



Where every child counts

017/1

The newspaper of William Barnes Primary School has been written by the staff and pupils to celebrate the school's successes. If you have any ideas or comments concerning the newspaper, please speak to Mrs Wrixon or Mr Hull. Issue 44 Summer 2019

Stepping Up to the Mark for Ten Successful Years Ten years ago in September, Stepping Stones preschool moved on site at William Barnes for the first time. For fifteen years prior to that, Stepping Stones had used the Scout hut (north of the school's netball court) as the base for their preschool provision. However, as the ambitions of the staff grew, Val and her team became disenfranchised with this space. Each day all the resources and learning equipment had to be packed away into cupboards. At the same time,



William Barnes was preparing plans to set up its breakfast club and was also aware that other schools in the area were offering onsite pre-school provision. Mr Hull remembers walking up to the scout hut to hand deliver a letter from the Governors formally inviting the preschool to come on site in the Autumn of 2008. However, this was just the beginning of a year long process. At the time grants were available from Dorset Council (via Surestart) to support such moves, but a tremendous amount of planning and paperwork was required before a sum of £12,000 was released. The preschool committee had a number of imaginative ideas for developing the grounds, but a major headache was how to provide the preschool with a safe outdoor space so near to the swimming pool. Eventually, decisions were made, local builders contracted and in September Stepping Stones began a new era in their history. Looking to the future, it will be interesting

to see how Stepping Stones can develop in the future as the only preschool setting available to parents in the town of Sturminster Newton.

OfSTED Success for William Barnes's Preschool The staff at Stepping Stones are extremely proud that their last two inspection reports have recognised the enormous amount of hard work that has gone into improv-

ing the quality of the education on offer at the preschool. OfSTED have recognised that preschool leader Val Cuff 'has a positive attitude to developing staff's practice and improving the environment for children.' Inspectors noted that the 'Children are happy, confident and independent learners' who had to access to 'colourful, high quality resources'. They observed that 'Staff effectively support children with additional needs to make good progress. They work well with parents and other agencies to help children enjoy their learning'. The inspectors also noted that 'partnerships with parents are good' and 'there are good links with local schools' and 'Staff and teachers work closely together.' Well done to Val and the team for two consecutive 'good' inspection reports.



New Buildings Mirror the Excellent Work of Stepping Stones As cuts



to education budgets continue to perplex teachers and parents across the country, Val, Donna and the Stepping Stones committee took matters into their own hands when they began the process of applying for grants to extend the preschool's buildings. However, they had not forseen how complex and difficult the process of sourcing funding would be, with support eventually coming from two funding streams, a North Dorset Local Action Group EEC Grant. After building work began last Summer time rushed forward to the opening of the new building in January 2019. Following the completion of the project, the indoor space available to the preschool has now more than

doubled, Val has a private office for confidential meetings, there is a new food preparation area and improved storage for resources and equipment.

After School Club for 3 and Overs Even deputy head Mr Hull was surprised, when he was reminded earlier this year by Stepping Stone's leader Val Cuff, that children from the preschool are able to attend after school club. This is allowed as long as the parents and the preschool staff agree that he/she can cope with an extended day and that they are mature enough to attend. After school club at William Barnes is ably led by preschool staff member and parent Mrs Selby. She works with Jill Vine to provide a mix of sitting down games, craft



activities and active games, as well as a chance for a snack and a chat for those attending until 5.15pm each day. Bookings must be made in the school office.



**Pre-School Breakfast Provision** Ten years after the opening of our breakfast club, this hugely popular service continues to flourish under the experienced eyes of Mrs Ridout and Mrs Palmer. Children share a breakfast together before choosing from a variety of activities that give them a calm and sociable start to their day. Although the majority of children coming are attending school at William Barnes, children from Stepping Stones are also welcomed, as long as they

are mature enough and staff feel that they can cope. Breakfast club opens at 7.30 each morning in term time and bookings must be made through the school office.

