

# Barley & Barkway Federation Schools

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM  
14<sup>th</sup> MAR 2025



Faith

Curiosity

Wellbeing

Confidence

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been such a lovely week at school, with sunshine brightening up break and lunchtime! It's amazing what a bit of sun and the promise of warmer days can do for everyone's spirits.

A big thank you to Year 2 and Year 3 for their fantastic class assemblies this week. You sang so beautifully and were full of excitement as you shared your learning with us!

Reception and Year 1 in Barkway had the opportunity to visit the church, where they worked with Rev'd Mark to learn about Holy Week. Next Friday, March 28th, Years 2, 3, and 4 will visit Barley Church for a similar experience. We would be delighted if you could join us for our Easter service on Friday, April 4th, at Barley Church.

Year 4 also had an exciting visit to KJAR with Mrs. West, where they participated in both science and D&T sessions.

We look forward to discussing your child's progress during next week's parent consultations, and we'd like to thank the families who joined us for the Oracy presentation on Thursday afternoon.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy a wonderful weekend.

SHARON BROWN - FEDERATION HEADTEACHER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

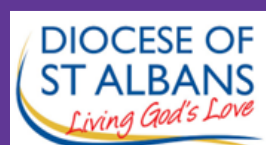
- Families in Mind coffee morning @Barley School – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30am
- Barley Mother's day tea on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – **postponed until further notice.**  
  
Celebration in Barkway to continue as planned.
- Easter holidays – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, April.

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



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# 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 our star is Mabel. Mabel always works hard and tries her best in everything she does. This week we have been learning about spring and Mabel carefully used watercolours to create her own daffodil.

Well done Mabel.



## RECEPTION

This week Jake is our star of the week in Reception. Jake has been working really hard on his phonics this week and he has enjoyed using our pink box CVC objects along with the Alphablocks. Jake has been able to hear the 3 sounds in the words and then he used the Alphablocks to build the words.

Great phonics, Jake! Well done.

## YEAR 1

This week Maisie is the star of the week for her fabulous story writing in English! Maisie was able to tick everything off our objectives list she told the reader how she was feeling and I loved her opening description: "I was excited, I had my breakfast. I had a funny feeling in my tummy." , she used a conjunction, an adjective and capital letters for names.

Well done Maisie!!



# STARS OF THE WEEK

## YEAR 2

This week Isaac is our shining star for inspiring us all to read more and enjoy books! Hazel Class began a poetry unit this week and Isaac spoke to Mrs Gould about poets with his great knowledge and expertise - "I like Spike Milligan but Roger Mcough is my favourite, I like the poems Sky in the Pie, On and On and Strangeways."

Isaac then read a poem with great expression, making it entertaining for the listeners!



## YEAR 3

This week in year 3 we have two stars of the week. I have been particularly impressed with Reign and Lorena who have both taken on a French challenge in preparation for our class assembly. Both girls took the challenge from Mrs Brown with a smile on their faces and could not wait to demonstrate their talents at their class assembly.



## YEAR 4

The Star of the Week in Year 4 is Lynden. We have been finishing our learning on fractions this week and Lynden has very quickly understood the quite tricky concepts we have been learning. He has been able to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers and is able to give his answer in both an improper fraction and a mixed number. He has also been working hard on his presentation. Well done Lynden!



# STARS OF THE WEEK



## ART STAR

This week Jaxon in Year 2 is Art star for his cross curricular learning in art and science.

He was able to tell Mrs Porter that the wax crayon was a waterproof material and he had proved it because it didn't disappear when he painted over it.

Brilliant work Jaxon!

## SCIENCE STAR

This week in Year 1 is Harry is the science star. Harry did a fabulous job of sharing facts about what animals might be eating and what we would see in their poo afterwards. Harry also asked some interesting questions during our science investigation yesterday, he was wondering what animal the "bones" may have come from rabbits.



