

Barley & Barkway Federation Schools NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM
14th MAR 2025



Faith Curiosity Wellbeing Confidence

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Thursday, we were fortunate to hear two incredibly inspiring talks. Mrs. Makewell, who will soon be embarking on an adventure to the Himalayas, shared her plans to trek to Everest Base Camp, all the while staying connected with us here at BBF!

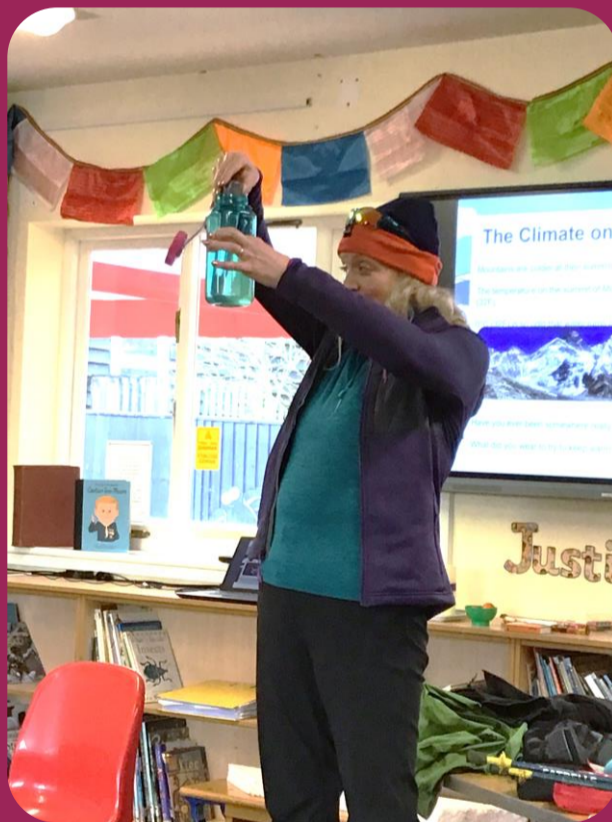
We were also joined by Paul Bonhomme, BA Captain and multiple-time Red Bull World Aerobatics Champion. Paul, a friend and colleague from my gliding club at Gransden Lodge, captivated pupils with his stories of aviation excellence. Some science was shared too - more of that in next week's newsletter.

Children in Years 1 to 4 were truly in awe as both speakers shared their expertise, passion, and remarkable journeys, leaving us all motivated and inspired.

Next Friday we are celebrating science in all our classes - it is Science Week in schools across the UK - teachers are busily preparing a range of activities connected to the theme of "Changing and Adapting".

We hope everyone has a great weekend.

SHARON BROWN - FEDERATION HEADTEACHER



UPCOMING EVENTS

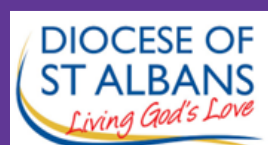
- Oracy Event for BBF Parents @ Barley School Thursday 20th March: 15:30 – 16:15
- Nursery applications close – Thursday 20th March
- Comic Relief – Friday 21st March
- Families in Mind coffee morning @Barley School – Wednesday 26th March from 9.30am
- Easter holidays – Friday 4th April to Monday 21st April.

"Living Life in All Its Fullness"
-John 10



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STARS OF THE WEEK

Children are chosen by their teacher to be Star of the Week and are proud to receive this recognition which we celebrate in our Sharing Assembly.

Stars are chosen for good behaviour, excellent work, demonstrating school values...

NURSERY

This week Eddie is our star of the week in Nursery. We have been so proud of Eddie coming into school with a big smile on his face and showing great independence with his morning routine in Nursery. Eddie has also impressed us with his confidence in choose, play and learn where he has been choosing lots of different areas and activities to explore. He painted a beautiful spring picture with the watercolour paints this week and explored our spring sensory tray with his friends.

Well done, Eddie!



RECEPTION

This week our star is Vinnie. I have been really impressed with Vinnie's effort and engagement in Maths this week. We have been learning about the composition of 6, 7 and 8. Vinnie split 6 into two groups and confidently said the STEM sentence "3 is a part and 3 is a part and the whole is 6".

Well done Vinnie!

YEAR 1

This week Reggie is the star of the week for his amazing maths, on Thursday he decided to practice his arrays independently in whilst in the year 2 classroom. We haven't practiced arrays since last summer!! He was sharing all the ways to make 18, by counting in 2s and modelling 2 groups of 9.

Well done Reggie!



