

NEWSLETTER

Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

Faith Curiosity Wellbeing Confidence

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

We had a truly wonderful Harvest Festival Church service in Barkway on Thursday 2nd October. Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate this special occasion. A particular thank you to Mrs West and Reverend Mark for leading such a meaningful service, and to Carol Badderley for her fantastic idea of baking bread for harvest.

Thanks to the creativity and hard work of Miss Horton, Mrs Makewell and Mrs Porter, every child had the opportunity to bake, whether a roll, loaf, or even some unusual and imaginative shapes! These were proudly brought to church, alongside drinks and sweet treats. FOBBS raised an impressive £142, which will go towards purchasing our very own BBF purple baking aprons for the children.

We are so proud of the children's outstanding behaviour throughout the service. For some of our youngest children in Nursery and Reception, it was their very first church service, yet they joined in with such confidence, sharing their favourite vegetables and singing our harvest songs, while also listening beautifully. Thank you, too, for the many generous food donations, which will be shared with a local food bank and will undoubtedly be very much appreciated.

Beyond Harvest celebrations, Year 2, 3, and 4 enjoyed a fantastic Forest School morning with Mrs West, testing their balancing skills and resilience on ropes along with a range of fun and exploratory activities. This week they also created some wonderful pieces of artwork, including a scarecrow, which we proudly displayed at the service and will treasure at future harvests.

This week, Years 2, 3 and 4 enjoyed a wonderful trip to London, where they visited The Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace. For many children, it was their first time travelling into the city by train and on the underground, which made the experience even more exciting. Staff were incredibly impressed with the pupils' behaviour throughout the day, and they even received positive comments from commuters on the journey home. Well done, Years 2, 3 and 4 – fantastic BBF advocacy in action!

We were also delighted to welcome our local PCSO, Chris Braebrook, who visited Oak Class to talk about his role. The children were especially excited to explore his police car, try the lights and sirens, and even sit in the driver's seat, an experience they won't soon forget!

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We are immensely proud of all the children, and it was a joy to share such memorable experiences with them this week.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Miss Mière
Acting Headteacher



THIS TERM OUR SCHOOL VALUE IS 'GENEROSITY'

Our students will be focusing on loving others as we love ourselves, giving sacrificially, giving cheerfully, caring for creation, and giving our time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

Thursday 2nd – Harvest Service @ Barkway Church 9am to 9.40am followed by Yrs 2, 3 and 4 attending Forest School

Wednesday 15th – Oak Class Little Wandle Parents Meeting 3pm to 4pm

Monday 27th – Half Term Begins

Friday 31st – Half term ends (schools reopen Monday 3rd November)

November

Tuesday 4th – BBF Flu Immunisations (Reception to Y4)

December

Friday 5th – Occasional Day (Schools Closed)

Thursday 9th – School Nurse Reception Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing Screening

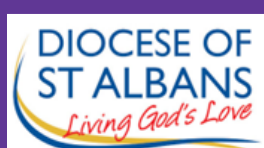
Thursday 11th – BBF Christmas Lunch/Xmas Jumper Day

Friday 19th – End of Term (EYFS & Y1 12.30pm, Yrs 2, 3 & 4 12.45pm)

“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 Hallie is our star of the week. She always comes into Nursery with a bright smile and absolutely loves taking part in PE. This week Hallie has been brilliant in Phonics. She listened carefully to lots of sounds, joined in with actions and rhymes and showed great listening ears. Hallie could hear the first sounds in words and tried really hard to join in with our phonic games. We are very proud of your super listening skills!



RECEPTION

This week Matthew is our shining star in Oak class. He has been a phonics superstar this week! Matthew worked so hard to learn the sounds s, a, p, and t, and wrote the letters all by himself. We are so proud of how hard you are trying to do brilliant listening and careful letter formation. Keep up the amazing work!

YEAR 1

This week our star our star is Vinnie for fantastic work in his Computing lessons with Miss Phillips. The class have been learning how to log in and this week Vinnie was able to do this independently. Vinnie also helps his friends get to where they need to be on Purple Mash.



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YEAR 2

This week Ophelia is the star of the week in Year 2. She was amazing on our trip on Monday. On the way into London she admitted that she was feeling a little bit nervous as Buckingham Palace was far but when we arrived she was confidently asking interesting questions and making great comments about what she saw while linking it back to previous learning she had done in Year 1 about the royal family. She even sang the kings and queens song while we were on the train. Well done Ophelia!



YEAR 3

This week, Jake is our Star of the Week for his fantastic observations during our visit to Buckingham Palace. He showed excellent learning behaviours throughout the trip, greeting the palace employees politely and thanking them when we left. Jake especially enjoyed having his photo taken beside the picture of the King and even practised his royal wave just in case the King popped down through the secret door to welcome us!



YEAR 4

This week, Annie is our star of the week. Annie has been such a great role model this week, getting on with her own learning and being fully engaged in our whole class learning. She was also a super star tidier at the church on Thursday, making sure that we left no rubbish behind.