Water Confidence and Safety with Stepping Stones One great advantage for parents choosing Stepping Stones as their preschool is the opportunities provided by William



**Barnes' onsite swimming pool**. Appreciated by generations of youngsters from the town, the swimming pool is literally a stones throw from the preschool's newly extended classroom. Whereas parents at other preschools have to make their own arrangements when their

children take their first steps towards learning to swim, at Stepping Stones this is just one of the many services the staff can provide for their parents. Perfect Transition for Reception Class Parents often worry about the move from preschool to the beginning of a child's formal education in a reception class. This time can be very unsettling for a child and their behaviour at home can deteriorate in the run up to the change. At William Barnes, a tried and tested timetable of weekly 'rising five' sessions that begins in the Spring term, ensures that this change occurs as gently and smoothly as possible for the youngsters about to join the main school. Children from the preschool are brought over



for the afternoon each Tuesday, and spend time learning in the main school's reception classroom. They have a chance to have a run around on the KS1 playground and take part in activities jointly planned and delivered by the Stepping Stones and Reception class's staff. The preschool are also invited to dress rehearsals for KS1 and KS2 productions at Christmas and the end of term respectively, all helping to ensure that their transition to full time education is as frictionless as possible.

Stepping Stones—the Number One Preschool for Sturminster Newton For over thirty years, Stepping Stones has been providing a much appreciated service to the town by offering high quality and affordable



education for children two years and over. After many years working alongside Sturminster nursery, Stepping Stones stepped into support parents when Sturminster nursery suddenly closed. It is remarkable to

note that Stepping Stones is now the only preschool available to parents in the town itself. Working in partnership with local childminders, Stepping Stones benefits from an extensive outdoor play area, a brand new extension, use of the school swimming pool grounds, and a team of well qualified and experienced staff ably led by Val Cuff and Donna Peters.



Holiday Club On its Way? The final piece in the jigsaw for the services that Stepping Stones and William Barnes offer to parents is the holiday club. Ideal for families with two parents working, a holiday club would provide child care during school breaks, rather than just during term time as is offered at present. Making such a club financially viable is a major issue. At present, staff are unsure as to what the demand for this service in the town will be. In the Autumn term, a questionnaire is planned to be distributed amongst parents at Stepping Stones and William Barnes, and

also amongst the wider population within the town, to discover if there is a need in Sturminster Newton for a local holiday club and if that could be financially viable in the future. Zut Alors!! On Monday 24th of June, William Barnes Primary School school hall transformed into a French Cafe. With the help of Year 5 and 6, Mrs Reed organised a French themed café in the School hall, where tired, hungry and thirsty children could sit down and taste some French food and practise their French! The cafe had many delightful options including milkshakes, croissants, pain au chocolates, baguettes or pancakes with an additional option for key stage 2 some French cheeses! Preparations such as the designing of the French posters were undertaken by years 5 and 6. All of children from Reception to year 6 practised phrases to use in café conversation before the event. On the day, all Year 5 and 6 children had the opportunity to work a "shift" at the café and serve our customers. Our waiters and waitresses were under strict instructions to speak "en Français" to our clientele and help the younger children copy and say phrases. The children from Reception to Year 4 visited the cafe in class groups. They ordered in French and collected their food and sat down at their table with help from the year 5 and 6. From then on, the children were served their drinks at their tables, at which they were greeted by a year 5 or 6, armed with a clip board and a pencil. They then took and served customer drink orders. A great time was had by all the children who took part. It was lovely to see all of the children practising their French for a real purpose! Nearly all of the children in every class had a go at speaking French, even Reception! Well done to all who took part in the French café either as a waiter, waitress or as a patron. But, especially, bravo to Year 5 and 6 boys and girls of 2018-2019. A thank you also the School PTFA for their support and funding the event. (SW)

## Reception Parents come and Get Creative During family learning week, Reception Parents were invited to come and join the Reception children and



get creative. The Parents helped the children make a variety of different sea creatures and minibeasts using different tools, resources and techniques. The children had the option to choose from making toilet roll octopuses, paper plate turtles, egg carton turtles, bumble bees and pictures. The children found it hard to choose just one! Once they had chosen their creature the real hard work began! The children then had to follow a set of steps to create their model, selecting the correct resources to use to create the desired effect and look like the photo. The children and parents experienced a few challenges on the way and learnt some valuable future tips such as letting the paint dry before you trying to stick bits on using PVA glue and thinking about the best

way to fasten parts to a paper plate, glue stick or staples before you start. Once the children had finished making their art models the children were keen to then make another one! It was a fun, but messy morning and it was lovely to see all their faces of delight when they had successfully completed their models. Well done to all the children and a big thank you to the parents! (SW)

