



Our School's Theologically Rooted Christian Vision is based on Matthew 7 vs 12

'Do to others as you would want them to do to you'

Our vision is taken from Matthew 7:12 "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you", following Jesus' example. We work together to help and support each other to believe, nurture, grow and flourish together in our learning and in our relationships, exemplified in the Parable of the Sower. We do this through our six core values: love, respect, integrity, justice, thankfulness and determination. Inspired by our vision, we want our pupils to make good choices academically and socially, to become creative and independent thinkers, evidencing a love for learning and a thirst for knowledge.

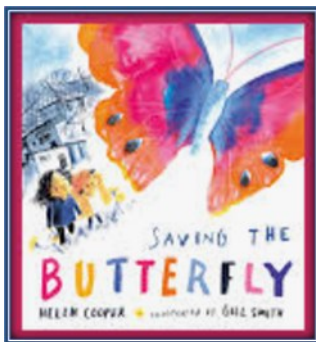
We aspire to promote the skills needed to persevere with learning challenges and the curiosity to enquire further. Our Christian ethos and school values focus on developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding. These are woven, like a golden thread, into every aspect of school life.

BARTON BULLETIN 7th November 2025 No.9

Whole School Writing Project One: Refugee Week

Children at Barton have completed a fantastic writing week focused on the experiences of refugee children. As part of our ambition to improve the standard of writing across the school and, in line with Objective 1 of our Yearly Operational Plan, (to develop and improve the opportunities and quality of writing in order to raise attainment in outcomes), we have planned a series of focused writing weeks to encourage and inspire our children to write in a range of genres, for a variety of audiences and for different purposes. Each class has focused on a text and aspect of the refugee experience appropriate to their age.

We are so grateful to the generous families who purchased refugee-focused children's literature to support our learning, especially as we have refugees within our school and village community.



The link below offers a range of good quality books for primary aged children should any of you wish to read more. <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/genres/refugees-and-migration-books-for-children-and-teens/>



We were delighted to have Anya Hulley from the refugee charity Baca speak to the children about their work supporting lone children refugees, providing food, shelter, education and guidance until they are ready to live

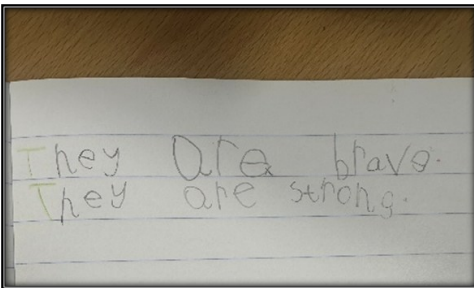
independently. We are grateful to Mrs. Tarring for bringing our attention to this worthwhile organisation. <https://bacacharity.org.uk/>

The children asked many interesting questions and demonstrated astonishing sensitivity, kindness and empathy.



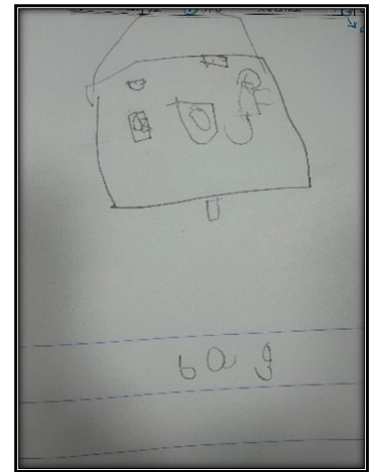
In Robin Class we have been using stories to explore what 'refuge' and 'refugee' mean. We started the week by reading *The Suitcase* by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros, where all we know about the main character is that they have sadly left their home with only a cup and a photograph in their suitcase. We wondered if the creature might be a refugee and spoke about some of the reasons they might have had to leave their home. The reception children had a go at drawing what they would pack in their suitcase and wrote the word 'bag' (the first independent writing we've put in our books so far!).

Our visit from Anya from BACA inspired many of the children to create posters or letters for some of the young people Anya works with. The Year 1s have done several pieces of writing about refugees this week, focusing on writing short sentences that include all the correct punctuation and it was lovely to see them applying these skills independently in their creations to pass onto BACA.



We've enjoyed sharing many of the story books that are on display outside the school offices and it's been lovely to hear the children contributing to thoughtful discussions together.

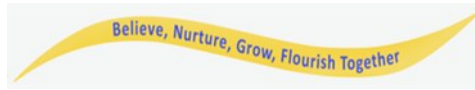
The story 'My Name is Not Refugee' by Kate Milner supported a beautiful discussion about how each person is made of many pieces, such as 'friend' or 'brother' or 'artist', and that people who have been forced to leave their homes are more than just the title 'refugee'.



