

NEWSLETTER



Faith

Curiosity

Wellbeing

Confidence

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that the wonderful photo of our Year 4 students in the Barley Community Garden was taken just days ago! We're certainly enjoying the warm, sunny weather, and we hope it continues throughout the Easter break and beyond.

Last Friday, we marked Science Week across the schools with some fantastic experiments. Read on below to discover all the exciting activities we took part in.

We'd love for as many of you as possible to join us next Friday at Barley Church for our Easter Celebration Service, starting at 9:00.

SHARON BROWN - FEDERATION HEADTEACHER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mother's day – Sunday 30th March
- Easter Service at Barley Church – Friday 4th April at 9am. All BBF and Preschool Children to Barley school after service.
- Easter holidays – Monday 7th April up to and including Monday 21st April.

*"Living Life in All
Its Fullness"*
–John 10

STARS OF THE WEEK

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, demonstrating school values...

NURSERY

This week in Nursery our star of the week is Rowan for his amazing creative skills. Rowan has shown an increasing interest in the creative activities that we have available in Oak Class. This week he used the cotton buds to paint a beautiful spring flower and he used the forks to print some beautiful tulips and paint the stems.

Well done, Rowan!



RECEPTION

This week in Reception Grayson is our star of the week for his amazing designing and making skills during his choose, play and learn time. Grayson made an AMAZING camera using junk modelling and what was even more fantastic is that Grayson used two new skills which we have learnt in our creative sessions over the past few weeks. First he turned the box inside out and then he used a flange join to attach the two cardboard tubes - one for the lens and one for the button on top of the camera to take the photos!

Well done, Grayson!



YEAR 1

This week in Apple Class, Esme is star of the week for her marvellous maths.

Mrs Porter was impressed with Esme yesterday who was drawing her dienes (tens and ones) when solving word problems.

Well done Esme.

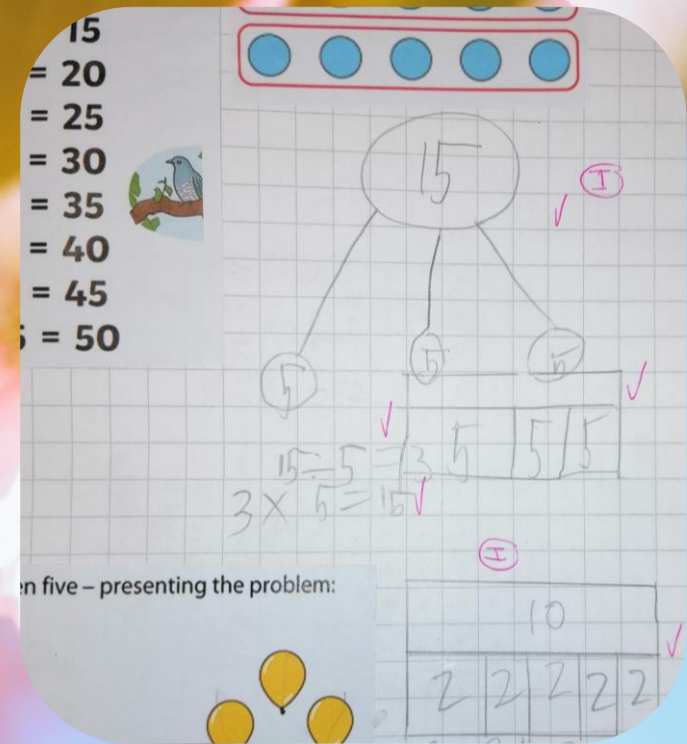


STARS OF THE WEEK

YEAR 2

This week, Jake is the shining star for his efforts with his learning. He is working hard in English to apply his phonics when reading and writing and is showing brilliant maths mastery in his recordings. In our recent unit on multiplication and division Jake was able to describe an array using part-whole models, bar diagrams, repeated additions and multiplication sentences!

Well done Jake!



YEAR 3

This week George is our star of the week for his fabulous fractions work.

This week, in Beech Class, we have been proving our maths by drawing on the tables. It's okay we also proved it rubs off!

Well done George for drawing your fraction number lines.