Year 1 moving pictures During our Creative Family Learning Week, the children in Year 1 learned about different ways to create moving mechanisms. They investigated how sliders, levers and pivots work and practiced making them, creating pictures where dog's tails wagged, wolves opened and shut their jaws and bears popped out from behind bushes. When they were all proficient at making moving mechanisms, the children designed a moving picture based on the story of 'Up and Down' by Oliver Jeffers. They thought carefully about which part of their picture would move and how. The children were delighted to be joined by parents, who spent a fun afternoon helping them achieve their goal of creating moving pictures. Everyone produced a fantastic piece of work and all the children were extremely proud of their achievements. We would like to say a big thank you to all those who were able to come and help. (JH)





Green Fingers at William Barnes It has been a busy term for gardening club and even though we have only had a small space in which to garden, a lot of growing has been going on. The children planted herbs, strawberries, salad leaves and nasturtiums. Each week they have been making sure all the plants are watered and have carefully monitored their growth. We all enjoyed making and launching flower bombs with wildflower seeds, although so far not many of them have germinated. However, we have had great success with our strawberries and all the children agreed that they taste so much better when they are freshly picked and eaten. Next summer, we are looking forward to

finding a space to grow raspberries as well. (JH)

Ready Steady Cook! As part of our work about keeping healthy, Year 2 decided it was time to roll up our sleeves, get our aprons on and transform the usual picnic lunch into something different. So,

out went the crisps, sausage rolls and chocolate to be replaced by healthier alternatives.

With food allergies avoided, the menu set and parents invited, the food preparation began in earnest. Year 2 spent the morning carefully weighing, peeling, chopping, squeezing, grating and mixing to follow their chosen recipes. And what a feast we prepared... mini tortilla pizzas, tuna pasta salad, cranberry and red onion rice salad, couscous with feta, tomato and basil plus a selection of crudités followed by fruit kebabs.

Once the food was prepared, we moved to the recreation ground, crossed our fingers for the rain to stay away and tucked into a healthy and well balanced lunch. So what was the response? Did we miss the usual unhealthy picnic food? Not at all! In fact, many children (and adults) were surprised by how good our healthy picnic tasted and have even used the recipes at home. (SS)



Circle of Life for Year 2 Scientists Year Two have really enjoyed the 'Circle of Life' topic this half term, which has focused heavily on the Science area of the curriculum. They have been out and about in the school grounds, investigating mi-



cro-habitats and the animals and plants that live in them. The school field is home to a wide array of mini-beasts and the children have been trying to find out why that animal has chosen to live in its particular habitat. We have recently

moved on from microhabitats to investigating the larger world habitats of the Arctic, Rainforest and Desert and discovering the unusual plants and animals that live there. They have conducted all their own research into their chosen world habitat using the internet on

the iPads and have made some excellent posters presenting all their information. We really do have some budding scientists in the class who are super keen to find out more about the world we live in. (LG)



William Barnes' Attendance Nearly Reaches Target. After a Summer term during which many children improve their attendance, illness and term time holidays have taken their toll on this year's attendance figures which have fallen below the school's target of 97%. The table below shows the average attendance for each class with the mean average for school being 96.4% over the whole year.

| Year R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4M | Year 4W | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| 96.7%  | 95.3%  | 95.9%  | 96.1%  | 97.4%   | 97.5%   | 96.1%  | 96.1%  |



competition with a time of 5 minutes and 5 seconds. (JN)

South American Adventures Year 3s topic for the Summer term has been South America and all of the children have impressed with their enthusiasm. In this topic the children have worked hard to independently research different countries using iPads and books. Using their new found geo-

graphical knowledge, the children set to work creating posters, Powerpoint presentations and a written fact file. The children then presented their findings to the class, informing everyone of what they had learnt.

