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,

What a wonderful first half term we have had across Barley and Barkway Federation! It has been filled with learning, new experiences, friendship, laughter and lots of fun. It has been a real pleasure to see the children growing in confidence, embracing new opportunities and making so many happy memories together. We are particularly proud of our Nursery and Reception children, who have settled into federation life so well. They have made a fantastic start, and it has been lovely to see them becoming more confident, building friendships and enjoying all that school has to offer.

Celebrating Our Learning
There has been so much wonderful learning happening across the federation this week! We started the week with a lovely autumn walk with Oak Class, exploring our local area to look for signs of autumn. The children collected autumn treasures in their special bags and enjoyed investigating their finds back in the classroom.

Our classrooms have been full of fantastic writing, too. Reception have begun their Drawing Club adventures, writing about a magical leaf, Year 1 have been writing inspired by Puffin Peter, and Year 2 have been retelling the story of The Kapok Tree. It has been wonderful to see the children's imaginations and writing skills developing.

Year 1 have also impressed me with their phonics learning, demonstrating fantastic decoding skills and applying their knowledge of the sounds they have been learning to spell words. Meanwhile, Year 3 and 4 have been exploring healthy eating and planning balanced meals, with some brilliant discussions about the meals and choices they would like to see on our school lunch menus!

I have also particularly enjoyed spending lunchtimes with the children. Their fantastic table manners, positive attitudes towards eating and willingness to try new foods have been lovely to see.

Special Experiences and Visitors
Barkway had a very exciting visit from Sergeant Carter this week! He spoke to the children about his role in the police and brought along lots of fascinating equipment, including his police hat, handcuffs, radio, body-worn camera and evidence bags and tags.

The highlight for many was getting the chance to sit inside his police car and press the lights and sirens! There was plenty of excitement and lots of brilliant questions. A huge thank you to Sergeant Carter for giving the children such a memorable experience and helping to bring their learning to life.

Parent Consultations
It was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers to our parent consultations this week. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to speak with your child's teacher, hear how they have settled into their class and discuss their learning and progress so far.

If you were unable to attend this week, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a convenient day and time to meet after half term. We want to ensure that every family has the opportunity to have these important conversations.

Celebrating Attendance
Today, children across the federation enjoyed a special non-uniform day to celebrate a fantastic first half term and recognise everyone's efforts to come to school every day when they are well enough to do so. Please take a look at our Attendance page for the latest news and to celebrate the children who have achieved 100% attendance this half term. A huge well done to all of them! We know that children sometimes become unwell, and their health and wellbeing must always come first. We are incredibly proud of the children for their efforts, enthusiasm and commitment to making the most of their time at school.

As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to thank our wonderful children, families and staff for all that you have contributed to making it such a positive and successful start to the year. It has been a joy to see our federation community learning, laughing and growing together.

I wish you all a safe, restful and happy half term, with plenty of time to relax and enjoy being with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term on **Monday 2nd November.**

Warmest wishes,
Miss Mière

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Barley and Barkway (VA) C of E First Schools Federation
Church End, Barley, SG8 8JW | 84 High Street, Barkway, SG8 8EF

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Attendance Matters

Golden Tickets for 100% Attendance!

This term as part of a new reward scheme for 100% attendance children have been receiving golden tickets each week. Miss Mière has been visiting each class, getting the children to post one of their golden tickets into the golden box and then keep their second ticket as a reward for achieving 100% attendance the previous week.

Well done to our **golden ticket winners for this term, Matthew and Harry!** Both children were rewarded and Amazon gift card during our assembly this morning as part of their special prize for recognition of achieving 100% attendance.

A special mention of recognition to those children who also achieved 100% attendance this term but weren't drawn in the golden box raffle:

Hallie	**Esme**
Elsie	**Willow**
Jude	**Lexi**
Robyn	**Hunter**
Rowan	**Eva**
Grace	**Eleanor**
Thanha	**Finley**
Ella	**Jake P**

Our 'Race to 5 stars' board is almost full! See below for this weeks attendance scores:

Oak class - 100%

Apple class - 100%

Hazel class - 96.3%

Beech class - 98.61%

Sycamore class - 98.41%

Well done to everyone is Oak and Apple class this week for achieving 100%!

