

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

FAITH

CURIOSITY

WELLBEING

CONFIDENCE

Spring Term 1



Spotlight

Next Monday (16th) is the start of the FOBBs Easter competition. Tickets will cost £1 and each adult that buys a ticket(s) will receive an Easter egg! There are also various other prizes to win. All funds raised will go towards a new mud kitchen for the Barkway playground.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Mother's Day

15th March

* Comic Relief

20th March – non-uniform

* Harvest Service

27th March at Barley Church – whole school

* Easter Break

30th March – 10th April

* Good Friday Crafts & Service

3rd April at St Mary Magdalene, Barkway

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

A message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic week across our Federation as we celebrated British Science Week. A huge thank you goes to our wonderful Science Lead, Mrs Porter, for organising such exciting science experiences for all of our children.

To mark the occasion, we were lucky enough to welcome Scott Murray, a real-life scientist who works for Johnson Matthey. Scott shared his love of science and experiments with the children, who were completely captivated, especially by the unforgettable 'elephant toothpaste' experiment!

We were also delighted to welcome our second real-life scientist, Carla Hill, who joined us from the Fair Isle near the Shetland Islands. Carla spoke to the children about her fascinating job as an Ornithologist, someone who studies and works with birds. The children thoroughly enjoyed meeting both of our visiting scientists and asking lots of thoughtful questions.

There was truly a sense of awe and wonder across both schools this week as the children took part in a range of brilliant experiments:

- Nursery and Reception explored ramps and cars outside as they investigated movement and friction.
- Year 1 created their own colourful lava lamps.
- Year 2 made their very own paper.
- Year 3 investigated whether toast always lands butter side down.
- Year 4 designed and built bird nests using clay, sticks, leaves and soil collected from outside.

What super scientists you have all been this week!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Year 3 and Year 4 meeting about our upcoming school sleepover. We are very much looking forward to all the fun next Thursday when the children enjoy their sleepover at Barley School.

We are also excited that Year 3 and Year 4 will be visiting the Gurdwara in Letchworth Garden City on Friday 20th March. A Gurdwara is a Sikh place of worship. As part of their Religious Education learning, the children have been studying the Sikh faith, and this visit will be a wonderful way to conclude their unit. It will give them the opportunity to experience a Gurdwara first-hand and speak to members of the Sikh community who worship there.

Also on Friday 20th March we will be supporting Comic Relief with a non-uniform day. Children are invited to wear something red for the day to help us raise money for this important charity.

We will also soon be holding some special Mother's Day celebrations in school for the important female figures in our children's lives. Please look out for communication from your child's class with further details and invitations.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Miss Mière
Federation Headteacher

Contents

Upcoming events, Spotlight & a message from our Headteacher	Pg. 01
Contents	Pg. 02
Stars of the Week	Pg. 03 - 05
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery • Reception • Year 1 • Year 2 • Year 3 • Year 4 • Oracy Star • Sports Star • Science Star 	
Birthdays	Pg. 06
VIP's of the Week	Pg. 07
World Book Day	Pg. 08
This weeks activities	Pg. 09 - 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Class • Beech Class • Parkour Skills 	
Good Friday Family Crafts and Service	Pg. 12
Charlie Chicks	Pg. 13
Tesco Tokens	Pg. 14
Nursery Admissions Information	Pg. 15



Stars of the Week

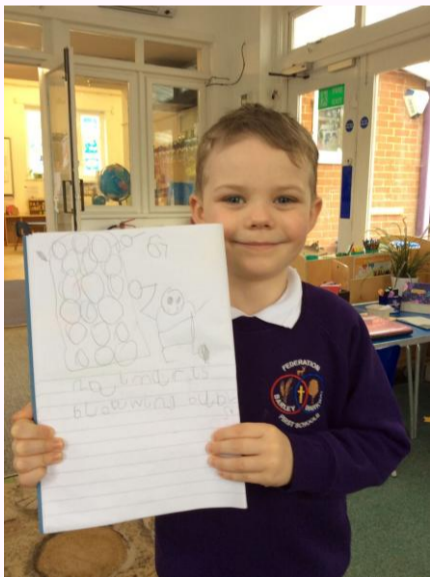
Nursery

This week Albie is our shining star in Nursery. Albie has been working really hard during our maths activities. He has been practising subitising and counting and is beginning to recognise numbers quickly.



When we were learning about the number 4, Albie did a fantastic job showing numbers on a tens frame. He carefully counted the counters and placed them correctly and made the same pattern he has seen on the die. We are very proud of the efforts he is making in Nursery! Well done Albie!

