

FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

FAITH

CURIOSITY

WELLBEING

CONFIDENCE

Autumn Term



Spotlight

For those of you who don't know – we have a FOBBs WhatsApp group chat, where you can be kept up to date and have a say on the latest/upcoming school events.

To join the group please talk to Mrs Whitaker or email us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * **Harvest Festival**
 - 6th October from 9.00am at Barkway Church.
- * **BBF Halloween Party**
 - 23rd October at Barley school hall – see invite details being sent by Mrs Whitaker
- * **Half Term**
 - 26th October to 30th October.
- * **Joint Open Day**
 - 5th November 9:30-11:30am at Barkway. Please ring 01763 848283 to book your slot.

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

A message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What another lovely and busy week across our Federation!

A huge well done to all of our Year 3s, Year 4s and past pupils who continue to make such a difference through their visits and wonderful relationships with our buddies at Margaret House. Our children were lucky enough to attend a very special awards ceremony on Monday evening, where we were one of four nominations for the Young Heroes Award.

Although we were not chosen for the award, we are incredibly proud of our children and the amazing difference they make to the lives of the residents at Margaret House. A special thank you to Mrs Porter and Mrs Makewell for supporting our children and families at the ceremony, and to all of our children and families who attended and supported us. Well done, everyone, you are wonderful ambassadors for our Federation!

It has been wonderful to see Apple Class's fantastic writing this week. The children have been retelling the story of Jasper's Beanstalk, writing about what Jasper did each day. It was so lovely to see the children so engaged and independent, and even better, not wanting to stop! We are really seeing that love of writing developing.

I also loved seeing Oak Class's self-portraits. Our youngest children have been drawing with such wonderful detail and accuracy. It is fantastic to see their confidence developing as they explore and express themselves through art.

We also had our first Celebration Assembly with parents and carers this week. It was lovely to welcome you into school to read with your children first and then join us for our celebration. It was particularly lovely to see some of our new parents and carers joining us too. Thank you to everyone who came along, it really does make these occasions so special for the children.

Next week, our Celebration Assembly will be on Friday 9th October, and you are all very welcome to join us at both schools from 8:35am. This will give you the opportunity to look at your child's books and learning around the classroom before joining us for our collective worship and Celebration Assembly. We hope to see you there!

We are also really looking forward to our Harvest Festival Church Service on Tuesday 6th October at Barkway Church, starting at 9:00am. All of our children will be sharing their learning about harvest and singing lots of cheerful harvest songs. You are all warmly invited to come along and celebrate with us.

Reception and Year 1 enjoyed their first Forest School session yesterday, with lots of fun, hands-on activities, exploring nature and enjoying learning outdoors. Thank you to Mrs Das for organising and leading such a lovely experience for our children. Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 will have their first Forest School session with Mrs West next week, and I know they are going to have a wonderful time too!

Finally, a big thank you to Isabelle Briggs, who has been with us in Oak Class this week. Thank you for all of your support, we have loved having you with us and look forward to seeing you every Thursday.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone, and thank you as always for your continued support of our Federation.

Miss Mière

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Attendance Matters

🎯 **Our Attendance A.I.M.**
Attend • Improve • Move Forward!

Our BBF Attendance song is:

**On Time,
We Shine,
Don't Miss,
High Five!**

Also for the attendance page: Please look out for your child's golden tickets for achieving 100% attendance for w/b 7th September and w/b 14th September. These have been added to our Golden Boxes and 1 winner from each school will be chosen during the w/b 19th October. Prize to be announced soon...

See below for this weeks attendance scores:

- Oak Class: 100%**
- Apple Class: 93.75%**
- Hazel Class: 91.6%**
- Beech Class: 94.44%**
- Sycamore Class: 93.65%**

Well done to **Oak** class
for achieving 100% attendance
this week!



The attendance board so far



Happy Birthday

A big **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Robyn who is celebrating her Birthday this week!

