

NEWSLETTER

Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

Faith Curiosity Wellbeing Confidence

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredibly exciting week it has been for both our Federation and Margaret House! We were absolutely thrilled to be invited to Margaret House to work with the BBC Look East team, who were filming a special feature all about our wonderful Intergenerational Project with the residents and our children.

A huge thank you to Margaret House for allowing us to be part of such a special experience and for sharing these lovely moments with your residents. A big well done to the children involved for representing our Federation so proudly – you were fantastic!

Thank you also to our wonderful parents, Ms Goad and Mrs Ells, who gave their time and support to take part in the filming and were interviewed for the piece. A very special thank you to Mrs Makewell for her amazing artistic creation and the activities she planned and delivered with the children and residents. And, of course, thank you to Mrs Porter, whose enthusiasm and passion for our special relationship with Margaret House shines through in everything she does. We can't wait to see the finished piece on BBC Look East next week, we'll let you all know the exact day and time once it's confirmed.

Our brilliant partnership with Margaret House continued this week with a super successful tasting session at Barley School on Wednesday afternoon. Thank you to everyone who came along to sample some of the delicious meals that John and the team will be cooking for us from January. It was a fantastic turnout, and we're delighted that the food received such glowing reviews, a big "yes" from everyone, staff included!

This week has also been Anti-Bullying Week, and we started off by celebrating Odd Socks Day to shine a light on our individuality and the importance of being unique. Mrs Gould led a lovely assembly for the Federation, and Reverend Mark delivered a very poignant and thought-provoking Collective Worship for Remembrance Day. He used physical objects to help explain the meaning of conflict, the significance of the poppy, and how these ideas can relate to situations in school, thank you, Reverend Mark, for such a meaningful session.

Year 4 visited the war memorial in Barley, where they were praised for their exceptionally respectful behaviour. They then rang the school bell 11 times on their return, thank you, Year 4, for such a moving tribute.

Year 2 were very lucky to take part in a fantastic workshop with Cas Sanders all about the Great Fire of London. Meanwhile, Oak and Apple Class created some beautiful printed poppies using potatoes and added pastel and painted detail to make a stunning poppy field display in their classroom.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need activities by dressing in comfy clothes, entering the Guess Pudsey Bear's Favourite Ice Cream competition, and donating to this very special charity.

A little reminder that the Barley Winter Fete is this afternoon, 3–7pm at Barley Church. FOBBS will be there selling sweet cones, with all proceeds going back into our Federation to support our children's learning and experiences. Please do come along if you can, we'd love to see you there!

Looking ahead, the Barkway Moonlight Market takes place on Friday 22nd November, 4–7pm at Barkway Church. Our children will be singing in the church at 4:30pm, so please let your class teacher know if your child would like to join us.

Finally, our Christmas Service/Nativity will be held at Barkway Church on Thursday 18th December at 9am. More details will follow soon, but as always, everyone is warmly welcome.

Thank you all for your continued support, it really does make all the difference. here

Miss Mière
Acting Headteacher



Dates for your diary

November

Friday 14th - Barley Christmas Market/Winter Fete (3.00pm until 7.30pm)

Saturday 22nd - Moonlight Market at Barkway Church - children's choir at 4:30pm in the church - everyone is welcome. (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)

Sunday 7th - Barkway Christmas Tree from 3-4.30pm

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 at BEAM Hertford (9.00am until 12.30)

Thursday 18th - Christmas Service/Nativity at Barkway Church (9.00am to 9.40/10.00am)

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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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 shining star of the week. He worked so hard in our Maths session learning about the colour green. He used full sentences and the word because to explain why an object was the odd one out in a group. He also worked hard to identify different shades of green and could describe them using the words 'light' and 'dark'. He showed great listening and concentrating skills!

Great work Albie!



RECEPTION

This week's Star of the Week goes to Mia. Mia is a fantastic learner and always tries hard to follow all of our school rules. She is an excellent role model to all of her friends. Mia has worked really hard this week to sound out words in her Drawing Club session. She sounded out words carefully and wrote the sounds she could hear to spell the words 'bear' and 'light'. We are particularly impressed with her ever improving letter formation which she is working so hard on.

Keep up the excellent work Mia!

YEAR 1

This week our shining star is Hunter! We are so proud of Hunter for pushing himself out of his comfort zone and overcoming challenges. Hunter did not like working with paint before, but he has begun to experiment with painting in recent art classes. His willingness to have a try with painting has produced some beautiful results!

Well done Hunter!



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YEAR 2

This week, Tommy has shown fantastic positive learning behaviours this week and demonstrated growing independence in his learning. He was an absolute superstar in maths, becoming a super subtractor! Tommy confidently used different methods to prove his answers to Mrs Makewell.

