

NEWSLETTER

Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

Faith Curiosity Wellbeing Confidence

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic week it has been at school - full of achievements, celebrations, and community spirit!

Cross Country Success!

Congratulations to all our amazing Year 3 and 4 pupils who took part in the Cross Country Festival at King James Academy in Royston on Thursday. The event began with an energising warm-up led by the KJAR Sports Leaders, followed by a practice lap before the real challenge began, 20 minutes of continuous running! We were incredibly impressed with the determination and stamina shown by all our pupils, with some managing an incredible 7 laps!

A very special congratulations goes to **George** and **Annie** in Year 4, who were the top boy and girl across all participating schools, completing the most laps overall, what a phenomenal achievement! Every single child showed fantastic perseverance and sportsmanship, and all the adults who accompanied them were bursting with pride. Well done to each and every one of you!

Black History Month Assembly

This week we were delighted to begin our celebrations of Black History Month with a wonderful assembly on Monday. Mrs Gould delivered a thought provoking and inspiring talk about Dame Shirley Bassey, highlighting her remarkable journey as a pioneering mixed-race Welsh performer who rose to international fame at a time when this was a rare accomplishment for a Black British artist. The children were captivated, especially when they got to hear Dame Shirley's iconic performance of *Goldfinger*! It was a powerful reminder of the importance of representation and resilience.

Community Connections

On Wednesday, Mrs Edwards and I had the pleasure of visiting the Barkway Toddler Group at Barkway Village Hall. It was a lovely morning filled with smiles, creativity, and conversation. We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the children, chatting with parents, nannies, and childminders, and taking part in a fun craft activity. A big thank you to Tabitha from Preschool for her warm welcome and for creating such a friendly and nurturing environment. Miss Horton is very much looking forward to visiting next week!

Year 4 – From Seed to Harvest!

Year 4 had their second visit to the Barley Community Gardens this week and were thrilled to harvest the pumpkins that had grown from seeds planted by last year's Year 4s. What a brilliant way to see the full cycle of growth and the rewards of earlier efforts. The children were excited and full of wonder, a fantastic hands-on learning experience!

Author Visit - Marion from *Billy Bunny and the Woodpecker's Nest*

We're delighted to welcome Marion, the author of the wonderful book *Billy Bunny and the Woodpecker's Nest*, to our schools next week!

She will be visiting Barkway on Thursday 16th and Barley on Friday 17th to share her story with the children through an engaging session filled with natural arts and crafts, teddies, and audience participation, a truly magical way to bring the story to life!

Please refer to the flyer sent out earlier this week for more details and the link to pre-order your copy of the book. Marion will also be available after school at both sites to sign copies outside each school.

We're so looking forward to this special storytelling experience!

Reception Phonics Workshop – You're Invited!

A friendly reminder to our Reception families that we will be holding our Little Wandle Phonics Workshop on Wednesday 15th October at 3pm in Oak Class. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how we teach early reading and phonics, and how you can support your child at home. All are very welcome, we look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you all a wonderful, restful 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

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

Tuesday 21st – Apple Class Little Wandle Parents Meeting 3pm to 4pm

Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd BBF Parent Consultations – please see email sent for timings & booking details

Monday 27th – Half Term Begins

November

Monday 3rd – BBF Autumn Term Begins

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

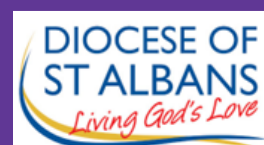
Friday 19th – End of Term (EYFS & Y1 12.30pm, Yrs 2, 3 & 4 12.45pm)

“Living Life in All Its Fullness” –John 10



Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation
Church End, Barley, SG8 8JW | 84 High Street, Barkway, SG8 8EF

Tel: 01763 848281 | 01763 848283
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Website: www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk





Joint Open Day

Wednesday 5th November 2025
 9.00am until 2.45pm
 84 High Street, Barkway, SG8 8EF

We are working in collaboration with each other



Registered Charity Number 1004083

"The school's warm and caring family atmosphere is greatly valued by pupils, staff and parents" - BBF Ofsted 2023

"Children show a can do attitude as staff support them to develop their independence skills" - Barkway Preschool Ofsted 2023

10 MINUTES FROM BUNTINGFORD AND ROYSTON

Situated in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside - come and see what Barley Barkway Federation First Schools and Barkway Preschool have to offer.

