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

- **BBF Halloween Party**
  - 23rd October at Barley school hall – see invite details.
- **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.
- **Private Tours**
  - Tour 1 – 9th November 9.30-11.30am
  - Tour 2 – 17th November 9.30-10.30am
  - Tour 3 – 2nd December 9.15-10.15am

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

A message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our wonderful Harvest Festival Church Service at Barkway on Tuesday morning. It was lovely to see so many of you there as we came together to celebrate Harvest as a Federation community. Thank you also for your kind donations to our local foodbank, which are very much appreciated.

We hope you enjoyed the children's beautiful singing, paintings, poems and prayers. They did an amazing job, and we are so proud of them all! A special well done to all our children for their wonderful behaviour throughout the service, particularly our Nursery children, who experienced their very first church service. They were absolute stars!

Following the service, our Year 2, 3 and 4 children enjoyed a fantastic morning at Forest School, taking part in lots of hands-on activities and exploring the woodland as we begin to see the first signs of autumn. It was a lovely opportunity to get outdoors, explore nature and enjoy learning together.

Looking ahead, we will be holding our first parent consultations during the week beginning 19th October. Further details, including how to book your appointment through Arbor, will be shared next week, so please keep an eye out for this information.

We hope you are enjoying our Celebration Assemblies and the new range of activities giving parents and carers the opportunity to spend some special time alongside their children before the assembly begins. Our next Celebration Assembly will be on Thursday 15th October, when we will be inviting you into the classrooms to take part in a fun maths activity with your child. We look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Miss Mière

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Attendance Matters

Golden Tickets for 100% Attendance!

Please look out for your child's golden tickets, which were awarded last week to celebrate 100% attendance!
These will now be awarded every Monday.

Miss Mière will visit each class, where children will post one of their golden tickets into the golden box and keep their second ticket as a reward for achieving 100% attendance the previous week.

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

Our BBF Attendance song is:

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

During the week beginning 19th October, one overall winner from each school will be chosen from the golden box!

We will also be celebrating all children who achieve 100% attendance for the whole half term, with a special recognition reward. Good luck, everyone, and keep those golden tickets safe!

See below for this weeks attendance scores:

Oak Class: 95.24%

Apple Class: 97.18%

Hazel Class: 97.22%

Beech Class: 93.06%

Sycamore Class: 84.13%

The attendance board so far

Happy Birthday

A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Leo and Isaac who are celebrating their Birthday's this week!

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

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Stars of the Week

Nursery

A big well done to Ella, our Star of the Week! Ella has been working hard on her mark-making skills, practising making circles and zig-zag patterns in salt. She carefully watched and copied a model, showing great concentration and control as she formed her marks. She said, 'She had made circles!' We are so proud of Ella's perseverance and the progress she is making with her early writing skills!

Reception

A big well done to Albie, our Star of the Week! Albie showed fantastic creative and scientific thinking when he designed and made his own boat at the creative table. He then made a prediction about whether his boat would float and how many superheroes it could hold. Albie took his boat to the water tray to test his idea, carefully adding superheroes one at a time. He discovered that his boat could hold two superheroes before it sank! Albie showed great curiosity, problem-solving skills and perseverance as he investigated his idea. Well done, Albie!

Year 1

Jude is our Phonics Superstar this week! He has really enjoyed playing a fun phonics game to develop his segmenting and blending skills. Jude is confidently spotting digraphs in words and is making wonderful progress with his reading. Well done, Jude!

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.

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Stars of the Week

Year 2

This week the star of the week in Hazel class is Saffron. Saffron comes to school every day with a positive attitude to school.

She tries her hardest in every lesson and never gives up when she finds something challenging! Saffron is also a kind and caring friend. She is always looking out for other people in our school and is a great role model.

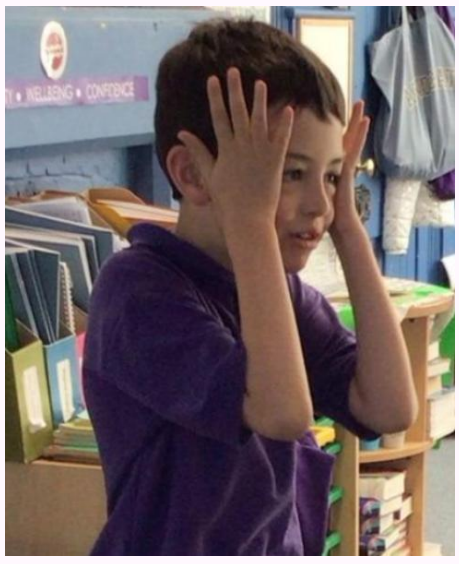
Well done Saffron!

