

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

FAITH

CURIOSITY

WELLBEING

CONFIDENCE

Spring Term 1



Spotlight

What could this logo symbolise? Read the newsletter to find out.



UPCOMING EVENTS

* 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,

We started the week with collective worship focused on our value for this half term: courage. We shared the story of David and Goliath and thought carefully about how David showed courage when facing such a huge challenge. We also discussed different situations and whether we thought they required courage. This led to lots of smiles and laughter, as every time we decided a situation needed courage, we struck a superhero pose!

Year 4 had an amazing morning at KJAR, where they carried out experiments in the science lab and even made hummus, which they bravely tasted too! What a fantastic experience for our oldest children to enjoy, and a wonderful opportunity to extend their learning beyond Sycamore classroom.

It has been a real pleasure to spend time in all the classes this week and see the high-quality learning taking place across the federation. Oak Class were very keen to show me their impressive phonics skills, confidently writing words containing their new digraph ‘er’, well done Oak Class!

Hazel Class have been learning all about keeping safe, discussing different situations and deciding whether they would be safe to do on their own or not, explaining their thinking clearly and thoughtfully. Beech Class have been busy practising their times tables, and I was very impressed with their focus and confidence. Sycamore Class have been learning about kilometres and metres, finding equivalent lengths and making excellent links between measurements.

I was also particularly impressed with Oak Class and Apple Class during their PE lessons with Mrs Whitaker. The children demonstrated fantastic listening skills and followed instructions extremely well. Oak Class enjoyed a game focused on practising their throwing skills, aiming to get as many balls as possible across to the other team. Apple Class worked hard on their vaulting, showing super jumping skills and landing confidently and safely on two feet with great control.

Well done to everyone for another fantastic week of learning. With just one week left until half term, there is still lots of fun to be had!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend spent with your family and friends.

Miss Mière

Stars of the Week

Nursery

This week Grace is our shining star for her fantastic engagement at the potion table. She showed good concentration while pouring and scooping different coloured potions, carefully filling containers and watching what happened when they mixed together. Grace explored cause and effect, noticing changes as they mixed ingredients, and stayed focused for a long period of time.

Grace also used great vocabulary to describe her play, using words such as full, empty, less, big and small. Well done



Reception

This week's Star of the Week goes to Mabel. Mabel always tries hard and we are particularly impressed with her efforts

in guided reading and Drawing club sessions. She has worked really hard this week sounding out her words to spell them and forming her letters beautifully on the line. She takes her time and is trying really hard in everything she does. She is a great learner and friend to everyone in the class. Well done Mabel! Keep up the great work!



Year 1

This week our shining star is Eleanor for her efforts with her learning. Eleanor has produced some beautiful independent descriptive writing in English this week and she did some wonderful work in Geography.

Eleanor was able to find the United Kingdom on our new globe and she could map the countries in the UK using the 4 compass points. Eleanor knew 'Wales is to the West of England'. Well done Eleanor. Thank you for being a brilliant role model to others!

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

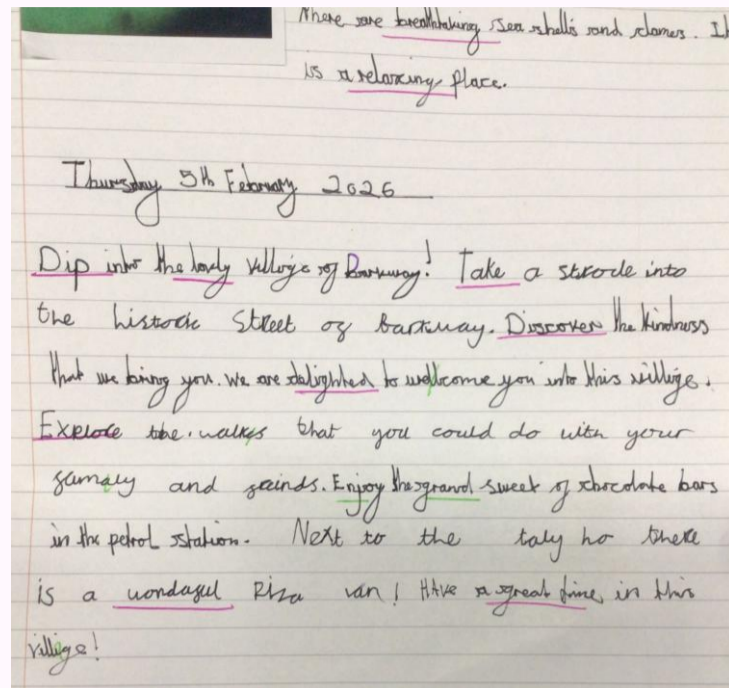
This week the star of the week is Esme! Esme has told me over and over again that she can't do times tables and then has proven herself wrong every day!!! Esme has been able to write times table questions in the 2s, 5s and 10s. She has used counters and arrays to prove it. She has then pushed herself to begin dividing using the division symbol and has been explaining how she got her answer linking to her knowledge of the times tables. Well done Esme, we are feeling sooo proud of you!



