

# NEWSLETTER

Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

Faith Curiosity Wellbeing Confidence

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another wonderfully busy week across our Federation, filled with exciting learning opportunities and community connections.

Oak Class have enjoyed welcoming two very special visitors as part of their *People Who Help Us* topic. A huge thank you to Mr Rawlings, who came to talk about his important role as a firefighter, and to our very own Mr Coomes, who spoke to the children all about his work as our site manager. The children were captivated by both talks and loved learning about how these roles help to keep people safe and our school running smoothly. Oak Class also continued their learning through play, acting out their experiences in the doctor's role play area, it's been lovely to see their imagination and enthusiasm shine!

This week, Miss Horton had the pleasure of visiting the Barkway Baby and Toddler Group, where she shared the story *Pumpkin Soup*. She also brought along some wonderful sensory trays linked to the story, as well as a firm favourite – the farm small world. Miss Horton thoroughly enjoyed her visit and is already looking forward to returning soon!

A big thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended our Little Wandle Reception Phonics Workshop on Wednesday 15th October. It was lovely to see so many of you engaging with your children's early reading journey. If you were unable to attend, please do speak to Mrs Edwards, who will be happy to provide you with the handouts and answer any questions.

Thank you also to everyone who joined us for our meeting on Thursday 16th October at Barley, where we shared our exciting plans to merge Year 3 and Year 4 for some afternoon sessions after half term. This will enable pupils to come together as one larger class, supporting learning, collaboration, participation, and targeted interventions across both year groups. If you were unable to attend and would like more information, please don't hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Porter – we'd be very happy to discuss the plans with you.

A few reminders for next week:

- Year 1 Little Wandle Phonics Meeting – *Tuesday 21st October at 3pm* in Apple Class with Miss Preston and Mrs Gould. We hope you can join us to learn more about how we teach phonics and how you can support your child at home.
- Parents' Evenings – We look forward to seeing you next week to share your child's learning journey so far this year.
  - EYFS and Year 1: Wednesday 22nd October and Thursday 23rd October at Barkway
  - Years 2, 3, and 4: Thursday 23rd October at Barley

As we approach the final week before half term, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support, enthusiasm, and partnership in everything we do.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable 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

Monday 20th - Year 3 DT Day  
Monday 27th - Half term begins  
Friday 31st - Half term ends

### November

Tuesday 4th - BBF Flu Immunisations (Reception – Year 4)  
Wednesday 5th - BBF & Barkway Preschool Joint Open Day (9.00am until 2.45pm)  
Friday 7th - Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Festival at Roman Way (9.30am until 11.30am)  
Friday 14th – Barley Church Christmas Market/Winter Fete (3.00pm until 7.30pm)  
Saturday 22nd - Moonlight Market at Barkway Church (4.00pm until 7.00pm)  
Thursday 27th - Year 2 Football Festival at St Edmunds Prep School (9.00am until 12.30pm)

### December

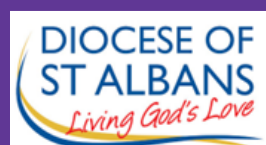
Friday 5th - Occasional Day (Schools closed)  
Tuesday 9th - School Nurse in for Reception Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing Screening  
Thursday 11th - Christmas Jumper Day & BBF Christmas Lunch  
Friday 12th - BBF Trip to Pantomime at BEAM Hertford (9.00am until 12.30)  
Friday 19th - End of Term (EYFS & Year 1 finish at 12.30pm, Years 2, 3 & 4 finish at 12.45pm)

“Living Life in All Its Fullness” –John 10



Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation  
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# Joint Open Day

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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

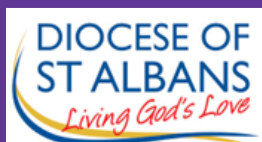
[www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/](http://www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/)  
[www.barkwaypreschool.co.uk/home.html](http://www.barkwaypreschool.co.uk/home.html)

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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, Grace is our shining star. She always tries hard in our carpet sessions and tackles everything with a smile. She always listens carefully and is an excellent role model in our classroom. She has enjoyed mark making in our doctors surgery and taking messages from phone calls. She has loved all of our baking in Nursery, getting involved with the weighing and taking turns with her peers.