On Thursday we started working on a collaborative piece of artwork where the children have carefully designed a paper person. All of people will then be added together onto a picture of the world to represent the many different refugees around the world today.

Kingfisher Class started our week by learning about what a refugee is and how someone might end up in a situation where they have to leave their home country. The children wrote about their own homes and what they would miss if they had to leave. As a class we read the book 'My Name is Not Refugee', and discussed the experience of the boy and why he had to leave his home. The children used the beginning of the book to record their thoughts about how the child in the story might travel and what he might bring with him. We discussed what things we would take with us if we had to leave home and explain how those items would help us on our journey. In art we are bringing those ideas to life by creating a suitcase packed with the things a refugee might need.





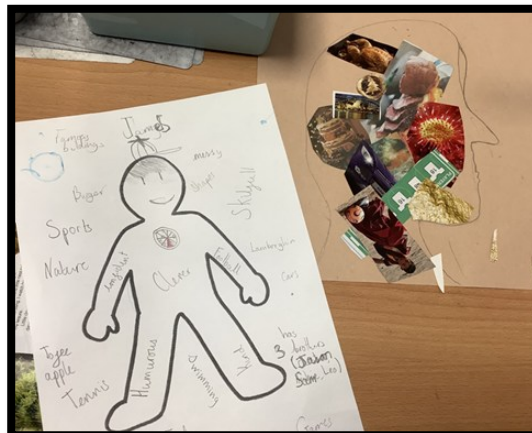
In Swallow Class, the children reflected on what “home” means to them, taking inspiration from Michael Rosen’s powerful poem “On the Move Again” to create their own verses and collaborative artwork. We also explored “The Boy at the Back of the Class”, a moving story of friendship and hope, to imagine what it might feel like to start school in a new country. This led to thoughtful diary entries and warm welcome letters. We’ve also been learning a beautiful song, which we’re excited to share during collective worship soon. It’s been a wonderful week celebrating empathy, kindness, and the power of words.



In Skylark class we began the week by going on a refugee’s journey to safety, which began by having just 5 minutes to ‘pack’ 6 items that they didn’t want to leave behind. It was much harder than we thought! Along the way, some items were lost, some given to those who had less, and some were traded. Choosing what to give and what to keep was quite a challenge! We then spent some time considering the different stages of our journey, and used our senses to create a powerful word bank to use in our writing. We really challenged ourselves to use adventurous vocabulary - and phrasing like ‘stomach churning’ ‘heart wrenching’ ‘desperate’ and ‘tears welling up’ were added.

We used our word banks to then write a first person, present tense, narrative of the journey of a refugee, fleeing from their home to a place of safety. The children have written some really moving, powerful pieces of writing that they, quite rightly, feel very proud of!

For our art project, I wanted to explore with the children the idea of identity, to help build an understanding that each refugee is a person with likes and dislikes, hobbies, favourite colours, favourite foods, habits etc - just like ourselves. We then used this idea to construct a ‘picture’ of a unique individual, which we then used to create a silhouette style collage, comprising of all the different components of that person. It was really interesting how ‘real’ their person became to them, and how through this, and the written activity this week, that a strong sense of empathy and understanding has been built.



FOBS NEWS AND EVENTS

FOBS have a QR code for donations, just scan the code with your phone’s camera and it will take you to the FOBS Just Giving Page.

- 7th November – Skylark Class Cake Sale (with hot choc.)
- 14th November – Movie Night
- 5th December - Christmas Fayre

Happy Bags:

We would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated a Happy Bag on Tuesday, your generous donations raised a lovely **£81.60** for FOBS.

[Amazon Wishlists](#)

Garden Wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/aekTeng>

Robin Class Wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/ieA9hhv>

Kingfisher Class Wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/iVJetZK>

Swallow Class Wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/2ZoaTze>

Skylark Class Wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/003Pcpl>

Owl Class Wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/8vE1QM>



PARENT REMINDERS

- Please complete the form on the link below to let us know if your child would like to join the school **choir** ahead of the lovely festive season. If your child is already in the choir, please also complete the form to let us know their availability for events: [Barton Choir – Fill in form](#)
- If your child has borrowed any **spare clothing** from school it would be wonderful if it could be washed and returned as we are running a little low on spares for Robin class, thank you.
- Please could we ask for **teddy donations** for the FOBS Christmas Fayre teddy tombola stall, any donations can be brought to the office. Thank you.
- **Y5/Y6 Brain Buddies**—parents are warmly invited to a special drop in at 3pm on Thursday 13th November to view the work that children have completed during this project.



