



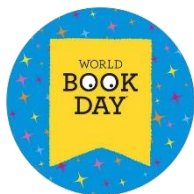
Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 7th March

World Book Day

A huge thank you to our staff for making World Book Day such a memorable event for our children. It was wonderful to see the children (and staff) so excited about their costumes and to hear so many lovely discussions about favourite books and authors. To see pictures and find out more about World Book Day, check out the Reading Corner Page of this issue.



Easter Hamper

A reminder that tickets for this year's amazing Easter Hamper are now on sale! Tickets are £1 and can be purchased from outside the Hive before and after school. This year's Hamper includes:



- A bumper Easter craft kit
- Easter chocolate
- A very cute Easter bunny teddy bear
- Easter stories for you to enjoy as a family
- Easter colouring activities
- And so much more!



Reading Competition

★ ★ Win a Book
Bundle Worth £50

Winner chooses their own
books! ★ ★



What do I need to do?

Read every day at home from Monday to Friday to collect a raffle ticket from your teacher. The raffle tickets will be posted into our special prize draw box in the Infant and Junior School Libraries.

When is the competition happening?

The competition will begin on Monday 3rd February and will end on Friday 23rd May.

More information can be found in your reading diary.



Bikes and Scooters

It has been wonderful to see so many of our children enjoying the sunshine and walking, cycling or scooting to school. A polite reminder that children must not ride their bikes and scooters once on site, to ensure the safety of all around them.



For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



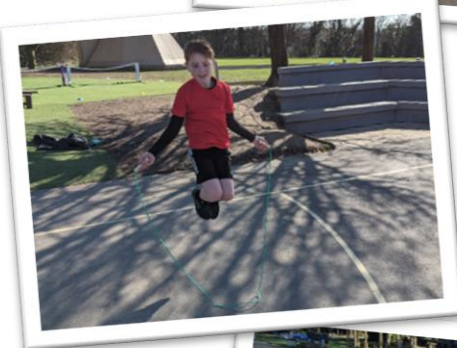
Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year R

The children have been working hard this half term to embed their **number knowledge** using concrete resources. They have really enjoyed taking their maths **outside** onto our school grounds to explore different concepts such as subtraction, addition and part whole models.



Year 3

In Year 3, we have started a new unit in PE- **Fitness!** We are focusing on balance, control and co-ordination using various equipment like skipping ropes and bean bags to support our learning. We have been very excited that the sun has come back out so we can enjoy our PE lessons in the **sunshine!**



For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801
01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk
adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 6

The week before half term the children in Year 6 took the trip to **Fairthorne Manor** for our annual 5- day residential trip. The week saw the children take part in team building challenges, abseiling, climbing among many other **activities** in the action packed week. In the evenings, the children enjoyed a film night, quiz night and, on our final night, a campfire with toasted marshmallows.

The children were brilliant **Balksbury Citizens** throughout the week away and amazed us with their perseverance and courage when trying new things.



For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



Welcome to...

Curriculum Corner

Health and Wellbeing



At Bawksbury, we provide a bespoke Health and Wellbeing curriculum designed to equip children with the understanding, skills and resilience they need to navigate an ever-changing world.

Recognising the essential role of Health and Wellbeing in developing children's cultural capital and shaping well-rounded, confident and capable individuals, the curriculum is underpinned by three core themes: **relationships, healthy lifestyles and living in the wider world.**



The federation's curriculum is supplemented by rich experiences such as planting and nurturing plants in the poly tunnel, use of parliament resources to support our curriculum and visitors by external visitors such as; Police Education Officers, Fire Fighters, Aerobility, and local activist Manuela Wahnnon. This real-world engagement reinforces practical knowledge and its application in everyday life.

Anti-Bullying Day 2025

Across the federation, all children were immersed in a range of activities to raise awareness of bullying, to celebrate kindness and that everyone is unique. The children all focused on the book **We're All Wonders**. Their responses, including artwork, were incredible and very thought provoking.



National Railway Safety

The safety of children is a priority. Education is key, especially for young people. Last week, Education Officers from the National Railway Service came to the federation to deliver Infant School and Junior School assemblies on railway safety. Children learned about how to stay safe around railway lines and how to spot potential hazards.



For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.bawksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801
01264 365642

adminoffice@bawksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk
adminoffice@bawksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



The Reading Corner

World Book Day Special



The children had a wonderful World Book Day 2025 this year. We celebrated by coming to school dressed as our favourite characters from books, or by wearing something snuggly and comfy to read. Dolce provided us with a special World Book Day themed lunch, which was very much enjoyed.

In the afternoon, children had dedicated time to enjoy a book with a friend, either from their class or another year group. It was particularly lovely seeing our Year R children so confident sharing their reading books with our Year 5's.

As a school, we focused on the author Aaron Becker, who writes beautiful wordless picture books. Children were then encouraged to 'read their own way' and decided for themselves the dialogue of his recent book 'The Last Zoo Keeper'.