Keep shining!



## RECEPTION

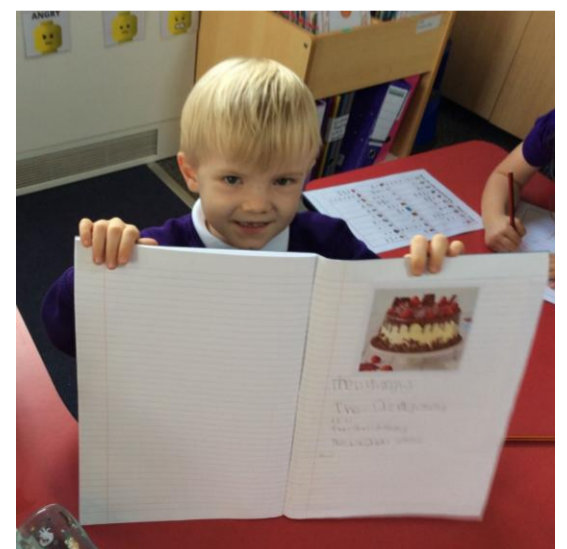
This week, Dolly is our Star of the Week in Oak Class! When Dolly first joined us, school was a brand new experience for her – she had never been to nursery or any other setting before, so everything felt very big and very new. Understandably, it took her a little while to settle in and feel comfortable in her new environment. Over the past few weeks, Dolly has shown such amazing courage and resilience. She's started coming into class with a big smile, joining in with group activities, and building lovely friendships with her classmates. Her confidence has really grown, and it's been a joy to watch her begin to explore, play, and learn with such enthusiasm.

Well done, Dolly – we're so proud of you!

## YEAR 1

This week our star is Finley! I have been really pleased with how Finley's confidence has grown with his writing. During our 'Quick Write' sessions where children are writing independently, I have seen Finley's confidence grow each week. This week Finley got writing straight away, without needing any encouragement and wrote his sentences independently.

Well done Finley!



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## YEAR 2

This week Tobias is the star of the week for his lovely work in RE. We were talking about the Islamic belief that people should care for our world. Tobias created this lovely poster explaining different ways to take care of the planet. Well done Tobias - I hope you continue to encourage others to look after the world.