As part of our topic we also learnt about the Amazon Rainforest including its endangered habitants which led to discussions about how we could help prevent this. We also debated deforestation, looking at its impact on the world, negative issues but also why it is happening; broadening the children's real life understanding. (JN)





William Barnes Goes the Extra Mile for Extra-Curricular Clubs! During the academic year, William Barnes has offered children the opportunity to play a vast array of different sports within our extra-curricular provision. With a total of 16 different sporting clubs being provided, our Key Stage 2 children have been spoilt for choice. These clubs have included traditional sports such as football, tag-rugby, basketball, netball and cricket as well as some more exotic sports such as fencing, archery, street dance and handball led by specialised coaches. Participation in these clubs has been staggering; playing a hand in our extremely successful sporting year. In 2019/20 school year we are hoping to extend our provision

to parents with a morning Fit Trition session, keep an eye out for more details in September. (JN)

Another Fantastic Sporting Year for William Barnes The school's 'golden era' for competitive sport has continued throughout 2018-2019 Children across KS2 have contributed to an astonishing series of victories.

Tag rubgy A team tournament—winners Tag rugby B team tournament—winners Netball tournament—winners

Football A team tournament—winners Football B team tournament—winners Cross Country Relay—winners in years 4,5 and 6

Aquathon-Winners

Unfortunately, the Sturminster Athletics was rained off twice this year as the team (consisting of fifty children) were prepared to make it three wins IN A ROW after having won the overall competition in 2017 and 2018.



Third Place for Eco-friendly Year 4! Year 4 have been learning about the effects of plastic pollution on the environment - a subject in which they are very passionate! Both classes combined forces to create a colourful piece of artwork made entirely out of waste



**plastic.** We collated multiple bottle tops and arranged them to form an ocean design. We entered our picture into the local Rotary Club Plastic Sculpture Competition, where our picture was displayed

work. At the awards ceremony we managed to earn third place! The children ought to be extremely proud of their hard work and efforts to reduce plastic pollution. (GM)

Successful Singing Day William Barnes hosted this years annual singing day. Year 4's from an amalgamation of five local schools attended the day. One pupil from another school, who thoroughly enjoyed the day, said "This is the best day in the whole of year 4".



The children began the day with a singing workshop ran by the amazing Jan and Helen from Dorset Music service. After that the

children were divided into three mixed groups for their next activities - providing lots of opportunities for new friendships to be created! The theme of the day was exploration and each of the three activities were based around

this. The first activity, orienteering, the children had to use a map of the school to navigate themselves around, finding facts and clues to solve an anagram. The other activities included making chalk pictures of asteroids and singing songs about travelling. To conclude the day we had a concert of all the songs that had learnt. An enjoyable day for all. (GM)

House Competition Culminates in Exhilarating Finale The ever exciting William Barnes house competition has reached an end and we must congratulate all of the children for competing in many various sporting tournaments to earn points for their house.

However, there can only be one winner and this years champions are Bulbarrow! Despite some extremely high scores Bulbarrow fended off the other houses winning the prestigious house competition with a whopping great score of 1037 points, beating their nearest rivals by 128 points. The final standings finished as shown below: 1<sup>st</sup> - Bulbarrow 1037 points 2<sup>nd</sup> - Cedar 909 points 3<sup>rd</sup> - Meadow 854 points 4<sup>th</sup> - Stour 843 points (JN) Musical Opportunities Continue to Grow at William Barnes The staff

and children at William Barnes have embraced the shift to a curriculum that encourages instrumental tuition to take place during the school day. In year 4, children are given an introduction to an instrument via the County's musicianship program. In the past a variety of instruments including brass, violins, guitars, ukuleles and per-cussion instruments for Samba have been the focus of a weekly lesson led by an accomplished visiting music teacher. In year 5 and 6, the children can extend their musical devel-



opment by choosing either to continue with guitar or violin. Lessons are in small groups and last for about half an hour. Parents are invited to a concert at the end of each term. The school also has a very popular choir which is ably led by Mr Newman.

