

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

FAITH

CURIOSITY

WELLBEING

CONFIDENCE

Spring Term 1



Spotlight

Happy New Year!

For the Wicked sing-along next week if your child attends our Barkway site please feel free to pick them up early at 2.45pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Wicked Sing-Along

Barley - 22nd January at 3.00pm

* February Half-Term

16th February – 20th February

* Maths Meet-up

Barkway – 24th February at 2.30pm for 30 minutes with Mrs Porter

* Maths Meet-up

Barley – 3rd March at 2.45pm for 30 minutes with Mrs Porter

* Easter Break

30th March – 10th April

“Living life in all it’s fullness” – John 10

A message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back everyone, and welcome to our first newsletter of the New Year 2026! I hope you all had a restful and happy break. It has been a real pleasure to welcome the children back into school and to enjoy our first full week of the spring term together.

We have had a great start. At Barkway this week, we were delighted to welcome our local PCSO into school to talk to the children about Stranger Danger and how to keep themselves safe when they are out and about. The children listened carefully and asked thoughtful questions – an important and valuable session for all.

It has also been wonderful to be out and about in classrooms. In Year 3, I saw some fantastic English learning as the children began their new text, Alice in Wonderland. It was so lovely for the children to share their creative writing with me, thank you Beech Class, for such imaginative work. I also spent time in Oak Class on Tuesday afternoon and they absolutely blew my socks off with their amazing reading, well done Oak Class! They have also been very busy enjoying their new office area, writing signs and notes. What a great example of writing for a real purpose.

Our cooked lunches have been extremely yummy this week. Mrs Porter enjoyed the chicken pie on Monday and declared it delicious, while Barkway staff and Mrs Piper gave the trifle and chocolate sponge pudding top marks – five stars all round!

John is also now providing taster pots for some meals each week, so children who bring a packed lunch from home can try a small sample of the hot meals on offer. This is a lovely way to help children explore the different options available.

Later this term, we will be inviting parents and carers from each class into both schools to enjoy lunch with your children during a set week. Please look out for further information and details of when your class invitation will be.

Finally, a reminder that everyone is warmly invited to Barley School for the worldwide Wicked sing-along on Thursday 22nd January. Our federation will be joining a live broadcast from the O2, singing alongside schools from around the world. We would love children and their families from both Barley and Barkway to come along and share this special experience together. For safety reasons, we ask that Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children attend with an adult. The sing-along will begin promptly at 3:00pm, so please arrive by 2:55pm. Tea and coffee will be available for grown-ups, so do come a little early, settle in and enjoy the atmosphere.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Miss Mière
Federation Headteacher

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Stars of the Week

Nursery

This week the star of the week in Nursery is Albie.

He worked really hard to complete a bird feeder and even managed to pick out shapes of cereal that wouldn't fit on the bird feeder. He always tries hard in phonics and was able to repeat sounds back to me and blend them together to say a word. As well as this he tried really hard to listen to sounds of an action word and was able to blend the sounds so that he knew how to complete the action! Excellent work Albie!



Year 1

This week our shining star is Henry.

Henry has been a super star reader this week by impressing us with his growing confidence with reading. He has been reading longer words as well as practising reading with expression!

Well done Henry!

Reception



This week our star is Matthew.

He has worked particularly hard in Phonics this week completing the challenges set by his teacher

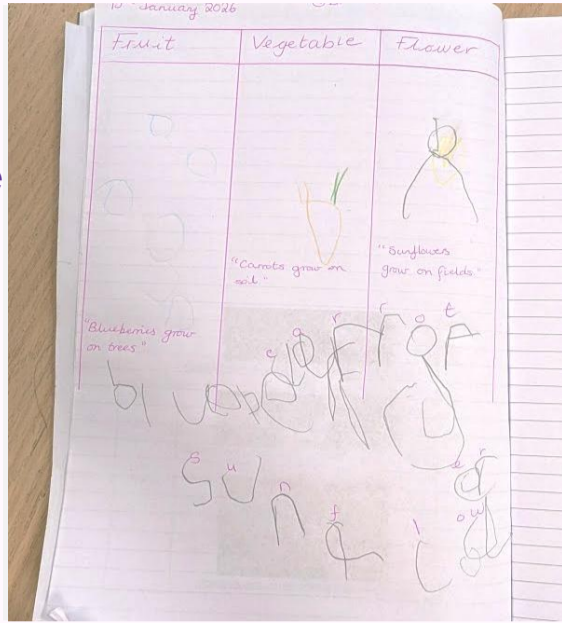
to extend his learning. He worked really hard to sound out the words in the sentence, 'I have pink feet.' He remembered the tricky part of have and formed his letters correctly. He also wrote the tricky word, 'put' independently. Well done, Matthew!