STARS OF THE WEEK

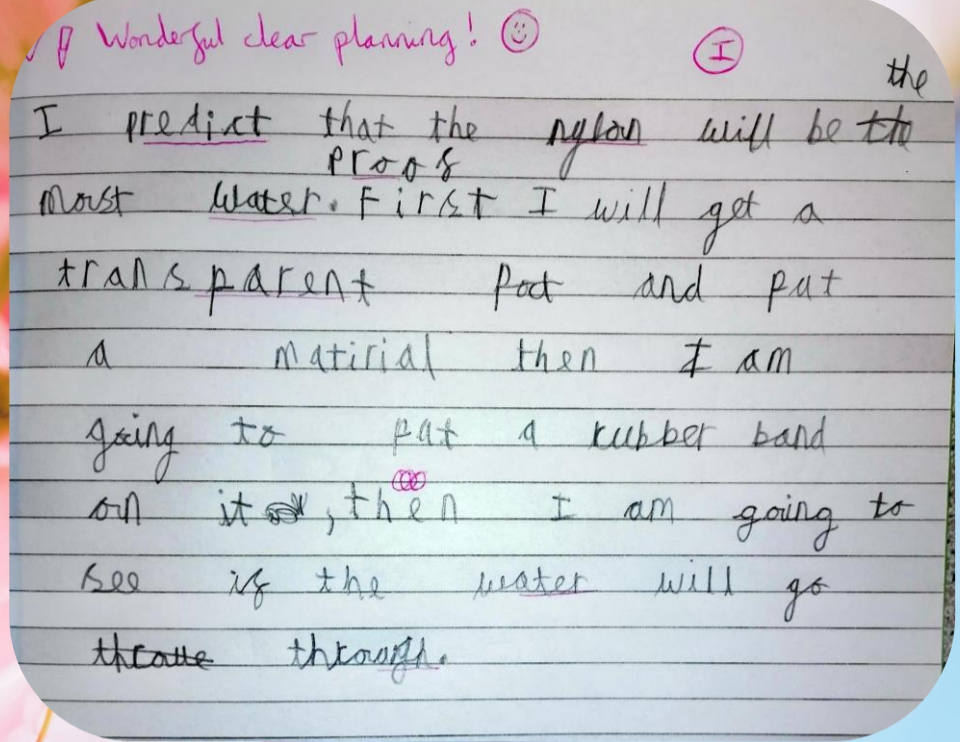
YEAR 2

This week, Vira is the shining star in Hazel class for her efforts in Science.

Vira worked hard on setting out a clear plan for her waterproof experiment ahead of testing materials next week!

She made a sensible prediction and thought carefully about the order of steps she will do when carrying out the test.

Well done Vira!



YEAR 3

This week, Hugo nominated Cali as the star of the week.

Cali read her reading book to Hugo. As you can see she entertained him and he loved listening to her expressive reading.

Well done Cali.

YEAR 4

This week in Year 4, Finley is the star of the week. Finley has been absolutely loving our narrative writing this week where we have been writing our own story about going through a portal. He has also very much been showing our school values of kindness and helpfulness, often asking if I need help with anything.

Well done Finley!



STARS OF THE WEEK

SCIENCE STAR

This week Leo in Oak Class is our science star of the week for his fantastic knowledge and understanding of the world during our learning about ducklings.

Leo told the whole class about the life cycle of a duck and he described each stage carefully. He also told us that "it never ends; it just keeps going!".

Leo loved caring for our ducklings and watching them grow.

Well done Leo!



EVEREST CHALLENGE

£30,000 SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Pupils Tackle Everest Challenge to Raise Funds for New Outdoor Classroom

Pupils at Barley and Barkway Federation First Schools are set to take on a thrilling challenge this Easter holiday, with aspirations of virtually reaching Everest Base Camp.

Mrs. Makewell, the school's art teacher, will be embarking on the real-life journey, climbing an impressive equivalent of 1,700 flights of stairs to reach the Everest base camp during the Easter holidays. In support of her adventure, the children at the school are aiming to climb the same number of stairs at home.

Throughout her journey, Mrs. Makewell will keep the pupils engaged with updates and plans to host live Zoom chats.

She will also visit a school in Nepal, where she'll ask the students questions about their lives—questions that were thoughtfully created by the pupils in Barley and Barkway. The children have been learning about Nepal's unique culture and how life there contrasts with life in the UK, as well as the challenges of high-altitude climbing. They've even had fun trying on some of Mrs. Makewell's climbing gear and tasting traditional Nepalese foods.

This isn't Mrs. Makewell's first challenge—she's an avid marathon runner—but it is certainly her toughest yet.

At Barley and Barkway Federation First Schools, we are passionate about providing every child with the support and opportunities they need to thrive. To enhance our provision for small group work, targeted interventions, and individualised learning, we are raising funds to create a new additional learning space that will benefit students, families, and professionals alike.