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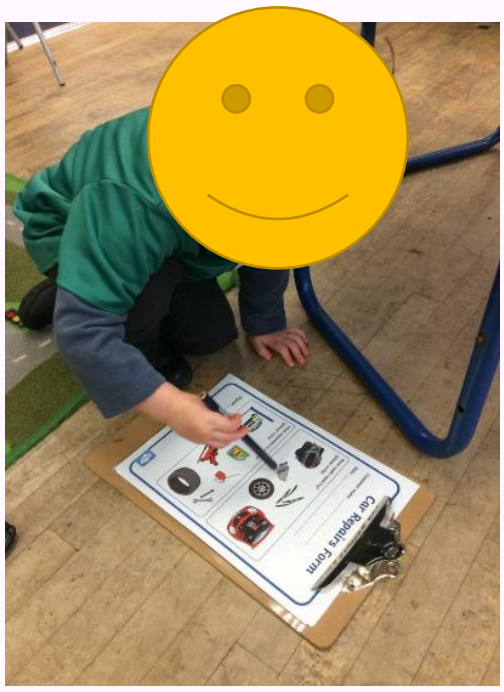
Stars of the Week

Nursery



Arthur has been doing a fantastic job in our car garage role-play area! He has really enjoyed taking on the role of a car mechanic, carefully checking the cars and completing his own mechanic forms. Arthur has shown brilliant attention to detail as he carefully circles the items needed and identifies which parts of the cars need repairing. It has been wonderful to see him using his imagination, developing his early writing skills and confidently engaging in purposeful role-play. Well done, Arthur – we are so proud of you!

Reception

Albie showed brilliant observation skills during our autumn walk! He carefully observed his surroundings and confidently shared the signs of autumn he could see, hear and discover. Albie showed fantastic curiosity as he noticed the changes happening in nature and used his observations to talk about the season.
Well done, Albie – keep up the brilliant work!

Year 1

Dolly is star of the week for her wonderful English work this week. She shared her ideas verbally before writing the sounds she could hear in her words. Dolly used the word mat to support her spelling and also crafted a fabulous "Peter Puffin" using black paper and craft materials.

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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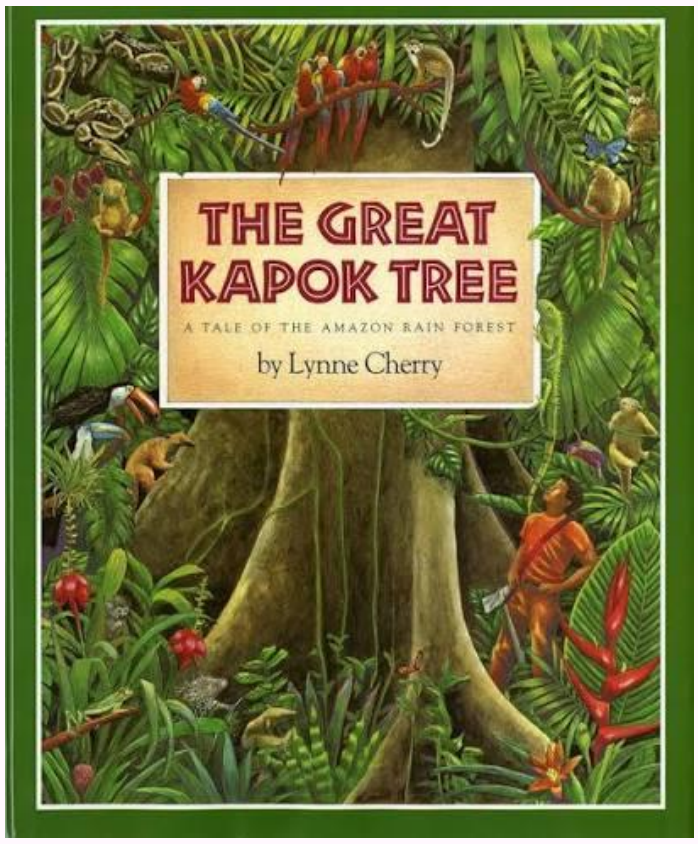
Stars of the Week

