



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

Together we love; together we learn

Newsletter

Friday 8th May

What a busy few weeks we have had in school! Last week I had the pleasure of accompanying Year 5 to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard for their residential visit. The children were fascinated to learn more about the Mary Rose, HMS Victory and HMS Warrior. They were a real credit to the school; well done Year 5!



This week we have had the pleasure of another phenomenal class assembly by Year 4, where they shared all of their learning and performed a superb and hilarious version of their class text 'Don Quixote'. Thank you Year 4 for your enthusiastic performance!

We have ended the week with managing to take a whole school photograph, which we intend to do only once every 5 years. Thank you to the children for their excellent behaviour and patience while we organised everyone! Information regarding how to order both the whole school photograph and class group photographs will be sent home with your child next week.

This time of year I know that children and parents start to think ahead to next academic year. We are now finalising our staffing structure for September and will write to let you know your child's teachers for next year, along with transition day arrangements, in the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Mrs M.A. Baker
Head Teacher

Reminders – School Uniform

Please could I remind you that children should not be wearing bangles or friendship bracelets to school? They also should not be wearing smart watches. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Year 6 Statutory Assessment Tests

Next week our marvellous Year 6 children will be sitting their end of Key Stage Two statutory assessment tests, commonly referred to as SATs.

Please could we ask that ALL children from Reception to Year 5 arrive on time every day next week and before 8.45am at the latest?

Arriving after this time will cause unnecessary noise and disruption to our Year 6 children who have worked so hard. If you do arrive after 8.45am, you may have to wait longer than usual to be admitted onto the premises and taken via an alternative route. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

David Attenborough Day

Thank you all for your support in taking part in our celebration of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. All of the children looked so bright and colourful and there were some magnificent animal costumes! We started the day with collective worship to reflect on the life of Sir David and the important messages he has shared about caring for our planet and all the creatures within it. We even watched a clip of his first television production 'zoo quest'!



During the day children enjoyed a range of activities including painting their stones and planting a sunflower seed. Please do send in some photographs once they have grown!



To commemorate Sir David Attenborough as an inspirational figure, we are creating a wild flower garden at the bottom of the school field, to provide a habitat for bees and other insects!



Term Time Holidays

Just a reminder that as per our school absence policy, term time holiday requests will not be authorised **under any circumstances**. If you do require an absence form, please do collect one from the school office. Term time absences which are more than 5 days will be subject to a referral to the local authority and a fine will be issued.

What We've Been Learning

Reception

Last week we read two brilliant books about maps. One, 'The Boy Who Loved Maps' inspired us to draw and write about our journey to school, thinking carefully about the landmarks we see on the way. The other, 'Martha Maps It Out' helped us to understand that maps can be on different scales from maps of the universe to a close-up map of a room. The illustrations in both books were so inspiring we had lots of fun all week bringing mapping into our play and learning.

This week we have been reading 'Oi! Get off our Train' by John Burningham, which highlights the concern for endangered animals. We have also been learning about the work of the amazing naturalist, Sir David Attenborough. We found out about some of the animals in danger of extinction and chose one to write and illustrate about in our own way.

In maths we have been developing our understanding of shapes through our mapping work and our mental recall of doubles. At forest school we have enjoyed an orienteering trail and creating minibeasts from leaf litter.

In music we have been looking at how different types of transport are represented in music. We have been finding out about what a musical 'score' is and performing by following score and a conductor. We always like to finish our music lessons with a freestyle circle where we have an opportunity to express ourselves individually to music. This week we used a piece called The Rhythm Stick Train, a fast and energetic piece!



Year 1

In maths, we have been learning to double numbers. We have used cubes and counters to show doubles and we have also been using our bodies to learn our doubles in an active way with Miss Eastwick, which we found really fun! We have also been reminding ourselves of learning we have done before with our Flashback Friday quizzes, and we have enjoyed completing our chilli challenge to help move our learning on.