YEAR 4

This week in Year 4 Jessica is the star of the week. We have been learning to code for the last 5 weeks, at the end of this weeks lesson Year 4 had to debug a code, Jessica has always found this very tricky and this week she was the first to find out what was wrong with the code and complete the program.

Well done Jessica.



STARS OF THE WEEK



ART STAR

This week all of year 1 are our super art stars.

They combined the watercolour and collage skills that they have been working on this term to make some wonderful artwork.

I can't put a picture up because its a surprise, but I hope our special people like them!

SCIENCE STAR

This week the star of the week for Science is Willow in year 2. Willow has been using her observational skills to assess which materials were waterproof.

Well done Willow.



SPORTS STAR

This week Adela is our PE star for showing tremendous effort, attitude and resilience in both hand balls and salsa dance lessons.

Hugo is also our PE star for following sporting rules accurately and showing great reaction skills.

Well done Adela and Hugo!



SCIENCE DAY

BBF CHILDREN CELEBRATE SCIENCE DAY

On Friday, 21st March, we celebrated Science Day to mark British Science Week 2025. The theme for this year was "Change and Adapt", and there was an undeniable buzz of excitement throughout both schools as students participated in a range of hands-on activities to enhance their scientific knowledge and skills.

Science Day was a fantastic opportunity for all students to immerse themselves in the world of discovery and innovation. A huge thank you to all the teachers and staff who made the day possible, and a special thanks to Millie, a visiting Engineer, for inspiring our future scientists and engineers. We can't wait to see where their curiosity takes them next!



SCIENCE DAY

NURSERY, RECEPTION & YEAR 1

In EYFS, the children embraced their inner botanists by planting beans and learning about the growth cycle of plants.

Year 1 pupils channelled their creativity and engineering skills to design rockets, which they later evaluated to see how successful their creations were.

Tobias: "The rockets didn't work because it wasn't strong enough to get the lid off".

Maisie said "I think we need more powder and vinegar."

Harry: "I don't think it had enough powder and vinegar. If

Ellie-May had a stand I think it would have flown because the wind was too strong so it fell over.

Ophelia's had too much water in it so it wouldn't fly"

Ellie-May: "The slime smelt like conditioner"

Esme: "The slime went hard when I got home." We tried to measure our shadow to check how the earth and sun move but sadly it was too cloudy!!



SCIENCE DAY

YEAR 2

Year 2 enjoyed making their very own wormeries in class. They learnt that worms are invertebrates and have no back bone. They enjoyed going out to find some worms for their wormeries.

They also enjoyed the awe and wonder of watching the colours emerge in the water when doing a skittle experiment.



SCIENCE DAY

YEAR 3

Year 3 students put on their detective hats to think like forensic scientists, solving the mystery of who had stolen "Harold." After their investigative work, they headed to the school allotment to plant a variety of flowers and vegetables. They also had a surprise Zoom call with a real-life female engineer named Millie, who shared her experiences and encouraged them to explore future careers in engineering.