Let Loose! This year's Key Stage 2 Production is set in a parent's meeting, where teachers are trying to persuade parents that the Outdoor Education Y6 trip to 'Slippery Slopes' is safe, worth the money and a positive experience for the children! Flashbacks in each scene to last year's disastrous trip tell a very different story! As usual, the year 6's are responding magnificently to the challenges of line-learning, singing, dancing and the acting demands of their director!

Everyone is looking forward to the performances themselves. Many thanks to parents for their support with line-learning, costumes and props. Break a Leg! (RF)

ART@LONDON Late June saw the annual Year 6 London Art Gallery Trip and what a success it was. After a prompt 6am start, and toilet stop at Fleet, we arrived in London and enjoyed The National Gallery. Pieces of work

liam Barnes this

What

time!)

to

Arcade.



treat - the artist himself was in residence and waved to us from an open, upstairs window! We walked to The South Bank and ate dinner in the shadow of The Eye. Another walk to The Tate Modern and the children were ready to find more works which they had studied. Then





began the massive staircase climb to the viewing gallery on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the extension building. What a view of London! After visiting the Millennium Bridge to view the chewing

which had been studied by the children were seen and there was time for sketching too. Just before we left, we called in to see this year's Take One Picture Project choices (not Wil-

gum art, it was time to catch the coach. Throughout the day, children had specific landmarks/ buildings/art to find and whoever won had the choice of keeping the pound to spend in the shop or donating it to the gallery fund.

The return journey included a stop for burger and chips take away. Children returned home tired but happy and cultured! (RF)



**Say Goodbye to Plastics** The School Council have started a campaign to reduce (and eventually ban) single use plastics from William Barnes. They have already been in discussions with Cool Milk, and Terracycle. Step 1 is to raise awareness and we would like people to starting thinking about how much non essential plastic we use every day. More information will be coming out in September. We hope you can support us and help save our beautiful planet. Teachers are already thinking twice before laminating certificates and may begin to use card next year instead. (JN)

## WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION!

William Barnes School Council would like to reduce single use plastics at our school from September 2019.

We would like to STOP using all single use plastics within 3 years.



High School Transition Days Ease the Nerves Moving up to Secondary school is always a big step for any child. However, for those children



going to Sturminster Newton High School, the change is made much less traumatic

due to a program of visits. These begin in year 4 with the "Step Up Day", in year 5 the children attend an "Arts Day" and in years 5 and 6 a further day occurs called the "Sporting Challenge Day". During these days, The children get a chance to meet many of the teachers at the High School during these visits and also to make new friends with children from other Icaol primary schools and with older children from the High School.



During this year's Sporting Challenge day, staff were pleased to see various children engrossed in their reading books or drawing sketches as they waited in the

shade for the day to start.

**Your Primary School Needs You!** The staff and pupils at William Barnes are searching for enthusiastic members of the community to join the school's Governing body. The Governing body consists of a friendly group of parents, teachers and members of the community who meet during the year to ensure that the school is moving in the right direction. New Governors are given some time to settle in before deciding how they wish to contribute. They may have an interest in finance and personnel, or the curriculum or the school environment and its premises., or some other area of expertise. Governors normally find an area in which they can make a difference and a level of commitment that suits their circumstances. The possible ways to contribute are endless and entirely dependent on each Governors skills and abilities. Training is available for new governors and experienced Governors act as mentors to new members helping them get to know the ropes. Becoming a governor at William Barnes is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in our successful primary school and really make a difference now and into the future.

If you would be interested in becoming a Governor at William Barnes then please contact the clerk to the Governors Catherine Dunkley Jones at <u>c.dunkleyjones@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk</u> or ring the school office on 01258 472257 for an informal chat.

**Computing Revolution at William Barnes** One of the many strengths over the years at William Barnes has been the quality of its IT equipment and lessons. Never content to stand still, the governors have agreed to completely update the school's equipment over the Summer holidays with a new server and a wireless network across the site. The school has enough laptops to have one for each child and a similar number of iPads, The newly upgraded network will allow pupils to use internet based learning materials at lightning fast speeds in the Autumn term. Each class has a dedicated IT lesson every week from Reception



up to Year 6, and can book the laptops or the iPADs at other times to support learning across the curriculum.