If you would like to donate to our school fundraiser then please go to our link for our Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kelly-whitaker-2?utm_term=ZRkerXDY2

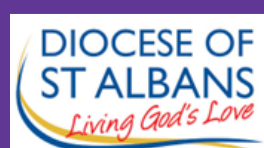
Mrs. Makewell will also be live streaming parts of her journey to the Everest basecamp, you can follow her on Instagram to keep up to date –

[@mrsmakewell_everestadventure](https://www.instagram.com/mrsmakewell_everestadventure)



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SIGNS OF SPRING

NURSERY & RECEPTION

This week in Oak Class we have been learning all about spring. We have learnt the Makaton sign for spring - please ask your children to teach you this at home! We have also been looking for the signs of spring including the changing weather, plants and flowers growing, baby animals being born and the longer days.

Oak class have enjoyed painting spring pictures using watercolour paints - they look beautiful on our display!

The children have been learning a new design skill - how to make a flange join. Everyone had great fun cutting their cardboard tube and joining it to their card base and then decorating it!



MRS MAKEWELL'S CLIMB

YEARS 1 TO 3

This week Mrs Makewell brought in all of her climbing resources to teach Years 1, 2, and 3 about her climb up to the Mount Everest basecamp. The children thought that she was very brave and also found some of the things that Mrs Makewell will have to do along her journey very funny:

Ophelia said "the best bit was when she got in the sleeping bag".

Maisie said "it was funny that she will have to hang her wet pants on the bag to dry them".

Mrs Makewell shared that she won't be changing her pyjamas and will be wearing them underneath her normal clothes - Miss Preston suggested that she brings them in to share when she returns!

Mrs Makewell showed the children how her special light kills all the germs when she takes water from a puddle and shines the light on it. This then makes the water safe for her to drink.



SCARF ONLINE SESSION

YEAR 1 & 2

All the children from Nursery to Year 4 enjoyed a SCARF Live Online session with Nancy Hughes (a SCARF educator) and Harold the Giraffe. SCARF are part of *Coram Life Education* and they provide our PSHE curriculum at our schools. The SCARF Live sessions are there to enrich and support the children's understanding. Topics ranged across the year groups, covering themes such as Friendship, Safety, Feelings and Looking after our Bodies.

Year 1 and 2 joined together online for a session on Feelings. The children were delighted to see Harold the Giraffe wearing a party hat. Nancy shared that Harold was going to a party and asked how he might be feeling? The children said "excited" and were then asked to reflect on what other feelings he might have about the party. Masie and Ophelia suggested "nervous" and Alice suggested "sacred". Nancy talked about the range of feelings you can have and how some of them can be uncomfortable.

Balloon Feelings: Nancy then led the children in a visualising activity. The children were to imagine a balloon and to blow into it any difficult 'too big' feelings they had. Once the balloon was full they tied it and tapped it away.

What's in the Party Bag? The children were then asked to guess which items could go in the party bag to keep us healthy. Jaxon suggested 'fruit', Angelica-Mae suggested healthy drinks, Vira said "exercise" and all of Year 1 agreed "sleep" should also go in the bag!

Feelings Five a Day The children then saw the Feelings wheel spin and we discussed each topic in turn. The first one was 'Connect'. The children were asked to reflect on who they like to connect to and how it makes them feel? Alice said "My parents and it feels good". Isaac talked about enjoying connecting to his *Horrible Science* books.

Feelings Bingo After a short disco time to help us 'be active', we played a Feelings Bingo game. Nancy displayed a board of photos of children showing different feelings. The children then took votes to match which photos would go with which feelings word. This led to lots of interesting discussion and really supported our work on emotional literacy that we promote at school. Ellie-Mae said that "If I was feeling worried I would tell an adult". Reggie said "I can feel confused when people make funny faces". Isabelle said "If someone was feeling confused I would help them to figure it out".

The children really enjoyed the session and Willow said "that was a special treat".

LIGHT

YEAR 3

This week in year 3 we have been learning about light.

The children have made light boxes and can't wait to test them out on a sunny day and to learn about refraction.