Well done Annie!



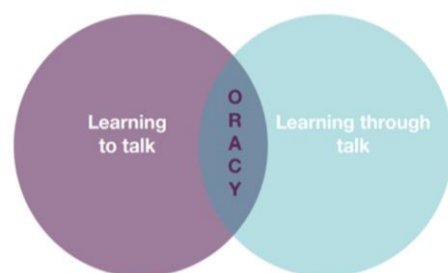
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ORACY STAR

This week our Oracy star of the week is Matthew in Reception.

Matthew enjoyed talking about his favourite vegetables when working on his Harvest picture. Matthew also spoke with confidence during the service, using a clear voice and a full sentence. Well done Matthew!



SPORTS STAR

This week Elsie is the PE star!

She impresses me with her positive attitude and her willingness to learn more. She will always attempt to answer the questions and will support her class members in all activities.

Well done Elsie, keep it up!

SCIENCE STAR

This week, Jude, Rowan and Dolly are super scientists! When our superheroes were trapped in ice, they used fantastic scientific thinking to set them free. They noticed that the ice was solid and cold. They predicted that warm water would help the ice melt more quickly. They tested their idea carefully and observed that the solid ice turned into water. They all observed what happened when we added salt to the ice. They were able to say that the heat made the ice melt faster!



DRAWING CLUB

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

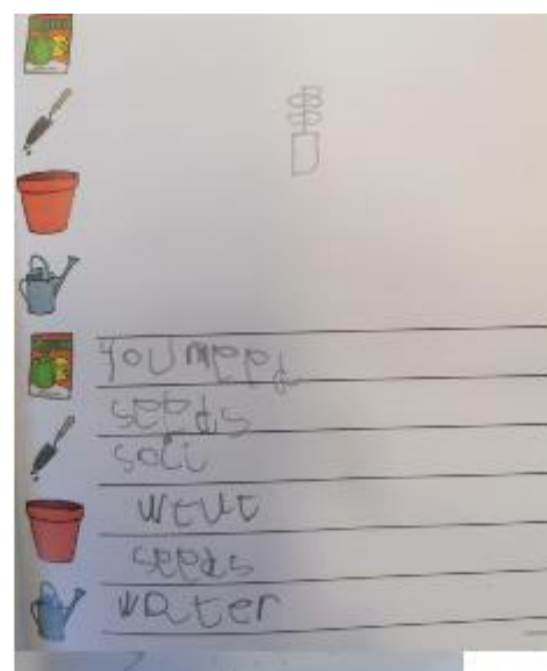
This week, our little learners have been soaring into action with our exciting Superheroes Topic! The classroom has been bursting with energy, imagination, and heroic missions as the children explored what it truly means to be a superhero. One of the highlights has been our Superhero Headquarters Role Play Area, where children dressed up in capes and masks, took calls on their superhero phones, and planned daring rescues using maps and mission boards. The space has encouraged wonderful communication, teamwork, and lots of imaginative storytelling! In our sensory play, the children rescued trapped superheroes frozen in ice! With warm water, pipettes, and salt, they explored melting and texture changes while freeing their tiny heroes. This sparked rich discussion around science and problem-solving. Our Cityscape Tuff Tray was transformed into a bustling superhero world, complete with tall buildings, toy vehicles, and mini figures. The children recreated classic superhero scenes and created their own stories—perfect for building vocabulary and narrative skills. It's been an action-packed week full of learning, laughter, and lots of imaginative play. We're so proud of our brave little superheroes!



