

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,

It has been another lovely week across our federation, and I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the children, seeing their learning in action and celebrating the many wonderful things happening in our schools!

It was lovely to spend time in Oak Class this week, where the children were introduced to their amazing new clay table, complete with tools and seemingly endless clay to explore! They were so excited and couldn't wait to get their hands stuck in. It was wonderful to see the creativity flowing as they manipulated the clay, experimented with different tools and developed their fine motor skills. So much learning takes place through these hands-on experiences, and I can't wait to see what you create next week!

Apple Class enjoyed a lovely yoga session with Yoga Jane this week. The children particularly enjoyed feeling the rainbow blanket gently placed over their bodies, helping them to feel calm, peaceful and still. It was a beautiful mindfulness activity and a lovely way to start the day, supporting the children's emotional wellbeing and helping them feel ready for learning.

I had the pleasure of spending time with the children at lunchtime in Barley this week. It was wonderful to see so many positive behaviours, thoughtful interactions and lovely social skills in action. These are exactly the qualities our Ofsted inspectors were so impressed by, describing break and lunch times as “warm, active and harmonious”. It was lovely to see these words reflected in the everyday experiences of our children!

On Monday after school, I also enjoyed spending time with Henry, Louis and Eleanor at our Wellbeing Club. We focused on our physical wellbeing through a game of football, some basketball shooting practice and, finally, a challenge to strengthen our core muscles with a game of The Floor Is Lava on the climbing frame! There was lots of energy, laughter and teamwork.

Please look out for an email about our after-school clubs for next half-term. We will also be chatting with the children about the different clubs they would like us to offer in January, so they can help shape our future activities.

A big thank you to Reggie in Beech Class for sharing his hands-on science learning with me this week! Reggie has been learning about exoskeletons and even dissected a king prawn as part of his investigations. What a fantastic way to explore scientific concepts and bring learning to life!

We are really looking forward to the FOBBS Halloween Party next Friday, 23rd October, at Barley School. We hope to see lots of you there for what promises to be a spooktacular event! A huge thank you to our wonderful FOBBS team for organising these events and bringing our community together. All proceeds go straight back to supporting the children across our federation, so your support makes a real difference.

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers into both schools yesterday for our special Maths Morning activities and Celebration Assembly. We loved seeing you learning alongside your children and sharing in their achievements. We hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we did!

Please remember to book your parent consultation slot for next week if you haven't already done so. These meetings are a lovely opportunity for us to share and celebrate everything your child has achieved so far this term, discuss how they have settled into their new class and talk about their next steps in learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for being such an important part of our federation community. It is a privilege to see our children growing in confidence, developing new skills and enjoying their learning each week.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Warmest wishes,
Miss Mière

Contents

Upcoming events, Spotlight & a message from our Headteacher	Pg. 01
Contents	Pg. 02
Attendance Matters	Pg. 03
Stars of the Week <ul style="list-style-type: none">NurseryReceptionYear 1Year 2Year 3Year 4PE StarArt StarScience Star	Pgs. 04 - 06
Celebrating Mrs Gould	Pg. 07
This weeks activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Oak ClassApple Class	Pgs. 08 - 09
Open Day Poster	Pg. 10
Halloween Party Invite	Pg. 11
Barkway Advent Windows 2026	Pg. 12





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.

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: 92.19%**
- Apple Class: 87.5%**
- Hazel Class: 86.46%**
- Beech Class: 88.89%**
- Sycamore Class: 97.96%**



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

Our BBF Attendance song is:

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

Stars of the Week

Nursery

Thanha is our shining star this week! She has been working hard at our handwriting station, carefully looking for her name stone and using her name card to help her practise writing her name. It has been lovely to see you developing your confidence and taking such care with your mark-making. Keep up the fantastic effort, Thanha!



Reception

Grace is our wonderful shining star this week. She has been working so hard in phonics lessons and showing such a positive attitude towards her learning. We are particularly proud to see you taking great care with the size of your letters and focusing carefully on forming them correctly. It has been wonderful to see your effort, concentration and progress. Keep up the fantastic work, Grace – we are so proud of you!