In English, we have continued with writing our own version of 'Rosie's Walk'. These are finished now and we are very proud of our work! In RE, we have been talking

about ceremonies and which ones are important in our community, including Christmas, weddings and birthdays. We have also been finding out about Ole Kirk Christiansen - did you know he started making wooden toys before he invented LEGO? We loved designing our own dream LEGO sets!

In Geography, we have used aerial photos to recognise special and important landmarks. We talked about human features and physical features and found examples of these in Barford too. In our PSHE lessons, we have been learning about the needs of babies and younger children. We discussed what they need and how this might be different from what we need now that we are older. This is helping us get ready for our transition to Year 2, when we will be the oldest children in Key Stage 1, and we can use what we know to help look after younger children in the playground and on the field in the summer.

Year 2

In Year 2, the most exciting part of our recent learning has been our Australia Day! We made postcards and even got to taste Fairy Bread, which is an Australian party food made from white bread, butter and sprinkles. Most of us loved this sugary treat, although some of us thought it was a bit too sweet! Mrs Baker also visited us and told us all about her experiences in Australia. She talked about the amazing animals found there, including crocodiles, koalas, big spiders and snakes. She even told us about a time when she saw a spider bigger than her hand in the toilet, which sounded a bit scary - we are looking forward to seeing a photo!

In Geography, we have been learning about the Great Barrier Reef. We have discovered that many endangered species live there. In English, we have been enjoying the story 'The Great Barrier Thief'. Although we have finished reading it, we still have some writing to complete. The story is about a fish living in the Great Barrier Reef where it becomes very hot and all the colours disappear, so the fish and its friends go on a journey to find them again.

In maths, we have been working hard on fractions. We have found them a bit tricky, but we are beginning to understand them better, especially when we draw them to help us see how they work. We now know that fractions are equal parts of a whole. We have also started our swimming lessons every Tuesday morning, which we are really enjoying. It feels very grown-up travelling to the pool together by coach, and we can't wait for more sessions!

Year 3

In English, we have been busy publishing our own new verses for 'The Magic Paintbrush', and we have been learning how to write rhyming couplets. We quickly found out that it is not as easy as it looks - but we loved the challenge and felt very proud of our finished work! In Geography, we have been learning all about how rice travels from China to the rest of the world. First, it is harvested, then dried, and finally transported by ships, trucks and trains. It made us think - next time we eat rice, we'll know it has had a very long journey to reach our plates!

In Science, we had lots of fun learning about shadows. We went outside onto the playground and used our bodies to block the sunlight and create shadows with hoops. It was exciting to learn in a practical way and see our shadows change in real life.

In maths, we have been learning about money. We now know that there are 100 pennies in £1, and we have been solving some tricky word problems - some of them really made our brains work hard! Can you solve this one? Rosie has five silver coins. She can make 40p with three coins and 75p with another three...which coins does she have?

In Art, we have been getting creative with watercolours, experimenting with both dry and wet paper. We loved seeing the different effects we could create and are very excited to start painting our own willow pattern plates soon!

Year 4

In Year 4, we were so excited to perform our incredible class assembly all about Spain for the school and our families! It was full of amazing moments - we brought 'Don Quixote' to life with some truly hilarious acting that had everyone laughing, and our beautiful dancing even made some adults a bit emotional! We worked really hard on it, and Mrs Baker and all our teachers told us how proud they were of our effort and teamwork. We also got to show off our fantastic Picasso-inspired artwork and our super detailed Spanish patios - we think they look amazing and know our families will treasure them for a long time!

In maths, we have been learning to compare and order decimals. It has definitely been a challenge, but we didn't give up and kept going even when it got tricky. We also completed a maths investigation where we had

to explain and prove our thinking, which made us feel like real mathematicians!

In Spanish, we have been learning the names of different animals - some were easier than others! We thought *un hamster* was quite funny because it sounds the same, but *un gato* (cat) took a bit more remembering.