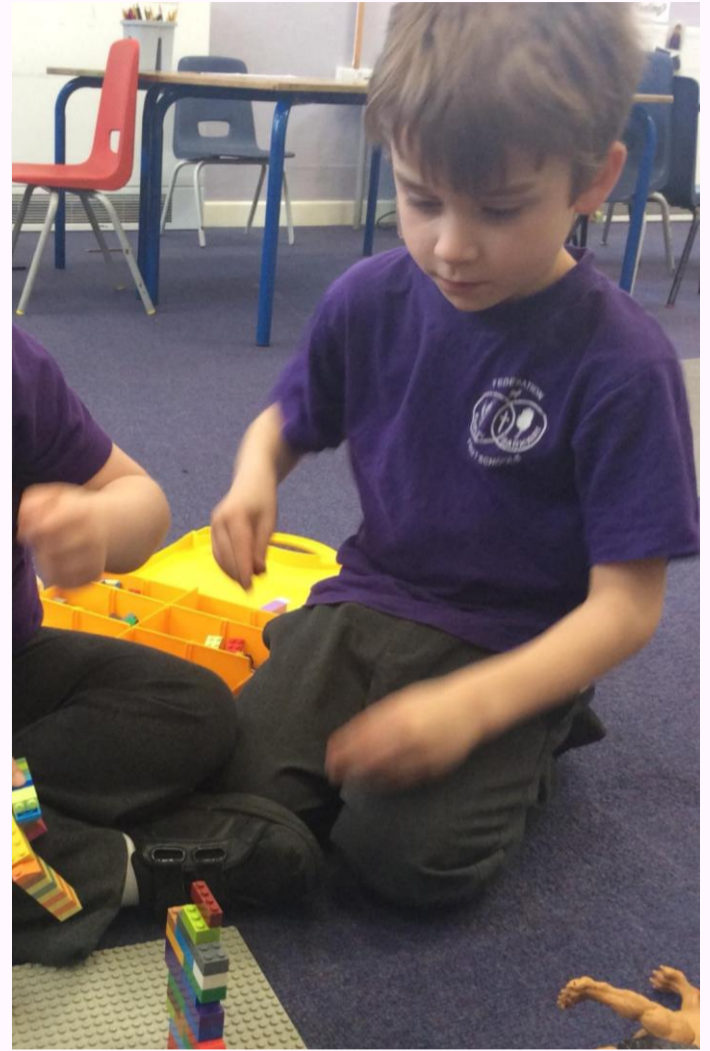
Reception



This week's Star of the Week goes to Jude. Jude has been trying really hard in Drawing Club sessions to sound his words out carefully as he writes them down. We have also noticed how carefully he is working on his letter formation and having another go when needed.

He sounded out his letters to write the sentence, 'Neymar is blowing bubbles.' He used his sound mat to check the digraphs that he has learnt so far such as, 'oa' and 'ai'.

Keep up the great work!



Year 1

This week the shining star in Apple class is Jake for his wonderful playing with others.

Jake has been happily playing with children in both Apple and Oak class. It is always a joy to see Jake and his friends enjoying their play together.

Jake is a role model to others with his gentle school touch and his kind and fair turn taking.

Well done Jake!

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 in Year 2 is everyone for their curious questioning throughout science week. Everyone was able to ask Scott and Carla interesting questions about their jobs and work in science. They also were able to ask inquisitive questions before completing their science experiments, making birds nests and recycled paper !!



Year 3



This week in Beech Class, Eva is our shining star. She has been Captain Concentration to secure speech marks in her writing to show character dialogue.

She has also used some impressive language to explain how her character spoke e.g exclaimed, responded. Even Hugo loves listening to her expressive story telling.



Year 4

This week, our star of the week is Reign for her fantastic maths. We have been learning about improper fractions this week and Reign has been a complete super star. She has remembered what an improper fraction is and was able to convert a mixed number to an improper fraction. I have been so impressed with Reign's positive attitude towards her maths learning.

Well done Reign!

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



Sports Star

This week Benito is the PE star.

I have been really impressed with Benito during PE over the last couple of weeks.

He is able to follow instructions, explain and break down skills and has even started to lead others in his class during activities.

Benito's running ability has really stood out this week - keep this up Benito and you will soon be faster than Mrs Whitaker!



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.

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:



Year 2: Esme



Year 3: Jake



Year 4: Annie

This weeks activities

Oak Class

As part of Science week, the children have been busy explored lots of hands-on activities that encouraged curiosity, investigation, and problem-solving this week. In our science and exploration area, the children investigated ramps. They experimented with different heights and surfaces to see how objects roll and move. The children made predictions about which objects would travel faster or further and enjoyed testing their ideas. This helped develop their early understanding of movement, forces, and cause and effect.