Year 2



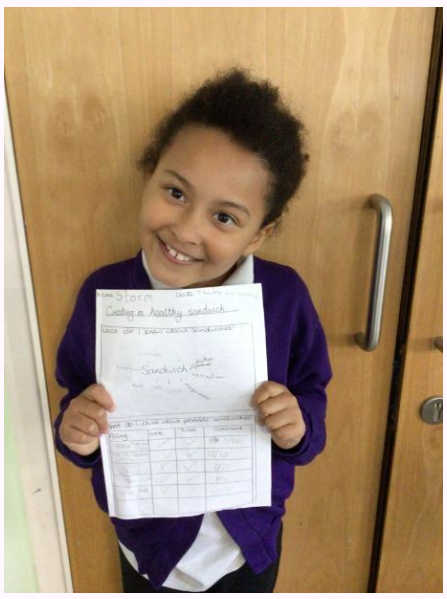
This week Vinnie is the star of the week for his FANTASTIC story writing. Vincent worked extremely hard to meet all of his targets when creating his own version of "The Great Kapok Tree".
I am so impressed with how hard he concentrated on his writing and that after he had finished he challenged himself to have another go at writing a second version!!

Well done Vinne, I am so proud of you!

Year 3

This week our star is Esme. Esme always shows a positive attitude to her learning. She always tries her best and keeps going even when she finds something hard.
Well done Esme for your great attitude to learning.

Year 4



This week our star is Storm. We have been designing sandwiches in DT this week and the children had to try different ingredients to decide what they wanted in their sandwich. Storm was very brave and had a taste of all the different ingredients, She did a great job tasting and deciding which ones she preferred to design her sandwich.

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PSQM Primary Science Quality Mark PSQM Valid 2025 – 2028
WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in Schools Mark Effective practice

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FEDERATION BARLEY BARKWAY FIRST SCHOOLS

Stars of the Week

Headteacher's Award

This week we have 2 Headteacher's Awards to hand out, one for Vincent and one for Tiffany:

This week Vincent has been awarded the Headteacher's Award in Barley this week for showing our Federation values of courage, perseverance and confidence. Vincent has really impressed me with his positive learning behaviours, showing fantastic focus and independence in his learning. I have been especially impressed with his beautiful story writing! Well done, Vincent!

This week Tiffany has been awarded the Headteacher's Award in Barkway this week for showing our Federation values of friendship, respect and service. Tiffany has been a super helper this week and a wonderful role model for our youngest children. She has also shown respectful play behaviours, particularly when playing outside at break and lunchtime. Well done, Tiffany!

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Happy Birthday

A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Albie who celebrated his Birthday this week, and to Miss Horton who is celebrating hers over the half-term break!

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

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This weeks activities

Oak Class

We have been embracing the wonders of autumn across our Nursery and Reception classrooms! The children have enjoyed exploring pumpkins using tees and hammers, developing their hand strength, coordination and fine motor skills as they carefully investigated the pumpkins. Our autumn playdough has provided opportunities to get creative, strengthen little fingers and explore autumn colours and textures.

We also enjoyed an autumn walk, where the children became nature detectives! They looked carefully for signs of autumn, noticing the changing leaves, collecting natural treasures and talking about the changes they could see, hear and feel. These experiences have encouraged curiosity, observation skills and wonderful conversations about the world around us.