# GROWING

## NURSERY & RECEPTION

This week, we are learning all about spring and growing plants. Reception have been learning the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and had lots of fun making their own beanstalks out of junk modelling. We have been focusing on using 'and' in a sentence in 'Drawing Club' and the children came up with some fantastic sentences to describe the giant.

This week in all of Oak class, the children have also loved making watercolour paintings of daffodils – one of the many signs of spring that we've been learning about.



# INVESTIGATIONS

## YEAR 1

Apple class had a very fun afternoon on Thursday, we are being scientists and investigating some of the animals that have been around Barkway. Miss Preston had collected some poo samples and the children were investigating different types of animal poo to find out what they had been eating. They found a range of small bones and decide the animal would be a carnivore and may have eaten some rabbits as they are little. There was also a fear that some of the ducks had gone missing at the pond and maybe they had been eaten! They found some herbivore, omnivore and carnivore poo before Miss Preston owned up and told them it was actually playdough and not poo - which all the children were very disappointed about!



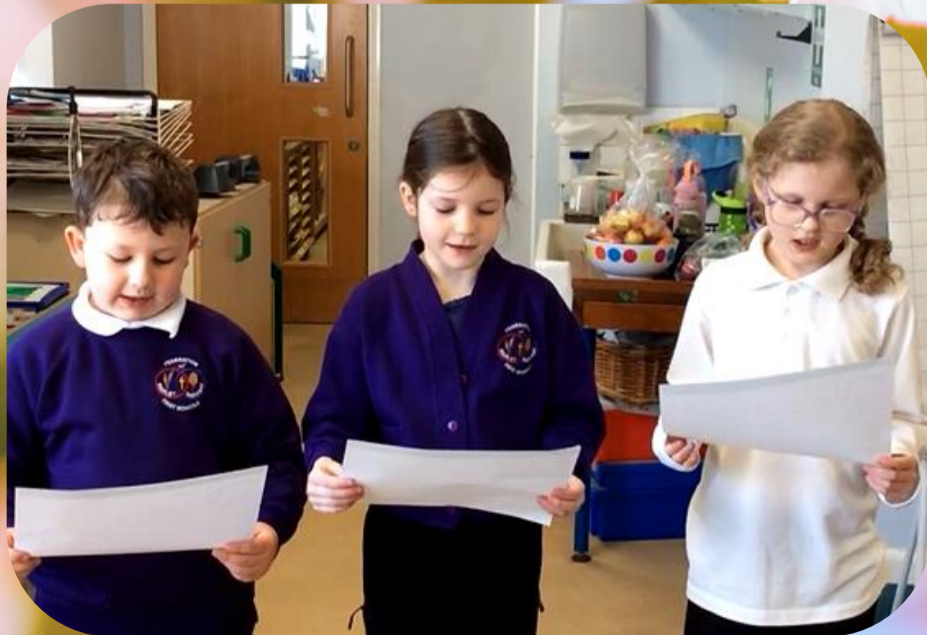
# WRITING TO ENTERTAIN

## YEAR 2

Hazel Class began a new English unit this week on Writing to Entertain with a focus on poetry. The class began by share reading a poem My Pet Cat. Alice and Isabelle impressed Mrs Gould by spotting all the recurring language in the poem! The children were introduced to similes in this poem such as - 'as cute as a teddy, as soft as silk'. The children then worked in groups to practise performing poems to the class; first choosing which poem they wanted to recite and then sharing out the lines between them. This required lots of important teamwork skills such as compromise and flexibility! The children then recited their poems to each other and improved their performances as they went through the session.

The next day, we went on a 'simile' hunt around the school to collect ideas for a poem. Jaxon said "the daffodils as yellow as mustard" and Jake came up with "the mosaic as sparkly as diamonds".

Great work everyone!



# MARGARET HOUSE

## YEAR 3

This week in year 3 we had a wonderful reading session with our friends from Margaret House.

