

NEWSLETTER

Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

Faith Curiosity Wellbeing Confidence

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start to the week it has been! I was delighted to be invited to join Year 3 for a very special lunch featuring their own homemade pasta sauce, complete with nine hidden vegetables! The children had prepared this delicious dish during their D&T day, and it was absolutely fantastic.

We were extremely lucky to be joined by John, the chef from Margaret House, who kindly supported the children with a cooking workshop and shared his wealth of knowledge. The children learnt how to wash, chop and grate vegetables safely, such valuable life skills! A huge thank you also to John and Lea-Ann, who came back later to join us in tasting the children's wonderful creations. It really was a treat!

Later in the week, I had the pleasure of spending time with Year 2, who were busy crafting autumn poems using expanded noun phrases, tricky stuff indeed! The children rose to the challenge beautifully and completely blew me away with their creativity and language. They proudly came to read their poems to me, and I was so impressed with their thoughtful and descriptive writing. Well done, Hazel Class!

Over in EYFS, I was greeted by a hive of activity outside, full of engaged and enthusiastic learners. I particularly loved watching Mabel in the outdoor food market role play area. When Rowan came to buy his food, Mabel asked, "What is your email address, please?" Rowan confidently replied, "Rowan Cleret, Barley," and Mabel proceeded to use her early writing skills to mark make a receipt! Such wonderful, imaginative play, well done, Mabel and Rowan!

At Barley and Barkway Federation, we truly never miss an opportunity to learn! On Tuesday, we were very excited to welcome the Royston Fire Service, who visited to carry out our fire safety checks. The children and staff were treated to a fascinating look at the fire engine, learning about all the secret compartments and the important work of our local firefighters. A huge thank you to the Royston Fire Department for making it such a memorable visit.

Thank you also to Miss Preston and Mrs Gould for leading our Year 1 Little Wandle Phonics meeting on Tuesday, and to all the parents and carers who came along. It was a great success, and we hope you found it informative and supportive. We will be continuing to run more parent workshops after half term, and I will be sending out a survey so that you can share which areas of our curriculum you would like more information or support with, please do look out for this. Your feedback is always so valuable to us.

This week also saw our Parents' Evenings, and it was lovely to see so many of you attending. Our teachers thoroughly enjoyed catching up with you and sharing your child's learning journey so far this year. It was especially heart-warming to see the children proudly showing you their books and talking about their learning. While these evenings are our formal consultation opportunities, please remember that our teachers' doors, and mine, are always open should you ever wish to discuss anything further.

As we come to the end of this first half term, I would like to take a moment to thank every one of you for your continued support, engagement and positivity. It has been such a fantastic start to the academic year, full of learning, laughter, and exciting experiences.

Upcoming Festive Events

As we look ahead to the next half term, we are already feeling the excitement of the festive season approaching!

Barley Christmas Market - Thursday 14th November, 3:00-7:00pm

If you are able to offer any help with this event, even for just half an hour, we would be so grateful. Please contact Kelly Whitaker if you're able to lend a hand. Your support really does make all the difference in bringing these lovely community events to life.

Barkway Moonlight Market - Friday 22nd November, 4:00-7:00pm

Our children have been invited to sing in the church at 4:30pm during the market. A letter will be sent out after half term with more details, but in the meantime, please do let your child's class teacher know if they would like to take part. This is always such a magical and memorable experience for our children, and a wonderful opportunity for them to be part of our local church and community celebrations.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first half term as Acting Headteacher of our Federation. I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a warm, welcoming, and dedicated community. My heartfelt thanks go to our wonderful children, parents, staff, governors, the Diocese, and our local communities for your support and encouragement.

I wish you all a wonderful, restful half term, and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 3rd November for another exciting half term of learning!

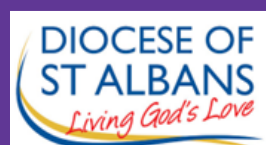
Miss Mière
Acting Headteacher

"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



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

Monday 27th - Half term begins

Friday 31st - Half term ends

November

Tuesday 4th - BBF Reception to Year 4 Flu Immunisations

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 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

Thursday 11th - BBF Christmas Lunch

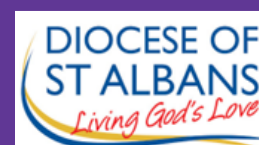
Friday 12th - BBF Trip to Pantomime (9.00am until 12.30)

Friday 19th - End of Term (EYFS & Year 1 finish at 12.30pm, Years 2, 3 & 4 finish at 12.45pm)



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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

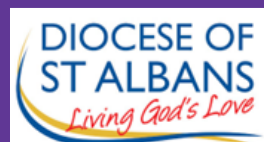
www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/
www.barkwaypreschool.co.uk/home.html

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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 shining star in Nursery. We are so proud of how hard she has been working during our Little Wandle Rhyme Time sessions. Hallie has shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm when learning new rhymes, and she always listens carefully and joins in with a big smile on her face. Her confidence is growing every day – whether it's clapping along to the rhythm, joining in with the actions, or having a go at the sounds and words, Hallie gives it her all. Well done, Hallie!! You are becoming a real Rhyme Time Superstar.