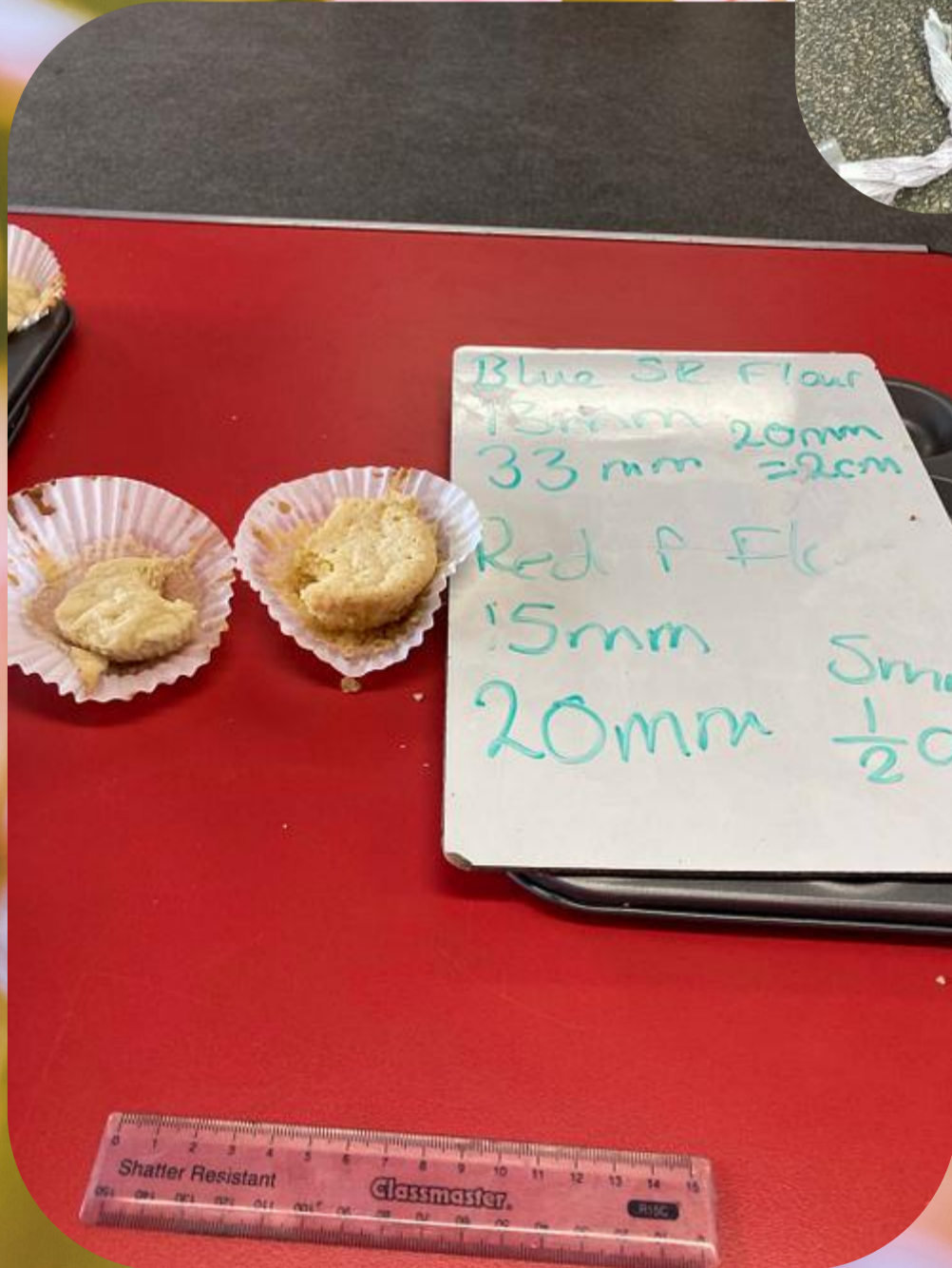
SCIENCE DAY

YEAR 4

In Year 4, the students became star bakers!

They conducted experiments to predict and observe how different materials impacted their cooking results.

It was a deliciously fun way to explore scientific concepts in action.



WIRE FARM

YEAR 2 & 3

Hazel and Beech classes joined together on Monday for a trip to Wire Farm in Chrishall. We were warmly welcomed by Caroline Rogers and Lola the Dog and began by investigating some different grains. The children were asked to guess which type of plant the grains were from. Well done to Eliza who correctly identified the oats and barley and to Vira for noticing the ears of barley on her school top! The children explored the grains with their senses and then had another guessing game of what the crops would be made into. We discussed products such as digestive biscuits and bread made from wheat. Caroline asked 'What has to happen to this wheat before it can be made into biscuits?' Cali correctly suggested 'you need to grind it'. We found out that some of the mills where the grain is ground to flour were not too far from us in places like Biggleswade. Another well done to Jake for knowing the oats can be used for porridge! The children loved sampling a classic plain digestive biscuit made from wheat flour.

The trip really supported the learning we have been doing in Hazel and Beech class in both science and geography. In Year 2 we have been exploring and investigating materials. They were able to make connections with this learning whilst at the farm. Jaxon suggested the material covering the straw was nylon (a material Year 2 were testing last week in class). Hazel class were able to name the properties of nylon that made it suitable to store the straw - 'strong, light and waterproof'.