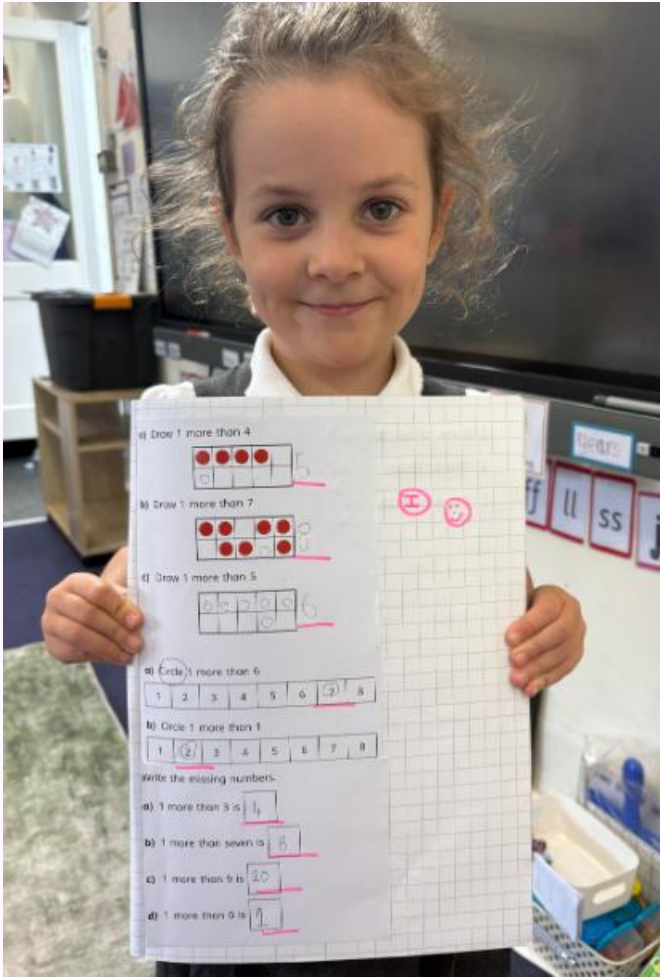
We hope you had/have a fantastic time filled with fun and the things you enjoy the most!



Stars of the Week

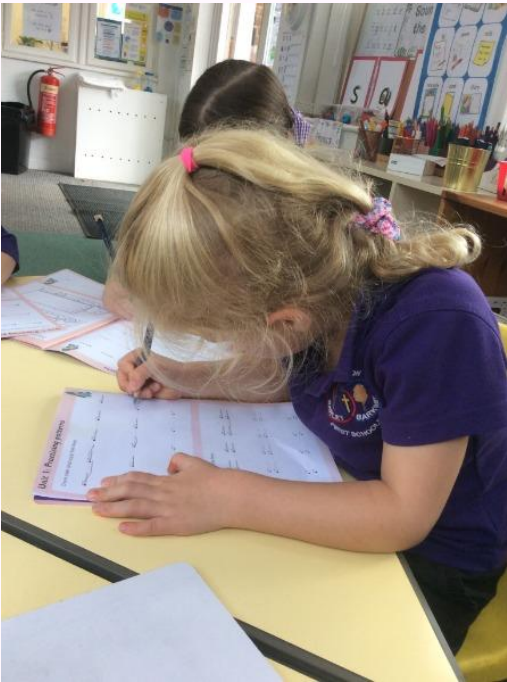
Nursery

This week, Rémy has been a superstar during our learning about families! He drew a fantastic picture of his family and really enjoyed creating his family members using natural materials. Rémy carefully selected each piece, thinking about how he could represent each person. He showed wonderful creativity, concentration and attention to detail. We are so proud of you, Rémy!



Reception

This week, Hallie has been a superstar in our new phonics and handwriting sessions! She has shown fantastic determination and has been working really hard on holding her pencil correctly and forming her letters carefully. We are so proud of her positive attitude, perseverance and willingness to keep trying. Keep up the amazing work, Hallie!



Year 1

Well done to Elsie for her marvellous maths! We have been learning to prove what one more than a number is and to write numbers in digits and words. Elsie showed fantastic independence by using our maths table to help her spell her numbers in words. Keep using the working wall Elsie to enhance your learning. Well done.