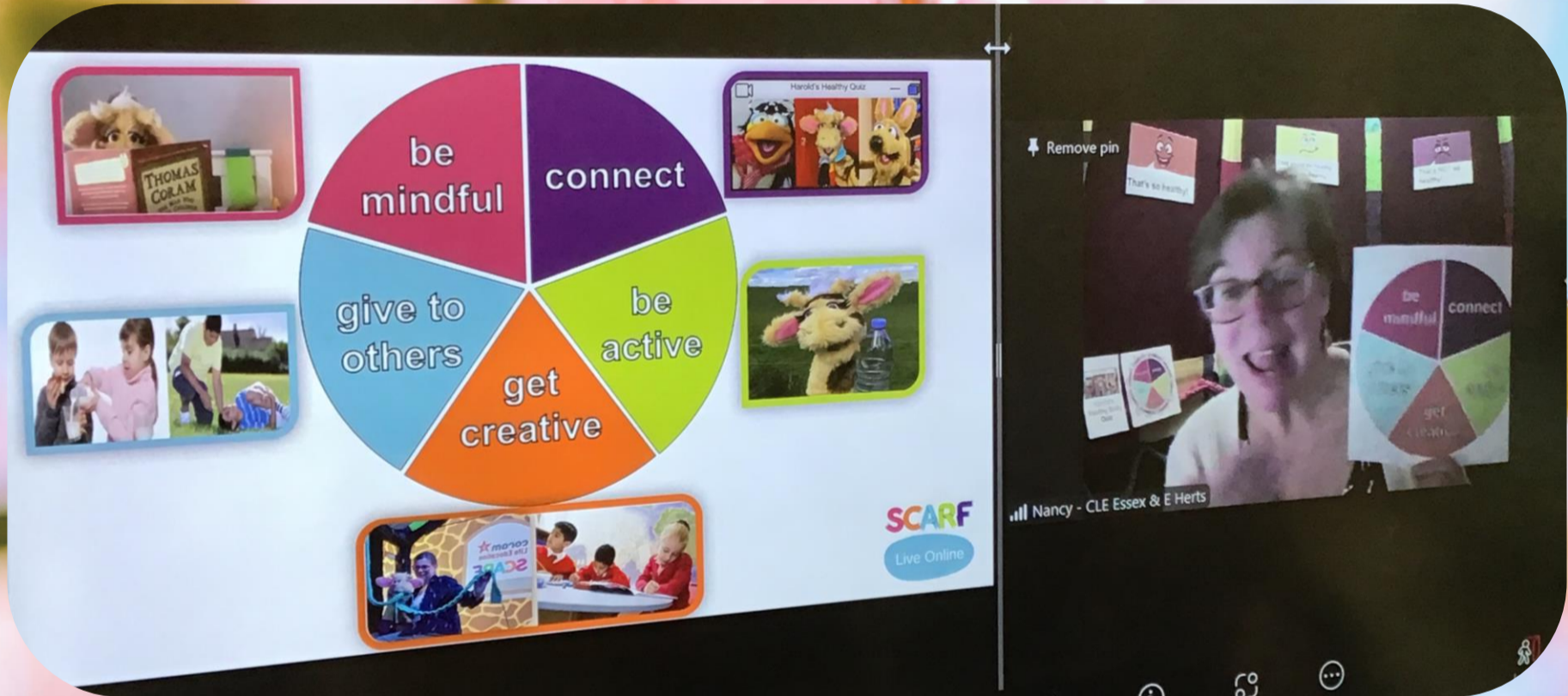


HEALTHY BRAINS AND BODY

YEAR 3 & 4

Years 3 and 4 took part in a collaborative online scarf session with Nancy and Harold from Coram Life Education.

We thought about how to keep our minds and bodies healthy and enjoyed being reporters to interview each other.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

YEAR 4

Year 4 had a lovely time at the community gardens on Thursday afternoon. We played a game to find out what and where all the new trees in the orchard were and then planted pumpkins, peas and potatoes which we will hopefully plant out when they have grown.



REMINDERS

FAMILIES IN MIND

We are excited to tell you that on the 26th March, Barley School Hall will be the venue for a Coffee Morning with a difference!

Our DSPL service (Delivering Specialist Provision Locally) is hosting a Families in Mind event which will have opportunities to access your local Family Support Worker and other key professionals who can share information and advice about services and support that may be available to you and your child.

This really is a key chance to have direct contact with professionals and without having to be referred.



Families in Mind

**Coffee morning/
Coffee afternoon**

- Introduction
- Part 1 - Parents' hope and wishes
- Part 2 - Emotional Responses
- Part 3 - Exploring behaviour at home.
- Part 4 - Entitlement vs Responsibility
- Part 5 - Boundaries and feeling safe
- Part 6 - ACEs
- Part 7 - Pro-active strategies
- Part 8 - Closing thoughts, handouts/ resources and Q&A time

This is also an opportunity to access your local Family Support Worker, get advice and learn about other services that may support you and your children.

26th March @ Barley school 9.30am start.
(Session is 60-90 minutes long)



CHARLIE CHICKS

A reminder that Charlie Chicks are back in the school offices!

We are supporting Garden House Hospice, by offering their hand knitted Charlie Chicks (who have an Easter surprise inside) – the chicks are £1.50 each and are available until Wednesday 2nd April.

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