

# NEWSLETTER

## Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

Faith      Curiosity      Wellbeing      Confidence

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of our Autumn 2 half term. It has been so lovely to have all of the children back for a busy week of learning. The classrooms have been full of energy, curiosity and enthusiasm as everyone has settled straight back into school life.

This week, children at both schools have been busy painting beautiful poppies in their art lessons with Mrs Makewell. This forms part of our reflection on those who were involved in the great wars of the past, as well as those who continue to serve around the world today. On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November, Reverend Mark has prepared a special collective worship for us, giving us the opportunity to focus our thoughts on those from around the world who have given their lives in conflict.

I had a lovely time joining Hazel Class for their yoga session with Jane on Thursday. I was so impressed with how focused the children were and how well they knew the structure of the session. Their singing was beautiful as they moved through each pose, and I especially enjoyed the creative use of coloured scarves. The children's imagination was wonderful, transforming their scarves into swans, roses and rivers. Well done Year 2, and thank you for letting me join your yoga session.

I have also been so impressed and proud of all of the children for their amazing PE changing skills this week. It has been our first time changing for PE at school, and everyone from Nursery to Year 4 showed such resilience and perseverance. Well done to you all.

It was also a pleasure to visit Beech Class, where Hazel Class had joined them for a wonderful buzz of reading. Everyone was fully engaged, enjoying reading for pleasure and sharing stories with our special school adults.

Reception have had an exciting week preparing for their special Pumpkin Patch visit with their grown ups. There has been some fantastic mark making, with children writing invitations, creating signs and decorating their pumpkins. The creativity and excitement have been a joy to see.

We were very proud to show off our wonderful Federation to prospective families during our successful joint open day with Barkway preschool on Wednesday. It was lovely to welcome so many visitors and share all the fantastic things that happen across our Federation.

A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Whitaker for saving our tag rugby event by so kindly offering to host it at Barley for Years 2, 3 and 4, after our inter-school event was unfortunately cancelled. Your support means so much and ensures our children still get to enjoy this valuable experience.

A friendly reminder that Margaret House will be holding a tasting session of proposed new lunch items in Barley School Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Parents, children, staff and governors are all warmly invited to come along, sample the items and share feedback.

Anti-Bullying Week will take place from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. On Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, we will take part in Odd Socks Day to celebrate individuality and raise awareness of the values we uphold across Barley and Barkway Federation. All your child needs to do is wear odd socks that day – a fun and simple way to show that everyone is unique and special.

Finally, a reminder that Children in Need Day will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. A letter will follow shortly with more details about how we will be supporting this special day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It makes such a difference to all that we do. I am so proud of our children and the wonderful start they have made to this half term.

We wish everyone a very happy weekend.

Miss Mière  
Federation Headteacher



### Dates for your diary

#### November

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> - Barley Christmas Market

Winter Fete (3.00pm until 7.30pm)

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Moonlight Market at

Barkway Church - children's choir at

4:30pm in the church (4.00pm until 7.00pm)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 Football Festival at St Edmunds Prep School (9.00am until 12.30pm)

#### December

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> - Occasional Day (Schools closed)

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - School Nurse - Reception Height, Weight, Vision & Hearing Screening

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - BBF Christmas Lunch

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> - BBF Trip to Pantomime at BEAM Hertford (9.00am until 12.30)

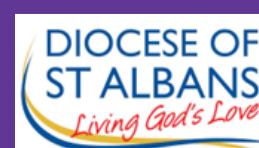
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - End of Term (EYFS & Year 1 finish at 12.30pm, Years 2, 3 & 4 finish at 12.45pm)

“Living Life in All Its Fullness” –John 10



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# JOINT OPEN DAY

On Wednesday we held our first ever joint open day with Barkway Preschool.

A big thank you to all the children for representing our school values so well whilst we had so many visitors, and to the all the staff that took part in making our joint open day a success.

A special thank you is also in hand to Barkway Preschool for collaborating with our Federation.

If you did miss our joint open day event then please get in contact with either of us using the information on the posters.