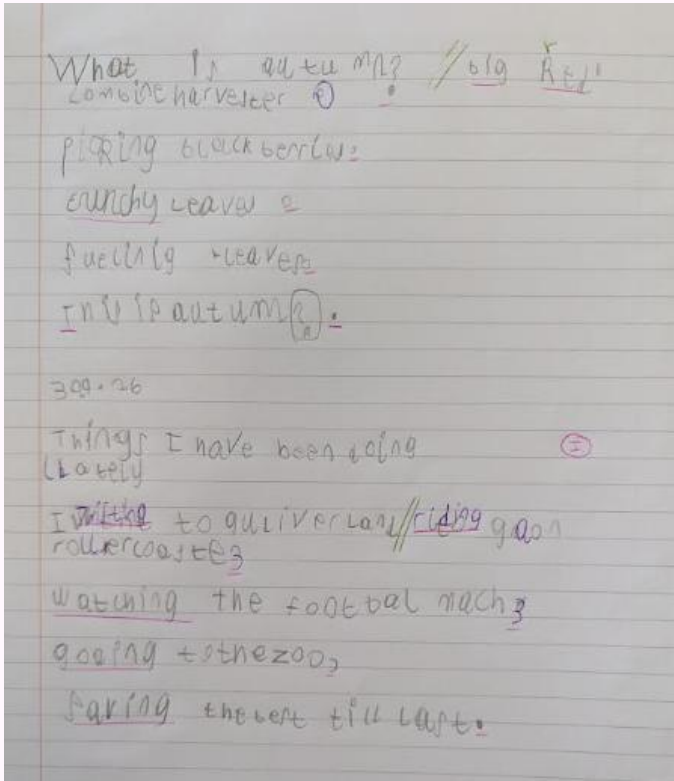
Children are chosen by their teacher to be Star of the Week and are proud to receive this recognition which we celebrate in out Sharing assembly. Stars are chosen for good behaviour, excellent work and demonstrating school values.

Stars of the Week

Year 2

This week Henry is the star of the week for his fabulous poetry! He has applied what he had been taught in the lessons, remembering to use commas at the end of the lines and writing in the style of the original poem. In his "Things I've been doing lately" poem he remembered to use verbs with the suffix "-ing".

Well done Henry!!



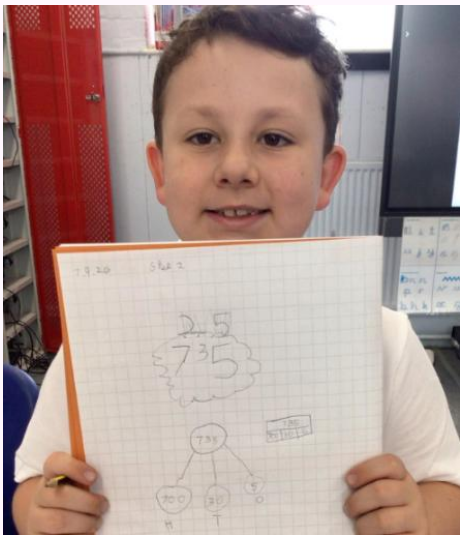
Year 3

In Year 3, Harry is the star of the week for his positive attitude towards his work. Harry is trying hard in all of our learning and is listening carefully to all the feedback that he is given. We can then see him putting what he has learnt into his work. Well done Harry!



Year 4

Jaxon is truly a shining star of Sycamore class. He brings so much warmth and positivity to the class. He is always polite and respectful and we are thankful for all his helpful learning behaviours. Jaxon takes care with all his tasks; always trying the extra challenge in Maths, taking on feedback to improve his writing with a positive attitude and always listening very well during learning time. Well done Jaxon!



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Stars of the Week

PE Star

Eleanor is the PE star this week but she could easily be the star every week.

Her determination to win, is not only paying off in her PE lessons but I know she is doing extremely well in her clubs out of school too!

She encourages other and will demonstrate skills taught in all parts of the lesson. You are a true star Eleanor!



Art Star

The Art Star of the week is Reggie in Year 3. Year 3 were looking at the art of Jean Michel Basquiat before being challenged to create their own version.

Reggie followed the instructions carefully and produced an excellent work of art.

Well done Reggie!



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Headteacher's Award

This term we are introducing a new award called the “Headteacher’s Award”.

Miss Mière awards these special awards to pupils that she has noticed showing excellent behaviour, manners and showing a true representation of our Federation Values during the week.