ENGLISH

YEAR 1

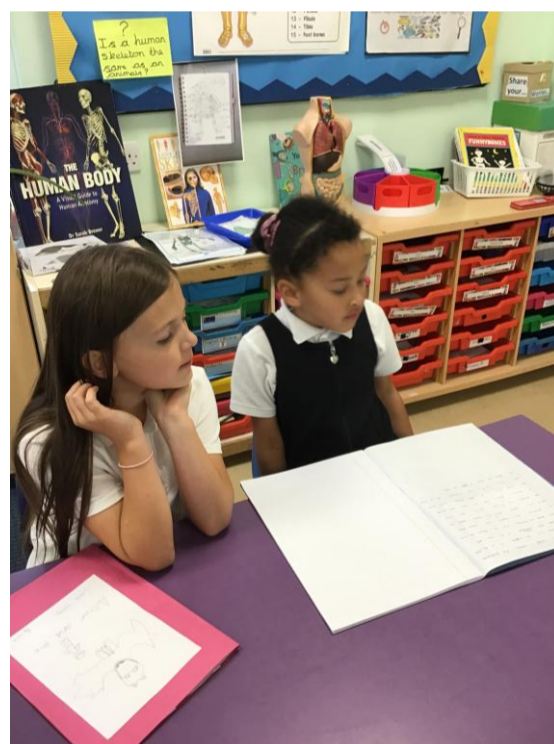
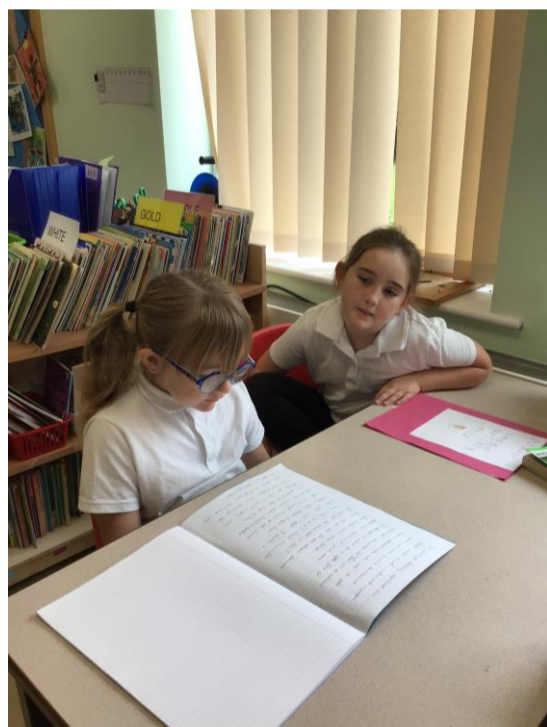
The Year 1 authors and illustrators finished their first English unit this week by publishing guides to gardening books! The books included features of instruction writing, with a You will need section and sequenced steps for what to do. The children chose their front cover picture and drew the pictures inside the books to accompany each page of writing. Apple class then went to share their books with their audience for the books - the children in Reception. Oak class enjoyed being read to and were a brilliant audience for the books. Well done everyone!



ILLUSTRATORS

YEAR 3 & 4

Year 3 and 4 came together for a collaborative reading session. We have been writing to entertain. Year 4 wrote graphic novels inspired by the book *Arthur and the Golden Robe* and year 3 wrote stories in the style of *Mini Rabbit Not Lost*. It was lovely to hear them perform to each other.



Years 2, 3 & 4 Trip to Buckingham Palace

A Royal Day Out for children at Barley Barkway Federation

On Monday 29th September, pupils from Years 2–4 at Barley Barkway Federation enjoyed a very special trip to London. Travelling by train, the children visited the magnificent State Rooms at Buckingham Palace.

This was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our royal history while experiencing the sights of the capital city. The children were amazed by the grandeur of the palace, admiring the many historical artefacts and portraits on display.

A real highlight of the visit was seeing the beautiful watercolours painted by King Charles III, which inspired many of our budding young artists.

The children shared some of their favourite moments:

Willow: “There was a secret door to the King’s apartment!”

Jaxon: “I have never seen such big paintings of Kings and Queens.”

Jake: “The ballroom could have fitted 72 double-decker buses inside. It was very large!”

The trip has certainly sparked curiosity and creativity, and gave the children a day they will always remember!



Year 1 & 2 Football Festival @KJAR

Years 1 and 2 were invited to take part in a football festival on Wednesday at KJAR. All children were able to enjoy the different drills that were put on by the sports leaders on the Astro at KJAR, and also a match against each other. We were happy to see them put into action some of the skills they have learnt so far during their PE lessons. We look forward to taking them out to many more sporting events.



BBF Harvest Bread

A massive thank you to Carole B who came up with the idea of baking bread for Harvest. Thanks to the efforts of Ms Horten, Mrs Makewell and Mrs Porter all of our children were able to make rolls, loaves and some other interesting shapes of bread to take home. A big thank you to those who brought those in church, and the additional donations. We raised £142 which will be spent on baking aprons for the children. Thank you for your ongoing support and if you have any feedback please let Mrs Whitaker know via Barley office.



Years 2, 3 & 4 - Forest School

We had great fun at Forest School with Years 2, 3 and 4 on Thursday. We played pair mirror games, pretended to be sloths on the slackline and found some eggs that we think belong to a snail. Can you see the eggs in the picture?



BBF Achieve Gold Schools Games Mark

We are thrilled to share that Barley and Barkway VA First Schools Federation has been awarded the Gold School Games Mark for our commitment to High quality Physical Education and school sports. This national award recognises schools that actively promote physical activity, competition, and inclusive sport across the curriculum – and we couldn't be prouder of our pupils and staff for achieving this outstanding recognition. A special mention must go to Mrs. Kelly Whittaker and Mrs. Tara Edwards, whose dedication, leadership, and passion for PE have played a crucial role in securing this award. Their extra efforts to ensure PE is taught at a consistently high standard have helped embed a strong sporting culture throughout our Federation. From engaging PE lessons and lunchtime activities, to inter-school competitions and active learning across subjects, the work has ensured that sport and physical well-being remain a central focus at both of our schools. We are incredibly proud of this achievement and will continue to provide opportunities for all our children to be active, healthy, and confident participants in sport.