Year 3

This week, our star of the week in Year 3 is Tobias. We have been writing our own free verse poems this week using poetic techniques and Tobias has really impressed me. He has been able to use simile, 'as big as your finger', alliteration 'fluffy fur' and great visualisation 'the anger of a hamster covered in blood'!

Well done Tobias!

Year 4



Isaac is a shining star for his brilliant efforts with drama. Isaac is so expressive when taking on a character in role play that all the audience are transfixed! Isaac is quick to change his voice to suit each character, be it the booming God Thor or the cheeky Harold in a PSHE SCARF lesson. Isaac always goes beyond expectations with drama by quickly making props that improve his performance even more!

Great work Isaac!

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Stars of the Week

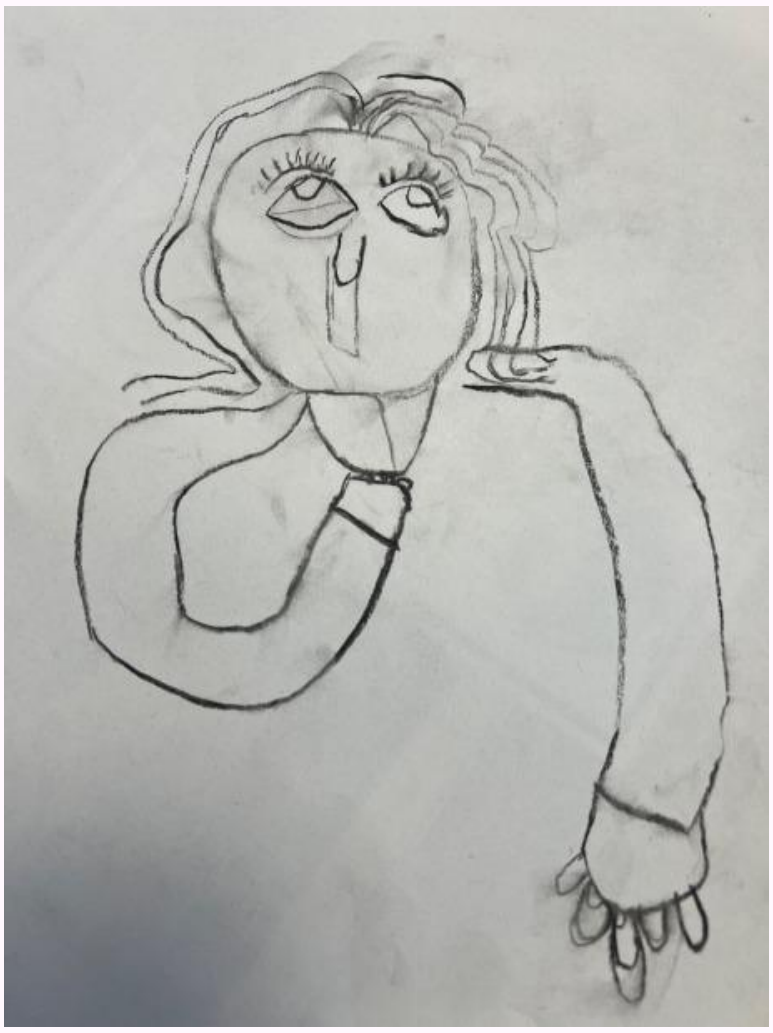
PE Star

This week Ellie is my PE star! The progress Ellie has made over the last couple of lesson is outstanding. Her confidence in answering questions to show off her knowledge and understanding has been blowing my mind.
She always tried her hardest and passes on her positivity to others around her. She always tried delight to teach. Well done Ellie.

Art Star

Leo is this week's art star. In Hazel Class we have been learning about portraits and this week we were looking at work by the artist Pablo Picasso. The class were challenged to make a 10 minute charcoal portrait of a member of staff in the style of Picasso.

Leo created this really excellent sketch, can you guess who it is?



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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:

Eva has been awarded the Headteacher's Award in Barley this week for showing our Federation values of friendship, compassion and respect. This has been especially noticeable in the way she looks after and supports our younger children at Barley, particularly during Forest School after school clubs. Well done, Eva!