In English, we are finishing our 'Don Quixote' work and have been carefully publishing it to make it the best it can be. In Science, we have been classifying vertebrates and invertebrates, and we love being able to sort animals into the correct groups. It has been a very busy and exciting time in Year 4, and we have loved every minute!

Year 5

In Year 5, it has been an especially awesome week because we went on our very first school residential /sleepover!! We were SO excited! The coach journey felt like it went on forever, but when we finally arrived, it was honestly one of the best days ever. We visited HMS Victory, where we saw huge cannons, a creepy jail (which we secretly loved!) and even the bakery. We each had mini scanners so we could listen to all the historical facts, which made it feel like we were stepping back in time.



We had lunch outside the Mary Rose, where we sang songs and tried to defend our food from some very cheeky seagulls who clearly wanted our lunch as much as we did! Inside the Mary Rose, we learnt that only half the ship was found and that it took a very long time to carefully bring it back up from the seabed. We also discovered that the ship sank in 1545 and stayed underwater for over 400 years - how amazing is that?! Lots of objects like shoes and tools were still there too, which we thought was incredible. Staying in dorms made us feel very grown up, and our accommodation was great. Mrs Baker, Mrs Del Rio and Miss Newman took such good care of us and made sure we all felt happy (and they somehow had loads of energy the next morning too!). We had delicious pizza for dinner and a tasty breakfast before heading out again.

We also explored HMS Warrior, where we learnt even more and loved meeting the actors who made it all come alive. We want to say a huge thank you to our brilliant teachers for taking us and making it such a special experience - we loved spending that time together. We had the BEST time ever... and now we can't wait for PGL!

Year 6

In Year 6, we have been very busy getting ready for our SATs, but we have still had lots of fun with our learning! In English, we have been writing newspaper reports about Rosa Parks and her brave actions on the bus. We learnt how she refused to give up her seat in 1955, which helped spark the civil rights movement in America. We have been trying really hard to include all the important newspaper features like headlines, dates, captions, quotes and columns to make our writing sound realistic - it made us feel like real journalists! Linked to our English, in History, we have started our new topic on the American Civil War and have begun exploring how it started and what happened during the reconstruction era.

In maths, we have been revising fractions and playing Kahoot quizzes to help us remember key facts. We absolutely love Kahoot because it is fun, fast-paced and sometimes a bit competitive - and it really helps the learning stick in our heads!

In Science, we have been investigating how exercise affects our heart rate. We measured our pulse before and after running and were surprised to see how much it increased, even after a rest, because our bodies were still recovering from exercise. In Geography, we have

been learning about lines of longitude and latitude, which help us locate places around the world. In RE, we have been discussing big questions about life, death and the afterlife, which led to some really thoughtful and interesting conversations.

Overall, we are feeling confident and well prepared to try our very best in our SATs next week, and we are also really looking forward to all the exciting activities we have planned afterwards... especially playing rounders on Monday afternoon!

Year 4 Outdoor and Adventurous Activities!

On Wednesday a selection of Year 4 children took part in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities at Kingsley sports fields, where they worked together as a team to complete a range of challenges. Well done Year 4!



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



Thank you Lord for the wonderful world you created. We give thanks today for the work of Sir David Attenborough and his efforts to care for and protect the earth for future generations. Lord help us to take on the responsibility to do all we can to continue to care for the earth and all the creatures on our planet. Amen

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it"

Genesis 2:15

Head Lice

Thank you for your continued vigilance with checking your child for headlice. We have unfortunately had another case in school today so please do check again over the weekend.

Summer Term Dates – Summer Term First Half

Date	Time	Year	Event	Location
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
Tuesday 19 th May	2.45pm	2	Year 2 Parent Share	Year 2 classroom
Wednesday 20 th May	8.45am	5	Year 5 Class Assembly	School hall
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			