**BARLEY & BARKWAY FEDERATION  
FIRST SCHOOLS**

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- BBF Ofsted 2023

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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 out shining star in Nursery. She always comes into school with a positive attitude. Grace was very curious during our Autumn activity. She carefully picked up a bright orange pumpkin and began to wash it with water and a soft brush. She made sure to clean every part of the pumpkin, rubbing gently around the stem and sides. Grace took her time and showed excellent concentration, making sure the pumpkin was sparkling clean!

Well done Grace!



## RECEPTION

This week's shining star is Mabel. She always tries hard with all of her learning. She worked really hard this week to sound out words for her 'Pumpkin Patch' invitation to take home.

She worked hard to sound out the words 'Mum' and 'Dad' as well as the very tricky word 'Pumpkin!' She used her alphabet mat to help her to correctly form her letters.

Excellent work Mabel- keep up the great work!

## YEAR 1

This week our shining star is Lexi. I was so impressed with Lexi's Maths learning this week. This week we have been solving word problems using the part whole model. Lexi used her fingers and counters to work out the missing part. Lexi tried so hard all Maths lesson and was really proud of herself!

Well done Lexi!



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## YEAR 2

This week, Tobias is our Star of the Week for his fantastic presentation in Maths! Mrs Porter has really enjoyed setting Tobias new challenges. He takes each one on board and always tries his very best.

Well done!

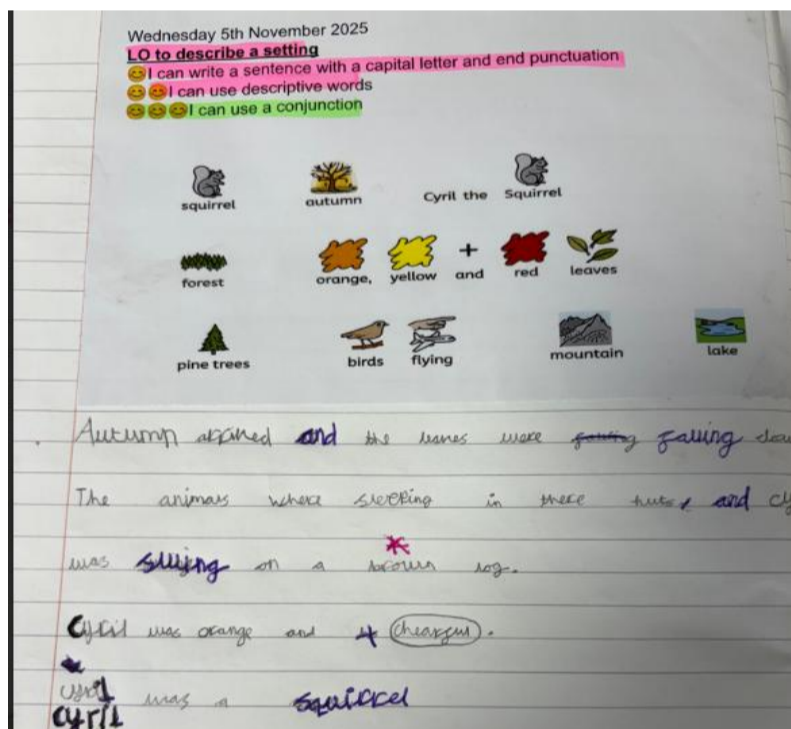


## YEAR 3

Storm is our Star of the Week for her wonderful descriptive writing in English! She showed fantastic Year 3 writing skills by using her purple polisher to edit and improve her work during the writing process.

Here's her lovely piece of writing:  
"Autumn arrived and the leaves were falling down. The animals were sleeping and Cyril was swinging on a brown log. Cyril was orange and cheerful. Cyril was a squirrel."  
Storm's descriptive language and careful editing show just how much her writing skills are growing.

Well done, Storm!



## YEAR 4

This week, Cali is the star of the week for her excellent work at the community gardens. Year 4 go to the community gardens every month and Cali did a fantastic job on Thursday, cleaning out the school bed and pulling out the old courgette plants.

Well done Cali!



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## SPORTS STAR

Harry is the star of the week in PE!

His performance within both basketball and hockey really impressed me!

