

# NEWSLETTER



Faith

Curiosity

Wellbeing

Confidence

Dear Parents and Carers

First, I am thrilled to celebrate our fantastic Pupil Council for taking a proactive step in engaging with our caterers about the food provided at school. The council, which consists of elected representatives from each class, aims to amplify pupils' voices and foster a collaborative school environment.

In their recent meeting with the caterers, HCL, our Pupil Council provided thoughtful feedback on meal choices, portion sizes, and the overall dining experience. It's inspiring to see our pupils take such initiative. The children shared with me that they were quite nervous about speaking with someone from outside school. Well done everyone! Read the article below.

Thank you for continuing to join us in our weekly Achievement Assembly and for coming in to read beforehand with your child. We hope shortly to send out a link to you so that from next week if you cannot attend in person, we can still share with you but online.

We are looking forward to Shrove Tuesday – lots of pancakes, pancake races and finding out why we celebrate the day.

We hope everyone has a restful weekend.

SHARON BROWN - FEDERATION HEADTEACHER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Benefice confirmation service by Bishop Richard at St Margaret of Antioch in Barley on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of March at 10:30am. If you are interested in being confirmed, please let Rev Mark know – [revmarkbridgen@gmail.com](mailto:revmarkbridgen@gmail.com) or 01763 848756.
- World Book Day: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

*"Living Life in All Its Fullness"*  
–John 10

# 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, Mia is our star of the week in Nursery. Mia started Nursery this week and she has already settled in so beautifully and shown great confidence and excitement when exploring inside and outside and making new friends! We were particularly impressed with Mia's confidence when talking about the weather for our calendar that day, where she also shared how she had seen snow, frost and ice in Haverhill when she was coming to school that morning! Well done, Mia!



## RECEPTION

This week, our star is Henry. We have been really impressed with how Henry has been working hard on his phonics during Choose, Play and Learn. Henry practised building CVC words using letter cubes and then wrote them in his book.

Well done Henry.

## YEAR 1

This week Tobias is the star of the week for being a marvellous mathematician. He has used a range of manipulatives to find the difference between numbers and was using full sentences to explain the difference.

Great job Tobias!

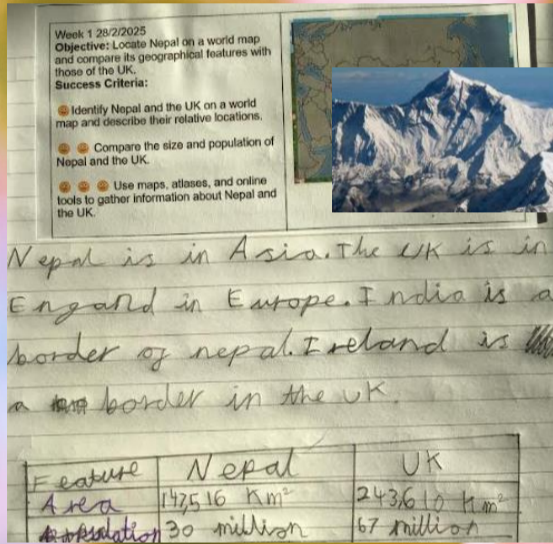


# STARS OF THE WEEK

## YEAR 2

This week, Willow is the shining star in Hazel class for her helpful and positive behaviours. Willow is always very polite and kind to others. She listens to others when they are talking and follows our class and school rules that help us all to learn and create a happy place for us.

Willow often helps set up the Hazel classroom for our early morning work and takes care in every task she is given. Well done Willow, we really value your good behaviour choices!



## YEAR 3

This week in Beech Class, Eliza, is our star of the week for her wonderful Geography work.

The children begun learning about Mount Everest and Nepal. Eliza used her geographical vocabulary to compare England and Nepal.

Well done Eliza.

## YEAR 4

In Year 4 this week, our star of the week is Noah. Noah has had a fantastic week this week, working hard in all of his subjects. We are particularly proud of his times tables work where he managed to answer 40 questions in 2 minutes for the first time!

Well done Noah.