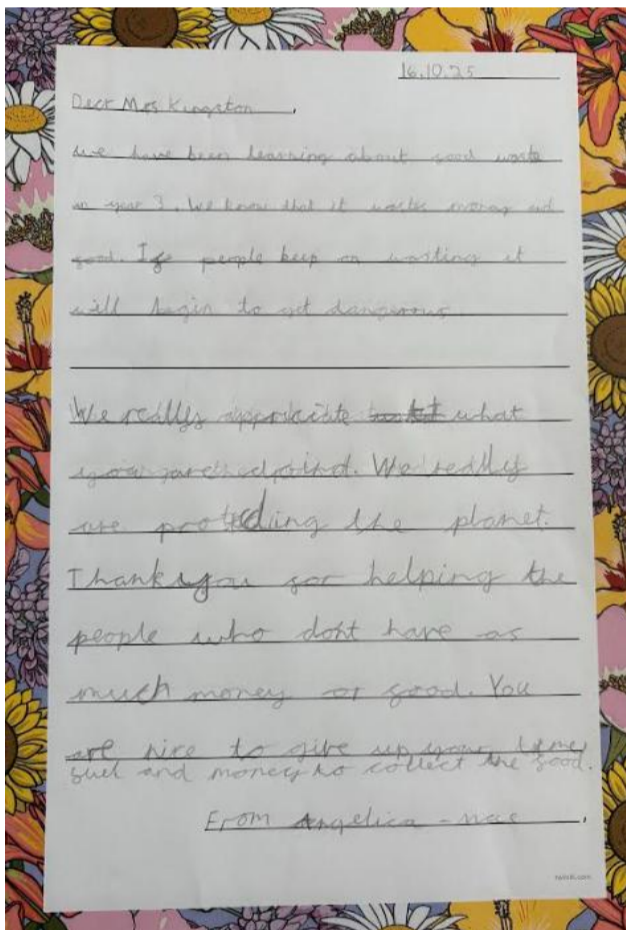
## YEAR 3

This week, Angelica-Mae is our Star of the Week. She showed a wonderfully empathetic attitude when thinking about food waste and how we can help to reduce it. Angelica-Mae wanted to thank Mrs Kingston, one of our school governors, who often supports the local community by redistributing food that would otherwise have been wasted.

Inspired by her thoughtful idea, the whole class wrote thank-you letters. Angelica-Mae is even going to hand deliver our letters to Mrs Kingston. What kindness!

Angelica-Mae wrote:

“We really appreciate what you are doing. We really are protecting the planet. Thank you for helping the people who don't have as much money or food. You are kind to give up your time, fuel, and money to collect the food.”



## YEAR 4

This week, George is the star of the week in Year 4. We have been writing our persuasive speeches and George made a very good argument to persuade me that we should ban football free days. He was able to use persuasive techniques such as the power of 3, when he said that he would get 'stronger, fitter and better.' He also presented it clearly in front of the class. Well done George!



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## SPORTS STAR

This week Cece is the star of the week. Mrs Whitaker may have only taught her once this week but that's all it took for her to stand out!

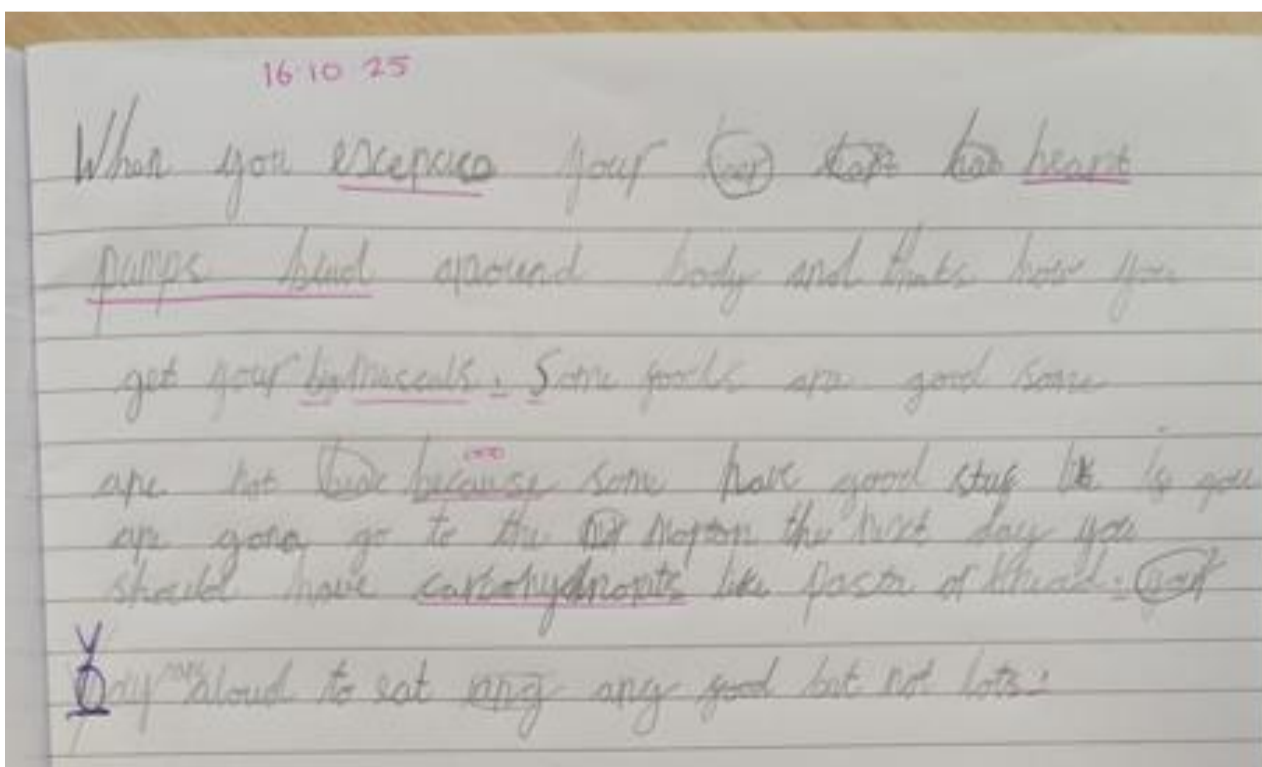
She has made huge progress this term in football and was able to put this in to practice with her dribbling and passing skills in Wednesday's lesson.

