

# FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

FAITH

CURIOSITY

WELLBEING

CONFIDENCE

Spring Term 2



## Spotlight

Have a lovely half-term everyone!

Please be reminded that we aren't back until Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June due to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> being an inset day.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### \* Half-term / Inset day

- School will be closed
- 25<sup>th</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> May
  - 1<sup>st</sup> June (inset day)

### \* Forest School

- Reception & Y1
- 12<sup>th</sup> June
  - 25<sup>th</sup> June

*"Living life in all it's fullness" – John 10*

## A message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic first half of the summer term we have had, and I can't believe it has come to an end already! The weeks have flown by and it has been wonderful to see so much exciting learning, creativity and teamwork taking place across the school.

Barley were very lucky to welcome Amy Cameron, an environmental scientist, to school this week. The children loved learning about her job and enjoyed taking her on a local area walk to look for animal habitats. They then created thoughtful posters about celebrating and protecting our environment. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm and care for the world around us.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the consultation on the updated Relationships and Sex Education curriculum on Tuesday with Mrs Gould. We really appreciate your support and engagement.

The Barley children also enjoyed a wonderful tea party with their Margaret House buddies this week. It was especially special as Beech Class introduced their buddies to Hazel Class ready for next year. The children shared cakes, as well as some lovely drawing and colouring activities together. Thank you to all of our Margaret House buddies and staff for coming, the children absolutely loved spending time with you.

PE lessons have been full of their usual fun and energy this week, with the parachute games across both sites being a particular highlight! There was lots of laughter, teamwork and smiling faces.

Reception and Year 1 had a wonderful Forest School session yesterday, taking part in minibeast and habitat-related activities linked to their science learning. The children had an amazing time hunting for minibeasts, creating habitats for their toy animals and working together to build a huge tepee using sticks. It was fantastic to see such creativity, collaboration and curiosity outdoors.

Year 4 have also been extra busy this week with their special DT project, making appliqué cushions using their design and sewing skills. They have shown fantastic focus and perseverance throughout, and I cannot wait to see the finished cushions!

Finally, Miss Preston had some very exciting celebrations at Barley yesterday afternoon in preparation for her special day on Sunday, when she is getting married! We wish her every happiness and hope she has a truly wonderful day.

Wishing you all a wonderful, warm and sunny bank holiday weekend and a very happy half term holiday.

One more half term to go!

Best wishes,

Miss Mière

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## Stars of the Week

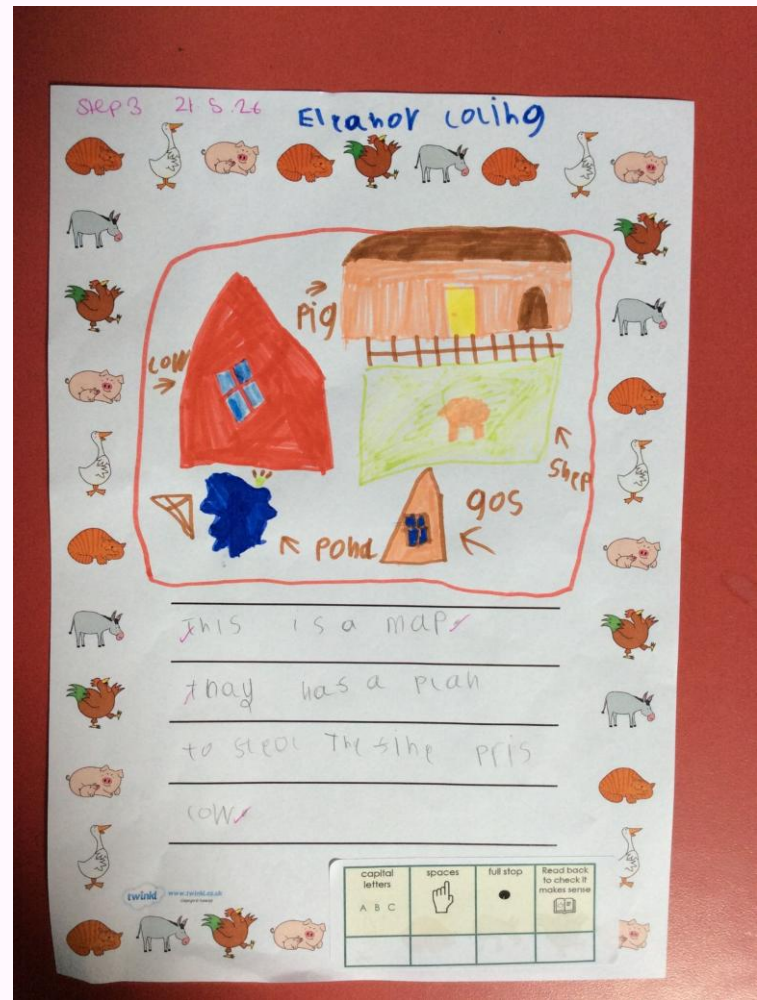
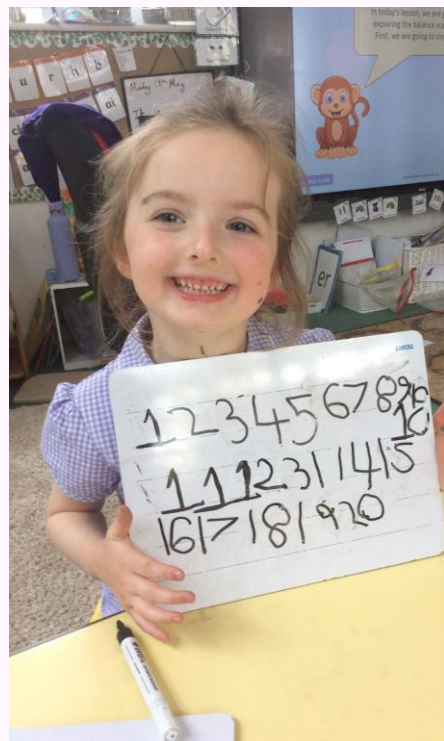
### Nursery

