



BARNARD CASTLE  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# The Barney Buzz

Friday 1st February 2019

Issue Number: 923

## Headmistress's News

The snow has finally arrived in Barney and what fun the children have all had today at playtime! It is so lovely to see that whilst this wonderful stuff seems to bring the whole country to moments of standstill, the enjoyment and smiles from every child's face today have brought priceless moments to us.

Another busy week has passed and our Year 6 pupils sat their Entrance Exams for Senior School with Dr Truss this week in the Atkinson Hall 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 and Fire Safety 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 4<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 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Senior School will be holding a seminar at 5.30pm in Big School with guest speaker Tanya Goodin. Tanya is an expert communicator on digital detox, screens and children, digital addiction, tech dependency and work/life balance. It would be lovely to see parents from Prep School there should you wish to attend.

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 15<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm 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 normal time for Half Term on this day.

The week beginning 11<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

Last weekend was the family weekend and the boarders enjoyed the time with their families and friends around the country. They returned to Old Courts with bags of energy as usual! Fortunately with the lighter evenings a bit more outdoor play is possible before dinner and the woods in front of the house is getting well used.

The boarding house has invested in some new board games and it has been great to see the boarders enjoying some classic games as well as some new ones.

**Mr Robson**



## Internet Safety Week 2019

Next week is Internet Safety Week and I will be running a series of workshops for all children in the Prep School.

The theme of this year's international campaign is 'Together for a Better Internet'.

Tackling this theme, we will be exploring children's wellbeing 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.

**Miss White**

[aaw@barneyschool.org.uk](mailto:aaw@barneyschool.org.uk)

## French Trip Meeting for Parents

A friendly reminder that there will be a meeting for parents on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 6:30pm in the Atkinson Hall for those children in Years 5 & 6 who are attending this year's trip to France. This will be an opportunity to run through the itinerary and for you to ask any questions regarding the trip. If you are unable to make it, do not worry, I will ensure that paperwork provided on the night is sent home with your child. If you have any queries please not hesitate to contact me.

**Miss Strachan**

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## Ice, ice baby!

As the weather is turning colder, Reception have been experimenting with ice paints. The children really enjoyed painting with this new medium and created some amazing masterpieces.



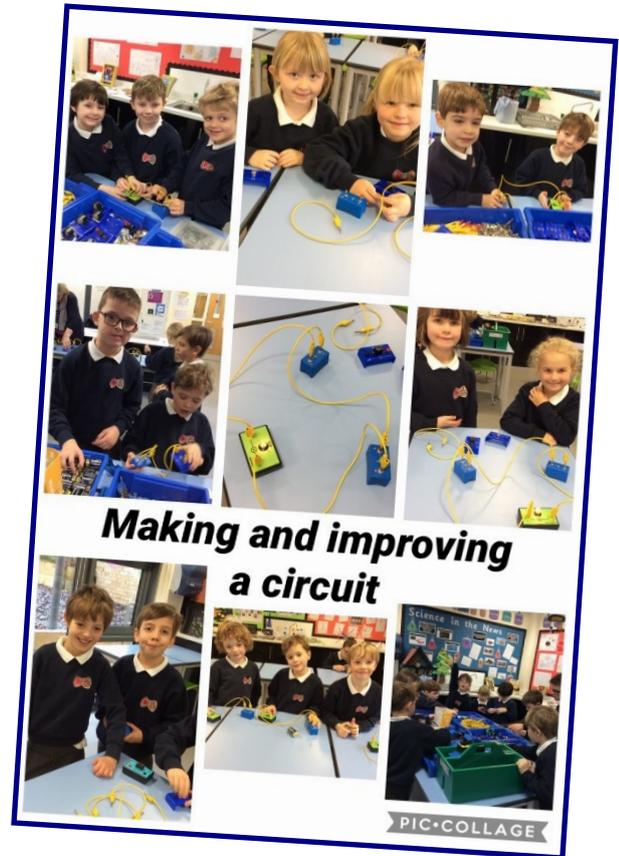
## Oh help, oh no!

This week we tied 'The Gruffalo' story to our 'Healthy Eating' theme for PSHCEE by creating the fox on a rice cake using fruit and vegetables. We were able to write instructions following on from it. In Maths we have been trying really hard to learn our times tables. We are so impressed that some children are nearly onto their third badge! Keep it up Year 1.



## It's electrifying!

Year 2 have been learning all about electricity in Science. We have sorted electrical items using a Venn Diagram, looking at how they are powered. In the Science Lab the children constructed and adapted electrical circuits. It was interesting to find that a dim bulb became brighter when an extra battery was added to the circuit. Our next task is to draw the circuits using symbols to represent each part. We will also look at electrical safety in the home and, following this, design moving models using a circuit with a motor.



