



Roots to grow,
Wings to soar

WEEKLY Newsletter

Autumn Term

3rd October 2025

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Value: Generosity

This week we have continued to focus on our value theme of 'Generosity' - considering how a little act of kindness can go a long way, be that a smile or a kind gesture. We also talked about how looking after nature and the animals around us need kindness too. It has been lovely to see the children take these thoughts into their daily learning, and I've noticed many more acts of kindness to those in our school more throughout the day.

We have introduced three rules to the children in school at the beginning of term alongside our new behaviour policy which is being updated. The three rules are:

- Be Safe
- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
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These rules are to ensure that we have clear expectations in and around school, which are consistent and supportive with clear actions and expectations for the children. Staff have been starting to embed these as part of our daily routine and, although it is early days, the children are responding well. They will enable all children to be ready to learn, be safe around themselves and others and be respectful of adults, resources and our school.

We were delighted to be awarded the prestigious 'Gold' Sports Award over the summer. This recognises the many opportunities our children have to learn about and enjoy a wide range of sports. This includes when groups and classes go out to represent our school at competitions, workshops and activity days, and the opportunities in school through our PE curriculum and extra-curricular offers. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Hagger and Mrs Mitcham for their hard work and determination to champion sports for our school.

Local secondary schools are holding open days and tours - please do look out for the dates if your child is in Year 6 as some may still be happening. It's also common for children in Year 5 to have a little look too if you'd like to start getting an idea about which one would be right for your child. Don't forget, the deadline for applying for a Year 7 place is 31st October. We'd recommend using all your available choices (usually 4) to ensure you get a preference school.

Wishing you a lovely weekend,

Sarah Cook
Headteacher



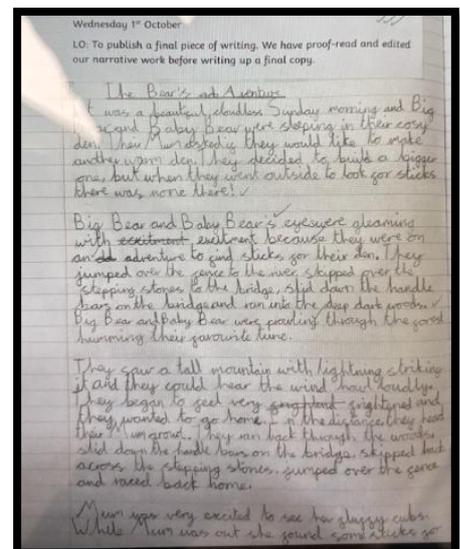
Woodpecker Class

Autumn has well and truly arrived, and we've been embracing the season in all its conker-filled glory! On Tuesday, the children went to the Burrow with Mrs Kennard. Whist down there the children were busy creating magical Autumn potions using natural treasures that were on their potion ingredients list. The children also got creative with conker painting, exploring colour, texture, and movement in a wonderfully messy (and fun!) way.

During our outdoor learning in the garden, the children worked together to roll conkers through pipes, solving problems as a team to ensure the conkers travelled all the way from top to bottom. It was a brilliant hands-on activity that encouraged teamwork, problem solving, and lots of laughter!

Kingfisher Class: We have had a very arty week in Kingfisher class and the children have enjoyed working on their self-portraits and getting cards ready to be printed for Christmas. I was very impressed with how well they did at observing and sketching their facial features and mixing paint to make a skin tone. They also did some printing, and used a potato as a stamp, to create a penguin in a snow scene. In Maths, we are finishing up our first unit of work on place value. Year 1 enjoyed playing some matching games to test their skills of reading numbers in words, representing numbers in different ways, and showing numbers which are greater or less than or equal to an amount.

Nightingale Class have completed lots of writing activities based on the picture book *Mini Rabbit: Not Lost!* All this work was put together to form a retelling of the story. Lots of proof-reading with their learning partner took place using the CUPS strategy - editing our work and correcting our use of capital letters, usage (correct tense), punctuation and spellings. Nightingale worked hard with this and then had the task of publishing their final copy.