This week, our shining star is Grace. She has been working incredibly hard during our maths learning about mass. She has shown great enthusiasm when exploring and using the balancing scales, carefully comparing objects and talking about which items are heavier, lighter, or equal in weight. She has been using fantastic mathematical vocabulary during her play and learning, confidently explaining her ideas and making thoughtful predictions. Well done for being such a wonderful learner and role model in Nursery!



### Reception

Mia is our shining star in Oak class. She has been working incredibly hard in our EYFS classroom to develop her number writing skills to 20. With growing confidence, she is beginning to recognise number patterns and can carefully sequence numbers in the correct order. She has shown great determination when practising her number formation, taking her time to ensure each number is written correctly. Mia also has a positive attitude to learning. We are very proud of the effort and perseverance she shows every day! Well done Mia!



### Year 1

This week our shining star is Eleanor! Eleanor is always a superstar when it comes to our drawing club lessons. I always look forward to seeing her drawings as she has a fantastic imagination and always adds lots of details to her drawings

This week we are learning a poem from 'What the Ladybird did next'. Eleanor drew a lovely picture of the farm and even decided to label her picture!

Well done Eleanor!

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 Maisie. In year 2 the children have been writing instructions. Maisie carefully thought about what information she needed to include in her instructions and even included adverbs. Miss Preston said that “her instructions were a joy to read.”

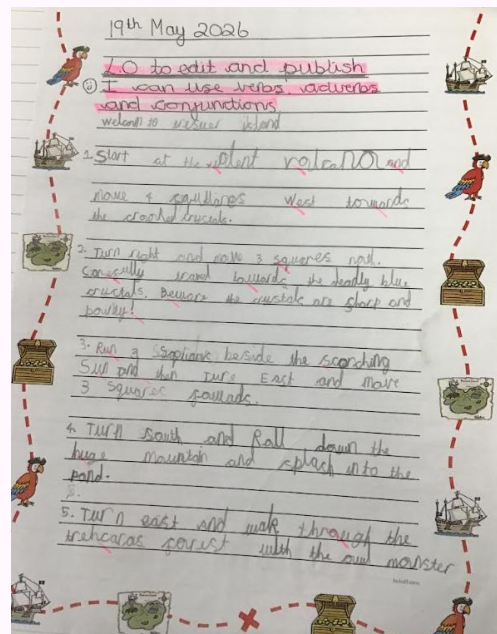


Well done Maisie.

### Year 3

This week our star of the week is Jaxon.

In our English learning he wrote instructions which included verbs, adverbs, conjunctions and alliteration.