Albie has been awarded the Headteacher's Award in Barkway this week for showing our Federation values of thankfulness, perseverance and friendship. Albie is always excited to share his learning and shows fantastic resilience, continuing to try even when something might be tricky. Well done, Albie!

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This weeks activities

Oak Class

This week, Nursery and Reception have been exploring the exciting world of superheroes! We have been developing our imaginations and creativity through superhero play, learning new vocabulary and thinking about what makes someone a hero.

We enjoyed reading Supertato and had great fun acting out the story, taking on the roles of Supertato, Evil Pea and the other characters. The children then used their imaginations to create and act out their own superhero stories, developing confidence, communication and language skills as they shared their ideas with their friends.

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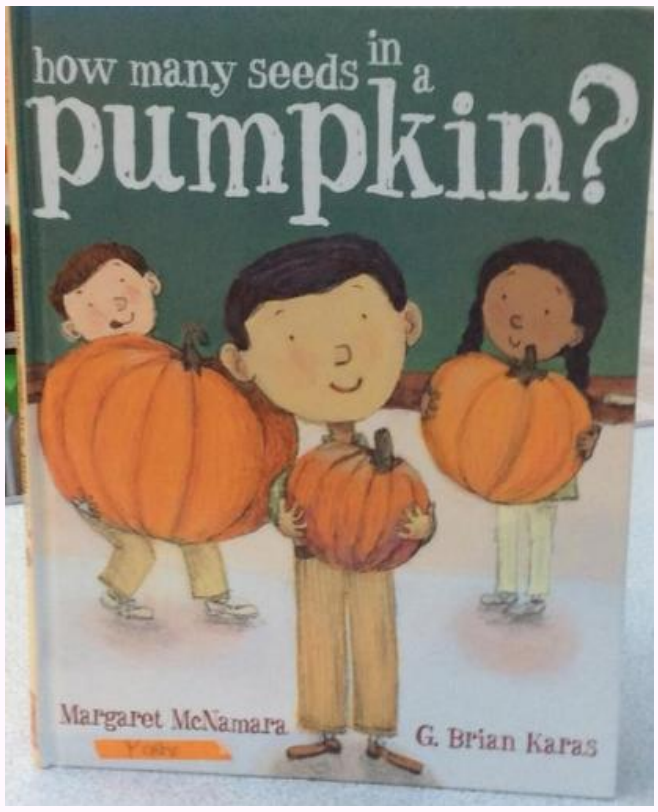
This weeks activities

Apple Class

Year 1 have been reading How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin? and set themselves an adventurous challenge to find out how many seeds were hiding inside their pumpkins!

Mrs Porter introduced the children to the 100 square and showed them how to count in 5s. The children carefully grouped their seeds into fives, ready for Mrs Porter to calculate the totals. They were amazed to discover that every pumpkin contained over 100 seeds!

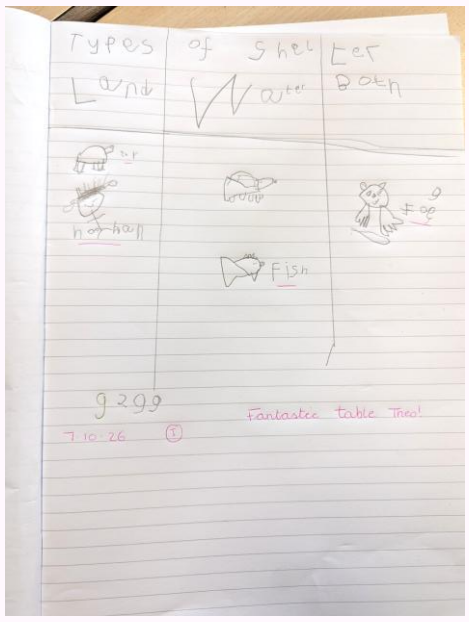
What a fantastic hands-on maths investigation to develop counting skills, teamwork and curiosity.

