

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

FAITH

CURIOSITY

WELLBEING

CONFIDENCE

Spring Term 2



Spotlight

Please don't forget that FOBBs are running their Easter competition up until the end of term (Friday 27th March). Tickets 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

* Forest School

15th March - Reception

* Easter Service

27th March at Barley Church at 9am – whole school

* End of Term

27th March – Preschool, Nursery, Reception & Year 1 to finish at 12.30. Years 2, 3 & 4 finish at 12.45.

* 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,

Another exciting week at our Federation has been filled with curiosity, learning, and accompanied by the beautiful spring sunshine.

Each week, I have the pleasure of working with Reception, and this week marked a special milestone as we introduced the children to our Montessori equipment. This approach supports children in developing independence and a deep understanding of mathematical concepts. The children explored the spindle box, a resource designed to help them practise number recognition and one-to-one counting. Using numbered compartments, the children carefully counted out the correct number of wooden spindles for each section, reinforcing the concept of quantity and the idea of zero as an empty set. I was incredibly impressed by their fantastic counting skills and the level of focus they showed.

Year 1 had a very exciting Drawing Club session inspired by the classic The Trap Door. The children imagined what monster might emerge from their own trap door, before drawing their creations and writing descriptive sentences. Their creativity and enthusiasm were wonderful to see!

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic science lesson, showcasing their impressive knowledge of habitats. They then applied their learning by designing and building their own bug hotel, exploring the concept of microhabitats. The children carefully considered what insects need to survive, creating small spaces filled with leaves, soil, sticks and feathers. Their teamwork and thoughtful designs were very impressive.

Oak Class delighted their special visitors with a lovely spring assembly, followed by an Easter egg hunt. Thank you to everyone who attended, we hope you enjoyed it as much as the children did!

Apple Class also treated us to a wonderful class assembly, sharing their learning from the spring term. This included their own stories, fascinating facts about their favourite animals, and a brilliant number bonds song. We were so proud of their confidence and achievements, thank you for joining us to celebrate their success.

Finally, Year 3 and Year 4 had a very exciting and memorable experience from Thursday afternoon into Friday morning, they had a school sleepover! The children enjoyed a fantastic range of activities, including parachute games on the field, preparing their own fruit salad, and a delicious dinner of burger and chips. In the evening, they gathered around a campfire in our Forest School area to toast marshmallows, make smores, and enjoy hot chocolate, before settling down for a cosy movie night in their pyjamas.

This is such a special opportunity for our children, giving them the chance to build independence and create lasting memories with their friends. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Makewell, Mrs Porter and Mrs West for their careful planning, organisation and dedication in delivering such a successful event. Their commitment made this experience possible for our children. I must admit, one of my personal highlights was creeping down to the Forest School area on Barley Field in the dark with torches to join the marshmallow toasting!

We do hope your children have shared just how much they enjoyed this wonderful experience.

A reminder that our Easter Service will take place at 9am at Barley Church on the last day of term, Friday 27th March. You are all very welcome to join us to share the Easter story and enjoy the children's beautiful singing. Please refer to the email sent regarding arrangements for the day, including all children remaining at Barley School for the morning and lunch.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Miss Mière
Federation Headteacher

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Stars of the Week

Nursery

This week, Hallie is our shining star in Nursery for being a fantastic scientist! As part of science week Hallie experimented using different primary colours to make green, orange and brown. She enjoyed exploring colours and discovering what happens when we mix them together. You were curious, creative, and tried your best.