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 and demonstrating school values.

Stars of the Week

Year 2

This week Reggie is the star of the week! Reggie worked really hard in science this week, he was able to sort the plants into fruit, vegetable and flower. He drew some lovely pictures and labelled them clearly and could talk to me about the different parts of the plant! I am so impressed with how well you concentrated on your learning Reggie.



Year 3



This week, Isaac is Star of the Week in Beech Class for his wonderful Geography work on settlements.

He explained that he would prefer to live in a hamlet because "it would be calm."

Well done, Isaac!



Year 4

This week, the star of the week is Eliza.

Eliza has shown some fantastic learning behaviours since we have been back.

She has been focused on her learning, showing excellent listening skills, contributing in class and producing great work that is always neatly presented.

Well done Eliza, you are a great learning example to the class.

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Stars of the Week

Oracy Star

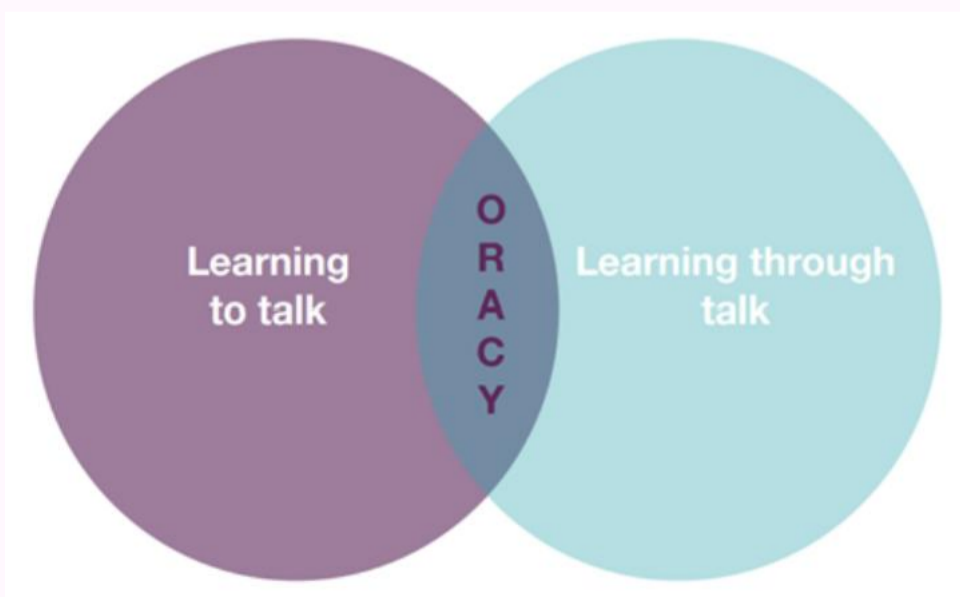


This week our Oracy star of the week is Lorena in Year 4.

Lorena has been a fantastic oracy star in our maths lessons this week, able to explain her reasoning as to how we know the answer.

In particular in our maths mastery, Lorena was able to explain that because she knew that $5 \times 10 = 50$, she could use hers facts to solve $5 \times 9 = 45$.

Well done Lorena!



Sports Star

Willow is Star of the Week for her wonderful explanation in P.E. Mrs Whitaker was very impressed with how clearly she explained the activity, which supported and helped her peers during the lesson. Well done, Willow!



Science Star

Eva is Science star of the week. She really enjoyed our work on fossils and carefully drew a fossil in science, asking thoughtful questions about how fossils are formed. She has also settled so well into our school and is a real asset to Beech Class. Well done, Eva!



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A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
to Mrs. Gould who is
celebrating her Birthday this
week!