The day was enjoyed by all, and we already can't wait for next year!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
6 MARCH 2025



For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801
01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk
adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk

Minecraft is played by more than 650 million players!



Fortnite is one of the most popular video franchises in the world.

What is Fortnite?

An online multiplayer video game, where players must collect weapons, build forts and shoot other players to defeat them.

There are multiple game modes within Fortnite. 6 of these modes are created and managed by Epic Games. The remaining modes are made by other Fortnite players, so may not have the same safety features.

Epic Games Fortnite modes

	The most well-known game. Loot, build, explore and fight in a game of 100 players to be the last one standing
	Players collaborate to protect the survivor base from zombie-like creatures. A pay-to-play game
	Lego® and Fortnite collide - a collection of Lego® based games experiences
	Players create their own personalised island and design their own games they can share with other players
	Up to 12 players race with each other on a growing selection of race tracks
	Perform solo or play in a band with friends on stage

What can I play Fortnite on?

Fortnite is available on lots of devices including PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox One, Xbox Series X/S, Nintendo Switch, PCs, iPhone and Android mobiles.

It also features cross-platform play, where players can play with each other when using different devices.

What is the age rating?

This depends on which version of the game is being played.

In the UK, **Fortnite** has a PEGI age rating of 12+.

This particularly applies to **Fortnite Battle Royale**, due to its frequent scenes of mild violence. Often the violence is cartoonish, but it may upset some players.



Fortnite Festival also has a PEGI age rating of 12+, due to the use of bad language and sexual nature of the lyrics.



Lego Fortnite has a PEGI age rating of 7+, making it more suitable for younger players.



Rocket Racing has a PEGI age rating of 3+

What is a Cabined Account?

An account that provides a safe experience for younger players, if they indicate that they are under 13. They will need to provide a parent's email address in order to receive parental consent to access certain features such as voice chat.

What do some of the terms used in Fortnite mean?

Chapter - regular updates to the game, which usually last a year or two. They give players a new map to play on, as well as other new features

Season - each chapter is divided into multiple seasons, which last around 90 days each. They come with smaller map changes, new themes and new battle passes

Skin - an outfit or cosmetic change to the appearance of a player's character

For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



Keeping safe

Emote - a special animation that your character can perform, such as dances and gestures

Experience Points - gained by players by completing specific challenges through combat, building and looting. Experience points (or 'XP') allow players to advance to the next level

Battle Pass - an item bundle that players can exchange for experience points to receive rewards. There are 2 types of a Battle Pass – a free pass which gives a small number of items and a paid premium pass which gives over 100 rewards

V-Bucks - Fortnite's in-game currency used to purchase new 'skins' and items. Players use real money to purchase different amounts of V-Bucks

Loot Llama - a type of item bundle that offers lots of rewards when opened, which can be purchased or earned through gameplay

Is Fortnite safe?



Some versions of Fortnite are generally safe for children, especially those rated 3+ or 7+. However, there are things every parent should be aware of:

Inappropriate content

Players can play with people around the world and use the chat feature to communicate with each other. This could put a child at **risk of being exposed to inappropriate language or content**

Interacting with other players

Fortnite is an online multiplayer game, which means that it is very likely your child will be playing with others online, including strangers. The chat feature in Fortnite could put a child **risk of receiving upsetting comments or unwanted contact from unknown people**

In-Game Purchases

Although Fortnite is free to download and play, players are given options to use real money to buy in-game currency (V-Bucks), items Loot Llamas or Battle Passes. This could put a child at **risk of spending large amounts of real money, building up a debt**

Screen Time

Players are encouraged to start new battles once one has ended. There is no option to pause or save a game during a battle. This could put a child at **risk of spending hours playing online**

- **Customise the voice and text chat feature** so that you know who your child is chatting to. *If your child is under 10 years old, the maximum voice chat permission will be "Friends Only" and text chat will be off. If your child is under 13, the maximum voice and text chat permission will be "Friends & Teammates." When your child turns 13, you will be able to choose additional voice and text chat options*
- **Talk with your child** about who they are playing with and/or chatting with in the in-game chat. Make sure they know to tell you if they see something upsetting
- **Sign up to receive weekly playtime reports** so that you can track the amount of time your child is playing Fortnite
- **Enable mature language filter** to stop your child seeing inappropriate language in chats
- **Set a PIN to prevent unauthorised payments** so that your child does not spend real money in the game
- **Set time limits** so that your child does not spend hours playing on it
- **Set a PIN for friend requests** so that you can control the friend requests your child send or receives
- **Know how to block or report** a concern about a player
- **Set up parental controls on the device** your child is using as well as those in the game

For a step-by-step guide to Fortnite parental controls, click on the link below

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/fortnite-battle-royale-parental-controls/>

If you are worried about what your child is doing online or need further advice, please speak to one of our DSLs who will be able to help you.