We also explored magnetic and non-magnetic materials. The children used magnets to test a range of everyday objects, discovering which items were attracted to the magnet and which were not. They were excited to sort the objects into magnetic and non-magnetic groups while learning new vocabulary such as magnet, attract, and metal.

Another exciting investigation involved oil and water. The children observed what happens when oil is mixed with water and noticed how the two liquids separate. They talked about what they could see and used droppers and containers to mix, pour, and explore the materials safely.



This weeks activities

Apple Class

On Monday Apple class were very excited to carry out some experiments marking British Science Week! The children's first experiment involved making slime with the purpose of answering the question - Is it a solid or a liquid? They began by adding food colouring to water and then adding it drop by drop to some corn flour and observing what happened. The children enjoyed stirring their slimy mixture. Eleanor thought she had made a solid. Louis observed he had made a liquid and Leo, Lexi, Henry and Finley thought they had made both!

Next, the children then performed another experiment making lava lamps to answer the question - Do oil and water mix? We began by looking at how water and squash mix together to form a combined liquid. We made actions for the words 'mix' and 'separate'. The children chose their colours for the water base. Benito, Finley and Theo wanted a mixture of blue, green and pink! It was lovely to see the surprised reactions of the children when Mrs Gould helped them to pour in the oil. Louis was excited to see bubbles of oil rushing up to the top.

The children all observed that the oil stayed in a layer above the water. Mrs Gould asked the children - Why do you think the oil is separate from the water? Lexi thought it might be because they had not mixed it with a spoon. Apple class then mixed their cups to check and were excited to see the layers appear again after a minute. and Mrs Gould explained the science behind that result was because oil is lighter than water. The children then added sprinkles of salt to the mixture and the children saw the 'lava' lumps coming down as the salt dragged some of the oil down with it. Everyone was able to say that the salt was the heaviest and then drew a diagram of their observations.

What a super start to British science week!



This weeks activities

Science in Action!

This week, as part of British Science Week, we showed our curiosity by asking questions, making predictions and discussing what we discovered.

At Barley we were visited by Scott, a real scientist who works for Johnson Matthey. He shared how science is an important part of his job and his love of experimenting. The children watched an exciting chemical reaction when Scott made “elephant toothpaste” using yeast, hydrogen peroxide, warm water and washing-up liquid.

We also learned about the NASA Moon landings and carried out our own “Eggstronaut” experiment, designing landing vessels to protect an egg astronaut from cracking when dropped.

At the end of the visit, Reggie (y2) asked Scott, “Please can you come back next year?” A big thank you to Scott for bringing real-life science into our school!



This weeks activities

Carla Hill

Carla Hill came to visit us from the Faire Isles near the Shetland Islands. She spoke to us about her life as an ornithologist, which is someone who works with birds. She explained to the children that at age 2 she decided she wanted to be a vet and her passion for animals has continued ever since! She attended university to study zoology which she explained is the study of animals and not the study of zoos!

In 2024 she got her first job after finishing her masters as a ranger on the Faire Isles. She spoke to the children about the variety of jobs she does on the island including giving people tours of the island to see the birds, checking what the birds are eating, weighing and measuring the birds and many many other things! She taught the children about bird ringing and how people track birds to understand where they go throughout the year. She also spends time working on shore watch where she looks out for dolphins and whales off the island. She was able to show how close the whales come to her and she even shared pictures of an orca she has seen.

People who live on the island also work on helping with farming, she has helped shearing the sheep and helping balling the hay. Carla spoke very passionately about her love of animals and especially birds ! We are so lucky and appreciative that she was able to visit us while she was home visiting the area.

Thank you so much Carla!!



Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

March 20th 2026

Since its launch in 1985, Comic Relief has supported more than 35,000 projects, enabling over 1,000 community organisations to tackle poverty and social injustice in the UK and around the world by giving people access to food, shelter and safety - comicrelief.com

Thank you to the School Council for collecting Pupil Voice on fundraising for Comic Relief. The children opted for a non-uniform day that included wearing something red (please note this does not include children going on a school trip as they need to be in full school uniform).

We politely request that children please bring in a pound (or more if you are able) to donate to Comic Relief. The children can also prepare a joke to share with the class!