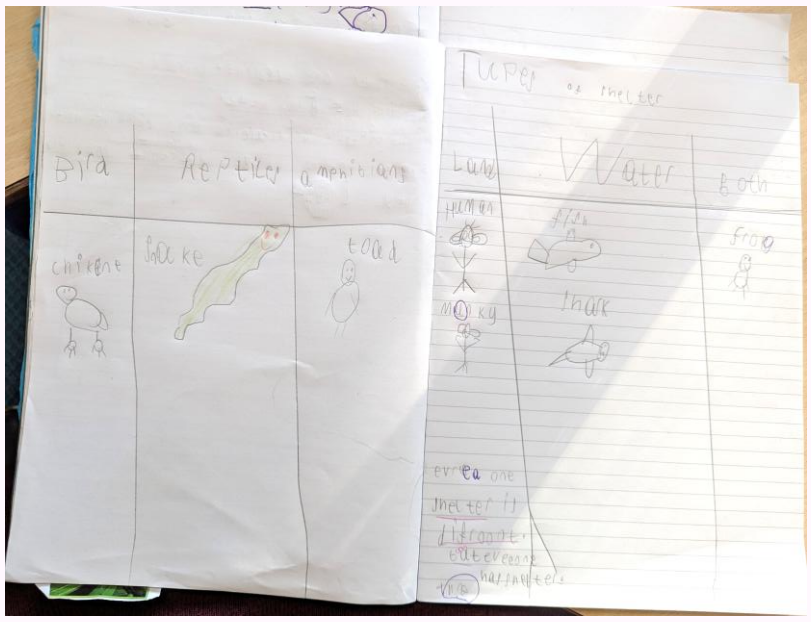


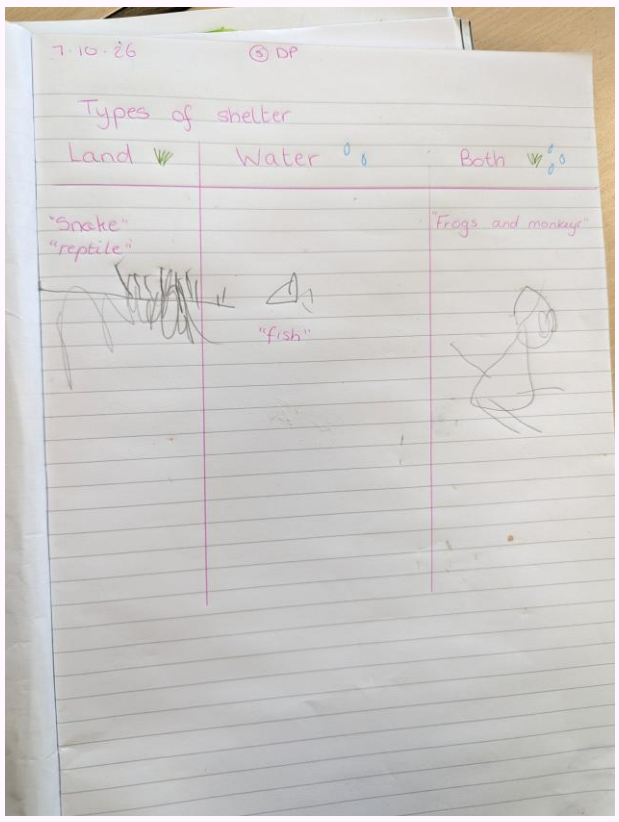
This weeks activities

Hazel Class

In science we have been learning about animals including humans. This week the children drew a table for the first to sort the different types of shelters that animals might live in. I am super impressed with how hard everyone worked to draw their tables independently using a ruler!







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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!

