shield, Dominick Armstrong, Lucy Willsmore, Peter Stevenson, Charlie Bridges, Hetty Barwick, Tilly Gray, Alfie Simpson, Matilda Owens, Kieran Armstrong, Grace Dickinson, George-Louis Boulton, Mila Johnson, Evie Wicling, Oliver Stubbs, Lucy Harburn, Theo Tweddle, Freya Pinwill-Price, Scarlett Williams, Euan Metcalf, Archie Pepper, Celine Jolley, Bea Dolby, Clara Metcalfe

#### Merit Certificates:

Toby Rutherford, Freddie Wilks, Thomas Scott-Priestley, Ed Wicling, Reuben Hosking, Lucy Willsmore, Olivia Harland, Jack Baptist, Vivi Gledhill, Oona MacConachie, Sophie Richardson, Megan Sunley, Hetty Barwick, Freydis Blake, Archie Lanigan-O'Keeffe, Hugo Lanigan-O'Keeffe, Adam Lee, Isla MacConachie, Leo Rökk, Bertie Swan, Nathan Willoughby-Brown

## Forthcoming Events

### February

- Fri 2 Football, Hockey & Netball v RGS & Yarm: U11, U10 (H), 1:30pm
- Mon 5 Internet Safety Week  
Netball v Durham High: U10 (H), 2:30pm
- Tues 6 Onatti Theatre Company visit  
Football Festival at Polam Hall: U9 (A), 1:30pm
- Wed 7 Meeting for parents of pupils going on the Year 5 & 6 Trip to France, Atkinson Hall, 6:30pm
- Thurs 8 Year 6 First Aid Training
- Fri 9 **Year 4 Trip to Centre for Life**  
Strings Assembly for pupils  
Netball v Red House & Bow: U11 (H), 2:15pm



### Headmistress's Commendations:

Annabel Jackson  
James Harburn  
Isabelle Shield  
Charlotte Owens

### Well done!

### Website of the Week

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Rather than an app, this week I am recommending a website that all our children, and parents, can use to learn a little bit more about staying safe online as well as play some games and watch some videos.