# STARS OF THE WEEK



## ART STAR

This week our art star is Lynden in Year 4. Mrs Makewell was really impressed with all the art work that Lynden had done at home over half term as well as his wonderful landscape collage that he completed in the lesson.

Year 4 are all really putting in effort to practise their art skills at home, bringing in their work to share which is lovely to see.

## SPORTS STAR

This week Jessica is our star of the week for her resilience and determination to succeed in dance.

Well done Jessica!



## SCIENCE STAR

In our Federation we are going to have a new star of the week for science every week. This will be focussed on scientific enquiry (years 1-4) and knowledge and understanding of the world (EYFS).

Years 3 and 4 are our science stars this week. They have been on a secret mission to record their data. They can now independently draw their own tables to represent their findings. Well done years 3 and 4.

# SCHOOL COUNCIL



## School Council Meetings 25.2.25 and 26.2.25 RE: School Meal Portion Size

School councillors met with Mrs Gould to draw together pupil voice ahead of a meeting with a representative of Herts Catering. The children suggested the following for the meeting:

**Finley:** Hello, we are the School Council.

**Louie M:** We would like to talk to you about our school meals.

**Reign:** We spoke to all the children at school about our school meals.

**Vira:** Some children say they like the school meals.

**Cali:** I don't mind the school meals, apart from a Monday when I don't like anything on the menu so I have packed lunch.

**Storm:** Some children think the lunches are too big and sometimes much too small.

**Willow:** If we have a good size lunch we can learn better.

**Louie M:** In Year 4 we talked about wanting the size of the protein bigger.

**Cali:** We don't want to change the lady who cooks the lunches because she is nice and kind.

**Willow:** We would just like to have a good size lunch.

**Reign:** We thank you for listening to us.

**Finley:** We thank you for the school meals that help us learn.

On Wednesday the Barley School Council met with Mrs Walker, our contact for Herts Catering.

The children spoke well and got across to Mrs Walker all the points they had planned to make.

Storm talked about there not being yogourts anymore (or very few). Mrs Walker explained that if say 20 children are having a school meal they cannot send 20 of each pudding option so there is a few of each and they can choose.

Six of the nine children voted for enjoying the hot pudding on a Wednesday and we asked if there could be more hot puddings in the future on other days. This did not seem to be a possibility.

Vira and Reign talked about enjoying the salad option and most children agreed that there are enough salad choices.

Storm talked about not liking the pizza and Mrs Walker said there will be a new recipe for pizza after the Easter holidays we it would be worth trying it again then to see if it is better.

We discussed that the portion size available should be bigger for Key Stage 2 children than for Key Stage 1 and at the moment that is not the case. Mrs Walker said that she will come in and check the portion size.

Finally Mrs Walker asked if there were any lunch options they would like that have not yet been on offer. Cali requested spaghetti bolognese and Finley and Storm a chicken and mushroom pie. Mrs Walker talked about the possibility of the children at our schools trying new food options when they are being trialled.

Well done School Council for your work so far on this important project.

# DUCKLINGS

## NURSERY & RECEPTION

This week in Oak Class we have had some extra special visitors...the super cute, black and yellow fluffy kind of visitors...yes, you've guessed it, it's duckling season in Oak Class! So far we have had 4 of the 5 eggs hatch and the ducklings have made themselves right at home in our class. The children have been so excited to hold and stroke the ducklings and watch them grow. Reception have been keeping a duckling diary; drawing pictures and writing sentences about the ducklings and Nursery have been drawing the ducklings pictures to stick around their cage. The ducklings particularly enjoy our phonics sessions as this is when they really make themselves heard! We are looking forward to giving them their first bath and swimming experience next week in the water tray! We hope you are ready for the cuteness!!



## TOYS

## YEAR 1

So lovely having Cas & Rosie from the Herts museum visiting with toys from the past to launch our new history topic! She was so impressed with the knowledge the children already have, especially Ophelia noting that in the past toys would have been made with wood or metal as there wasn't any plastic. Cas said that we are the best class she has had this year and that she was amazed by the vocabulary the children were already using!