Well done Jaxon for being captain concentration to write incredible instructions.

### Year 4

This week, our star of the week is all of Year 4! This week, we have been working on our DT project of applique cushions. Year 4 have been so enthusiastic about this and shown some great skills. They are all able to thread their own needles and have thought carefully about their designs. Well done Year 4!



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## Stars of the Week

## Sports Star

This week Esme is the PE star.

We started this half term with outdoor gymnastics, being outside meant we could use all the equipment with no restrictions.

Esme has made so much progress since the beginning of the half term in gymnastic and can now straddle through on a middle vault. So impressive!



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# Happy Birthday

A big  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to Henry, Storm, Mrs Makewell,  
and Ms Taylor who are  
celebrating their Birthday this  
week and over the half-term!

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



## This weeks activities

# Oak Class

This week our Mini Beasts topic has been full of excitement, creativity, and discovery! The children have loved learning all about different mini beasts and their habitats through a range of fun and hands-on activities.

We explored a variety of insects and bugs, learning interesting facts about where they live, what they eat, and why they are important to our environment. The children especially enjoyed taking part in mini beast hunts outdoors, carefully searching for worms, ladybirds, spiders, snails, and woodlice around our learning area.

In art, the children used their imagination to invent their very own mini beasts. They designed colourful creatures with unique features, creating wonderful drawings and models inspired by the insects we have been studying.

In maths, we have been practising number bonds to 5 using mini beast counting activities. The children used different insects to help them count, combine groups, and explore simple number problems in a fun and engaging way.

It has been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic and curious throughout our Mini Beasts topic!



## This weeks activities

# Apple Class

This week we had another lovely, sunny session at Forest School. This week the children had a go at building dens for toy animals. They used sticks and leaves to create shelters and even had a go at building a big shelter they hoped some real animals may use.

In Year One we have been learning about the difference between wild flowers and garden flowers. The children were able to spot quite a few different wild and garden plants on the walk to forest school. They were fantastic at identifying whether they thought a plant was wild and their reasons why. Once at Forest school we had a go at collecting wild flowers and plants to make a wild flower bookmark.

Some of the children had the wonderful idea to create a bug hotel. They worked together to collect logs, bark, leaves and smaller sticks and build a new home for the bugs. I was really impressed with their teamwork. Oak class have been learning about mini beasts and also went on a minibeast hunt!



## This weeks activities

# Hazel Class

On Monday the children at Barley School were extremely lucky to have a visit from Amy Cameron an environmental scientist from Fernie, British Columbia, Canada – which is South of Banff and Calgary. She went on a local area walk with year 2 to look at the habitats we can find in Barley, the children were really excited to find a spider hole and a range of different fungi.

After lunch Amy gave a talk about her work in Canada; checking the health of the rivers and lakes, and different ways that she helps protect the habitats of the animals. The children were extremely engaged and asked many interesting questions! After lots of quizzing they made posters sharing what they learned about Canada, the environment over there, and the variety of different animals they have.



This weeks activities

# Sycamore Class

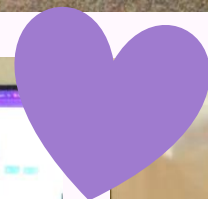
Year 4 have been enjoying their DT project this week which is making an applique cushion. They have designed their decorative feature, made a paper pattern which they then cut out of fabric before sewing it all together. We then used a sewing machine to finish it off. We're excited to share our finished products.



# Miss Preston is getting Married!

The children over at our Barley school site had a fabulous time with Miss Preston this week as they wished her good luck for Sunday as she is getting married!

Miss Preston we hope you have the most magical day celebrating and look forward to hearing all about your special day when we return after half-term.



# Charlie Chicks

We have received a lovely message from the Garden House Hospice Care fundraising team to thank us for taking part in the Charlie Chicks campaign.

By taking part we collectively raised £22,132.80 with other schools, organisations and businesses in the local area!



# Thank you

## Barley Barkway Federation First Schools

for supporting this year's Charlie Chicks. Your efforts have helped us to raise **£22,132.80!** This will help up to keep caring for the patients of today and the patients of tomorrow. Thank you.

*Cecilia Brown*  
 Director of Income Generation

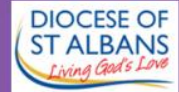
May 2026

Date





**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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