Robin Class In Maths, we have been developing our number skills by adding 1s, 10s, 100s and 1000s. The children have been working hard to spot patterns and use their knowledge to solve problems with growing confidence. For our History, we became archivists! We explored fascinating Maya inventions and learned how to categorise and archive them. We also investigated the origins of rubber and were particularly interested in how it was used to create a ball for the Maya to play competitive games with. Science involved looking at how muscles cause movement. It was fascinating to learn how scientific research into muscles has helped in the design of prosthetics. The children have also enjoyed the song 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong. They reflected on the beauty of the school and wider world around them and how it links to gratitude and noticing the small things that make life special.

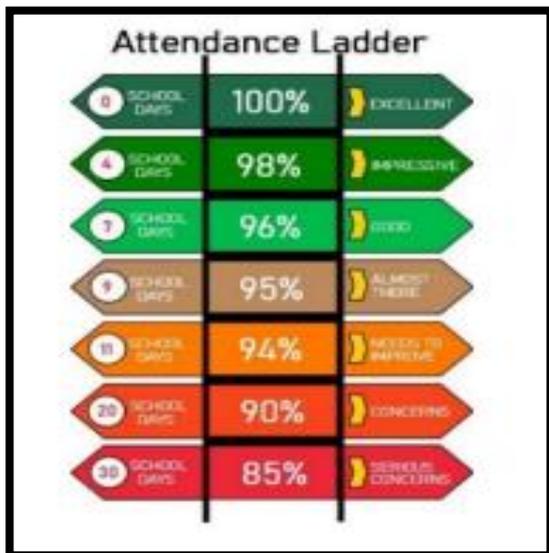


Skylark Class This week, Skylark have been busy writing their independent reports in English. They've shown a great deal of creativity and imagination and have done a super job of informing their readers about their own mythical creatures or monsters. We've also continued exploring our school value of 'Generosity' and have been thinking about the wonderful world we live in and how we all need to help to look after it. We've added our class poem and thoughts about what generosity means to us to our reflection board, together with some wonderful pictures of creation that the children took, during an exploration of our school grounds.

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance –95.9%

Whole School Target Set – 96%



Please contact school every day of any absence. This can be done by calling **01279 777344** and leaving a message on the absence line.

If you are going to be late, please also advise the school office before 9.15 am to ensure a meal is ordered in time.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Nightingale
Lily

Kingfisher
Louis

Skylark
Darcey
Owen



ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARDS

Woodpecker

Emile for making the right choices in class and demonstrating fantastic listening skills.

Emilia for helping and supporting her nursery peers.

Nightingale

Joshua who was so inspired by publishing his story that he came in at lunchtime to finish it off.

Kingfisher

Bertie for being a good friend and being kind to others.

Emma for taking care with her handwriting and presentation.

Robin

Oliver G for showing brilliant skill, determination and control when passing the ball in hockey.

Skylark

Eddie for his super enthusiasm and contributions in our PE lessons.

Marley-James for fantastic engagement in so many of our class activities this week.