Sam, the farmers' son who also works on the farm, treated us to a show of watching him drive his tractor into the field and woke us all up with a very loud honk of the horn! He told us how the white box on top of the tractor is connected to a satellite in space and this steered it into perfectly straight lines whilst the tractor drives itself around the fields, it was very interesting to hear about.

Beech Class could also make links with their learning in geography on land use in the local areas and mapping and physical geography knowledge and skills such as Chrishall being the highest point above sea level! Beech class produced some lovely sketches to record their observations of land use that they could see from the field.

We were privileged to be at the farm on the same day that the farrier was visiting to give the horses their new shoes! Caroline explained to the children how the horses need to wear shoes to protect their hooves. We were surprised by the smell and the smoke when the new shoes were attached. The children really loved seeing the cattle on the farm and Caroline and Philip explained how all the cattle have a passport with all their details on. Everyone was set the challenge to find the cow that matched the passport looking at the tags on their ears! Well done to Angelica-Mae and Isaac who found their matching cow. Caroline explained that the passports were all part of the process the farm has to stick to in order to get their certified red tractor badge.

Please do look for those red tractor labels when shopping to help support our local farmers like the wonderful Rogers family.



A LETTER FROM THE KING

YEAR 3

Year 3 were excited to receive a letter from King Charles III.

They wrote a letter to the King to tell him about the problem with single use plastic. We were inspired to know that he is passionate about the environment too.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Private and Confidential

18th March, 2025

To: The Children in Beech Class, Year 3 at Barley and Barkway (V.A.)
C. of E. First Schools Federation
c/o Mrs. Carol Porter

The King has asked me to thank you for your thoughtful messages.

It was so kind of you to take the trouble to write to His Majesty with your concerns for the environment. The King, who has been working on projects to protect and restore our natural world for over fifty years, was immensely touched to learn that you too care deeply about this important issue, and was especially heartened by your enthusiasm for preventing plastic pollution in our oceans.

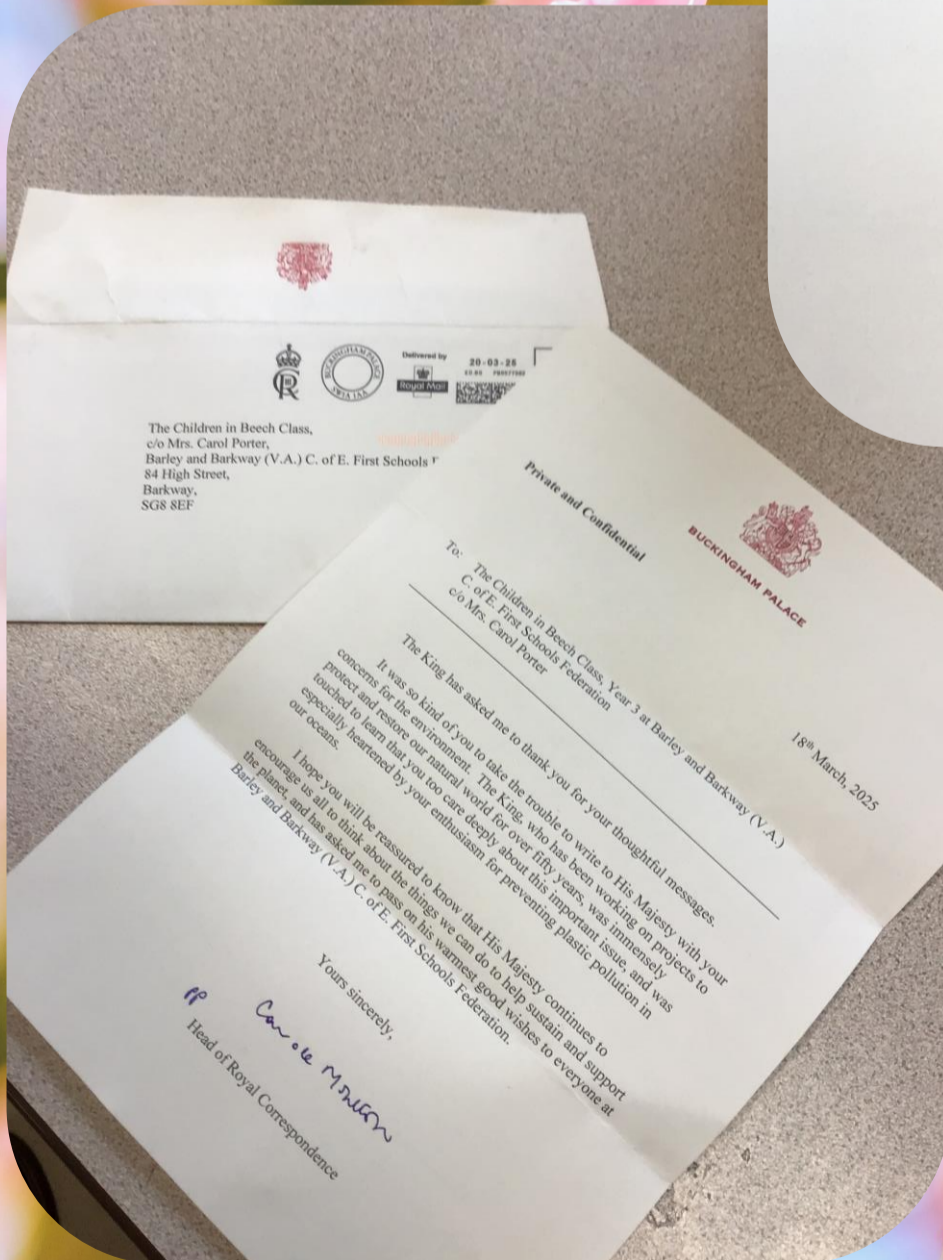
I hope you will be reassured to know that His Majesty continues to encourage us all to think about the things we can do to help sustain and support the planet, and has asked me to pass on his warmest good wishes to everyone at Barley and Barkway (V.A.) C. of E. First Schools Federation.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Moulton