He took on the techniques and skills taught in both lessons and really showed understanding of them in both with his answers and demonstrations. He is really enthusiastic about learning new sports. Keep up the hard work Harry.



## SCIENCE STAR

Super Scientists in Year 2!

Year 2 have been superstars this week in Science! They were so excited to tell Mrs Porter all about their lesson with Mrs Makewell.

Their oracy skills are really improving, along with their clear scientific explanations. The children have started a new unit on Materials and could explain why pencils could not be made of glass!

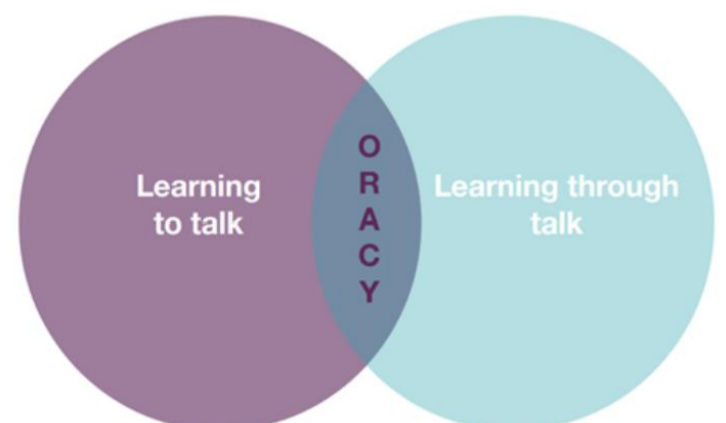
They also made fantastic links to their previous learning. Well done, Hazel Class, you've shown so many brilliant scientific skills this week!

This week our Oracy Star of the Week is Jake in Beech Class!

We have been focusing on writing descriptively, and Mrs Porter was super proud of Jake during the rereading process.

By reading his work aloud, Jake noticed that two of his sentences were very similar. He made a brilliant improvement all by himself!

Super work, Jake, for using your voice to hear what changes you wanted to make and for showing amazing editing skills.



A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to Reign, Mrs Bagnall, Miss  
Grint and Miss Horton  
celebrating their special day  
this week and during half-  
term!

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

# SCIENTISTS

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION

This week, our EYFS children became little scientists as they explored what happens when bicarbonate of soda and vinegar are mixed together inside a pumpkin!

The children made predictions about what they thought might happen, then watched in excitement as the pumpkin began to bubble, fizz, and overflow with colourful foam.

Together, we talked about what we could see, hear, and smell, using lots of lovely descriptive language.

Through this fun, messy experiment, the children learned about cause and effect, simple chemical reactions, and the joy of curiosity and discovery.

It was a fantastic hands-on way to explore science — and there were plenty of smiles (and a few gasps!) as our pumpkins “exploded”!



# PUMPKIN PATCH

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION

We would like to say a massive thank you to Hatters Farm who donated 15 pumpkins to our EYFS class so that they could make their own pumpkin patch in their outside area. Last Thursday the children in Oak class invited their parents and carers to their very own Oak Pumpkin Patch. The children made some great signs that were on display and the children busily washed and decorated their own pumpkins ready to be sold on the day. Thank you to the parents and carers who visited and bought our pumpkins and chocolate apples. I know the children really enjoyed the event! Thank you for your continued support.



# POPPY PAINTING

## YEAR 1

Apple class enjoyed a special art lesson this week painting poppies. The poppies will be cut out and placed on a special wreath ready for Remembrance Day next week. Mrs Makewell talked about the shape of the poppy and how to create the seeds in the middle. A big well done to Leo who remembered the name of the 'dotty' technique - stippling!

The children enjoyed painting their poppies and we saw some beautiful colour mixing too making some lovely orangey tones! Hunter impressed us with a 'mixed media' poppy using both chalks and paint. Great work everyone!