Well done, Tommy. Keep up the amazing work!



YEAR 3

This week, Alice is the Star of the Week in Beech Class! She is becoming a wonderful story writer. After borrowing a book from the class library to take home, she was inspired to write her own story for Mrs Porter. Alice then confidently read her story aloud to the whole class.

You are inspiring the whole class to write stories Alice, well done.

YEAR 4

This week, Cece is the star of the week in Year 4. In their French lesson, Cece did an excellent piece of writing about the weather in different seasons. Her presentation was excellent, with all her handwriting joined even though she was writing in a different language.

Well done Cece for maintaining your high standards across all your work!



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SPORTS STAR

This week Tobias is the PE STAR!!!! He stood out not only for his good demonstrations of the skills we are learning within basketball but mostly for his understanding and knowledge of the rules, which he confidently shared with his class. Can not wait to see him development within this sport further and how he can transfer these skills into other sports!

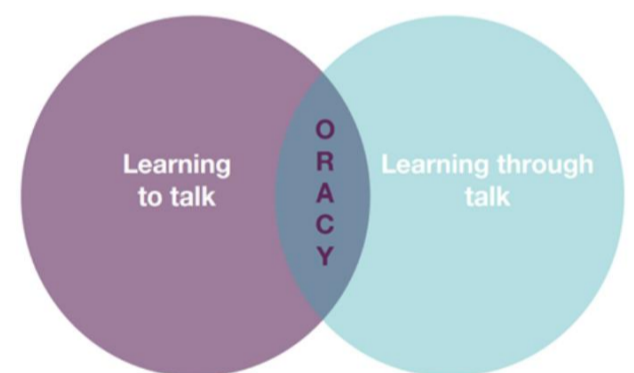


SCIENCE STAR

This week our Science star is Isabel for showing fantastic observation skills during our exploding pumpkin experiment! She watched carefully as we mixed the bicarbonate of soda and vinegar, noticing the bubbles, fizz and foam as the pumpkin started to explode! Isabel used great science thinking to talk about what was happening. Well done Isabel!

ORACY STAR

This week our Oracy star of the week is George in Year 4. We have been working on explaining our reasoning in maths and George is always keen to say how he knows something. We have been specifically looking at explaining how we know facts in the 12 times table, linking it to the ten times table. George was able to explain how we know that 6×12 is $6 \times 10 + 6 \times 2$. Well done George!



ART STAR

This week Reggie in Hazel Class is art star of the week.

We had lots of fun this week thinking about remembrance day and printing poppies. Reggie did an amazing job making repeated poppy prints and then carefully finishing them with black paint. Well done Reggie.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This week, we have been taking part in Anti-Bullying Week, joining schools across the country to celebrate kindness, respect, and inclusion.

We began the week with Odd Socks Day on Monday, when children and staff wore brightly coloured, mismatched socks to remind us that we are all different, and that's what makes us special. It was a joyful and visible way to celebrate individuality and to show that at Barley and Barkway Federation we respect everyone, regardless of our differences.

Mrs Gould led a whole-school assembly to help children understand the difference between bullying, teasing (or banter), and unkindness. Well done George (Sycamore) who knew that bullying happens 'over and over again to the same person' Together, we discussed how true bullying is actually quite rare so it is important to use the word carefully and correctly. Mrs Gould reminded everyone that we can follow our school's *Steps to Solving Problems With Others* to solve small problems and unkindness before they can even turn into bullying. Well done Louis (Apple) who remembered Step 3 - 'We can walk away and play with someone else'.

This year's national theme is "Power for Good", and Mrs Gould spoke about how we each have the power to make others feel happy and valued—but also the responsibility to make sure our words and actions never make others feel hurt or left out.

We also shared the Royston Anti-Bullying Charter, which last year's School Council helped to create. This charter shows our commitment to stand together with other schools in Royston against bullying and to promote respect, kindness, and inclusion for all.

The children also explored an acrostic for the word POWER, to help us remember how to use our power in positive ways:

P – Play kindly with everyone

O – Offer help to friends in need

W – Welcome others to join our games

E – Encourage people with kind words

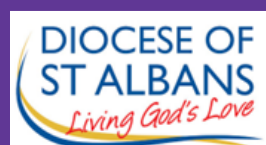
R – Respect everyone, no matter what

We will continue to promote the values of Anti-Bullying week all through the year and will encourage our children to show kindness, respect, and inclusion every day. Let's use our Power for Good!