This week we have 2 Headteacher’s awards:

Rosie has been awarded the Headteacher’s Award in Barkway this week, for showing growing confidence and independence in Nursery. We are so proud of you, Rosie! 🌟

And Maisie has also been awarded the Headteacher’s Award in Barley this week, for always being polite and for consistently showing our value of thankfulness throughout the school day. Well done, Maisie! 🌟



This weeks activities

Oak Class

This week, Nursery and Reception have been learning all about families. We talked about our own families and explored how every family is unique and special. The children enjoyed drawing pictures of their families and using natural pebbles to create family portraits.

We developed our mathematical skills through a number house keys activity, matching keys to the correct numbered houses. In the water tray, the children had great fun making bear soup, using their imaginations and developing their language through play.

Throughout the week, we celebrated the similarities and differences between our families and learnt that families come in all shapes and sizes.



This weeks activities

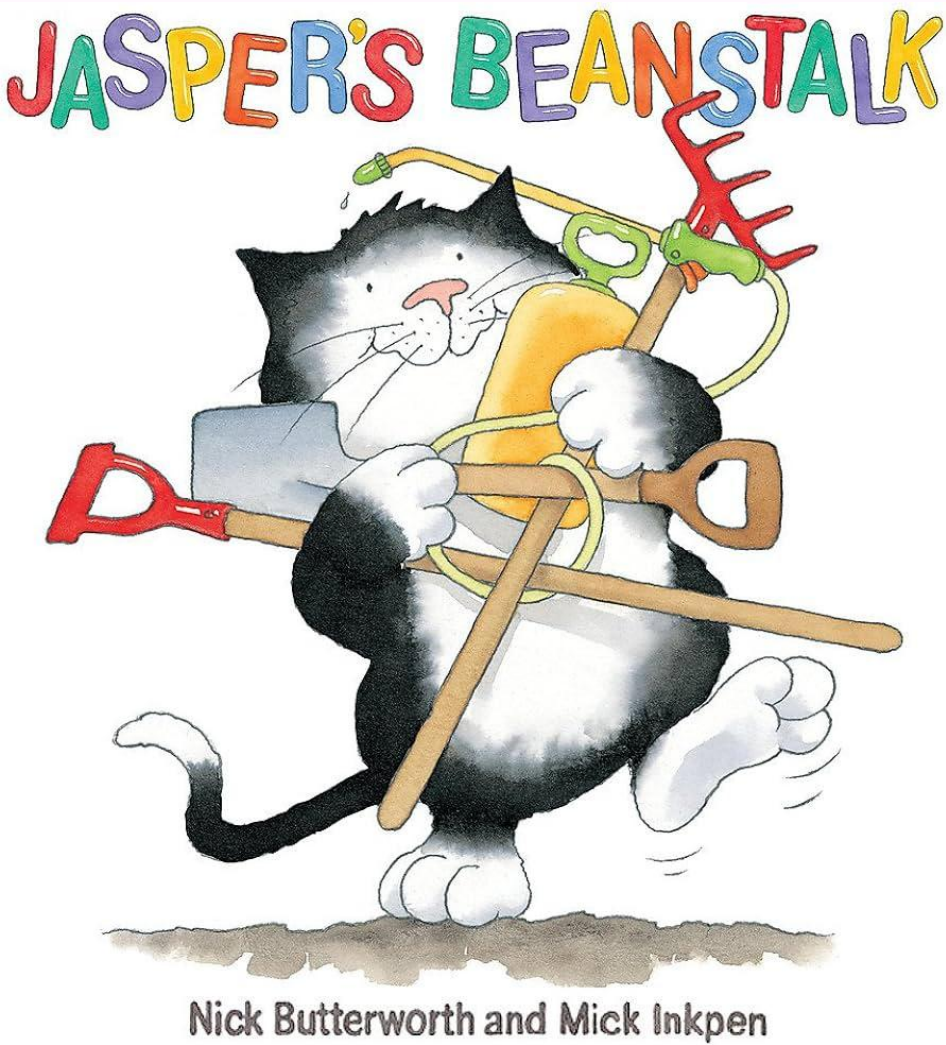
Apple Class

Apple Class have been busy orally rehearsing instructions before writing them.