Robotics Comes to William Barnes Year 5 children have been teaching each other how to write code on an iPAD that controls motorised Lego models such as lunar landers and space probes. Four children were given a special training session where Mr Hull gave them the opportunity to make a range of models and learn the Lego coding language. These Lego experts have then guid-

ed the rest of the class during computing lessons. The children are really enjoying this expensive IT project which has been resourced thanks to the hard work of the PTFA and the generosity of our parents.

Quad Kids teams from schools in the Sturminster pyramid. In teams of four, each child completed four events -600m, standing long jump, 75m sprint and throw. A computer program then calculated an average result for each event which was then used to decide the winning team overall. The William Barnes team did really well and coming a close second. The children would like to thank Mr Newman for giving up his time to allow them to compete.



Tennis Coaching at William Barnes Allows Children

to Shine For the last six years, local tennis coach Graham Howells has been working with children from William Barnes to develop their tennis skills. Each Thursday in the Summer term, he runs an after school club where he introduces tennis to children as young as five and then develops their skills and confidence as they move up through the school. William Barnes always enter a team in the year 4 tennis competition organised at the High School and this year the children were really pleased to come runners up. All the children would like to thank Mrs Warwick Price and Miss Marks for helping with tennis club and the competition.

## The Only Thing You Can Hear In Space is ... MUSIC! On the 18<sup>th</sup> June William Barnes went to the Lighthouse in Poole to experience The



e Lighthouse in Poole to experience The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (The BSO). The REO were calebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> environment of

The BSO were celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of man landing on the moon, 20<sup>th</sup> July 1969, in an event called 'Space and Exploration'. There was a general space theme to the performance with music that included Gustav Holst's 'The Planets' and Richard Strauss' 'Also Sprach Zarathustra'. The performance had a mixed media approach with visuals and sound clips of Neil Armstrong's voice. The children also had to learn

some singing and

some complicated percussive style movements to accompany The BSO to some specially written pieces entitled One Small Leap (Neil Armstrong inspired) and The Jupiter Song (Holst inspired).

For many children it was the first time that they had seen an orchestra live.

"It was a magical moment," said Mr Wharton, "as the children sat enthralled to classical music. They seemed to be particularly taken to the sound of the kettle bells. It was a unique cultural experience that will stay with the children for a very long time."



It is hoped that this will not be the last time, William Barnes has this sort of experience. (NW)

Mindfulness in the Mountains Many of you will have heard of the benefits of mindfulness for the mental health of adults, but you may not have realised that at William Barnes this is part of the curriculum. Each week in their Jigsaw PSHE (personal, social and health education) lesson, children have the chance to



be mindful for a quiet and peaceful ten minutes called "calm me" time. In

year 5, Mr Hull develops his geography topic of 'Mountains' by focussing on a Buddhist region of India called Ladakh which he visited many years ago before he had a family. To finish the topic, the children have a "Mindfulness in the Mountains" day during which they cook Ladakhi food, share traditional stories, disucss Karma, make Tibetan jewellery, learn mantras, design farewell scarves and mani stones and learn mindfulness techniques popular in the Himalayas.

Summer Term Outings Bonanza at William Barnes One of the most memorable events for anyone who has attended Primary school is the traditional school trip. At William Barnes, there has been no shortage of these in the Summer term. Following on from their May residential, Year 4 were accompanied by year 3 as they visited Monkey World. Year 6 left at the crack of dawn for their annual trip to London (see article earlier in Barnestorm).



Year R, year 1 and year 2 boarded a number of coaches and headed south for the delights of Sandbanks beach. Whilst year 5 had an eventful day at the Ancient Technology

Centre exploring the world of experimental archaeology. With PGL, Leeson House and the annual pantomime already in the school diary, there is always something for the children to look forward to at William Barnes.

An inspirational, stimulating well resourced environment. preParing all A high quality children for profession rife stagg team A Sage and Secure School at the heart inquiry, of the community. independence andenthusiasm for learning Taking Pride in all Out ac hievements High Standards of behaviour Fromall William Barnes Primary School Where every child counts