## Testing times!

Yesterday morning saw, for some of our pupils, the culmination of nearly seven years' work; The Entrance Test! Sat in the Atkinson Hall, as opposed to the once traditional Big School (on a Saturday too!), Year 6 tackled, by now all too familiar, papers in first English and then Maths. Having sat mock tests last week, the pupils were exceedingly well-prepared and should be very proud of how they approached the challenge. Prep School is not a place to dwell on the victories of the past and so it is with Year 6, next week sees them entering the next phase of their Achievement Award with first aid and fire training on Thursday.



## Shop till you drop!

In Maths lessons, Year 3 have been mastering the art of 'shopping', parents beware! In small groups, the children created their own shop, priced up the items for sale and then played shopkeepers. This was a vital lesson in recognising the real value of daily items, thankfully a carton of orange juice doesn't cost us £5.30! The children thoroughly enjoyed calculating the total of their purchases and finding the correct coins to pay with.



## Mad Measuring!

This week, Year 4 have undertaken another practical Maths investigation. This involved them measuring various 'random' objects located in the Atkinson Hall, and using different tools and different scales. The task included weighing a selection of objects including shoes and iPads and calculating the capacity of a vast array of bottles and cups! They also measured lengths, heights and widths of doors, lecterns, benches and PE equipment. Another great example of Year 4 pupils working together to solve a problem and having fun whilst doing so!



## Tudor times!

Year 5 had a fantastic day at Bolton Castle (or Baltic Castle as it has now been nicknamed!). The pupils were transported back in time to the Tudor period and enjoyed a day jam packed with activities. We fought off the plague with our freshly made pomanders, used quills to write our names in script, prepared for battle with armour, real swords and even guns, trained to fight the French with our spear drill and even had a party with some traditional dancing. The pupils, as always, were fantastic and particularly enjoyed warming themselves by the fire inside the castle. They were treated to some authentic Tudor hot chocolate in the castle kitchen after exploring the dungeons and braved the lofty heights of the castle roof where the views of the snow covered hills were stunning. Having managed to find their way successfully through the maze we gave our thanks to Master David and began the return journey to school. It was a wonderful day and the pupils should be really proud to have represented the school in such a positive way.



## App of the Week

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

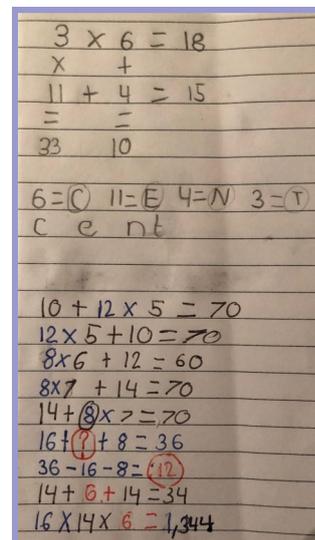


**Miss White**

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## Maths Puzzler

Congratulations to Matthew Burgess, Hannah Lynn, Mila Johnson, Megan Brown and George Goad who all had a really good go at one or both of last week's puzzlers. This week's puzzler comes with a twist. Over the next two weeks I am going to leave a sheet up outside my classroom (6A) with the numbers 1-100 on. All I want you to do is to find something of significance for as many of the numbers as you can (for example 7 dwarves, 12 signs of the zodiac / days of Christmas, 15 players on a rugby team etc). I wonder how many of the 100 we can find something for? Good luck!



**Mr Ayres**

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## Awards This Week:

### Special Mention Certificates:

Hugo Manners, Jessie Burgess, Daisy Allison, Freya Turner, Elodie Lavery, Thomas Scott-Priestley, Megan Sunley, Sebastian Howard, Hannah Lynn, Freddie Wilks, Toby Rutherford, Matilda Chapman, Charlotte Owens, Freddie Harland, William Jackson-Ward, Tilly Gray, Ramneek Khokhar, Nicol White, William Banner, Violet Heintz, Ava Pittaway, Alex Metcalfe, George Goad, Zara Dobson, Bella Staley, Benjamin French, Gus Living, Esme Berend

### Merit Certificates:

Isaac Binks, Tom Staley, Dominick Armstrong, James Harburn, Isabelle Shield, Alexander Carr, Callum Clark-Alderson, Violet Heintz, Mila Johnson, Sophie Winnard, Zara Dobson, Gus Living, Freya Turner, Edith Smart

## Headmistress's Commendations:

Joseph Swann  
Isla MacConachie  
Charlie Bridges, Harry Forrester  
Matilda Chapman  
Poppy Hendrix  
Freddie Whitaker  
Alexander Howard  
George Swinbank  
Sienna Lawson, Freddie Wilks  
Nathan Brown  
Benjamin French  
Lottie Baptist, Mila Johnson  
Gus Living, Alexander Carr  
Polly Heintz, Dexter Thomas  
Alexander Milbank  
Emma van der Merwe  
Georgina Jackson  
Flora Whitaker