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

This weeks activities

Oak Class

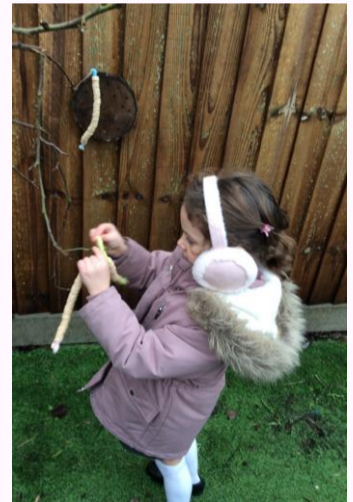
This week, our EYFS children have been learning all about birds through a range of fun and engaging activities.

The children enjoyed making their own bird feeders, helping them to understand how we can care for birds and support wildlife in our environment.

We have also been busy creating bird artwork, building nests using natural materials and developing their vocabulary by learning new bird names and descriptive words.

Oak class explored stories such as *Owl Babies*, which encouraged lots of discussion about feelings, family and friendship. The children shared their thoughts confidently and made connections between the story and their own experiences.

As part of Drawing Club, the children used their imagination to draw birds and story characters, developing their fine motor skills, creativity and early writing.



This weeks activities

Apple Class

The children in Apple class were excited to return to some Geography learning this week.

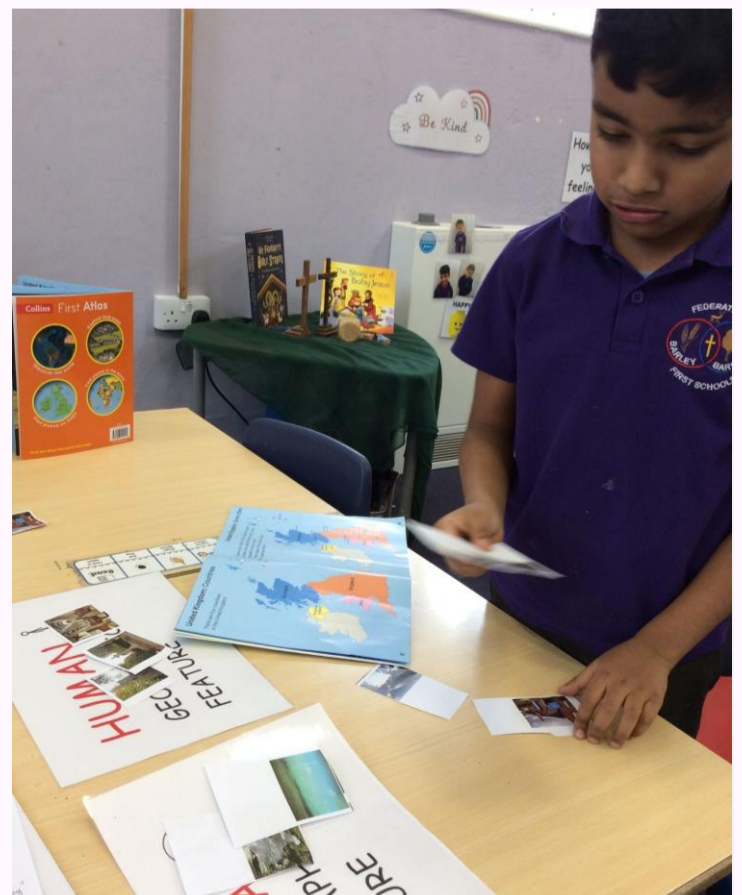
The children showed a brilliant recall of our learning at the start of the year on locational knowledge and human and physical features. Leo reminded us that "physical features are not made, they are there already".

Everyone had a go at a speedy sorting activity and were all able to place local landmarks into the correct human or physical feature group. Finley said "Tesco is human made, I go there sometimes with Mummy and Daddy".

Well done to Lexi and Theo who knew they lived in a village and not a town.

The children enjoyed exploring some atlases; Eleanor was excited to find Antarctica and was curious why she could not see the word Ireland on the map of the UK.

This helped us have some good discussion as to which countries are in and not in the United Kingdom! Well done everyone.