They used bossy words to describe what Jasper did to grow his beans.

The children showed super concentration as they practised holding their pencils correctly and used their phonics mats to support their writing.

Well done, Apple Class!



This weeks activities

Hazel Class

This week, year 2 has been learning how to write poems in different styles. We worked hard creating some shared poems (thank you Mrs Makewell for making them look beautiful) and then they had a go at writing their own in their books!

Well done, Hazel Class!

What is Autumn?

Autumn is,
falling leaves,
collecting nuts,
jumping in leaves,
orange leaves,
crunchy apples,
dark nights
and spooky fun.
This is Autumn.



Things I have been doing lately.

Learning a poem,
Riding a rollercoaster,
Having a halloween party,
Watching the rugby,
Going to a football stadium,
Eating McDonalds,
Learning to swim,

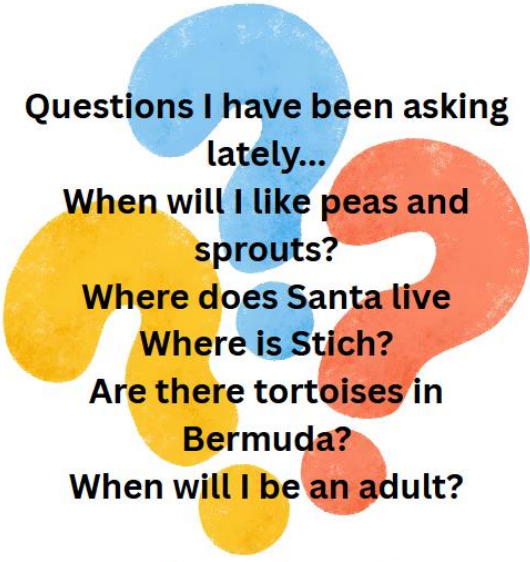
Saving the best till last.



Tell Me Mamma

Questions I have been asking lately...
When will I like peas and sprouts?
Where does Santa live
Where is Stich?
Are there tortoises in Bermuda?
When will I be an adult?

Do you know?



This weeks activities

Beech Class

This week, Year 3 have been starting their poetry topic.

On Wednesday we went out for a nature walk and collected objects that we are going to use to write our first poem. We then used our words to play a guessing game to describe the objects.

Well done, Beech Class!