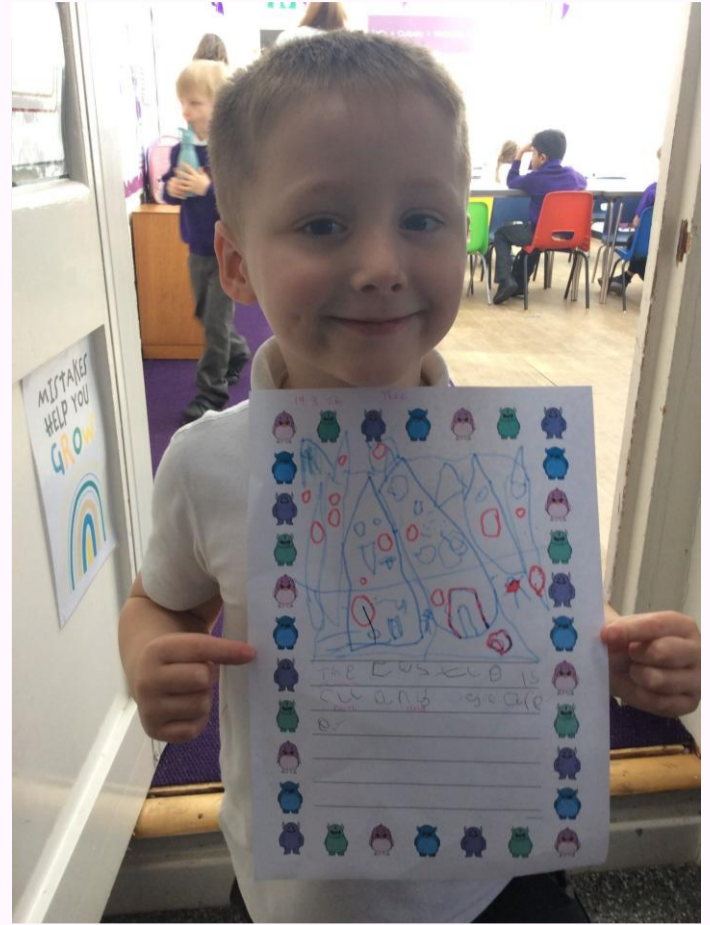


Great Science Hallie!

Reception



This week's Star of the Week goes to Isabel. On Monday the class were set some CHIL challenges to complete during the week. Isabel worked hard to complete her challenges straight away being one of the first to start! She worked hard to practise her number formation and represent each number to 10 using paint marks. She was able to tell me that 6 can be made with 4 and 2 and 10 can be made using 6 and 4. Isabel chose to use 2 colours to represent the 6 and 4 in 10. Excellent maths!



Year 1

This week our shining star is Theo! I have been so pleased to see Theo building his confidence when writing independently.

This week in English we have been writing about the animation 'The Trapdoor'. Theo was excited to draw the castle from the story and then wrote a sentence. He was able to have a go at writing most of his sentence independently. Theo has been working on his independence when writing so this is a great achievement.

Well done Theo!

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 Harry for being an excellent “project manager” when we built our bug hotel. He gave good clear instructions and supported his friends to work collaboratively.



Well done for using your kind words and being helpful so we could all build “Bugley”.

Year 3



This week Isaac is star of the week for his wonderful D&T project to make a mechanism with a lever and a slider. Isaac could confidently talk about his project and join his materials with care.

Well done Isaac!



Year 4

This week, all of Sycamore Class are stars of the week for their independence to tidy away the dining area after their meal at the sleepover.

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 Jake from year 1 is PE star.

He really impressed Mrs Whitaker with his archery skills.

He took all of his turns and also helped his partner to prepare the bow and arrow for using. He aimed and hit the target when asked to and we enjoyed seeing him participate. Well done Jake!

Art Star

This week Henry in Apple Class is our art star.

Apple class were challenged to create a Trap Door monster using collage which was a new technique.

Henry carefully cut paper from magazines to create this fantastic monster, well done Henry!



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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:



Reception: Isabel



Year 1: Henry



Year 2: Harry



Year 3: Angelica-Mae



Year 4: Eliza



Happy Birthday

A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Eleanor, Benito, and Isabel who are celebrating their Birthday's this week!

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



This weeks activities

Oak Class

This week in EYFS our theme is Spring, and the children have been enjoying learning about the exciting changes that happen during this season. We have been talking about the weather getting warmer, flowers beginning to grow and animals becoming more active.

The children have explored the signs of spring through a range of fun activities. We have been planting seeds and learning how plants grow, as well as observing the changes in our outdoor area.

In maths, we have been counting flowers, measuring stems, sorting natural objects and exploring patterns using colours and shapes inspired by spring.

Our creative activities have included painting flowers, making butterflies and creating colourful spring pictures. We are all so happy Spring is sprung!