This weeks activities

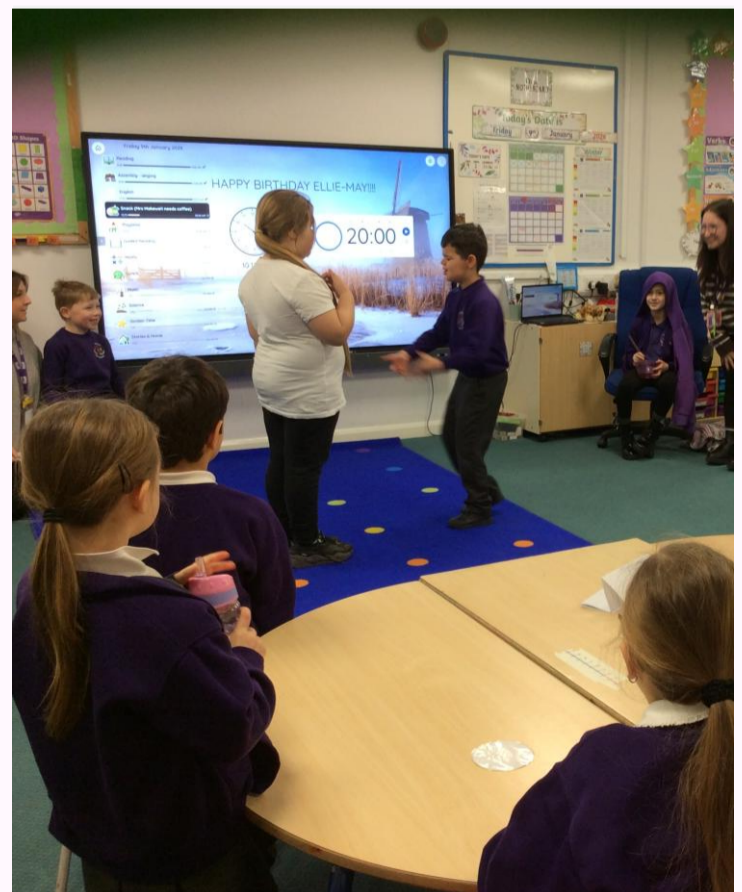
Hazel Class

On Friday, Year 2 were buzzing with creativity as they immersed themselves in the magical story of Rapunzel.

After learning the tale, the children worked brilliantly in teams to create and perform their very own versions of the story. The performances were full of confidence and enthusiasm, keeping their audiences completely captivated from start to finish!

A special well done to Maisie and Tommy, who took on the important role of narrators for their groups and spoke clearly and confidently while their classmates brought the scenes to life.

What fantastic teamwork and storytelling from Year 2!



This weeks activities

Beech Class

This week in Year 3 we explored the story of ‘Alice in Wonderland’.

The children used vocabulary banks in their writing to support our spelling, and created a setting description to describe what Alice saw, heard and felt when she went to the Mad Hatter’s tea party.

Jaxon said “Alice heard the Mad Hatter singing a strange song and was puzzled because the Mad Hatter was pouring boiling tea into a flowery cup”. He then wrote his sentence as part of a paragraph, after orally composing it.



This weeks activities

Sycamore Class

Our value for this half term is Courage.

Year 4 were set the challenge of creating a picture of a lion for our values display and all did an absolutely fantastic job with their own interpretation of this brief.

They mostly chose to use oil pastels, some doing whole body images whilst others chose to focus on the head.



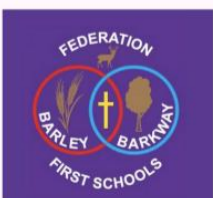
Tesco Tokens

In Tesco Extra, Royston, we have been given the opportunity to receive up to £1,500 funding for our mud kitchen!

How does it work?

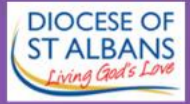
After you finish your shopping you will find the blue tokens available at the checkout.

Simply place the tokens in our box which can be found near the exit doors on your way out!





**BARLEY & BARKWAY FEDERATION
FIRST SCHOOLS**



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- BBF Ofsted 2023*



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- ✓ Nursery to Year 4

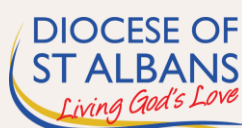
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