RECEPTION

This week's Star of the Week goes to a brilliant reader in Oak class, Elsie. She has been working so hard to hear the sounds in words and blend them together. At the start of the term, this was something she found really tricky – but she didn't give up. With lots of determination and practice, she's had a reading breakthrough and can now blend sounds to read whole words on her own! We are so proud of her amazing progress and can't wait to see what she reads next. Well done, superstar!

YEAR 1

This week our shining star is Benito! Benito has been trying hard to form his letters and numbers correctly and takes care when he writes. Benito also did some wonderful 'maths talk' in maths fluency this week. When shown 2 dice showing 5 he remembered the speaking frame and without needing any prompting said - 10 is made of 5 and 5. Double 5 is 10". Well done Benito!



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YEAR 2

This week Reggie is the star of the week for his excellent work in poetry! Reggie has been working so hard on developing his writing skills and I am so proud of the improvements he has made this half term. Reggie has worked so hard on his poems and is making sure that his ideas fit the theme. Reggie has also been really confident at reading his poems to the class. Well done Reggie - I am sooo proud of you!!



YEAR 3

This week, Jaxon is our Star of the Week for his fantastic work in History! We've begun learning about the Stone Age, and Jaxon created a wonderful Stone Age setting that showed an excellent understanding of what life was like during that time. Well done, Jaxon!

YEAR 4

This week, Lorena is the star of the week in Year 4. I have been really impressed with Lorena's positive attitude towards her work and her learning. She is focused on her work and not distracted by others. She listens carefully to instructions and has lovely neat work in her books. Well done Lorena.



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SPORTS STAR

Well done to Mabel this week for her determination to put all the techniques and skills that she has learnt this half term in to practice!

She comes to all lessons ready to learn and really tries hard at all the activities and drills.

She continues to make progress and has fun doing this. Well done Mabel.

This week Annie in Year 4 is our science star.

SCIENCE STAR

Throughout this half term Annie has shown great skills, she has been a thoughtful scientist asking excellent questions to find out more about our topics, and always joining in with class discussions.

Well done Annie.



ART STAR

This week everyone at Barley School is an art star. We have all been working on secret project which I know will amaze our special people.

Well done everyone!



This week our Oracy star of the week is Tommy. Tommy has been working on developing his confidence in reading to the class. This week Tommy stood up and read an extract from the book “The three little wolves and the big bad pig.” He was able to change his voice for the characters and make sure that it sounded really interesting and exciting for the listener whilst he was reading. Great job Tommy - I am so proud of how far you have come this half term!

ORACY STAR



A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
to Albie, Stan-Junior and
Lorena celebrating their
special day this week &
during half term!

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

DIWALI

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

This week, Oak class have been learning all about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light! The classroom has been full of colour, creativity, and excitement as we explored the story of Rama and Sita and made our own beautiful rangoli patterns.

The children enjoyed creating and decorating their own diyas (small lamps), which are proudly displayed in our classroom. We also had fun dancing to traditional Indian music!

Celebrating Diwali has given the children a wonderful opportunity to learn about different cultures, traditions, and ways of celebrating. It's been a joyful and enriching experience for all.

Happy Diwali from EYFS!



'Our Five Senses'

YEAR 1

This term Apple class have been learning all about 'Our Five Senses'. Each week we have been learning about a different sense and the children have really enjoyed taking part in investigations. They have been able to have a go at making predictions and then testing to see if they were right. The children particularly enjoyed taking part in 'The smell Test'. Children had a go at smelling different covered pots and seeing if they could work out what was in it. They then recorded their answers on a table. We then revealed the answers and children reflected on whether they had got it right.



Fruity Fun!

YEAR 2

On Thursday, Hazel Class worked hard to develop their chopping skills in a fun and fruity lesson! The children learned about where some of their favourite fruits come from and explored which fruits grow here in the UK. After designing their own fruit salad, they practised using the claw and bridge grips to safely chop their fruit. The activity ended with everyone sitting together on the carpet to enjoy their delicious (and rather enormous!) fruit salads.



STONE AGE

YEAR 3

In year 3 we began learning about the Stone Age in history. We learnt how Stone Age people survived and created Stone Age settings which included a cave to live in, a water source and land to hunt animals or farm.



Pen Licence Awards

YEAR 4

The first pen licences of the year were handed out today to Eliza, Reign and George. They showed that they can use joined up writing throughout their work, not just in their English books. Well done!