Year 3

This week, Beech Class are all Stars of the Week!

Mrs Porter is incredibly impressed by their persuasive speeches on reducing single-use plastics and their powerful use of emotive language. She looks forward to reading the final versions next week.



Year 4

This week, the stars of the week are Annie and Lorena. In our English, we are learning how to write a persuasive travel leaflet. Annie and Lorena worked together to write an introduction to Barkway. I was so impressed with their work as they used all the vocabulary I had given them as well as thinking about all the places you might want to visit in Barkway. I was also really impressed with their cooperative work as they got on brilliantly.

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Stars of the Week

Oracy Star

This week our Oracy star of the week is Theo in Apple Class! Theo has really impressed the adults working with him with his brilliant speaking.

Theo is now using a much louder voice when reading his books and is now pronouncing the sounds at the start of the book with gusto and confidence! It is such a joy to see and hear this.

Well done Theo we are really proud of you



Sports Star

This week Mrs Whitaker has found it extremely hard to name just one student for star of the week.

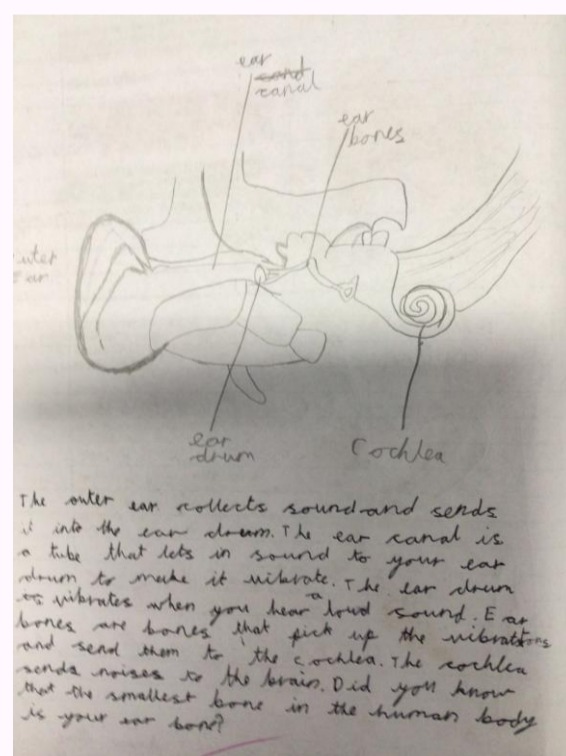
Both Barley and Barkway students have been working on their gymnastics skills, and have really impressed her with their give it a go attitude.

We have been working on our vaulting and they have shown such courage to give this a go! So proud of you all this week! Can not wait to teach you all more next week!



Science Star

This week, Eliza in Year 4 is our Science Star. Year 4 were writing and drawing an explanation of how the ear work. Eliza's work was excellent and we particularly liked the rhetorical question that hse finished with. Well done Eliza!



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VIPs of the Week

VIP (Very Important Pupil) is our weekly celebration of learning, where a child is chosen from each class to share their successes. Our VIPs proudly show their work, talk about what they've been learning, and enjoy reading to us, with Miss Mière, Mrs Porter and Mr Watson.
We are so proud of our VIPs for this week!

VIPs this week for their amazing writing and reading:



EYFS: Matthew



Year 1: Hunter



Year 2: Reggie



Year 3: Storm



Year 4: Stan

This weeks activities

Oak Class

This week in EYFS, the children have been busy learning all about Scotland through a range of exciting, hands-on activities. They explored Scottish culture, traditions, and symbols, bringing their learning to life through creative play and practical experiences.

The children enjoyed making shortbread, carefully mixing, rolling, and shaping the dough. This activity supported their fine motor skills, turn-taking, and ability to follow simple instructions, while also introducing new vocabulary such as mix, soft, smooth, and bake.

