

# NEWSLETTER

## Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

Faith      Curiosity      Wellbeing      Confidence

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy and exciting time here at Barley and Barkway Federation.

A huge thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Christmas Decorations Day at Barley. It was such a lovely, festive occasion, and we thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the children's special adults into school to support them. We hope you all enjoyed your time with us just as much as we did.

We have also enjoyed two wonderful class assemblies at Barkway. EYFS delighted us with their Winter Wonderland assembly and activities, and Year 1 impressed everyone with their assembly showcasing their history learning about The Gunpowder Plot. It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers attending both celebrations.

Across the federation, we have been busy rehearsing for our special Christmas Nativity Service at Barkway Church. A huge thank you to all of our wonderful BBF team who have worked tirelessly to put together the nativity: practising all of the songs, rehearsing at the church, and organising costumes. It was a truly wonderful Christmas celebration, and thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us. We hope you enjoyed it and that it helped you to get into the Christmas spirit.

There has been much excitement at Barley too, as our brand new climbing frame has now been completed. The children are very eager to put it to the test this week! A huge thank you to FOBBS and to Mrs Brown for their generous donation, which enabled us to purchase this wonderful new climbing frame for everyone to enjoy. Mrs Whitaker and Mrs Piper have played a key role in researching and organising the best climbing frame for Barley, always keeping the children at the heart of their decisions, thank you.

Last week we also enjoyed Christmas Jumper Day and our festive school lunch. It was lovely for all of the adults at both schools to come together with the children and share a special meal. Thank you for your generous donations to Save the Children; your contributions will be greatly appreciated by the charity.

To round last week off, we had a fantastic trip to the pantomime, where we all enjoyed a brilliant production of Beauty and the Beast. It was wonderful to experience this as a federation.

This week has been another full and festive one as we approach the final day of the autumn term on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Please note that Barkway children will finish at the earlier time of 12:30pm, and Barley children will finish at 12:45pm.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children, parents and carers, staff, governors, our churches, and our wider local community for making my first term as Headteacher so wonderful and truly rewarding. Thank you for all of your support and for everything that you do with and for your children, it really does mean a great deal and makes such a difference.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend as we continue our journey towards Christmas, and I hope you all have a restful, special, and joyful festive period.

Warmest wishes and a very happy Christmas,

Miss Mière  
Federation Headteacher



**Don't forget to check out our lovely Christmas advent window which was created by the children here at BBF. The advent window will be up until the New Year.**

### Dates for your diary

#### January

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Spring term begins

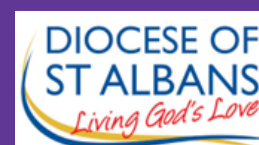


“Living Life in All Its Fullness” –John 10



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's Star of the Week is Hallie who did an amazing job sorting objects by size and colour in Nursery! She showed fantastic focus and listening skills, carefully looking at each item and thinking about where it belonged. She confidently sorted the objects into the correct groups, showing a great understanding of big and small as well as different colours. She worked independently and didn't give up, even when the task became a little tricky. Well done for trying your best and being such a superstar learner – we are all very proud of you!



## RECEPTION

This week's Star of the Week goes to Isabel who always tries hard in her learning! She shows great determination and enthusiasm during phonics sessions, where she challenges herself to write more words and sentences, using the sounds she knows with confidence. She also works incredibly hard during Drawing Club, carefully turning her ideas into pictures and then into writing. She is always keen to improve, takes pride in her work, and never gives up, even when writing feels tricky. Well done for your amazing effort and positive attitude to learning – you are a true writing superstar!

## YEAR 1

This week our shining star is Saffron for her brilliant efforts with phonics!

Saffron is remembering more sounds week on week and is working hard on blending her words!

Saffron listens well during our whole class phonics sessions and tries hard with the tasks she is set. Well done Saffron, we are very proud of you!



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## YEAR 2

This week, the star of the week is Tommy's Mum and brother, Mrs McCreath and Alex! Mrs McCreath came into Year 2 to teach the children about music and introduce them to the violin. She played the violin for the children and showed them how the violin makes sounds and how the bow works. She also introduced them to some Scottish music and Alex played them the tenor horn. It was a wonderful afternoon and we very much appreciate Mrs McCreath giving up her time to support our learning.



## YEAR 3

This week, the star of the week is Jake. Year 3 have been writing non-chronological reports about jobs that you could have. Jake had a fantastic idea of a thunderstorm remover which he wrote about. He thought about what they had to do, what they had to wear and skills they would need. He then published in using fantastic joined handwriting. Well done Jake!