ff

Head of Royal Correspondence



EVEREST CHALLENGE

£30,000 SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Pupils Tackle Everest Challenge to Raise Funds for New Outdoor Classroom

Pupils at Barley and Barkway Federation First Schools are set to take on a thrilling challenge this Easter holiday, with aspirations of virtually reaching Everest Base Camp.

Mrs. Makewell, the school's art teacher, will be embarking on the real-life journey, climbing an impressive equivalent of 1,700 flights of stairs to reach the Everest base camp during the Easter holidays. In support of her adventure, the children at the school are aiming to climb the same number of stairs at home.

Throughout her journey, Mrs. Makewell will keep the pupils engaged with updates and plans to host live Zoom chats.

She will also visit a school in Nepal, where she'll ask the students questions about their lives—questions that were thoughtfully created by the pupils in Barley and Barkway. The children have been learning about Nepal's unique culture and how life there contrasts with life in the UK, as well as the challenges of high-altitude climbing. They've even had fun trying on some of Mrs. Makewell's climbing gear and tasting traditional Nepalese foods.

This isn't Mrs. Makewell's first challenge—she's an avid marathon runner—but it is certainly her toughest yet.

At Barley and Barkway Federation First Schools, we are passionate about providing every child with the support and opportunities they need to thrive. To enhance our provision for small group work, targeted interventions, and individualised learning, we are raising funds to create a new additional learning space that will benefit students, families, and professionals alike.

If you would like to donate to our school fundraiser then please go to our link for our Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kelly-whitaker-2?utm_term=ZRkerXDY2

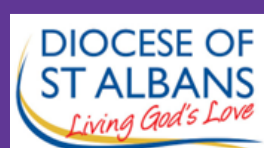
Mrs. Makewell will also be live streaming parts of her journey to the Everest basecamp, you can follow her on Instagram to keep up to date –

[@mrsmakewell_everestadventure](https://www.instagram.com/mrsmakewell_everestadventure)



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REMINDER



FINISHING SOON! CHARLIE CHICKS

Final reminder that Charlie Chicks are available until Wednesday 2nd April

From Monday 10th March we are supporting Garden House Hospice, by offering their hand knitted Charlie Chicks (who have an Easter surprise inside) – the chicks are £1.50 each and are available in both offices until Wednesday 2nd April.

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