Dates for the Diary

November

7 th	Skylark Class Cake Sale
10 th –13 th	Y5/Y6 Bikeability
13 th	Brain Buddies drop in, 3pm, Y5/Y6
14 th	FOBS Movie Night, 5pm
18 th	Maths Workshop, all year groups, 5-6pm in school
29 th	Barton Choir singing at Arbory Trust 5pm

December

3 rd	Year 5/6 Cross Country, Milton Country Park
5 th	Victoria Goodman – no Friday collective worship
5 th	FOBS Christmas Fayre, 5-7pm
6 th	Village Christmas Lights switch-on, 4pm
15 th	Rotary Club Christmas Concert, West Road Concert Hall, 5pm
16 th	Nativity Performance, 9.30am
16 th	Burwash Manor singing/Wind band
17 th	Nativity Performance, 2pm
18 th	Barton Christingle Service, Grantchester Church, 5.30pm
19 th	Last day of term.

1:1 TA Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a 1:1 Teaching Assistant for a named child in our EYFS/Y1 class, Weds/Thurs/Fri, term-time only. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in the position more information can be found here:

<https://www.bartonprimary.org.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=39>

Safeguarding at Barton CofE (VA) Primary School

Mrs. Julie Martin and Ms. Wendy Bartlett are the designated safeguarding leads at Barton Primary School.

If you have a concern about a child, please inform any member of staff. If you think a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here:

[Safeguarding children and child protection | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)





Health and Safety

Please can we remind all parents that as a healthy eating school children are expected to bring healthy snacks for their morning break such as fruit, vegetables and cheese. Please do not send your child with cakes, biscuits and crisps, or snacks containing nuts/sesame.

Thank you for your continued support.

Welcome Wednesdays

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
1 st October	7 th January	15 th April
5 th November	4 th February	6 th May
3 rd December	4 th March	3 rd June
		1 st July

New Best Start in Life campaign communications toolkit

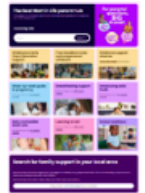
We are pleased to share the communications toolkit for the Best Start in Life campaign, which aims to increase awareness of the importance of early years in a child's development and the role of early years education.

The [Best Start in Life website](#) brings together trusted advice, support and guidance for parents. Please see below various resources

- NBSIL toolkit [resources](#)

- NBSIL [website](#)

- NBSIL video: ['The Story of You'](#) celebrates the journey of early childhood, highlighting to parents the vital role they play in their child's lives and the support available.





Barton School Christmas Fayre

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH 2025
5-7PM

Everyone welcome!
FREE ENTRY

A fun evening of games, food, drinks, stalls and activities with our school and village community.

Don't miss Santa's Grotto and our fabulous Christmas Raffle!

Donations of raffle prizes are very welcome.

Please come and be part of this event!

FriendsofBartonSchool@outlook.com



Charity number: 1029902

Nativity Festival

6th to 7th December
11am to 3pm
at **St Mary's Church**

Dust off your old Nativity set
or create a contemporary one,
2D or 3D

And take part in the festival.

stmaryscomberton@gmail.com
for more information and
to register your set.

Please register your set
By 30th November





Believe, Nurture, Grow, Flourish Together



**Other local activities/
information**

We provide this information in case any activities are of interest to families.



THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7 - 17 who love to sing. Established in 2013, the Singing School provides the opportunity to experience great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment and to develop confidence in singing and performing.

This Christmas, pupils will learn some beautiful carols and seasonal music from around the world, led by our regular team of expert coaches.

In Cambridge, we offer two courses:
Juniors Course for those aged 7-12 and
Seniors Course for those aged 13-17

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk or email oxbridgess@gmail.com

22 & 23 December 2025

St Catharine's College, Cambridge St
Barnabas Church, Jericho, Oxford

www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk

WALK 100 MILES IN NOVEMBER

100% of people deserve good mental health
Join #TeamMHF Walk 100 miles with us in November

1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem at some point each year. Step up and raise vital funds for the Mental Health Foundation.

No matter your fitness level, every mile you walk and every pound donated will make a difference. At the time of this email, over 1,200 people have already pledged to join our walking challenge and push for better mental health for everyone.

Will you join us too?

[Join the challenge](#)

Free t-shirt when you sign up
Beanie if you raise £30+ Available whilst stocks last. Join now to get your t-shirt in time for the challenge!

Cheer squad? We got you!
Whether you're walking alone or with friends or family, we're here to cheer you on in the Facebook group!

A challenge for everyone
Pick your distance. It's your personal challenge so adapt the mile count to suit your needs and goals.

[Sign up now](#)

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
HOLY TRINITY MELDRETH

29 NOVEMBER
30 NOVEMBER

11AM - 5PM SATURDAY
11AM - 4.30PM SUNDAY
Noah the Donkey 11am-3.30pm

FOOD | SEASONAL CRAFT & PRODUCE STALL

FREE PARKING & ENTRY

ADVENT SERVICE
30 NOVEMBER 5.30PM