She can identify the difference between skills and techniques and is always willing to work with anyone in her class.

Well done Cece, Mrs Whitaker is super proud of you.

## SCIENCE STAR

This week, Harry has shone in Science by demonstrating his understanding of a healthy diet. He wrote a range of interesting facts about exercise and food, showing that he understands which foods fuel our bodies and keep us healthy.



Well done, Harry!

A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to Mrs. Whitaker celebrating  
her special day this week!

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

# AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT

## PSQM

We delighted to share that we have successfully achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark, a fantastic recognition of the hard work, innovation, and dedication shown across our Federation.

A special thank you and huge congratulations to Mrs Porter, who has worked tirelessly on this project. Her dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm have been instrumental in achieving this milestone. It has been truly inspiring to witness the passion and commitment she has brought to leading this work.

Thank you also to Mrs Makewell, who was at the forefront of trialling and implementing many of the new and exciting science initiatives across the last academic year, and continues to do so this year.

Their efforts in shaping how science is delivered across the Federation are having a fantastic impact.



PSQM Press Release October 2025

### School Awarded Primary Science Quality Mark

Barley & Barkway Federation First Schools is proud to announce that it is one of 310 schools that has been awarded the **Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM)** this month, a nationally recognised accreditation that celebrates a commitment to developing excellence in science leadership, curriculum design, teaching and learning.

Led by the University of Hertfordshire, for over a decade the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) has been setting children on a path to a life filled with exciting possibilities and opportunities, by giving them access to a strong foundation in quality primary science education. Over 5,800 Quality Marks have now been awarded, impacting on the learning of over 1,000,000 children.

PSQM is a comprehensive, year-long professional development programme that equips primary science subject leaders with the knowledge, capability and support needed to raise the quality and profile of science across the whole school. At the heart of the programme is a structured development cycle that embeds critical reflection and promotes a culture of continuous improvement.

Helen Sizer, PSQM Director said: 'By achieving The Primary Science Quality Mark, a school has shown commitment to raising the profile and quality of science education through the development of effective science leadership, visionary curriculum design and excellent teaching practice which is positively impacting on children's learning across the school. Such success is only possible through the collective effort of the whole school community, and all those involved should be incredibly proud of this achievement and the positive difference this is making to children's learning and understanding of the world around them.'

