

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

FAITH

CURIOSITY

WELLBEING

CONFIDENCE

Spring Term 2



Spotlight

Don't forget that we have a long weekend this week!

No school on Monday 4th as it's a Bank Holiday.

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* Bawdsey Manor

29th April – 1st May (Y3 & 4)

* Bank Holidays

School will be closed

- 4th May
- 25th May

* Forest School

Reception & Y1

~~7th May~~ CANCELLED

- 21st May
- 12th June
- 25th June

* Half Term

25th May – 1st June

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

A message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a beautiful sunny week it has been. The children have thoroughly enjoyed spending time outdoors, particularly at Barkway, where they have been busy making fruity drinks in the sand, exploring the mud kitchen beneath our new gazebo, and making the most of the water fountain.

Our third Nursery stay and play session was a great success, with a lovely group of new children and their special adults joining us to play, connect and enjoy the glorious weather together.

Thank you to all the special ladies who joined us for our Mothering Sunday celebration in Barkway on Wednesday. We hope you enjoyed spending time in school with your children and sharing some delicious treats.

Year 3 and 4 set off on their exciting residential trip to Bawdsey Manor on Wednesday with Mrs West, Miss Preston and Mrs Makewell. We have received many wonderful updates, including photos and stories of their achievements in activities such as archery, rock climbing, abseiling and the giant swing. The children have shown tremendous perseverance and effort, and we are incredibly proud of them. The Richmond coach driver also commented on how well behaved, sensible and respectful the children were throughout the journey and leaving the coach clean and tidy. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them back later today and hearing all about their adventures; memories that will last a lifetime. Do keep an eye out for their full review coming soon.

Year 2 have also had a lovely couple of days with Mrs Porter. As part of their science learning, they have been preparing the planters for summer, planting beautiful purple flowers and caring for them. This has brightened up the outside area at Barley, thank you Year 2 and Mrs Porter.

Our BBF team are very excited about the Barkway Market on Saturday 9th May, where we will be supporting FOBBS with the BBQ. We do hope you are able to come along and support this wonderful community event. Please do visit us for burgers, sausages and a cold drink. Fingers crossed for more sunny weather! If you are able to offer your support on the day, we would be very grateful, please let Kelly Whitaker know.

A reminder also about our Barley and Barkway Bake Off on Friday 15th May at Barley School. If you would like to enter a cake, please contact Kelly, or if you would simply like to come along and sample the delicious entries, do join us from 4pm onwards. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you all a wonderful long weekend. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 5th May.

Warm regards,

Miss Mière

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Stars of the Week

Nursery

This week Hallie is our shining star. Hallie has shown fantastic effort and determination in her learning. She worked especially hard on the letter “j”, taking her time to practise and improve each attempt.



We were also so impressed with the care she took when tracing over her name—she focused carefully and tried her very best to form each letter neatly. Her positive attitude and willingness to keep trying, even when things are tricky, have really stood out. Keep up the amazing work—we are so proud of you!

Reception



This week’s Star of the Week goes to Dolly. She has worked really hard to form her letters “g” and “p” correctly, making sure they are written in the right direction. We are so proud of the care and focus she has shown, especially as she kept trying and improving each time.

Her effort and positive attitude have really shone through. Keep up the brilliant work—we are so proud of you!



Year 1

This week our shining star is Louis! Louis impressed Mrs Gould this week with his efforts in writing, using exclamation marks correctly and the conjunction ‘because’.

Louis has also been a good role model to others by saying positive things about the learning “This is the most interesting Geography” and modelling good learning behaviours when on task. Well done Louis!

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, Mrs Porter would like to recognise all of Year 2 as superstars. She has had the privilege of being their teacher for three days, and every single one of them has shone. The class has been busy story planning and Mrs Porter was particularly impressed with how thoughtfully the children compared the storybook they are reading with its animation. They noticed what was the same and what was different. Well done, you are all superstars!



Year 3 & 4

Mrs Porter was so happy when year 3 and 4 video called her on Thursday evening to tell her all about PGL. They have been abseiling, fencing, walked to the beach and working as a team. They even said “we stayed up really late”. Mrs Porter said she can't wait for them to return as it's very quiet in Barley without them.



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Stars of the Week

Sports Star

This week Elsie, Harry, Tommy, Ophelia, Lorena, and George have a shared star for their amazing running efforts at the mini marathon!

They were entered in to the older category which meant that they were the youngest members to run 2.6k out of 10,000 children.

Could not be prouder of them and will celebrate this further with the other children that ran for our amazing school on their return from PGL.

They also collectively raised £130 for their school.



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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: Mia



Year 1: Louis



Year 2: Tobias





Happy Birthday

A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to
Aria who is celebrating her
Birthday 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 Reception, we have been exploring the exciting theme of Space, and the children have absolutely loved it! We have been busy learning about the moon, stars, and planets through a range of fun, hands-on activities.