**Well done!**

## Forthcoming Events

### February

- Fri 1 **Boys' Hockey v Sedbergh (at Casterton):**  
U11A, U10 (A), 2pm  
Netball v Yarm: U10 (A), 2:15pm  
Netball v Yarm: U11 (H), 2:15pm  
**All cancelled due to snow!**
- Mon 4 Internet Safety Week
- Tues 5 Football at Soccarena, Durham: U9, 1:30pm
- Wed 6 Swimming at Mowden Hall: U9  
Netball Tournament at Sedbergh: U11 (A), 1pm  
Meeting for parents of pupils attending trip to France, Atkinson Hall, 6:30-7:30pm
- Thurs 7 Year 4 Trip to Centre for Life  
Year 6 First Aid Training
- Fri 8 Rugby 7s at Durham School: U11, 1pm

We would like to wish  
a very happy birthday to:

**Louise Newcombe**

Best wishes from everyone at  
Prep School!

## Sideline



Unfortunately, frozen pitches seem to be causing havoc with fixtures and clubs this week. It was great to do the House Cross Country when we did, as the weather was kind for this. Doing the run at the start of term has also helped to target pupils for training and school Cross Country team selection. House Netball and Year 3 & 4 Football all got played, as you will have read last week, but the Year 5 & 6 House Football fell victim to the weather. I am looking forward to the rearranged date of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March (the last day of term) as there will hopefully be greater chance of warmer weather and it may be a slightly more enticing prospect for supporting parents. This is something I shall bear in mind for next year!

In terms of school fixtures, the U10 & U11 Football matches against Aysgarth have been rearranged for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Unfortunately due to the snow, the Boys' Hockey against Sedbergh and the Girls' Netball against Yarm have been cancelled.

We have many competitions and fixtures fast approaching, with a few more to arrange for next half term. It is encouraging to see Boys' Hockey, Football and Rugby 7s (U11) fixtures in place. For the girls, we have many Netball fixtures, including an opportunity for some Year 2 girls to play at Mowden Hall in March. We have entered two teams into the HMC Gymnastics competition next half term, on the back of the extra-curricular club at Teesdale Leisure Centre, and this is a further opportunity for both girls who perform at an advanced level outside school and those who are just 'starting out' in Gymnastics. In mixed gender sports, we have Swimming fixtures starting next week, with the first gala involving a team of Year 4 pupils competing at Mowden Hall School. In the first week back after half term, we also have two Cross Country races. The first of these, at Hunter Hall, should be particularly exciting, as it will involve the best runners from Years 1-6. I look forward to seeing members of Pre-Prep representing the school to the best of their ability.

In such a short academic term, there are a lot of fixtures to compete in, and I am conscious that we want to offer even more in the future to ensure that all pupils across Years 3-6 are representing the school in a variety of sports. It is also a long-term aim to give as many Pre-Prep pupils as possible, an opportunity of school sport representation.

### Sports performer of the week

My sports performer of the week this week is Rory Metcalf. Rory led his Year 3 Rugby team convincingly throughout the Michaelmas Term and was an absolute star, showing great agility to evade players and score numerous tries in Tag Rugby. He has already demonstrated that he is a highly able sportsman this term, performing advanced skills in both Football and Hockey. What sealed my decision this week though was the attitude he has shown in his PE lessons. When performing Gymnastics, a sport in which Rory is less confident, he was quick to take up the offer of using additional equipment and support to help improve his forward roll and help develop his sequence. There is clearly a reason why Rory is such an outstanding sportsman; he has a great attitude, is willing to seek assistance and will work hard to improve his skills. Perhaps it is no coincidence that he excels in other sports!



*Rory developing his forward roll for sequence work during a Year 3 PE lesson*

### **Mr Burgess**

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## School Council News

During Monday's assembly this week, the School Council launched their latest project which involves every child in Prep School. We plan to participate in this year's annual fundraising event Sign2Sing, organised by the Deaf Health Charity SignHealth. It is a mass singing event which will provide our Preppies with the opportunity to learn sign language while helping to fundraise to support deaf people. This year's official song is 'Greatest Day' by Take That, we will be practising in school in the lead up to the event, however, please do encourage your child to practice at home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rz6Y8oSlZoM&feature=youtube>.

We will come together to perform for the staff and pupils on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

If you would like to support the SignHealth charity, we would be grateful for children to bring in any donation to hand in to their class teacher on this day.

We hope your child enjoys a taste of sign language!