Year 1

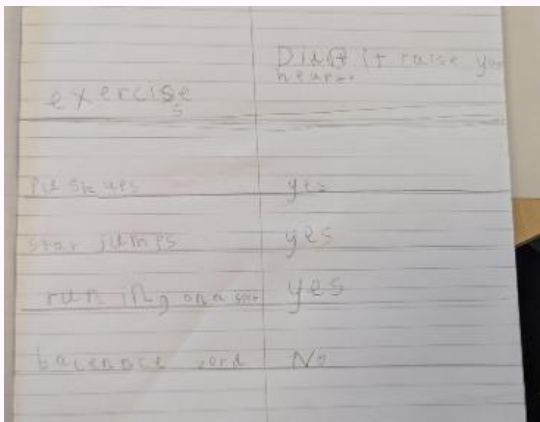
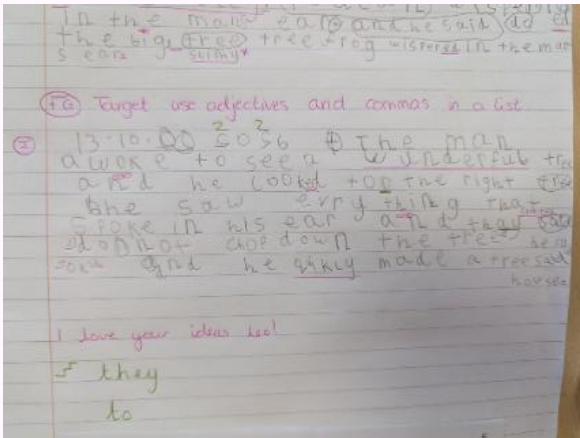
Rowan is our Star of the Week in Apple Class. He impressed Mrs Porter during our yoga session, demonstrating fantastic balance and coordination. He has also been working hard on his storytelling, retelling Puffin Peter and making a super prediction about what might happen next. Keep up the fantastic work, Rowan! We are very proud of you!

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

The star of the week this week is Leo. Leo puts 100% into all his learning and is working hard to apply all the challenges I give him in his work. In science this week he drew a lovely neat table and labelled it correctly when recording the results of our science experiments “does all exercise increase your heart rate?” In English he is remembering to use a range of vocabulary, while using commas in a list and using different punctuation. Leo even challenged himself to use speech marks!



Well done Leo, I am so proud of your hard work!

Year 3

Ophelia is the star of the week for being so brave and dissecting the prawns in science!



Ophelia wasn't feeling confident to start with but she gave it a go and persevered!

Well done Ophelia!



Year 4

Alice is our shining star in year 4. Last week we were writing a piece of persuasive writing. Alice decided to write about

how we shouldn't have any homework. She thought carefully about her arguments and read out her speech confidently.

Well done Alice!

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Stars of the Week

PE Star

Tiffany is our PE star.

One for her ability to show nursery and reception how much she had learnt and was able to demonstrate this with confidence to then and secondly showing off her amazing running technique! Super fast and executed with great technique.

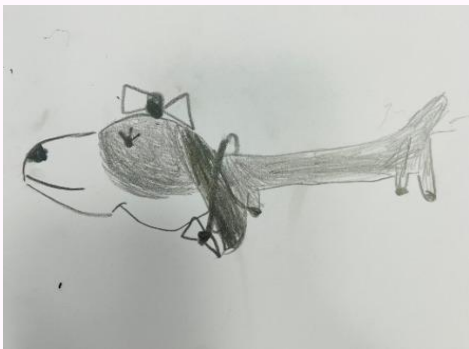
Well done Tiffany!



Art Star

Isabel in Apple Class is this week's art star. We had our first art lesson on observational drawing, looking carefully at some stuffed animals and using some of the shading techniques we have learnt.

Isabel concentrated hard and used excellent pencil control to add different tones to her drawing.



Science Star

All of Year 3 are our Super Scientists this week! They have been working hard learning about animal and human skeletons. On Wednesday, they dissected a prawn to explore an animal with an exoskeleton.

Wearing safety glasses and using magnifying glasses, they carefully observed the prawn and used precise scientific vocabulary to describe what they could see. Mrs Porter is very proud of your curiosity and careful observations.



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Celebrating Mrs Gould

It feels only right to dedicate a special page of our newsletter to Mrs Gould, as we celebrate everything she has brought to our federation and thank her for being such a special part of our Barley and Barkway family.