One of the highlights was flattening “moon rocks”, where the children used their strength and coordination to squash and shape materials, just like astronauts exploring the surface of the moon. This helped to develop their fine motor skills while inspiring lots of imaginative space talk.

In our space-inspired water tray, the children explored floating and sinking with different objects, pretending they were rockets, planets, and astronauts. This encouraged curiosity, language development, and creative storytelling.

We also enjoyed making our own space playdough, adding glitter to create a sparkly galaxy effect. The children used it to make planets, stars, and even aliens, showing fantastic creativity.

Outdoors, we brought our learning into the mud kitchen, where the children created their own “space potions,” moon dust, and alien recipes.



This weeks activities

Oak & Apple Class

Forest School

We had a wonderful first Forest School session of the term. We were very lucky with the weather and the children noticed how different the Forest School site looked, with lots more plants growing, including some lovely bluebells.

The children had great fun making natural paintbrushes. They used sticks and leaves found in the woods to make their own paintbrushes. We then used mud and water to create some mud paint! The children had a go at using their paint brushes and paint to paint some pictures.

This term, Apple class are going to be taking their Science learning outside. One of our Science units is on 'Plants', and what better way to learn about plants than in the woods. This session the children were learning to identify different trees. They went on a hunt around the woods to see how many types of trees they could find. They looked carefully at the different shapes of the leaves and also noted how the bark looks different on different trees too.

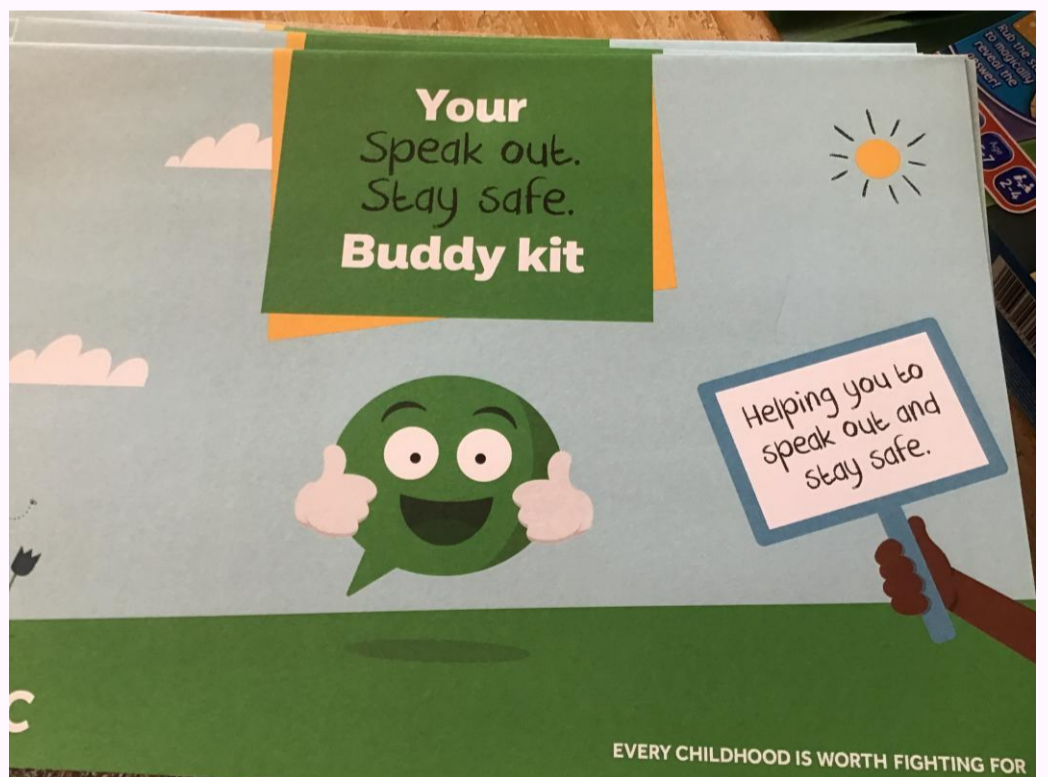


This weeks activities

NSPCC

This week across the Federation children learned about speaking out and staying safe. Pupils learned rhythmic methods on how to remember important telephone numbers for Childline and emergency services.

They also learned about who our safe adults are and about how every child has a right.





BARLEY BARKWAY BAKE OFF

Friday 15th May 2026 at 4pm

ENTER FOR FREE

3 judges – prizes for the winner and runner-up

Grab a slice for 50p + £1

Drinks will be available to buy throughout
the competition

Or why not have a cup of tea for free?



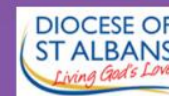
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**BARLEY & BARKWAY FEDERATION
FIRST SCHOOLS**



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:

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Visit us:

www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk



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