## YEAR 4

This week, Stan is the star of the week in Year 4. Stan has been working really hard at his times tables facts which are a very important part of the Year 4 curriculum. Most days in Year 4, we practise 40 times tables questions in 2 minutes to see how many we can get and Stan got his highest score ever this week! Well done Stan!

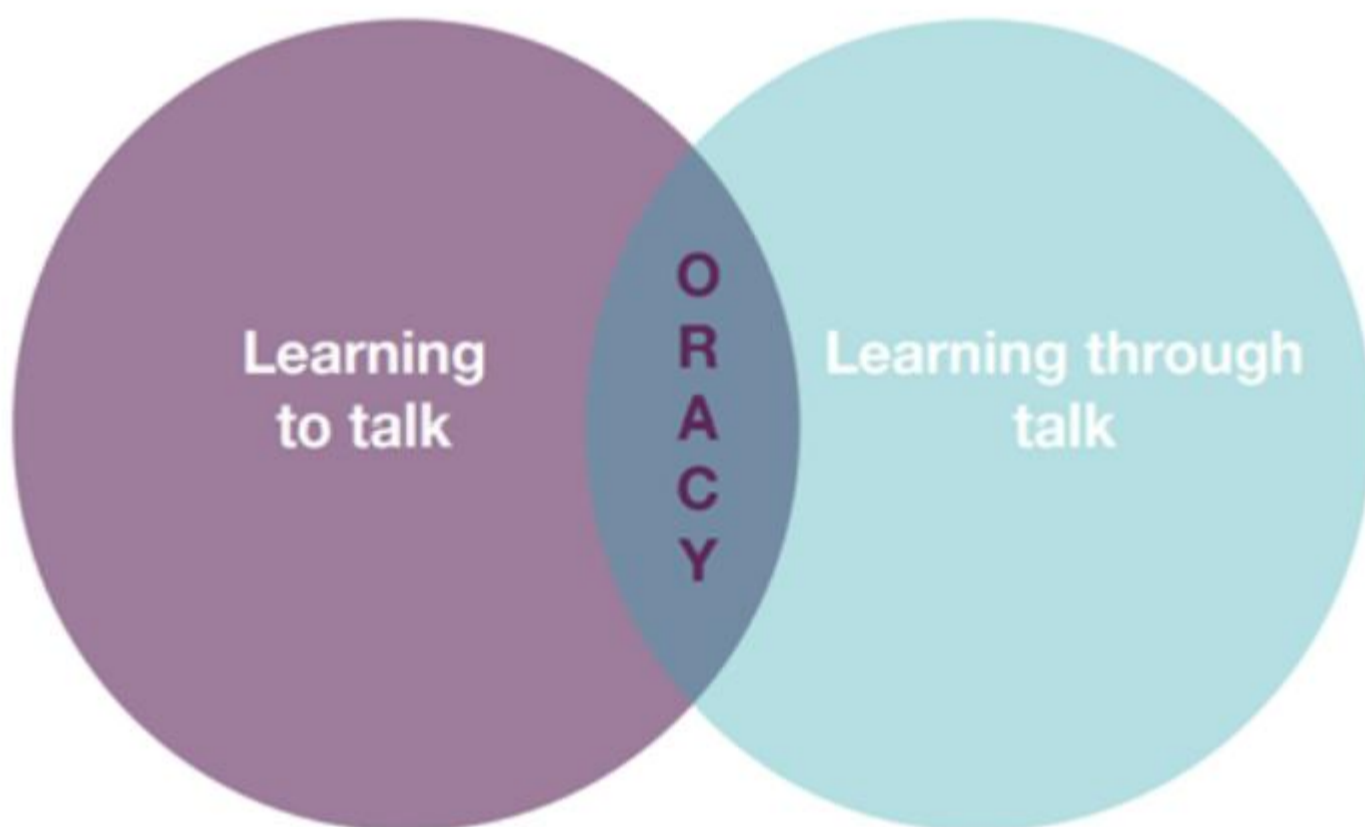


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## ORACY STAR

This week our Oracy star of the week is all of year 4 for confidently standing up in church on Thursday and speaking clearly for everyone to be able to hear them retelling the story of the birth of Jesus. Well done Year 4!



A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to Mrs. Edwards, George,  
and Jude who celebrated  
their special day last week!

And to Jaxon celebrating his  
Birthday this week!

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

# CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A huge well done to all the children at BBF who took part in our annual Christmas Service!

Thank you to everyone who helped organize and direct our show - and to the parents, carers, and local residents who came along to watch.