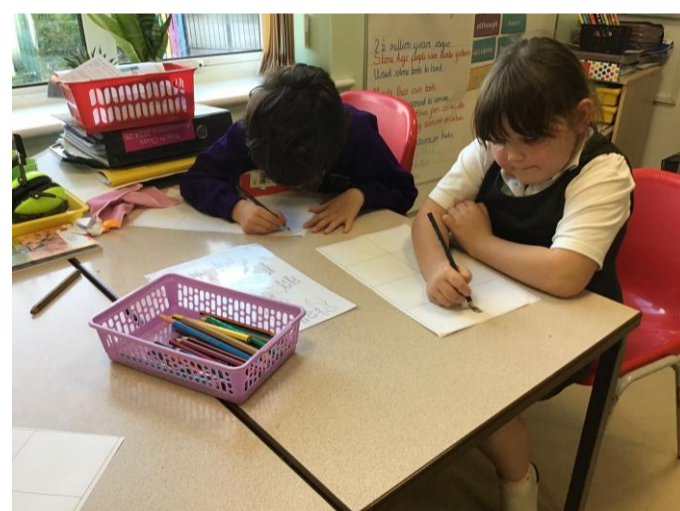
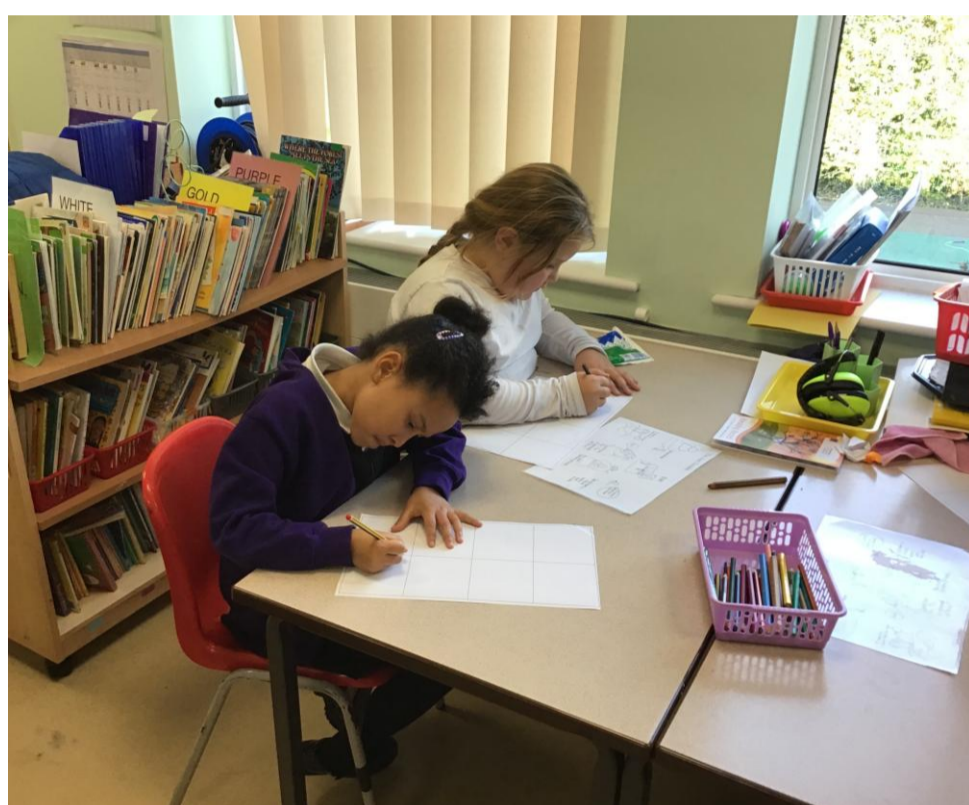


# ILLUSTRATORS

## YEAR 2 & 3

After orally retelling the story with Mrs Porter, Years 2 and 3 used a storyboard to bring the story "The Lion Inside" to life.

Great collaboration, years 2 and 3!



# COMMUNITY GARDENS

## YEAR 4

Year 4 had a lovely time at the community gardens. We checked on our sunflower seedlings which have all started growing, planted sweet peas, harvested courgettes and cleared the school beds for the carrots and radishes to have room to grow. We love going to the community gardens. Anyone is welcome to go to the community gardens at any time so you can always go at the weekend or in the holidays.

