



Barford St. Peter's C.E. (V.A.) Primary School

Together we love; together we learn

Newsletter

Friday 23rd April

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I hope that you had a wonderful Easter break and enjoyed spending time together.

We have had a very exciting week this week with our Year 6 Evacuee visit to Winchcombe station, where children experienced what life was like for a child in 1940. It was a magnificent day and the children and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed it. Our sincere thanks to the Year 6 parents who did an incredible job providing excellent costumes and authentic packed lunches!



We were all buzzing with excitement to see Year 3 perform their class assembly all about bees. The waggle dance is certainly now a firm favourite among parents, children and staff! Well done Year 3 you were all brilliant!

Of course this week in collective worship we focused on Saint George and why he was chosen by King Edward III to be the patron Saint of England. We reflected on his personal characteristics of bravery in the face of adversity and how we can learn to be courageous and do the right thing, even if it feels difficult.

We are looking forward to a fun filled Summer term of exciting learning opportunities and memorable experiences for the children.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend,

Mrs M.A. Baker
Head Teacher

Whatsapp Groups – A Message from Governors

The school governors would like to remind everyone in our school community that as a school, we are always open to hearing your feedback. Please do feel free to arrange an appointment to speak to a member of staff or leadership team if you would like to share your views on any school related matter, as we strive to help each and every pupil achieve their very best.

Equally, if you have any concerns please raise them with a member of the senior leadership team or your child's class teacher. We would much rather hear about any concerns as soon as possible, and directly from you, rather than via your class WhatsApp group.

The school will seek to resolve concerns through day-to-day communications as far as possible, but, should you remain dissatisfied, the process to follow is outlined in our Complaints Policy which can be found [here](#).

The Way Through the Woods Art Competition

Huge thanks to the children who entered 'The Way Through the Woods' art competition. Every entry is absolutely stunning and Mrs Hurlock is thrilled to see so many interesting and creative ideas. These are displayed in the entrance hall and look spectacular!



Whole School Photograph

I am excited to inform you that on Friday 8th May we are having a whole school photograph. This opportunity takes place only once every 5 years, so it really is a special occasion. Class photographs will also be taken on this day as well. Please could we ask that children are in their neatest school uniform on the Friday? Thank you.

David Attenborough Day

We are very much looking forward to celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday on Thursday 7th May. Just a reminder that children can come to school on this day dressed as an animal or in brightly coloured clothes to represent our wonderful natural world. Please could they also bring a stone into school as one activity on the day will be painting their stone. Thank you for your support with this.

What We've Been Learning

Reception

We have had a very hands-on start to the summer term 'launching' into our new topic called 'Ticket to Ride' where we are learning about journeys and different types of transport. Over the last two weeks we have been thinking about space travel, finding out about the Artemis II rocket journey around the moon, life on the ISS and learning through our stories 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy and 'Aliens love Underpants' by Clare Freedman. We wrote lists of things we would pack on a space mission.

We also had an exciting experience this week when aliens landed in our classroom, leaving 6 aliens behind. We used this experience to consider how it would feel to be left behind on a strange planet and we cared for our alien visitors, writing 'Found' posters just in case the rocket came back to rescue them.

In our Maths last week, we found out how to tally larger numbers into 5's when we explored our class choices for space destinations. This week we have been using our knowledge of small number bonds and subitising to recognise small quantities without counting them. We did this by launching meteors onto a sandy planet and then grouping the rocks in recognisable small numbers, such as a four and a two making six.

In forest school we made simple rockets powered by our breath and tested their thrust power outside by launching them from blowing into a straw. We have also been exploring how bubbles are created and how to make the biggest bubbles.

In music we have been listening to journey sounds of vehicles and used our body percussion and actions to accompany them.

In PE we have been space adventurers practising a range of strength skills and team games. In our My Happy Mind learning we have been celebrating our differences and thinking about kindness to others. We crafted hearts to give to others who we value and read a story about kindness to others, celebrating all types of kindness from understanding others to helping with solving problems, and sharing our worries.



Year 1

We have started the new term well in Year 1. In Maths, we have been counting up in 2s and 10s and we used string beads to help us see the patterns. In English, we are working really hard on our cursive handwriting and are starting to join some of our letters together. We have also enjoyed retelling the story *Rosie's Walk*, making sure we use good punctuation and interesting vocabulary. In Science, we have been finding out about David Attenborough and learning about his life before our exciting themed day to celebrate his 100th birthday.

In Art, we learned about the artists Andy Goldsworthy and Ansel Adams and explored how they use nature and natural materials in their work. In PSHE, we talked about how to care for animals and pets, what they need, and how this links to being responsible. We also thoroughly enjoyed our walk around Barford to learn about our local area, and we even got to have our breaktime in Barford Park, which was lots of fun!