# PORRIDGE SCIENCE

Last week in our EYFS science session, the children investigated porridge, inspired by the story, 'The Three Little Bears'. We began by observing dry oats and talking about their texture, colour, and appearance, using scientific vocabulary such as rough, sticky, and soft.

Next, we carried out an experiment to explore what happens when we add heat and water to oats. The children made predictions about how the mixture would change, then watched closely as the ingredients combined. They observed that the oats absorbed the water, becoming softer, thicker, and stickier. They observed that the water became milky and changed colour. We talked about heating, mixing, and changing states, noticing how the porridge transformed from a loose mixture to a smooth, creamy consistency.

After our investigation, each child helped to stir their own small bowl of porridge, comparing textures and temperatures using words like warm, smooth, lumpy, and runny. Finally, just like Goldilocks, the children had the chance to taste their own porridge, discussing whether it was "too hot," "too cold," or "just right!" We then retold the story together whilst trying our porridge.

The activity encouraged early scientific thinking through observing, predicting, and describing changes—while also linking beautifully to our favourite traditional tale.



# TOY RUN

This week some of EYFS and Year 1 were briefly taken out of assembly to take part in the Nutwood Pubs Christmas Toy Run.

There was a trail of various emergency vehicles with their lights and sirens, motor-bikers dressed festively, and cars that halted traffic to stop outside of our Barkway site – where the children were able to safely hand over our donations to the wonderful helpers.

The donations were then taken up to Lister hospital in Stevenage.



# GENR8

Oak and Apple class really enjoyed their visit from GENR8 this week! GENR8 are a group of Christians who visit church schools and remind the children about the true meanings behind the Christian festivals.

The children loved copying the actions for the song and joined in really well with the chorus! GENR8 talked about all the different names for God and how Jesus is a form of God and should be celebrated as king! The children thought the puppets were very funny and loved doing different waves at the end.



# LETTER WRITING

Last week Year 2 have had a lovely week getting into the Christmas spirit. They wrote letters to Father Christmas to explain why they deserved to be on the nice list and shared something they will improve on next year.

There were lots of discussions around how they had been a kind friend, all the ways they have worked hard in school and what they do at home to help.

On Wednesday they made Christmas hats and place mats ready for Christmas dinner day!



# HISTORY

On Wednesday we set fire to the houses we had built at home to link to our learning of the great fire of London. Maisie said "my wall flew away and almost set the next building on fire" Harry said "my house burned down the quickest and it was the biggest house!" Ophelia said "The roof fell off my house!" Ellie-May "The straw on my house melted!"



# MUSIC LESSON WITH ALEX AND MRS MCCREATH

On Thursday we were so lucky that Tommy's mummy and brother came in to visit us and taught us a great music lesson.

Mrs McCreath taught us lots of facts about the violin and played some games with us. She played some traditional Scottish music that she learned when growing up and then played a range of Christmas songs with us!

Reggie said "Alex was so funny with his tenor horn!"

Tommy said "Alex was BRILLIANT!"

Esme "We sung We Wish you a Merry Christmas and Jingle Bells."

Thank you so much for coming in to see us, we really appreciate it!!!



# MARGARET HOUSE

## YEAR 2, 3 & 4

This week the children had a lovely time at Margaret House Residential & Dementia Care Home singing their nativity songs to their buddies.



# COMPUTING

Year 4 have finished their animal journey stories this week. It was an epic piece of extended writing which they all worked really hard on. They published it using handwriting and also typing which was a great reason to show off the touch typing skills that the children have been practising this term in Computing.





# We're hiring!

We are looking for a Learning Support Assistant & Midday Supervisory Assistant to join our wonderful team.

Get in contact with us today:

Fiona Piper, Business Manager  
Barley Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation  
Hertfordshire SG8 8JW



01763 848281



admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk



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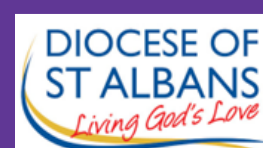
Or apply via the Teach in Herts website:



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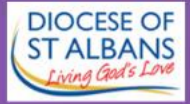
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**BARLEY & BARKWAY FEDERATION  
FIRST SCHOOLS**



# ENROL NOW

*“The school’s warm and caring family atmosphere is greatly valued by pupils, staff and parents”  
- BBF 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.*

- ✓ Church of England school
- ✓ Wrap-around care available
- ✓ Forest School Opportunities
- ✓ Nursery to Year 4

For more info:

**01763 848281**

[admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk)

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