Mrs Gould has been part of Barley and Barkway Federation since 2017, sharing her kindness, care and enthusiasm with so many children and families over the years. I first met Mrs Gould in January 2020, when she was teaching Year 1 at Barkway, and I remember her as someone who was caring, kind, welcoming and supportive. These qualities have continued to shine through everything she has done across our federation.

Throughout her time at Barley and Barkway, Mrs Gould has been a wonderful class teacher and has made a real difference to the lives of the children she has worked with. Alongside her classroom teaching, she has played a significant role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our federation community, leading on mental health, PSHE and SCARF, Geography and History, as well as our School Council and Eco Council.

Mrs Gould has a special ability to bring warmth, positivity and care to those around her. She really is an absolute ray of sunshine, and her kindness and dedication have helped make our schools the nurturing, welcoming communities that they are today.

Although we are very sad to say goodbye, we are also incredibly proud of Mrs Gould as she begins an exciting new chapter, taking her passion for children's mental health and wellbeing into her next venture as a Mental Health Practitioner. We know she will continue to make a positive difference to the lives of others, just as she has done here at Barley and Barkway.

Mrs Gould, thank you for your hard work, your compassion, your positivity and, most importantly, for the person you are. You have been a very special part of our federation, and the care you have shown our children and families will not be forgotten.

You will always be part of the Barley and Barkway family, Mrs Gould, and we wish you every happiness and success for the future.



This weeks activities

Oak Class

This week, our Nursery and Reception children have been learning all about People Who Help Us. We have been exploring the important roles people play in our community and how they help to keep us safe, healthy and happy. A particular highlight was our exciting visit from a firefighter, who helped us learn more about the important work firefighters do and the equipment they use. We are looking forward to a Policeman coming to speak to our class next week as well to help with our learning.

The children have enjoyed taking their learning into their play, using role-play areas to act out different real-life situations and take on the roles of firefighters, doctors, nurses and other community helpers. Through imaginative play, discussions and practical activities, the children have been developing their communication and language skills, learning new vocabulary and building their understanding of the world around them.



Apple Class

The children rehearsed the panda and flamingo poses and learnt about the importance of breathing properly to support their yoga flow.



84 High Street, Barkway, Hertfordshire, SG8 8EF



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

A Halloween-themed flyer for a school party. The background is purple with various Halloween icons: jack-o'-lanterns, ghosts, black cats, bats, candy corn, and stars. A large, white, cloud-like shape with a dashed border contains the main text. At the top of this shape is a small circular logo for the Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation. The text inside the shape reads: 'Halloween Party' in a large, black, cursive font; 'JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN PARTY & PUMPKIN COMPETITION' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font; 'FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026' in a bold, black, sans-serif font; 'PRESCHOOL, YEAR N/R & YEAR 1 - 4PM UNTIL 5.15PM' and 'YEARS 2, 3 & 4 TO JOIN FROM 5PM ONWARDS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font; 'PUMPKIN COMPETITION BEING HELD AT 5PM ON THE SCHOOL FIELD' in a bold, black, sans-serif font; 'BARLEY SCHOOL HALL, CHURCH END, BARLEY, SG8 8JW' in a bold, black, sans-serif font; 'TICKETS £5 PER CHILD - 3RD CHILD GOES FREE' in a bold, black, sans-serif font; 'RSVP to Kelly at 07875 319898' in a bold, black, sans-serif font; and 'Costumes Optional' in a black, cursive font.

Halloween Party

JOIN US FOR A SPOOKTACULAR
HALLOWEEN PARTY & PUMPKIN COMPETITION

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026

PRESCHOOL, YEAR N/R & YEAR 1 - 4PM UNTIL 5.15PM
YEARS 2, 3 & 4 TO JOIN FROM 5PM ONWARDS

**PUMPKIN COMPETITION BEING HELD AT 5PM ON THE
SCHOOL FIELD**

**BARLEY SCHOOL HALL,
CHURCH END, BARLEY, SG8 8JW**

TICKETS £5 PER CHILD - 3RD CHILD GOES FREE

RSVP to Kelly at 07875 319898

Costumes Optional

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.