



## Weekly Newsletter

February 9<sup>th</sup> 2018

**OUR VALUE THIS HALF TERM IS COURAGE**

When we return after half term, the days will be brighter, and spring will be within reach. We are looking forward to tracking the changes in our Forest School, looking out for signs of spring growth, the promise of new vegetation.

We are very proud of the achievements of our Hedgehog reception children who took part in a dance festival at the Meridian School in Royston. Their safari dance was very impressive. We look forward to more fabulous dance from Mr Sapsed in the coming months as he continues to work with all the children at different times in the year.

If you haven't already, please return your slip to the 'appendage consultation on the change of status of Barley First School from VC ... to VA status'. In short, this is an administrative piece that needs our attention before the status can change. The rationale is explained on the paperwork. If you have any queries or concerns please do ask me or any of the governors about it; or indeed, come to our open afternoon on March 7th at which Mrs Lizzie Jeanes, Assistant Director of Education from the Diocese, will be present to answer any concerns.

Here's hoping for some bright spring like days so we can get outside over half term.

Sharon Brown

Federation Headteacher

We have been perfecting our building skills in Squirrel Class this week and the children designed and built some fantastic structures. We have also finished our stories about The Magic Tree which have been incredibly imaginative.

Mrs Pearce and Mrs West



What a busy week owl class has had. On Monday we worked on hard on maths activities. We had to find long and short noodles and use chopsticks to rescue the numbers from the noodles. On Tuesday we had a great day learning about Chinese New Year with the Hedgehogs. We learnt a song, did some Chinese writing, made lanterns, and even tasted some Chinese food. On Wednesday and Thursday, we made some dragon masks and some folding dragons. I would like to thank you all with the support you have been giving your children at with reading, counting and writing their names. Have a happy half term.

Mrs Gleadow and Mrs West



## Future Dates

### 2018-2019 Term dates attached

**19<sup>th</sup> February** back to school

**23<sup>rd</sup> February** – Achievement assembly at Barley 9am

**26<sup>th</sup> February** – Hedgehog trip to the library- more details to follow.

**1<sup>st</sup> March**- World Book day come dressed up and have lunch see details for those that have a packed lunch can order a special lunch. Let Mrs Harris and Mrs Rush know please.

**8<sup>th</sup> March** – Youth Makes Music practice. Year 4's only

**16<sup>th</sup> March** Youth Makes Music concert – Cambridge

**29<sup>th</sup> March** – Break up for Easter 1.30pm finish

**7<sup>th</sup> July** – Barkway Fete

Wow, we are tired out! What an exciting week we have had! Earlier in the week we joined together with the Owls class at Barley school to explore ways to celebrate the Chinese New Year; we enjoyed making paper lanterns, dressing as dragons, sampling Chinese food and searching for our coins to go into our lucky red envelopes. Hedgehogs had a great time performing our dance to parents, Squirrels class and Pre-School. For anyone who missed it, it is on the website. please see the sports news for an account of the competition!

Mrs Gould and Mrs Weston



And #Barley First

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## ART

In art this half term we have been continuing to look at the work of famous artists and create our own versions. We have made cut out Matisse designs and drawn Modigliani heads using oil pastels. Mrs MacDonald has been helping us develop our sketching skills, particularly focusing on portraits of people and proportion of faces. Barkley class particularly enjoyed sketching Ben's dad using a picture of him they found on Google! If you're in either school, lots of our artwork has been put up so please have a look.

Mrs West

## CLUB NEWS

20<sup>th</sup> February Tuesday Multi sports at Barley.

21st February Wednesday Gym club at Barkway.

22nd February Thursday Art Club. At Barkway.

## REMINDERS

Please come into the playground to collect Barkway children from the bus.

Please make sure all belongings are named.

PE kits should be in school every day.

Please try to read every day.

Please remember a water bottle every day.

We always welcome parents/grandparents coming in to hear children read. Please contact Mrs Harris or Mrs Rush

Barkley children have been busy practicing their dividing this week; they have enjoyed their art and music, using great skills on the glockenspiels.

Year 3's Aaliyah, Maddy, Imogen and Sophie represented the schools at a singing Concert at Stevenage.



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This week in Robin Class we have been exploring everyday materials and their properties.

We started by using what we knew to talk about what objects are made from in the classroom. We were super material detectives and knew that pencils are made from wood from trees, shoes are made from leather from cows and windows were made from glass. We talked about why these materials were used and could give a good reason. Next, we tested objects to find out whether they were magnetic or not. We found out that magnets attract through some materials and used this knowledge to design our own games.

**Mrs Wallace.**



We could not be prouder of our very brave Hedgehogs (Reception) Class, who represented the Federation in an inter-school dance festival at Meridian school this week. The event was hosted by Jo Prior, the Manager of the North Herts Sports Partnership. She told me after the competition that she had got quite emotional and teary eyed watching our gorgeous little Hedgehogs dance. They did so well, up on the huge stage dancing in front of lots of other schools and adults and they clearly enjoyed every minute! The judges were particularly impressed with their ferocious roars and we were also awarded a trophy for the best costumes of the event! A big thank you to our fabulous dance coach Mr Sapsed (Small Stars), who taught them the dance and provided all the costumes! Well done everyone!

Mrs Gould



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