READING AWARDS

Woodpecker
Freddie

Nightingale
Beatrice

Kingfisher
Margaux

Robin
Oscar

Skylark
William

MENU w/c 6 th October 2025		DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES	
Day	Menu		
Monday	Breaded Bean & Vegetable Grill (V) (Red) Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs with Tomato Pasta (Green) Jacket Potato with Tuna (Blue)	Friday 10 th October	Woodpecker and Kingfisher Sharing Assembly 2.45pm
		Tuesday 14 th October	Nightingale & Robin history workshop
		Friday 17 th October	Harvest Festival 2pm Church
		Tuesday 21 st October	Parent Consultations
		Friday 24 th October	Nightingale, Robin & Skylark Sharing Assembly 2.35 pm
		Mon 27 th -Fri 31 st October	Half Term
		Tuesday 11 th November	Bags2 School collection
		Friday 14 th November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday	Quorn Burger in a Bun (V) (Red) Tuna & Sweetcorn Pasta Bake (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (Blue)	Monday 24 th November	EYFS Audley End Trip
		Thursday 27 th November	Whole School Decorating Day
		Friday 28 th November	Occasional Day
		Tuesday 2 nd December	Whole School Panto
		Friday 5 th December	FPSA Christmas Fayre
		Thursday 18 th December	FPSA Christmas Disco
		Friday 19 th December	End of Term
Wednesday	Chicken Pie with Gravy (Red) Roasted Summer Veg Pasta (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese (Blue)	Monday 5 th January 2026	INSET DAY
		Tuesday 6 th January	INSET DAY
		Tuesday 3 rd February	Skylark history workshop
		Wednesday 7 th January	Term starts for pupils
		Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th Feb	Half Term
		Wednesday 4 th March	Bags2 School Collection
		Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Thursday	Cheese & tomato Pizza (V) (Red) Plant Sausage with Bow Pasta (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Beans (Blue)	Thursday 26 th March	FPSA Easter Disco
		Friday 27 th March	End of Term
		Monday 13 th April	INSET DAY
		Tuesday 14 th April	Term starts for pupils
		Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
		Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th May	Half Term
		Wednesday 3 rd June	Bags2 School Collection
Friday	Fish Fillet Fingers (Red) Herby Tomato Pasta with Cheese (V) (Green) Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans (Blue)	Tuesday 7 th July	KS2 Faith Tour
		Tuesday 21 st July	Leavers Service 2pm Church
		Monday 20 st July	FPSA Summer Disco
		Wednesday 22 nd July	END of TERM
		Thursday 23 rd July	INSET DAY

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

- Please ensure that you send your child to school with a coat every day as the weather is unpredictable and cooler now. Many thanks.
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- We are looking forward to our author visit on Tuesday next week (James Campbell). Please can you support the school to put on these events by paying £3 which is set up on Arbor for the event. James will also be selling books after school at the end of the day and we will ensure that children who are at Tea Timers will also have the opportunity to go too.

2025 BARKWAY LITERARY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER | 10AM - 8.30PM

KAY BLAYNEY

Tells and performs *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in costume.

1pm



GILLIAN McCLURE – TANGLEWOOD

Vastly experienced, award-winning, Carnegie Medal shortlisted author and illustrator of numerous picture books. Hosts an inspiring story-telling session for 3-7 year olds, using puppets. Learn how a picture book is created from start to finish.

1.30pm



Dr MATTHEW BOTHWELL – ASTROPHYSICS FOR SUPERVILLAINS 2.30pm

Public Astronomer at Cambridge University's Institute of Astronomy. Based on his two books for 6-10 year old, a fun session exploring myriad questions about the mysteries of space, extra-terrestrial life and cosmic time. Expert facilitator of events at schools, festivals and stargazing evenings. Writer and lecturer at the Royal Institution, New Scientist, the Royal Astronomical Society and the British Astronomical Association.



RACHEL & PAUL LAWSTON – MY NATURE TRAIL

Highly qualified environmental advocates in children's education. Activity-based session for 6-10 year olds, based on their fun-filled, fact-filled, highly illustrated book, inviting curiosity and wonder.

3.30pm



LAURA NOAKES – COSIMA UNFORTUNATE

Young disabled author - shortlisted for the Wicked Young Writer Awards. Presenting her two warm but twisty stories for 8-12 year olds, full of adventure and historical detail. Cosima lives at the Home for Unfortunate Girls where children deemed different are sent.

4.30pm



TICKETS:

SINGLE EVENTS:

Adults £10 | Children £5, accompanying adult/guardian, FREE

DAY TICKET: Adults £40 | Children all afternoon £15

FOR TICKETS SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/barkwaylitfest



FIND US:

Barkway Village Hall, Barkway, Hertfordshire: SG8 8BS

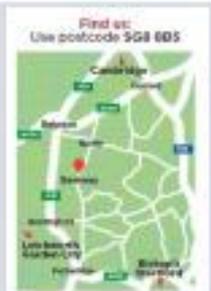
VENUES:

Adult Events: Barkway Village Hall

Children Events: The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Barkway

REFRESHMENTS:

Available throughout the day - **Barkway Social Club**



Event

Sponsored by: **BOW BOOKS** Royston, SG8 9AS

www.bow-books.co.uk

2025 BARKWAY
LITERARY FESTIVAL

www.barkwaylitfest.co.uk