For more information, please contact:

PSQM@herts.ac.uk

# PSQM

Primary Science  
Quality Mark

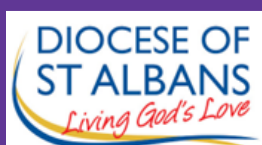
PSQM

Valid 2025 – 2028



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# SCHOOL COUNCIL

## RESULTS

We are delighted to announce the Barley Barkway Federation's School Council Representatives for this school year. We are so happy to see such a diverse range of children eager to take part in this important aspect of school life. They were very pleased to have been successful in their application and were very excited to receive their badges too! The school council representatives this year are as follows:

Year Group	School Council	Sports Council	Eco Council
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Louis</li> <li>● Theo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Henry</li> <li>● Vincent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lexi</li> <li>● Leo</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ellie-May</li> <li>● Maisie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Harry</li> <li>● Tobias</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ophelia</li> <li>● Tommy</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alice</li> <li>● Willow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jaxon</li> <li>● Jake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Isaac</li> <li>● Storm</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eliza</li> <li>● Annie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lorena</li> <li>● Stan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● George</li> <li>● Aria</li> </ul>



# A SPECIAL VISITOR

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION

Oak Class had a very exciting day today with a special visit from Firefighter Mr. Rawlings! The children were thrilled to welcome him and learn all about the important work firefighters do to keep us safe.

Mr. Rawlings began by showing the children his uniform and explaining why each part is important. The children listened carefully as he talked about fire safety, what to do if they hear a smoke alarm, and the emergency number to call 999. Mr. Rawlings answered lots of curious questions and helped the children understand how they can stay safe at home and at school.

We are so grateful to Mr. Rawlings for taking the time to visit Oak Class. It was a fun, inspiring, and educational morning that the children will remember for a long time - thank you!



# PSHE

## YEAR 1

In PSHE this week Apple Class enjoyed a lesson about Feelings and Bodies. The children discussed what they would do to deal with different types of hurt (physical and emotional).

The children all knew to tell an adult if they had a problem but we also saw some further problem solving thinking that showed really good reflection, resilience and understanding.

After an initial circle time the children broke away into focused groups discussing different scenarios and suggesting what they would do in those situations. Harold the Giraffe joined in too at the end to talk about how to cope with disappointment.



If I was last to be chosen for a team I wouldn't mind  
Leo

If someone did not want to be my friend. I would make a new friend.  
Benito

If someone didn't want to sit with me. I would sit with someone else.  
Finley

If someone is unkind I could ignore them and walk away  
Vincent

If someone is unkind you can say 'Stop I don't like it'  
Louis

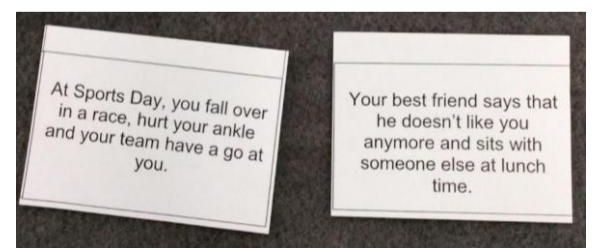
If I was upset I could tell the teachers  
Henry

That person (in the story) is hurting feelings  
Leo

If I hurt my hand I would put a plaster on it.  
Eleanor



I'm really enjoying this lesson  
Louis



# AUTHOR VISIT

## MARION ZIELENTINO

We have been so lucky at Barley and Barkway Federation to welcome the wonderful author Marion Zielentino for a very special visit! Marion shared one of her beautiful stories, Billy Bunny and the Woodpecker Nest, and truly brought it to life for the children.