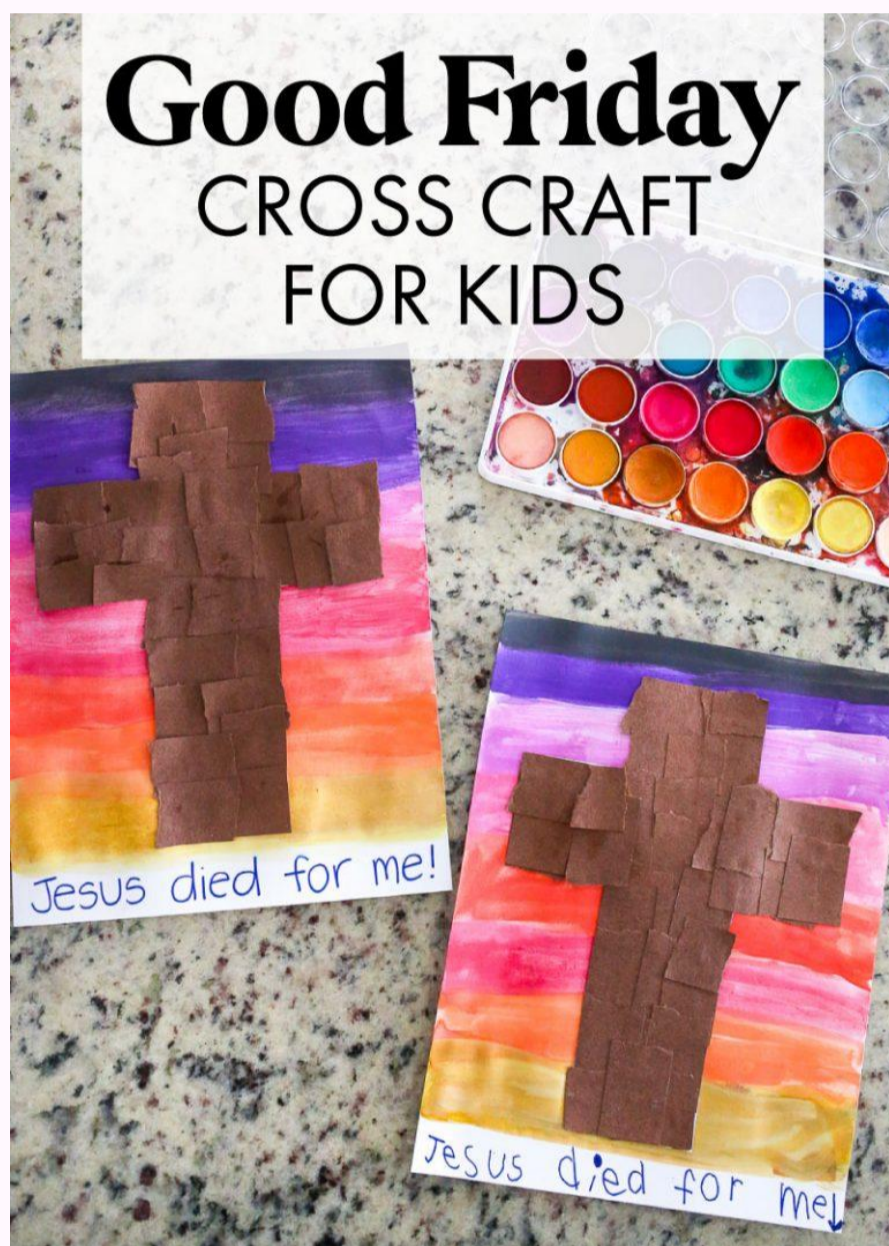
Good Friday Family Crafts and Service

A warm welcome is extended to any young people and family members to our:

Good Friday Family Crafts and service at St Mary Magdalene, Barkway on Friday 3rd April 10am.

There will be an opportunity to make a wide variety of simple but lovely crafts to take home, including:

- Making your own palm cross
- Making flower petals that move by themselves
- Holy Week Colour in Window decorations
- Cross Stained Glass Window decorations
- Cross scratch art decorations
- The Easter garden using a yogurt pot



During the craft activities we sing some well known Good Friday and Easter songs and offer up our prayers.

Drinks and a variety of hot cross buns available at the end. Just turn up – it will be great to see you!

-Rev Mark

Garden House Hospice Care

Charlie Chicks

We are supporting Garden House Hospice Care's Easter campaign selling their Charlie Chicks again (which are all supplied by volunteer knitters and have a Cadbury's Creme Egg inside).

Garden House Hospice Care is a local charity providing free, compassionate end of life care and support to patients and their families in the communities of North Hertfordshire.

Charlie Chicks are available in both school offices for £1.50



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!





BBF

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

OPEN FOR 2026

Nursery applications are open from Monday 16th February 2026 and will close on Friday 26th March 2026.

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



ENROL NOW!

01763 848283

office@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk/



Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation
Church End, Barley, SG8 8JW | 84 High Street, Barkway, SG8 8EF

Tel: 01763 848281 | 01763 848283
Email: admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