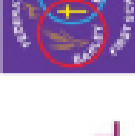
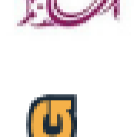
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ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

AUTUMN TERM
14th November 2025



ROYSTON ANTI-BULLYING CHARTER



How we define bullying

- Bullying is the repetitive hurting of another person/ group on purpose.
- Bullying involves one person or group having more power than the other.
- The 4 types of bullying are physical, spoken, online, and emotional.
- Bullying is not accidental E.g. bumping into someone while playing sport.
- Banter can be bullying. A person may be smiling on the outside but feeling hurt inside.

What we believe

- Accept everyone
- Everyone is different. Treat everyone with kindness
- Support each other
- Diversity is important
- Respect will be recognised and acknowledged, unkindness will have consequences
- Bullying breaks trust

How we celebrate our differences

- Put yourself in their situation
- Make an effort to understand everyone's differences
- Focus on your similarities, not differences
- Include everyone, don't leave anyone out
- Let people be themselves

How we report bullying

- Ensure students know how to report and are happy and supported to do this
- Have a group of older students that students know and trust to help
- Have different methods to help students report to staff
- Have a clear process that all understand

What actions we take as schools

- Talk to everyone involved individually
- Learn and teach about bullying: what, how, why, who where
- Teach pupils to know what to do
- Raise awareness
- Inform pupils of the consequences if they repeatedly bully others
- Have trusted people e.g. teachers, parents, friends, family

How we support pupils

- PSHE lessons: establish what bullying is, how to deal with conflict and respect one another
- Buddy System: buddy bench/ time to talk box, playground leaders, trusted adults, friends, teachers
- Designated safe space: space for relaxing, calming down, mindfulness, emotion tracker (colour represents on feeling), help prevent bullying

How pupils support each other

- Comfort each other (ask are you ok?)
- Tell a trusted adult
- Invite the victim to join in, or would they like to be alone?
- Tell an older year buddy

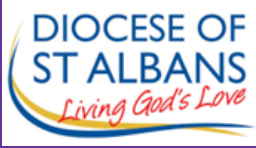
What we do to prevent bullying

- Ensure people know the difference between bullying, and not bullying. Make sure the victims are aware they are being bullied
- Have members of staff you trust and can talk to that will work to try and stop the problem
- Educate pupils on anti-bullying e.g. PSHE, form time, activities



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REMEMBRANCE DAY

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

This week, our EYFS children have been learning all about Remembrance Day – exploring the importance of remembering and showing respect for others in age-appropriate and creative ways. Through a range of hands-on activities, the children have been developing their understanding of this special day while also strengthening key early learning skills.

The children have loved engaging in fine motor challenges, such as picking out pom-pom poppies using tweezers – a great way to build hand-eye coordination and strengthen finger muscles ready for early writing. They also created beautiful finger-painted poppies, experimenting with colour and texture while expressing their creativity.

In our maths area, the children enjoyed counting out the correct number of pegs to match numbered poppies, supporting their number recognition and one-to-one correspondence skills. This fun, tactile activity encouraged careful counting and problem-solving.

We also explored the process of making clay poppies, allowing the children to roll, shape, and press the clay before adding vibrant red paint once dry. This helped develop both fine motor control and perseverance as they worked through each step.



FOREST SCHOOL

RECEPTION AND YEAR 1

Reception and Year 1 had a fantastic time at Forest School this week. We looked for signs of Autumn and the children had a go at making Autumn crowns using leaves they have found. They had lots of fun building a pretend campfire and making delicious mud and leaf pies for everyone! The children loved balancing on the slack line, making their own house out of branches and playing in the Autumn leaves. It was a lovely afternoon for everyone!



BBC LOOK EAST

YEAR 3 & 4

This week, some children from Years 3 and 4 took part in a BBC Look East Intergenerational Project at Margaret House. The activities we did there were filmed and some of our children and staff were interviewed for an upcoming news piece. A huge thank you to Mrs Makewell for organising the art project. Our buddies and the children really enjoyed it!



TIMES TABLES

YEAR 4

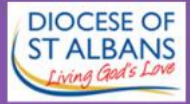
Year 4 have been working really hard on their times tables and have been practising their 6 times tables facts this half term. George and Eliza were both very pleased as they both managed to answer 40 questions in less than 2 minutes. We complete 40 questions most days and aim to improve our score each day. How many can you do in 2 minutes?

7		
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$6 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$	$8 \times 6 = \underline{\quad}$	$6 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$
$54 \div 6 = \underline{\quad}$	$6 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$	$48 \div 6 = \underline{\quad}$
$8 \times 6 = \underline{\quad}$	$54 \div 9 = \underline{\quad}$	$6 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$
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Second part of 6 times table



**BARLEY & BARKWAY FEDERATION
FIRST SCHOOLS**



ENROLL NOW

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



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- ✓ Wrap-around care available
- ✓ Forest School Opportunities
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