- ✓ Ages 2yrs - 9yrs
- ✓ Funding available up to 30hrs FREE
- ✓ Wrap-around care available
- ✓ High adult-to-child ratio - more support for every learner
- ✓ Personalised learning: small class sizes & tailored support
- ✓ Forest School opportunities to connect with nature



A warm welcome is always guaranteed — come visit us!

To register your interest or for more information:

01763 848283 for BBF
 or 07964 151288 for Preschool

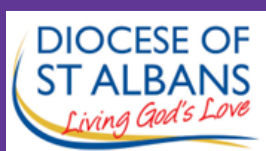
www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/
www.barkwaypreschool.co.uk/home.html

office@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk
info@barkwaypreschool.co.uk



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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, Albie is our star of the week. Albie is our shining star for working so hard on exploring the colour blue!

He has shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm, when he's painting, sorting, or spotting blue objects around the classroom.

Well done Albie!



RECEPTION

This week, Isabel is our shining star in Oak class. This week, Isabel has truly impressed us all with her incredible creativity and independence! She loves exploring the resources around her and is fantastic at coming up with her own ideas during play and learning time.

Whether she's building, drawing, or creating, Isabel shows amazing confidence in using materials in new and imaginative ways. She doesn't hesitate to try things by herself and enjoys discovering different ways to solve problems.

We're so proud of her for being such a confident and resourceful learner – keep shining, Isabel! Your creativity and independence inspire everyone around you.

YEAR 1

A huge well done to Jake, who is the Star of the Week in Apple class. Jake has been working hard on his tasks and is setting a great example with his positive and 'give it a go' attitude.

Jake has also faced some new challenges – and we're so proud of the way he has managed them with confidence and resilience. What a brilliant example to others!

Keep it up, Jake – you're a star!



STARS OF THE WEEK

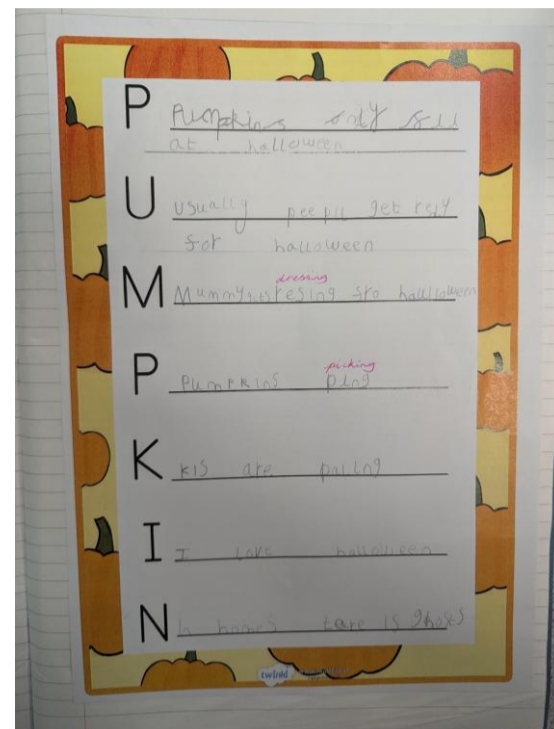
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YEAR 2

This week Esme is the star of the week for her FABULOUS acrostic poem that she wrote in quick write!

I was so proud of Esme for independently coming up with her ideas to link to pumpkins and Halloween!

Keep up the great work Esme!



YEAR 3

Alice is our Star of the Week for the wonderful map she created in geography. She included a picture of a compass to show the main compass points and added accurate details to her map. Alice also challenged herself by including a key, making her map clear and easy to understand.

Well done, Alice!

YEAR 4

This week, Aria is our star of the week. We have been thinking about writing a persuasive speech and have written our introductory paragraph. Aria has written a brilliant introduction and I am eager to hear the rest of her speech and find out if she is able to persuade her brother to leave her toys alone!

Well done Aria!



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ORACY STAR

A big congratulations to Leo in Year 1, who is our Oracy Star of the Week! Leo always takes his time to think carefully before he speaks, and when he does, he expresses his ideas clearly and confidently.

Leo has already made good progress with his oracy since starting in Year 1 and he is speaking more frequently in front of others. He sets a brilliant example for his classmates with his calm and considered speaking.