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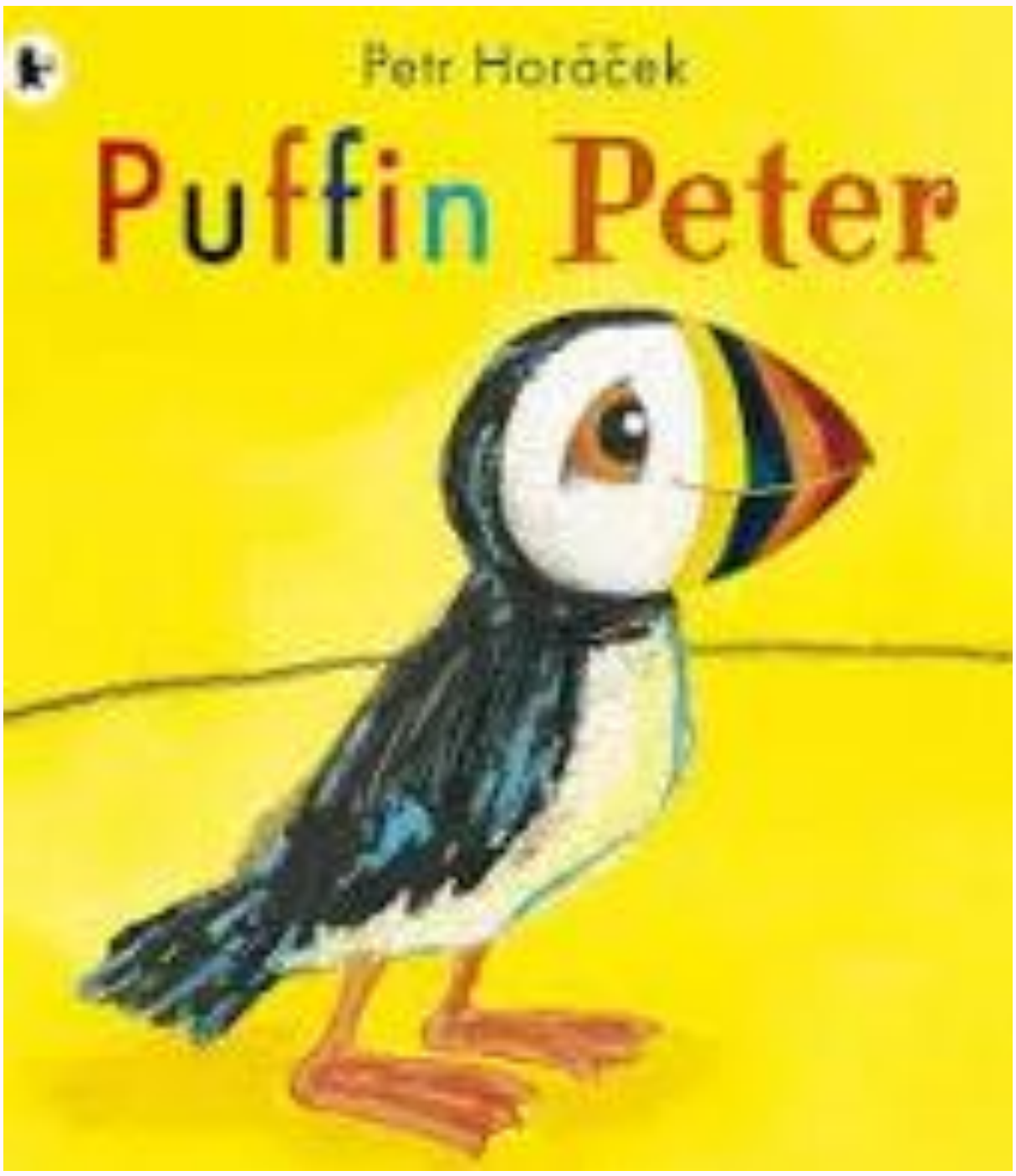
This weeks activities

Apple Class

Year 1 have been busy retelling the story of Puffin Peter this week. They began by acting out the story before putting their ideas into sentences to write their own retellings. The children worked incredibly hard and showed great enthusiasm. Well done, Year 1! We are very proud of you!



84 High Street, Barkway, Hertfordshire, SG8 8EF

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
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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.

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