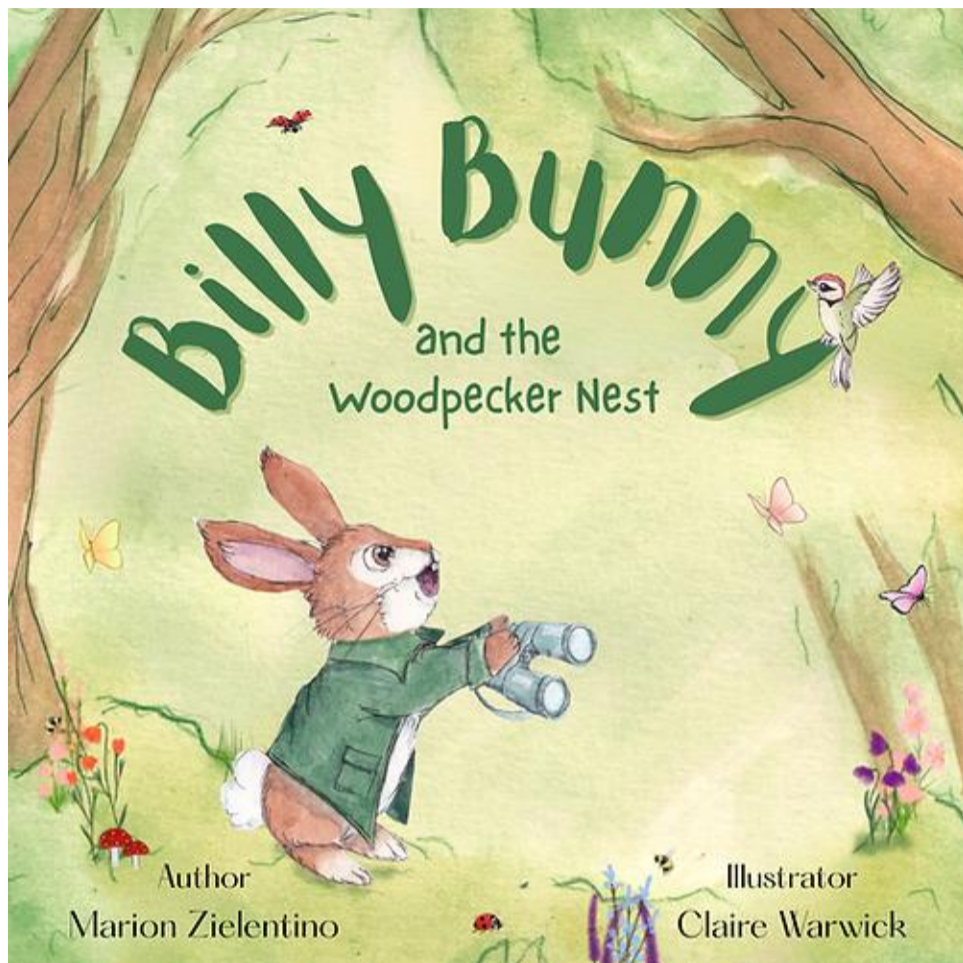
The children were absolutely captivated as Marion, who also leads Story Meadow, read her story with such enthusiasm and creativity. Using wonderful props, expressive voices, and thoughtful questioning, she engaged every child and sparked their imaginations.

After her reading, Marion kindly stayed outside at home time to sign copies of her new book for children who wished to purchase one, a lovely way to round off a magical storytelling session!

Marion will also be visiting our Barley children to share her story, and we just know they will love it every bit as much as the children at Barkway did.

We also discovered that Marion has all of her wonderful stories available on her Story Meadow podcast on Spotify, which is free to listen to, with more than 50 stories to enjoy! What a fantastic resource for families to enjoy at home.

A huge thank you to Marion for inspiring our young readers and writers, we hope she'll come back and see us again soon!



# POEMS IN THE STYLE OF KIT WRIGHT

## YEAR 3

Year 3 innovated their own poems in the style of the poet Kit Wright. They crafted magic boxes and wrote poems using similes and alliteration. Their boxes contained "blue brains" "cats with emerald eyes" and their boxes "were as deep as the ocean".



# TASTE- TESTING

## YEAR 4

In year 4 this week, they have been learning about sandwiches and thinking about the ingredients that go into sandwiches.

We looked at some ready made sandwiches and learnt about the traffic light system to tell how healthy they are.

Year 4 tasted these sandwiches and also tried lots of different ingredients ready to design and make our own healthy sandwiches.