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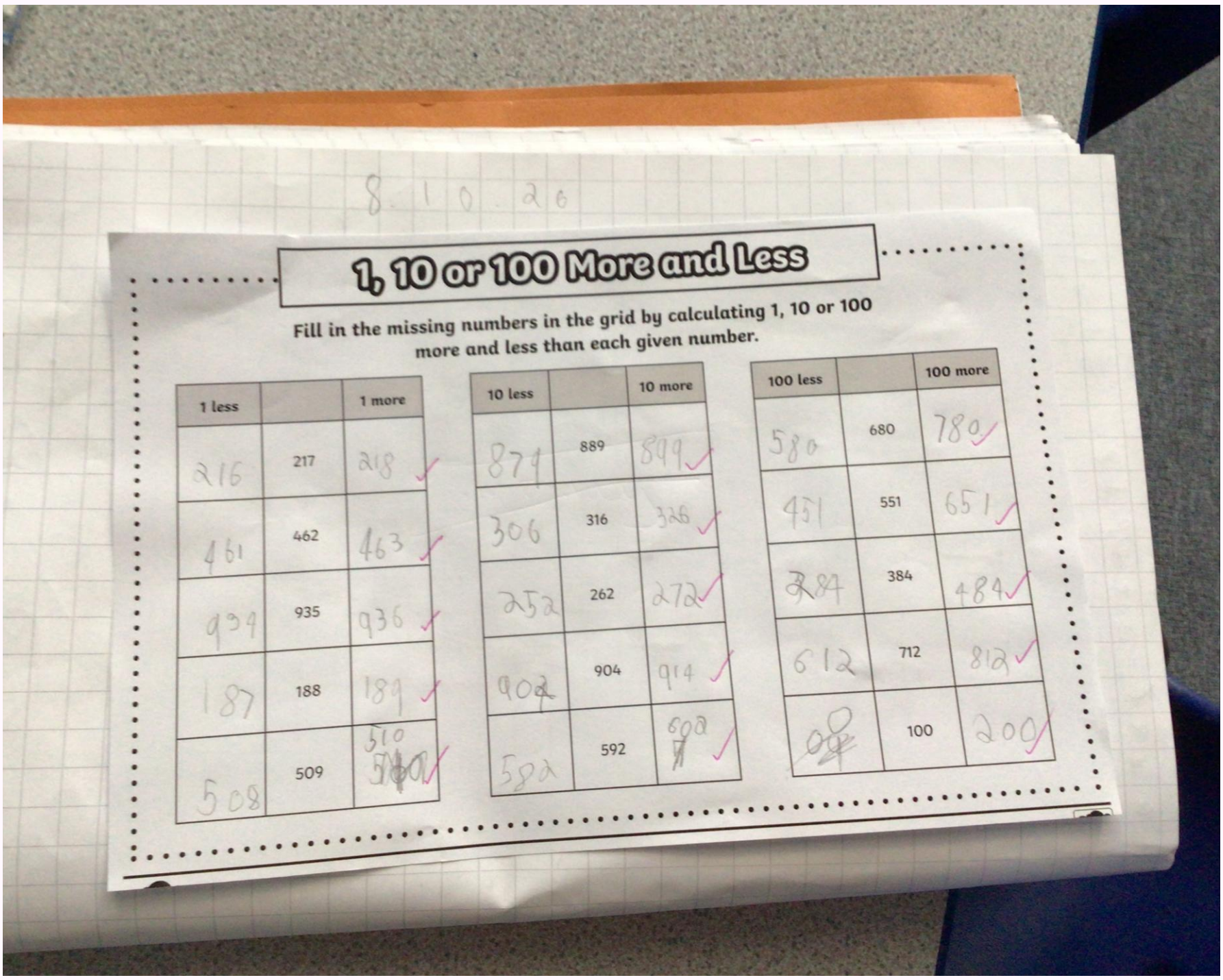
This weeks activities

Sycamore Class

This week Sycamore class started their addition and subtract unit where they have been learning to add and subtract 1, 10, and 100 and 1000 to and from a number. The children have been thinking about whether they need to look at the 1000's, 100's, 10's or 1's and then make the changes to that number. All the children worked really hard on this new topic and were able to provide some great explanations for their thinking.



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This weeks activities

Forest School

Years 2, 3 and 4 walked down to Forest School after our Harvest Service on Tuesday. We were very lucky with the weather, having a sunny day for it. The children enjoyed playing collaborative games, threading leaves onto a stick and making rhythms.

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FEDERATION BARLEY BARKWAY FIRST SCHOOLS

&

Barkway Preschool
Play. Learn. Grow.
Registered Charity No 1004083

Open Day

Thursday 5th November 2026

9.30am until 11.30am

Private Tours Available

Come and join us for our joint open day in the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside - just 10 minutes from Royston and Buntingford.

- *From ages 2 to 9*
- *Wraparound care available from 8am until 5pm, Monday to Friday*
- *Funding available up to 30 hours free*
- *Forest school opportunities*

To register your interest or to find out more:

01763 848283 for BBF
or 07964 151288 for Preschool

www.barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk
www.barkwaypreschool.co.uk

office@barleybarkway.herts.sch.uk
info@barkwaypreschool.co.uk

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PSQM Primary Science Quality Mark PSQM Valid 2025 – 2028

BRITISH COUNCIL

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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 you 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.