Year 2

In Year 2, we have got straight to it for the packed term ahead and are already very proud of our hard work. In our 'My Happy Mind' learning, we have been finding out how our brain helps us and what we can do to calm ourselves and be ready to learn. We have learned how to do happy breathing to help wake up our hippocampus and prefrontal cortex when our amygdala has taken over, and we have really enjoyed drawing in our journals.

In Science, we have been learning about flowers and the parts of a bulb, discovering that a bulb is the stem or bud of a plant and grows under the ground. We have had a big focus on handwriting in our class and we feel very proud of the improvements we can see from all our hard work.

In Maths, we have been learning about non-unit fractions and although some of us found this quite confusing at first, with perseverance and help from Mrs Stock we are starting to understand it better and have shown this clearly in our maths books.

In English, we have been retelling the story '*The Koala Who Could*', and as part of our topic on Australia, we have enjoyed learning about the different animals that live there and finding out lots of interesting facts in preparation for our exciting Australia Day.



Year 3

In Year 3, we have been learning lots of interesting and exciting things and have been working really hard. In Science, we learned that we need light in order to see and explored the difference between natural light sources, such as the sun and moon, and artificial light sources like light bulbs. We also learned that some things, such as windows, mirrors and our eyes, are not light sources at all.

In Geography, we discovered what paddy fields are and learned that they are fields which are purposefully flooded with water, as well as why they are so important to China's economy. In RE, we have been

learning about why reconciliation is important to Christian worldviews.

In Art, we have been experimenting with watercolours and exploring how to create different tones, which we found very relaxing, and we can't wait to use them again.

In English, we have been retelling the Willow Pattern story using conjunctions to extend our sentences and including speech punctuation. We created story maps to help us plan our writing and found these really useful. We are also working hard to improve our handwriting and presentation.

In Maths, we have been finding fractions of a set of objects and lots of us have discovered that we actually really like fractions - especially because Miss Baker explains them so well! We were also incredibly proud of our class assembly this week, which showcased all our learning about bees from last term, and parents especially loved watching our Ricky dance recording.



Year 4

In Year 4, we have been learning lots of fascinating new things and having plenty of fun along the way! In English, we have been writing persuasive leaflets about travel, trying to persuade people to visit Spain. Did you know that in Spain the tooth fairy is actually a mouse called *Raton Perez* and that the oldest restaurant there is over 300 years old? We have also retold the story of *Don Quixote*, using adverbs to add more detail and help our writing flow smoothly.

In Maths, we have been learning about division and fractions, and we have used manipulatives to help us see fractions clearly. We have even represented hundredths as both fractions and decimals. In PSHE, we have been talking about how change is a part of growing up and thinking about where we might be in the future as adults.

In Science, we have been grouping animals using classification keys and sorting them into birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians and mammals. Did you know that a platypus is a mammal but lays eggs? We have linked this learning with our Spanish lessons, where we have been learning the names of different animals in Spanish.

Year 5

In Year 5, we have been learning so many interesting new things. In RE, we explored the story of Noah's Ark and compared it with similar flood stories from different religions and times, including the story of Nuh in the Qur'an and the Flood story in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*. We learned when each was written and discussed the similarities and differences between them. We also thought about how ancient stories can still be used as a philosophy for life today and showed our ideas through a freeze frame drama.

In Maths, we have been working with fractions, showing them as thousandths and finding equivalent fractions and decimals. In Art, our topic is Alexander Calder and we have begun researching his work and style to inspire our own ideas. We will be designing and then making our own wire sculptures, focusing on shapes and lines.

In Music, we have been learning to play a simple looped rhythm from notation and even used Chromebooks to create our own digital loops. In English, we wrote a diary entry in role as someone who travelled on the HMS Windrush, using emotive language and working hard to include Alan Peat sentences.

We are very excited to use everything we have learned when we go on our residential trip to Portsmouth next week to visit the docks. Geography has also been very busy as we learned the difference between oceans and seas, identified different seas on a world map, and explored coastlines around the UK. We discussed what attracts tourists to coastal towns and agreed that perhaps a trip to the seaside is needed next - just to double check the ice cream for our research!

Year 6

This term is full of activity for Year 6. In English, we have been writing a recount about our amazing trip to Winchcombe Station. The trip was unforgettable and

one of the best parts was having a spy on the train journey. We had to work out who the spy was as he walked through the carriage dropping letters and muttering to himself. We also went into an air raid shelter with the siren on, which felt very dramatic. We had to leave our food on the benches and it made some of us jump, helping us imagine what it was really like for people during the war. The train ride to Broadway was epic and something we will always remember when we look back on our primary school years.

In Maths, we have been learning how to read pie charts and calculate percentages. In History, we explored the causes and consequences of rationing, such as fishermen being away at war and sea mines making fishing dangerous, which meant fish became very expensive.