We took traditional tale stories this week to read. Our buddies read the books with us and they remembered so much about the traditional stories.



# FOREST SCHOOL

## EXPLORING NATURE: A WONDERFUL WEEK AT FOREST SCHOOL

This week, our young explorers from Years 2, 3, and 4 had an exciting afternoon at Forest School on Tuesday, followed by our enthusiastic EYFS and Year 1 children on Wednesday morning. The great outdoors provided the perfect setting for adventure, discovery, and hands-on learning!

One of the highlights of the sessions was Mrs. West's amazing volcano experiment, which left the children in awe as they watched the eruption unfold before their eyes. Learning through practical science in nature makes these experiences even more magical and memorable!

The children also had a fantastic time foraging, discovering the natural treasures hidden around them. From learning about different plants to understanding the importance of respecting nature, their curiosity and excitement were wonderful to see.

Forest School continues to be a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop confidence, resilience, and a love for the outdoors. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who make these experiences possible!

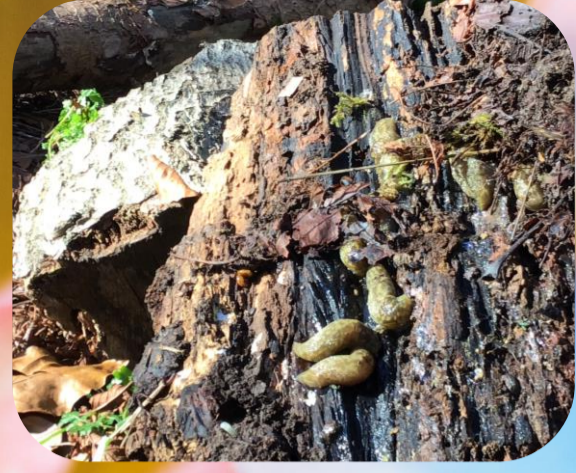
Here's what some of the children had to say:

Eliza "I really enjoyed the tap sticks activity and the sound of the echo"

Cali "I liked the senses hunt"

Isaac "I found a whole family of bugs"

We can't wait for the next session!



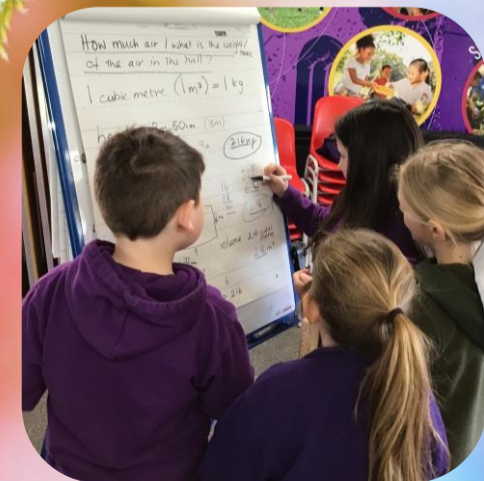
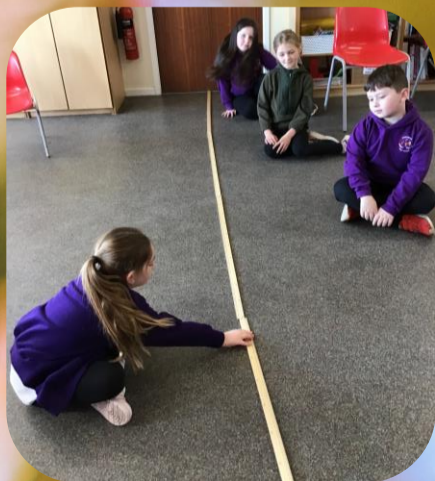
# BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

## GUEST SPEAKER

As part of British Science Week and our commitment at BBF to inspire children about careers in the STEM industries, we were delighted to welcome Paul Bonhomme, a British aerobatic and commercial airline pilot, into school on Thursday last week. Paul, a former racer pilot for the Red Bull Air Race team, has also flown a Spitfire in formation with the Red Arrows. His inspirational talk encouraged students to persevere in their learning and explore careers that involve science and mathematics. The children enthusiastically shared with Paul that "Mrs. Brown was also a pilot" and learned that "everybody can" achieve to take part in jobs or hobbies that involve science and mathematics.