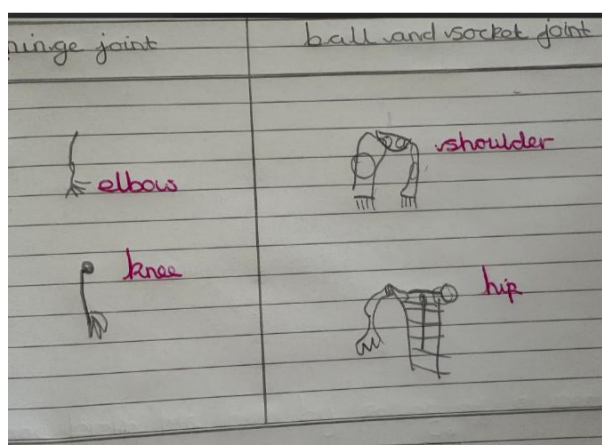
Well done, Leo - we're so proud of your fantastic oracy skills!



SPORTS STAR

Annie is the PE star this week, even though she had an hand injury she ran 3 miles non stop a the cross country on Thursday at KJAR.

8 schools attended the event and we were very impressed with all the children who took part. Annie was the first girl to complete the race! Well done for your effort and determination.



SCIENCE STAR

Isaac is our Star of the Week for his wonderful scientific drawings of hinge and ball-and-socket joints. He concentrated carefully and added fantastic detail to make sure his work was accurate and informative.

Well done, Isaac.

A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
to Leo, Isaac, and Cece
celebrating their special day
this week!

We hope you have/had a
fantastic time filled with fun
and the things you enjoy the
most!

A SPECIAL VISITOR

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

On Thursday Oak class had special visitor come and visit them PCSO Chris Brabrock. He came in and had a chat with the children about being safe and answered their questions, and then we went outside and the children all got to have a turn sitting in the police car and turning on the lights/wearing the police hat. He finished off with turning the siren on - which obviously the children loved.

Chris talked about his important role in keeping our community safe and explained how the police help people every day. He showed the children some of his equipment and answered lots of curious questions. Our little learners especially enjoyed trying on police hats and the uniform. The visit was a fantastic way to help children understand safety, trust, and the important work of the police force in a fun and memorable way.

A big thank you to our local police team for taking the time to engage with our youngest learners.



SHOW & TELL

YEAR 1

Improving Oracy, Confidence and Listening Skills

In Year 1, the children have begun Show and Tell. This is always enjoyed by the children and is a special time when everyone gets to share something exciting with their friends. Show and Tell helps the children develop confidence speaking in front of others, practise talking clearly and listening carefully.

Lexi was very excited to share her cool Minecraft storybook with us. We look forward to reading the story together.

Then Eleanor amazed us by sharing a story she wrote herself! Her book is about a princess in a blue dress and a magical unicorn with a rainbow mane.

We can't wait to see what everyone brings next time for Show and Tell. Keep sharing your stories and treasures!



SPOOKY SEASON SPARKS CREATIVITY

YEAR 2

This week in Quick Write, Year 2 took their writing skills to the next level with some frightfully fantastic acrostic poems!

Even though they've only tried acrostic poems once before, our clever young writers rose to the challenge and independently crafted their very own spooky pumpkin poems. Quick Write is a special time when the children are given a task to complete all by themselves, with only a short explanation at the start. No teacher help, just big imaginations!

The results? Absolutely fang-tastic! From cauldrons to witches, the poems were packed with Halloween magic. I was so impressed with their creativity—and I think you'll agree, these poems are perfectly on theme! Well done, Year 2—you've proved once again that you're not just great writers, you're spook-tacular poets too!



MAGICAL BOXES

YEAR 3

Year 3 had a fantastic time this week rehearsing the poem *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright. They also made their own magical boxes in preparation for writing their own poems next week. The children explored similes and alliteration, collecting objects from the outdoor learning environment to inspire their use of similes.

Well done, Beech Class!



ROYSTON & VILLAGE SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

YEAR 3 & 4

Year 3 and 4 had an active morning on Thursday at the Royston & Village Schools Cross Country event at King James Academy. The children had to run around the field as many times as they could in the allotted time. Each lap was half a mile and all of the children managed at least 2 laps or 1 mile!

We were so proud of all of them and their fantastic sporting attitude. We are especially proud of George (7 laps) and Annie (5 laps) who ran the most laps for a boy and a girl across the over 200 participants.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

YEAR 4

This week Sycamore class were very excited to harvest the pumpkins at the Community Gardens.

The pumpkin seeds were planted last year by last years Year 4 children.