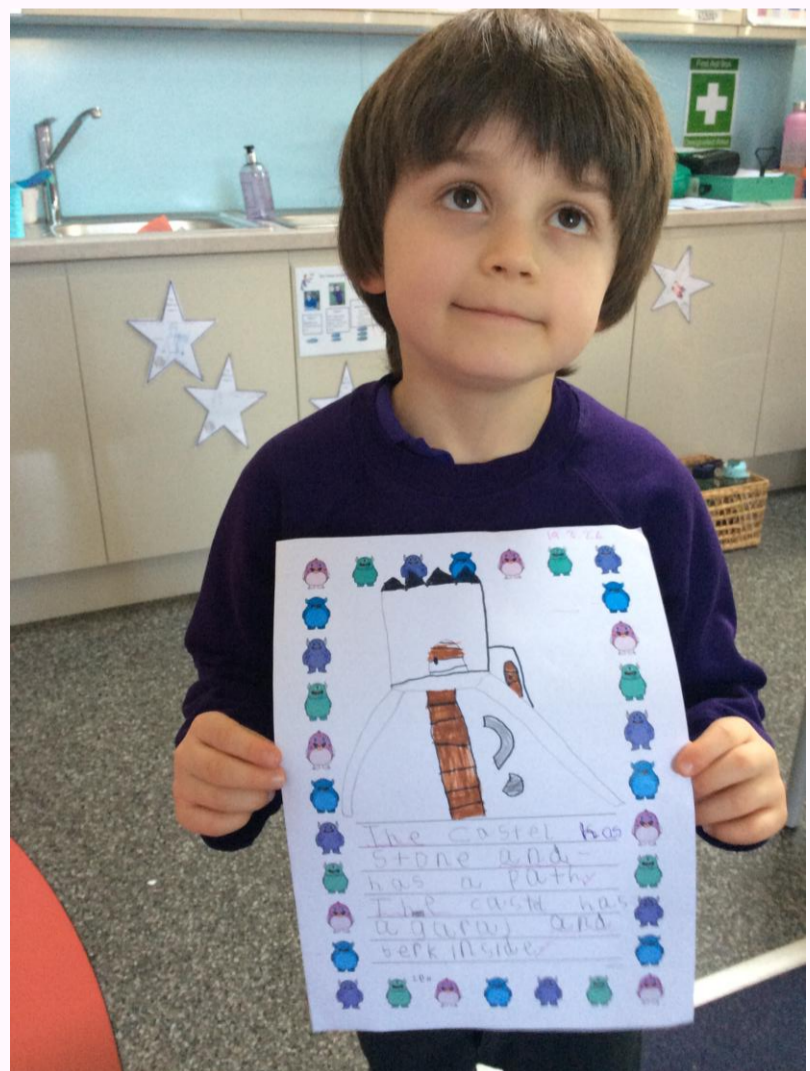
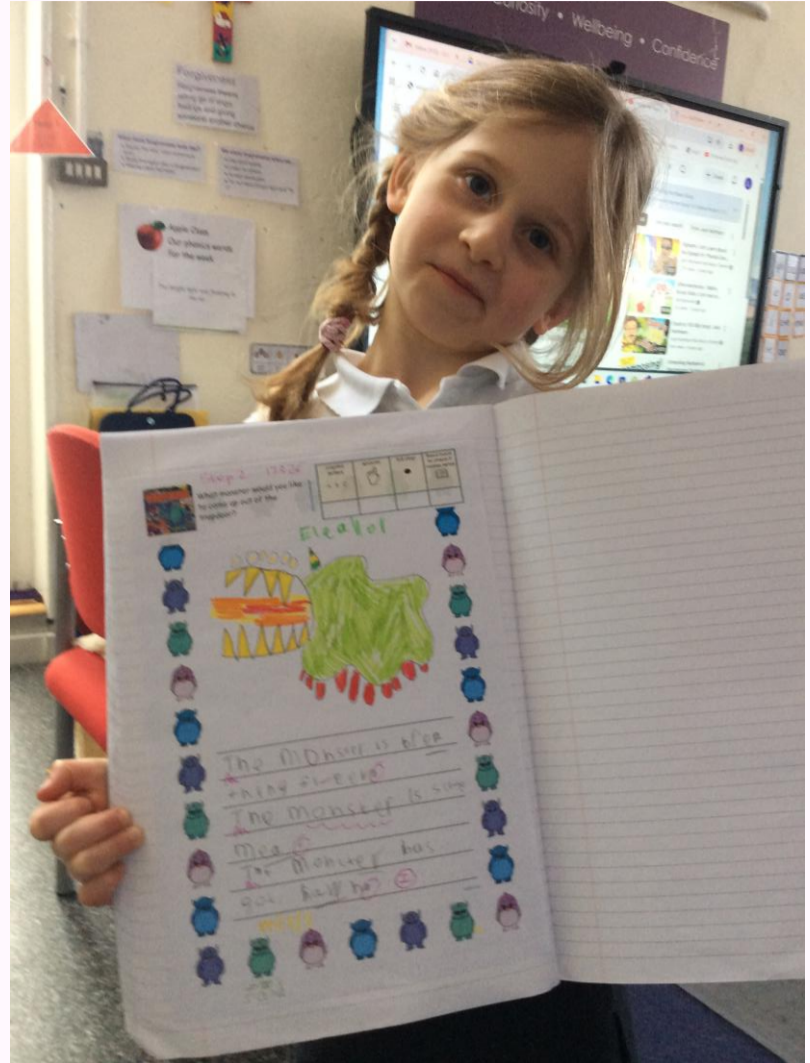


This weeks activities

Apple Class

This week in 'Drawing Club' the children have been learning all about the animation 'The Trapdoor'. The children have loved this animation and it has inspired lots of creative drawing and fantastic writing skills. The children have written about both the character and the setting as well as having two adventure time sessions. In one of these sessions we asked the children, 'What monster would you like to come out the trapdoor?'

The children loved designing their own monsters and then writing sentences about them. They worked hard to remember to use their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. The children have also loved pretending to be 'Berk' and creating breakfast in the role play area. They have had a go at writing down their recipes for their monster breakfast!



This weeks activities

GenR8

This week we had a wonderful visit from GenR8 to celebrate the story of Easter. Through engaging stories and songs, they helped bring the message to life and encouraged us to reflect on how we can show kindness to one another every day.



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!

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