Well done Apple Class!



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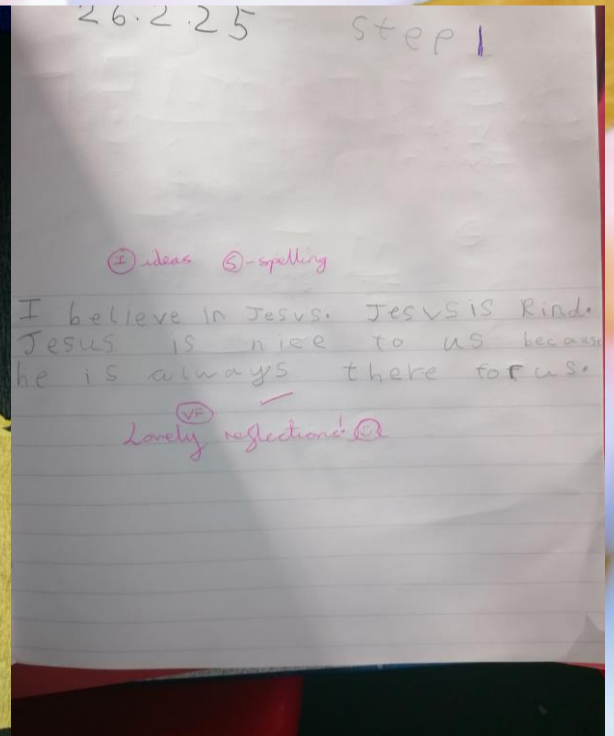
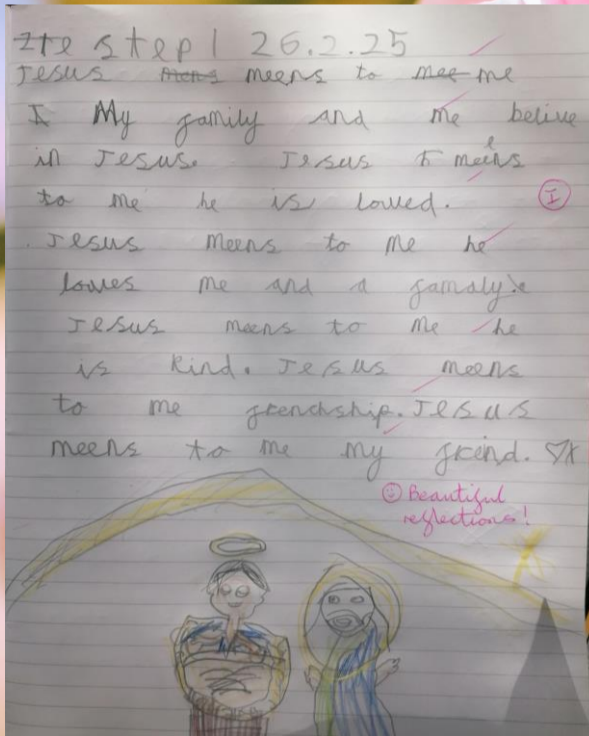
# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## YEAR 2

Year 2 began their new RE unit this week on the 'Good News' that Jesus brings in the Bible. We began by looking at paintings of Jesus in many different cultures, including Italian, African, Chinese and Indian. The children discussed the images with each other. Isaac spoke about an African painting of Jesus with large hands behind the figure of Christ. Isaac said "Those look like God's hands reaching down to Earth to take Jesus back up to heaven". Isaac also created a 3-D image of another African painting with Jesus that he particularly liked.

The children had time to look at a range of Bibles and read stories of Jesus and discuss them. They then wrote their own personal reflections into their books.

Well done Hazel Class for reflecting on Jesus' varied images and him as a person in the Bible.



# STORY TELLING

## YEAR 4

This week, Year 4 started a new English unit based on a book called Leon and the Place Between.

When they first heard the story on Monday, Mrs West made the whole class jump with her dramatic reading of the book, particularly with a 'Bang' and a 'Pouf'!

The class then tried to recreate this modelled reading when they read the story themselves.