This weeks activities

Sycamore Class

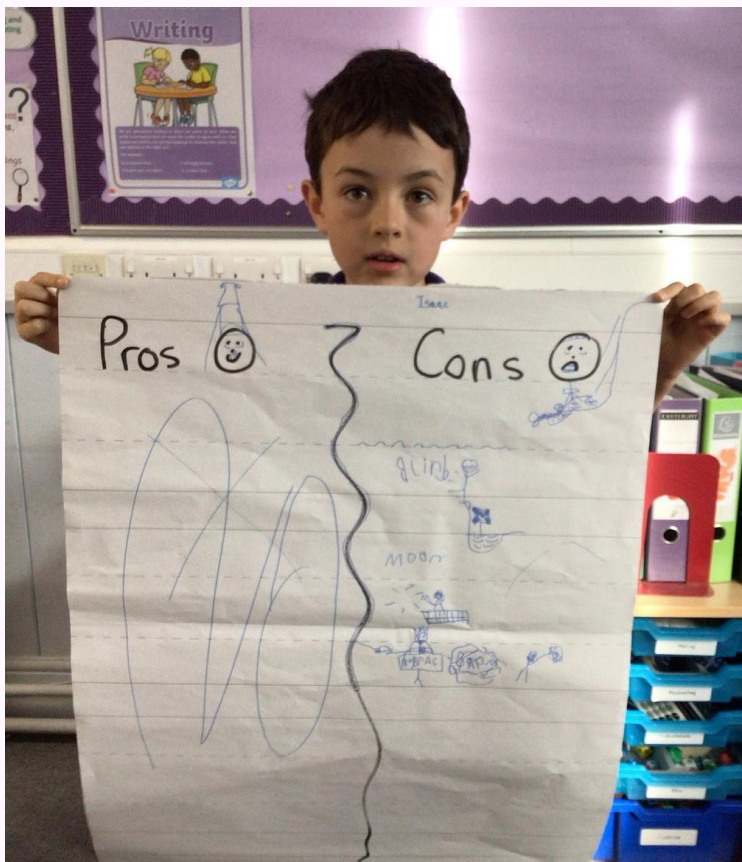
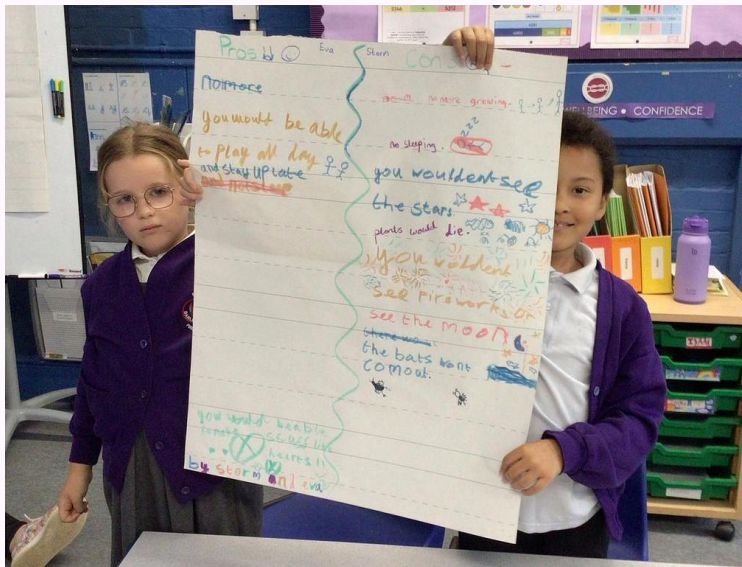
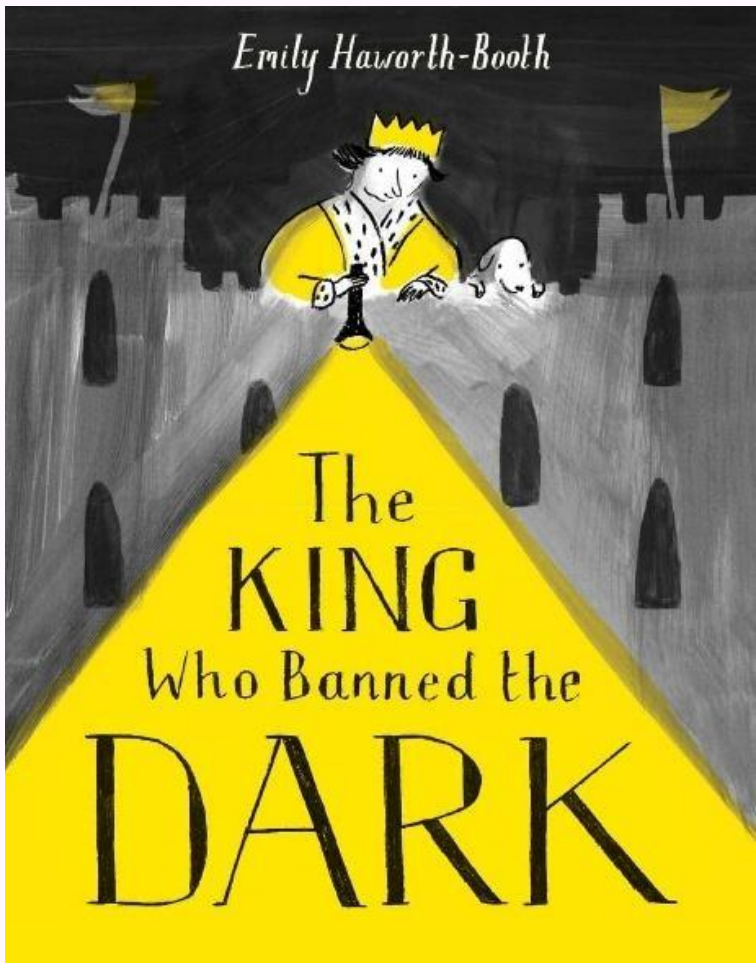
Sycamore class have really enjoyed starting their new unit on Persuasive Writing! They began by sharing the story - The King Who Banned the Dark by Emily Haworth-Booth. The story was about a young prince who was afraid of the dark so when he grew up to be the king, the first thing he did was ban the dark! The children then reflected on the pros and cons of there never being any dark and fed back their ideas to the class using conjunctions.