Pupils volunteered to help Paul as he shared what a cubic metre of air looks like and then asked for guesses as to how much it weighs. We finally narrowed it down to the correct answer which is 1kg. Later in the week Mrs Brown and a group of Year 3 pupils measured and did the calculations to work out the weight of all the air in the hall. Some 216kg. Paul's talk was exciting and informative; we learned some basic aerodynamics and were astounded by the barnstorming videos and the 200 mph races around the world with his Red Bull team which led to him becoming world champion several times over. Our pupils were fascinated by it all, asking lots of thoughtful questions. Reggie for example asked why there were so many wheels on the jet aircraft that Paul flies for BA.

Information was retained, with Aria wanting to share with me how the air is pushed back by the propellor as the aircraft moves forwards and Eliza retaining how a cubic metre of air weighs 1kg. As the cherry on the cake, Paul returned the next afternoon flying a Sea Fury - a Spitfire - he had picked up at Duxford and diverted especially to fly a display low over the field in Barley where all the children and staff watched in awe.



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

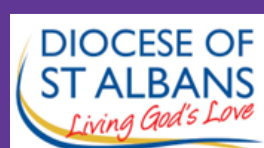
Mrs. Makewell will also be live streaming parts of her journey to the Everest basecamp, you can follow her on Instagram to keep up to date –

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



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# ANGELICA-MAE'S FUNDRAISER

## WILDLIFE TRUST - HEDGEHOG WALK

This April Angelica-Mae, Year 2, is planning on walking 6km for the wildlife trust's hedgehog walk – she is hoping to raise £60.

Every £1 raised will preserve nature, as part of The Wildlife Trusts' mission to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030.

Please head over to Angelica-Mae's fundraising page to send over a donation of your support if you can!

Here is her fundraising page;

<https://thewildlifetrusts.enthuse.com/pf/a-m-johnson>

The Wildlife Trusts' Hedgehog Walk 2025

The Wildlife Trusts

**The Wildlife Trusts**

**Angelica-Mae Johnson**

**My Story**

This spring I'm taking on the Hedgehog Walk. Every £1 I raise will preserve nature, as part of The Wildlife Trusts' mission to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030.

At this time of year, hedgehogs start to come out of hibernation and can walk up to 3km a night looking for food.

Search for a friend or appeal

17% Funded

£60 Target

£10 Raised so far by 1 Donors

enthuse Donate

Total distance so far 0 km | Target distance 6 km

# REMINDERS

## FAMILIES IN MIND

Please be reminded that on 26<sup>th</sup> March at Barley school from 9.30am we are having a 'Families in Mind' coffee morning. The session will run between 60-90 minutes long.

This will be an opportunity to access your local Family Support Worker and get advice/learn about other services that may be able to support you and your children.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Families in Mind

### Coffee morning/ Coffee afternoon



- Introduction
- Part 1 - Parents' hope and wishes
- Part 2 - Emotional Responses
- Part 3 - Exploring behaviour at home.
- Part 4 - Entitlement vs Responsibility
- Part 5 - Boundaries and feeling safe
- Part 6 - ACEs
- Part 7 - Pro-active strategies
- Part 8 - Closing thoughts, handouts/ resources and Q&A time

This is also an opportunity to access your local Family Support Worker, get advice and learn about other services that may support you and your children.

26th March @ Barley school 9.30am start.  
(Session is 60-90 minutes long)



## CHARLIE CHICKS

Another reminder that Charlie Chicks are back!

From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> April.