



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

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Headmistress's News

As we approach half term, we are very much looking forward to **Prep School Sports Day** for pupils in Years 3 to 6 which takes place from **1pm** this afternoon. If you are coming to watch, please use the Senior School entrance where you will be directed to car parking. Refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon from the Barney Friends' marquee. On completion of the event we will have the presentation of the Queen's Cup. Pupils will be free to leave following the presentation. We look forward to welcoming parents to an action packed afternoon—let's hope the rain holds off!

If you would like to watch '**Rock Bottom**' the forthcoming Year 5 & 6 play, please return the ticket request form, which was emailed last week, as soon as possible as tickets are on a first come, first served basis and are going fast!

Our 'Den Building Day' took place last week on a beautiful Sunday morning. To see so many children and parents there planning, hammering and sawing eagerly was a joy to watch and the children's excitement as they ran around working out what to add to their creations was a real highlight. The rest of the Prep School have had a fantastic week, exploring the dens and using them as a well deserved shelter from the sun.

It was also lovely to welcome back to Prep School 28 Preppies from the Upper Sixth to have lunch with us and reminisce with fond memories of their time here. It is funny how everything seems so much smaller to them; they were impressed with how much we have moved forward since they were here. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all and we wish them all the best for the future.

I hope you all have a lovely, relaxing half term.

Laura Turner

Boarders News

The Prep boarders had a wonderful time with Mr and Mrs Turner at Diggerworld on Saturday – enjoying the freedom to drive or operate their own vehicles as well as loving the unique rides and not forgetting the inevitable ice-cream treat too! On Sunday morning it was time to get creative in the Prep School front drive as many of the boarders' parents came along to build dens with their children and their friends at the Barney Friends' Den Building Day. Indeed quite a few stayed on in the beautiful weather for a picnic to watch the Help for Heroes cricket festival in the afternoon – inspiring a few ad hoc family games on the adjacent fields.

Mr Robson





Meeting the staff!

Reception class visited all the people around school as part of our topic 'People Who Help Us' this week. Visits were made to the boiler house to meet with Steven Blakemore, our and the 'green men', and then off to the school kitchens to meet Marcus Baker and the catering staff. Later in the afternoon we talked to the school cleaners and gardeners. The children asked some interesting questions and really understood how they are helped by a wide selection of staff at school.



Super learning!

This week in English we have been continuing our work on 'Superheroes' in Year 1. We focused on the book 'Supertato' and the children created their own Super vegetable with their own unique super powers. The children then went on to create a story plan involving their Super vegetable. It was wonderful to see their wonderful imaginations being used to create fantastic stories.



A question of Maths

This week we are getting logical in Year 4, carrying out a series of practical and theoretical mathematical investigations to solve puzzles, find patterns and explain the maths. The children have thoroughly enjoyed solving clues from 'Who won the World Book Day Costume Competition?' to

'How many intersections will there be if I have 9 sticks and arrange them on top of each other?'. The maths has got quite technical at times and Mr Wicling has participated willingly when explaining algebraic equations and Pythagoras' Theorem!



Lovely Leavers Lunch!

On Monday it was wonderful to welcome back the Upper Sixth leavers who began their school career with us in the Prep School. They were welcomed with a tour of the Prep School, taking in all their old classrooms and the school's newer developments, before lunch in the Atkinson Hall. There was much reminiscing about how the rooms used to be much bigger, where they each sat and what they allegedly used to get up to when backs were turned! The boys couldn't resist the opportunity of a final game of football on the pitch with our current Year 6 boys, before we returned to the Atkinson Hall for lunch and the embarrassment of a display of old photos from their Prep School days. We wish them all the best for the future!



Sports News

Cricket: U11 (H)

On Friday we hosted a small 6-a-side tournament, with Bow School and Choristers entering the affray. Our A team played Bow School in the opening game and scored a fine 52 with Callum Gaffney retiring on 20 not out. They followed with a score of 32 which gave us a strong victory. In the second game, Choristers were a tougher prospect and we batted poorly and failed to reach 30. They reached our total with 4 balls to spare and deservedly won the competition. In the final game we played the B team who had a great afternoon. It was a tough competition for them but they certainly improved over the three matches and understood what will be required to move into the A team.

Mr Wicling

Rounders v Bow School: U11 (H)

On Friday the U11 team played Rounders against Bow School. All the year 6 girls took part and were able to contribute and use their practised skills in a competitive game situation. After the first inning we were trailing 2 1/2 rounders to 4 1/2. Bow continued to clock up the 1/2 rounders in the second innings and won with 10 rounders to our 5 1/2.

Mrs Summerson-Brown

Girls' Cricket v Durham High School: U11A

On Monday, we took the Year 6 girls along to Durham High for their first cricket game. They had a great time and learnt a lot, from batting and bowling techniques, to fielding as a team. The results were irrelevant as it was an opportunity to play in a competitive match and develop enthusiasm for our wonderful game.

Mr Wicling



Illustrator Visit

We were delighted to welcome local illustrator, Hayley Smith to Prep School for a special assembly on Monday. She showed us her fabulous drawings in the recently published 'Ellie's Amazing Outfits'; an entertaining

picture book all about a little girl who didn't want to get dressed. Hayley showed us how she had used her skills in collage and textile design to help her to create the colourful pictures, and demonstrated how lettering can be used to great effect within a story. Hayley has no doubt inspired some budding illustrators amongst our pupils and we were pleased to invite her to award the prizes for our House Art Competition.

App of the Week

Word Brain



A brain testing game for you this week, and one that I have found most challenging.

There are 580 levels in this game and the aim is to find the muddled word within a square of letters. Swipe the letters in the correct order to make the hidden word. It starts off relatively easily but it does get very challenging! If you can't find the word first time just restart the level and have another go. I look forward to hearing which level you make it to! **Miss White**

Marvellous map reading!