In RE, we have been thinking deeply about questions to do with life, death and the afterlife, and we discussed what people from different faiths believe happens when you die. In Geography, we have been learning how to understand lines of longitude and latitude to locate places more accurately. It is a very busy time as we continue to prepare for our SATs, which are only a few weeks away, and we are working really hard and all doing our very best.

Vacancy on the Barford School Trust

The Barford School Trust are looking for a person to join the Trust as a Trustee. The Trust's primary role is to support the school and its pupils (present and past) financially using funds generated by the rental of two properties owned by the Trust. The board of trustees is made up of members of the local community.

We are keen to maintain close links with the school and feel that having a current parent/carer amongst the Trustees would be beneficial.

If you would like to become involved with this rewarding charity and contribute towards the enhancement of the education of Barford School's pupils in a positive way, please contact the Trust secretary, Mrs Helen Clay, on 01926 624028 or email helen.oakframe@btinternet.com for further information.

Charging and Remissions Policy

In our full governing board meeting this week we reviewed our charging and remissions policy. A copy of the newly approved policy is attached with this newsletter. We very much hope that the new policy will provide more detail and clarity for parents.

Head Lice

We have had reports in several classes of an outbreak of headlice, which is thankfully very rare at Barford. Please could we ask ALL parents to check their child's hair this weekend and treat accordingly so that we can contain the spread. Thank you for your support with this. I would also suggest tying up long hair as a precaution.

Gardening

We are in desperate need of some gardening equipment for the children to use. If you happen to have any spare equipment or could donate the following we would be very grateful:

- Compost
- Rakes
- Wheelbarrows
- Garden brushes
- Small trowels

Thank you in advance!

This Week's Prayer



Dear God,

Thank you for St George. Thank you that he was brave enough to stand firm, even when he was hurt because of his faith in you. Please help us to follow his example: To have courage when our beliefs are challenged, and to stand up for those who suffer for their faith. Amen

“Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

Ephesians Chapter 6:14-16

Summer Term Dates – Summer Term First Half

Date	Time	Year	Event	Location
Thursday 30 th April	2.45pm	6	Year 6 Parent Share	Year 6 classroom
Thursday 30 th April	8am	5	Year 5 Residential to Portsmouth	
Wednesday 6 th May	8.45am	4	Class Assembly	School hall
Thursday 7 th May	All day	All	David Attenborough Day	N/A
Friday 8 th May	9am	All	Whole school photo & class photos	School Field
Friday 8 th May	10am	All	Year 2 Cake Sale	School hall
Monday 11 th May	All week	6	SATs	School hall
Thursday 14 th May	2.45pm	1	Year 1 Parent Share	Year 1 classroom
Friday 15 th May	TBC	All	FABs School Disco	School hall
Wednesday 20 th May	8.45am	5	Year 5 Class Assembly	School hall
Thursday 21 st May	2.45pm	2	Year 2 Parent Share	Year 2 classroom
Friday 22 nd May	2.45pm	4	Year 4 Parent Share	Year 4 classroom

Summer Term Dates – Summer Term Second Half

Date	Time	Year	Event	Location
Monday 1 st June	INSET DAY			
Wednesday 3 rd June	5pm	New Rec	New Reception intake 2026 meeting	School hall
Friday 5 th June	10am	All	Year 1 Cake Sale	School hall
Monday 8 th June	All week	1	Phonics Screening	In school
Monday 8 th June	All week	4	Multiplication Check	In school
Wednesday 10 th June	TBC	5 & 6	Local Area Athletics Competition	King's High
Thursday 11 th June	TBC	3 & 4	Local Area Athletics Competition	King's High
Friday 12 th June	All day	All	Break the Rules Day	N/A
Monday 15 th June	2.45pm	5	Year 5 Parent Share	Year 5 classroom
Friday 19 th June	9am	All	Sports Day	School field
Friday 19 th June	12pm	All	Family picnic & Summer Fair	School field
Thursday 2 nd July	2.45pm	3	Year 3 Parent Share	Year 3 classroom
Friday 3 rd July	3.15pm	All	Reports to Parents	
Tuesday 7 th July	2.45pm	Choir	Choir concert	School hall
Wednesday 8 th July	All Day	All	Transition Day	
Wednesday 8 th July	3.30pm & 4pm	All	New year group parent meetings	New classrooms
Friday 10 th July	10am	All	Reception Cake Sale	School hall
Monday 13 th July	All Day	All	Children of the World Day	
Tuesday 14 th July	2pm	6	Year 6 Show	School hall
Wednesday 15 th July	5pm	6	Year 6 Show	School hall
Thursday 16 th July	2pm	6	Leaver's service	St. Peter's Church
Friday 17 th July	9am	6	Leavers assembly	School hall
Friday 17 th July	End of Term – school finishes for Summer Holidays			