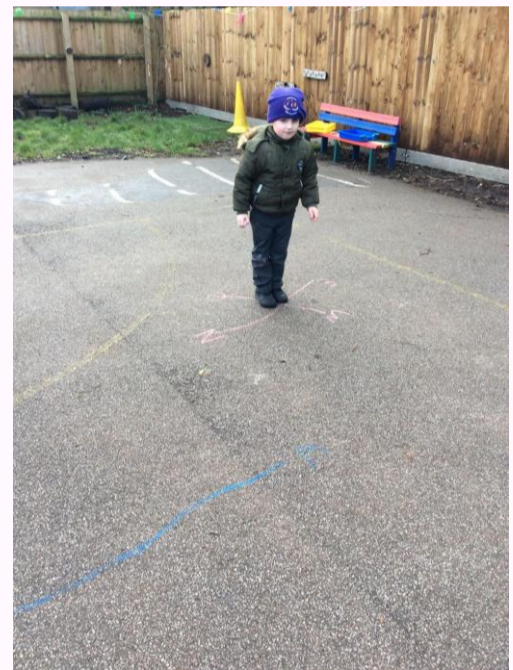
In the creative area, the children made Scottish flags and painted thistles, learning that the thistle is a symbol of Scotland. They experimented with colours, shapes, and different painting techniques, showing great pride in their finished artwork.



This weeks activities

Apple Class

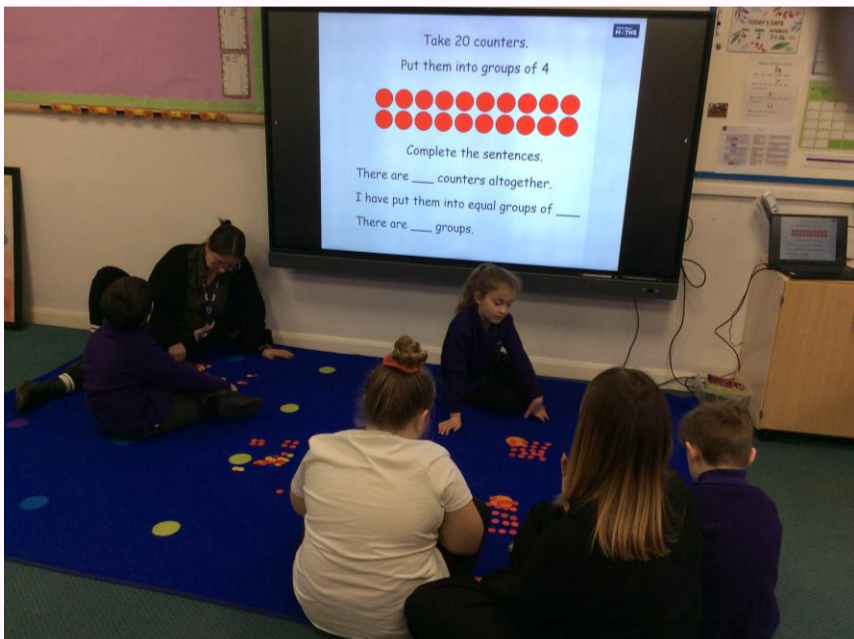
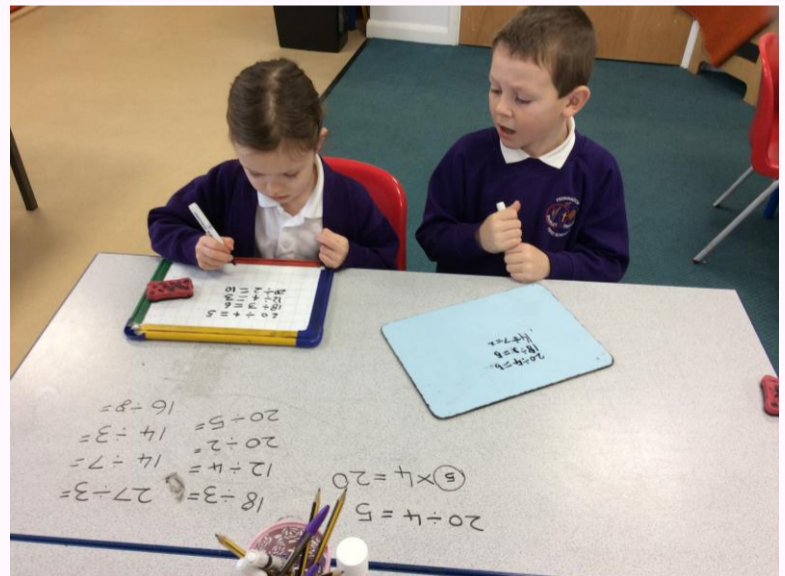
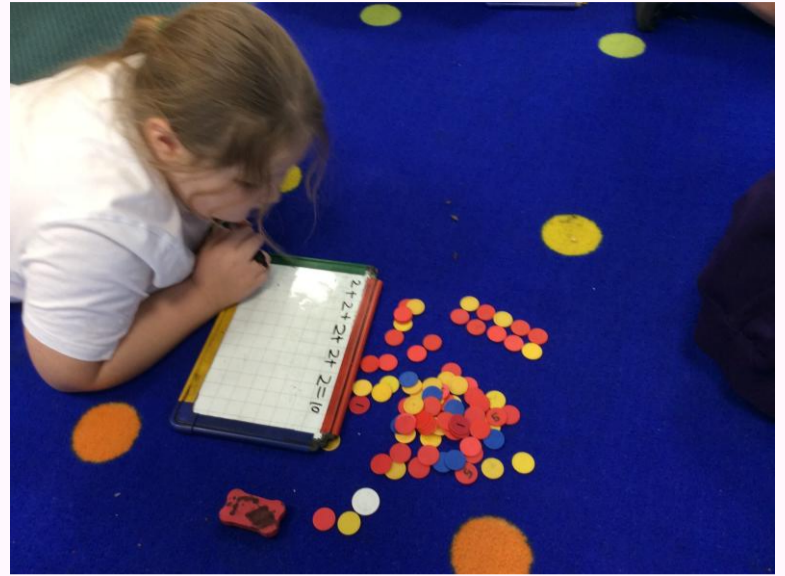
Apple Class have been learning the 4 compass points in their Geography lessons. All the children were excited to see the compasses and Henry said that he had a toy one at home. The children learnt the mnemonic **N**aughty **E**lephants **S**quirt **W**ater to help them remember the initial letters of the points. We took our learning outside for some active Geography. We stuck the compass points around the playground and then the children had to travel in different ways to the direction that was called out. Finley enjoyed taking a turn of calling out the directions to the rest of the class. The children drew their own compasses on the playground with chalk. We then played a game where the children had to jump on the correct compass point. Back in the classroom the children had the opportunity to use compass directions to travel around a treasure map. Hunter knew that if he went 1 square North he would be on the crocodile and Louis knew he needed to go 4 squares North to get to the treasure. Well done Apple class!