The children enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of Orienteering at the Bowes Museum. They were able to complement skills which have been part of Maths and Geography this term, with map reading, co-ordinates and directions. In addition, listening and reasoning skills were challenged working in their small groups. The trip finished off with a little afternoon tea, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and a play in the park before heading back to Prep School.



Dissecting daffodils

Year 5 had great fun during their Science lessons, dissecting a daffodil flower as part of their 'Living Things and their Habitats' topic.



The Tourism Fair Approaches!

"Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world." Gustave Flaubert

After much anticipation, countries were announced this week for the upcoming Year 6 Tourism Fair. This is the Geography element of the Year 6 Achievement Award, where the pupils work in groups of three to present their country to a panel of experts (well, the Year 6 teachers and one expert!) The friendly and knowledgeable travel agents at Kyle Travel have kindly agreed to judge the children's efforts and will visit the Fair on Thursday 21st June. Over the next few weeks there will be frenzied activity as the children research climate, currency, accommodation, travel, landmarks, cultural differences and, most importantly, FOOD! We certainly hope that parents and friends will be able to visit the Fair from 3pm onwards on 21st June to see the fruits of their children's labours. Ciao!

Mrs Thompson



Here's a glimpse of last year's extravaganza!

What will Year 6 do this year?!



Practice makes perfect!

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed going out into the warm weather for their PE lessons this week. With Pre-Prep Sports Day fast approaching, they have focused on running, including sprint starts and finishes, as well as working to improve their times. There is a lot of competition amongst the children and the finishing times should be very close. The class have also been practising their running, jumping and throwing skills ready for the big day.



Den Building Day

A fantastic day was had by all who came to the Barney Friends' Den Building on Sunday. The pupils have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the cleverly crafted creations this week!



Awards This Week:

Special Mention Certificates:

Hugo Thompson, Harriet Hatton, Reuben Hosking, Peter Stevenson, Zara Scott-Priestley, Hugo Lanigan-O'Keeffe, Rocco Catellani, Harry Milbank, William Watson, Freddie Whitaker, Mirabelle Harrison, Konrad Blake, Olivia Bridges, Isabel Warren, Tom Body, Molly Rendall, Jonny Royle, Ned Michelin, Kohana Armstrong, Ethan Davis, Charles Appleyard, Thea Wilks, Rhys Jenkins, Harry Maguire

Merit Certificates:

James Nath, Jack Baptist, Finley Cable-Jones, Alexander Carr, Fiore Catellani, Callum Clark-Alderson, Dylan Dougal, Vivi Gledhill, Reuben Hosking, Sebastian Howard, Oona MacConachie, Caitlyn McLean, Joel Morgan, Sophie Richardson, Tom Staley, Peter Stevenson, Megan Sunley, Lucy Willmore, Benjamin Dixon, Tilly Gray, Olivia Hall, William Jackson-Ward, Henry Johnstone, Alfie Simpson, Ella Turner, Sophia Hare, Isla Morgan, Edwin Barwick, Konrad Blake, Bella Bland, George-Louis Boulton, Fred Dullage, Niamh Hennessy, Scarlett Hutchinson, Alex Metcalfe, Theo Te Lintelo, Nicol White, Quinn Williams, Ben Arnold, William Banner, Olivia Bridges, Gus Coggrave, Harry Forrester, Mila Johnson, Oscar Lawson, Benjamin Pelly, Celine Jolley, Isabelle Kerr, Charlotte Blenkinson, William Watson, Katy Sludds, Seth Crisp, Rhys James, Rhys Jenkins



We would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

Isabel Fall, Nicol White,
Ed Wicling, Lottie Baptist,
Freydis Blake, Violet Heintz,
Mila Johnson

Best wishes from everyone
at Prep School!

Forthcoming Events

May

Fri 25 Sports Day for Years 3 to 6, 1pm
Boarders' parent/teacher meetings, 3:45pm
Half Term begins at the end of the school day

June

Sun 3 Boarders' return, 4pm
Mon 4 Second half of term begins
Rounders Tournament: U9 (H), 1:30pm
Tues 5 Cricket v Polam: U10 (H), 3:30pm
Wed 6 Charity Cup Cake Day for Alzheimer's
Trinity Evensong, Chapel, 3pm
Thurs 7 Cricket Festival at Bow School: U9, 1:30pm
Year 5 & 6 Play Technical Rehearsal, 1:30pm
Fri 8 HMC Athletics at Gateshead Stadium:
U11, U10, U9: 11am

Maths Puzzler

Well done to Mila Johnson, Benjamin French and George Goad who all solved last weeks puzzler. Leonardo of Pisa was much more commonly known by the name Fibonacci, his sequence will be familiar to Year 6 through their work on the Golden Ratio. To get the next term you simply add the two previous terms, so the next one would be 21 (8+13), followed by 34 (13+21) and then 55 (21+34)

1,1,2,3,5,8,13...

As it's sports day today I'd like to set you the following challenge. The current men's world record in 400m is held by Wayde van Niekerk, with a time of 43.03 seconds. What different things can you do in 43 seconds? Solve a Rubiks cube? Wrap a present? Make a cup of tea? The more creative the better!

Good luck!

Mr Ayres

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Headmistress's Commendations:

Thomas Scott-Priestley
Freya Turner
Alexander Carr
Callum Clark-Alderson
Vivi Gledhill
Oona MacConachie
Caitlyn McLean
Joel Morgan
Megan Sunley
Benjamin Dixon
Liberty Forsyth
Tilly Gray
Olivia Hall
Sophia Hare
Freddie Harland
Alexander Howard
William Watson
Annie Barker
Archie Pepper

Well done!