After that, the children looked at an example of persuasive writing and highlighted parts they felt helped to sway the audience's opinion. It was brilliant to see them drawing on their learning from last year, remembering persuasive devices such as The Power of Three and rhetorical questions.

The children then gave further persuasive speeches including the devices we discussed. Jake was brilliant at drawing on facts and figures and said "It is that 80% of people have been scared of the dark". Isaac made a powerful point that 'People would cry if they could never see the beautiful moon again.'

The children will then move on to planning ideas for their own persuasive writing pieces.

Great work Year 4!



Red Carpet Event for Our Young Heroes!

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils enjoyed a very special evening at The Grove Theatre in Dunstable for the BBC Make a Difference Awards. The children were incredibly proud to be one of just four finalists for the Young Heroes Award, recognising the wonderful difference they make through their special partnership with Margaret House Residential Care Home.

The children proudly waved their purple stars when they saw their picture on the large theatre screen. Their regular visits to Margaret House, including reading with residents, sharing activities and building friendships, have created a very special intergenerational partnership.

Although they did not win the award, the children know that they are all winners. Every week, they make a genuine difference to the lives of the residents by bringing friendship, conversation, laughter and joy. The experience has also helped the children to develop confidence, empathy, communication skills and a deeper understanding of caring for others.

Everyone at school is incredibly proud of the children and the difference they continue to make. They truly are our Young Heroes!



Forms Reminder

This is a reminder for those who haven't already sent us your completed BBF Pupil Allergy Management form:

On 16th June we sent out via email our new 'allergy management' form which would allow our trained staff members to administer Piriton (antihistamine medication) or an Adrenaline Auto-Injection (AAI / JEXT EpiPen) if there was a medical emergency regarding your child on our school site that required either of these medications.

After only receiving a few forms back via email across both school sites, we sent home hard copies to those we haven't heard from.

At Barley Barkway Federation school the health and safety of all our pupils is paramount, and anaphylactic reactions can be fatal which is why it's so important for us to know whether we may be able to medically assist your child using our medications that are stored on both school sites.

If you require another copy or have any questions regarding this form being sent home either via email or a hard copy please contact the school offices:

Barley – Mrs Piper: admin@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Barkway – Miss Jordan: office@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk

Kind Regards,

Miss Jordan
Admin Assistant

Barkway Advent Windows 2026

Following the successful revival of the village Advent windows in 2025, we are going to do them again in 2026!

For those who haven't been involved before, the idea is that for every day of Advent a newly decorated window will appear in the village.

To take part you just have to decorate a window in your house to be revealed on your chosen/allotted day in December. It doesn't have to be anything complicated. This year's theme for the windows is 'Christmas Films' which could be anything from the Snowman to Die Hard, Elf or Home Alone.

Prior to the first of December we will publicise where the windows will be so that everyone can come and take a look. Hopefully, by the end of December, we will have a village full of beautifully decorated Christmassy windows!

How you can get involved:

- Select the day you would like to decorate your window for (choose from any day in December up until the 24th)
- Email Kate Pinnock kate@inghampinnock.com by Wednesday 11th November letting her know the following; which day you would like, the first line of your address and email address (this would only be used to contact you, not to be shared more widely).
- Choose a subject for your window, this year's theme is Christmas Films
- Get decorating! Decorate your window ready to be revealed on your chosen/allocated day. You can use anything to decorate, from tissue paper to lights, objects etc. For inspiration have a look at the @christmasinbarkway Instagram page which has photos of last year's windows.
- When your day comes around, reveal your window to all. You then keep your decorations up until Christmas.

If you could confirm with Kate Pinnock whether you wish to be involved by Wednesday 11th November please.

To find out more about what is going on at Christmas in Barkway this year please follow @christmasinbarkway on Instagram. We will also be posting on the village Facebook page and putting up posters.

We cannot wait to see your windows coming to life over December! If you have any queries please do not hesitate to ask.