This weeks activities

Hazel Class

This week, Year 2 have been working incredibly hard on their multiplication and division facts. It has been their first time using the \times and \div symbols, and they have truly impressed me with their fantastic mathematical skills. I have been so pleased to see how confidently they have applied their previous learning about grouping and sharing as well as their knowledge of counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s to support this new learning.



This weeks activities

Beech & Sycamore Class

In Years 3 and 4, the children have created a school prospectus written from the voice of a child. They thoughtfully planned their ideas, carefully chose their words, and then typed their work, adding images to bring it to life.

Watch this space in the coming weeks for our wonderful prospectus, written by the children.



This weeks activities

Sycamore Class

Year 4 went to King James Academy Royston on Tuesday. They had a science lesson in the proper science lab and then went to the food tech room to make hummus. They had a really great time and it was a fantastic transition event to get them used to being in a larger school.



Remembering Olly

This week we said a special goodbye to Olly, Mrs Piper's much-loved dog, who passed away peacefully at the age of 14.

Olly was an important part of daily life in Barley and will be remembered by many members of our school community. He especially enjoyed listening to children read and was always there with a warm welcome when pupils visited Mrs Piper in the Office. His calm presence and friendly nature brought comfort and smiles to so many.

We used our new Memory Candle to remember Olly and to reflect on his long and happy life with Mrs Piper. Our thoughts are with Mrs Piper at this sad time.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for Olly and the joy he brought to our school and to Mrs. Piper.

Thank you for all the cuddles, walks, and happy times we shared with him.

We are sad that Olly has died, but we are grateful for the love he gave us.

Please help us to be courageous as we remember him fondly.

Please help us remember him with kind hearts and happy memories.

Amen.