Or find further tips and advice on our website <https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/esafety-2/>

For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



CSL Messages



Attendance

School Day Times

Infant school 8:45am until 3:15pm

Junior school 8:40am until 3:10pm

The Infant school classroom doors open and registration starts at 8:45am. Your child needs to be ready to enter their class by 8:45am. At 8:50am classroom doors and registration closes.

Your child will be marked late if they have not arrived.

The Junior school classroom doors open and registration starts at 8:40am. Your child needs to be ready to enter their class by 8:40am. At 8:45am classroom doors and registration closes.

Your child will be marked late if they have not arrived.

Lateness

Children who are late **must be signed in by an adult via the school reception.**

Parents may be issued with a penalty notice for persistent lateness, which is 10 unauthorised late codes (U) within a 10 week period.



Reporting absence

If your child is unwell, please notify the school office on the absent line **stating the reason of absence** (just 'unwell' or 'poorly' is not appropriate) **before the start of school.** We cannot accept a message via a sibling.

If no contact has been made, a member of staff will call. If we are unable to make contact, a home visit will be made to ensure that the family are OK.

On day 3 of illness, Mrs Whatley or Mrs Grinham, our CSLs will make a Welfare call to check in and see how your child is feeling and whether any other support is required.

Monitoring Attendance

On a daily basis school attendance is monitored. Here we have the percentages for across the Federation.

Infants;

100-96% - 60.8%

95.9-94% - 16.8%

93.9-90% - 14.5%

Below 90% - 7.9%

Juniors;

100-96% - 68.1%

95.9-94% - 15.5%

93.9-90% - 9.9%

Below 90% - 6.5%

Check your child's attendance on Arbor and see which group their attendance falls into.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/attendance/>

For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



House Points and Tokens



House Points

The House with the most points across the Federation to date is: Fosbury.



Fosbury



Tokens - Infants

The class with the most tokens in the Infant School to date is: Merlin.



Tokens - Juniors

The class with the most tokens in the Junior School to date is: Olive Class.



PTA Message



Thank you to everyone for supporting us with your Bag2school donations this week. We raised a fantastic £22.40 which will go towards projects for the children of the Federation.

Our **uniform swap shop** is back open and will be available every Friday afternoon between 3pm and 3:30pm. Please feel free to come along and swap your good condition **pre-loved uniform** for another size or style! We have loads of cardigans, jumpers, skirts and trousers in stock!



For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801
01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk
adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk



Diary Dates

March 2025

Wednesday 12 th March 2025	Year 5 Greek Day
Wednesday 12 th March 2025	Year 1 Army Air Museum Trip
Monday 17 th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Year 3 Bury Hill Trip 9:00am – 12:00pm
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm
Monday 31 st March 2025	Ufton Court Parent Meeting 3:30pm – 4:30pm

April 2025

Tuesday 1 st April 2025	Year 1 Production 2:00pm
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Year 1 Production 2:00pm
Monday 7 th April 2025 – Monday 21 st April 2025	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	Year R School Nurse Visit
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	Open Box Year 4 – Vikings

May 2025

Thursday 1 st May 2025	Year 2 Titanic Museum Trip
Wednesday 7 th May 2025 – Friday 9 th May 2025	Year 4 Ufton Court Residential
Monday 12 th May 2025 – Thursday 15 th May 2025	Year 6 SATs Week
Tuesday 13 th May 2025	Year R Hillier Gardens Trip
Friday 16 th May 2025	Year 6 Trinley Estate Trip
Monday 19 th May 2025 – Friday 23 rd May 2025	Year 6 – Bikeability
Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025	Half Term

For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk

June 2025

Wednesday 4th June 2025	Butterflies Transition Evening 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Thursday 12th June 2025	Open Box Year R – Dinosaurs
Thursday 12th June 2025	Year 3 Butser Farm Visit
Tuesday 17th June 2025	New Year R Children - Butterflies Session 1 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Wednesday 18th June 2025	Open Box Year 1 – Moon Landing
Thursday 19th June 2025	Fraser Portraits Class Photos
Thursday 19th June 2025	Year 2 to Year 3 Parents Transition Meeting 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Friday 20th June 2025	Sports Day with Family Picnic 9:00am – 3:00pm
Tuesday 24th June 2025	New Year R Children - Butterflies Session 2 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Monday 30th June 2025 – Friday 4th July 2025	Swim Gala Week

July 2025

Tuesday 1st July 2025	Change Up Morning 9:30am – 12:00pm New Year R Children – Butterflies Session 3
Wednesday 2nd July 2025	Year 2 Production 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Thursday 3rd July 2025	Year 2 Production 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Friday 4th July 2025	Year 2 Country Dancing Festival
Friday 4th July 2025	Block 2 After School Clubs – Finish
Monday 7th July 2025 – Friday 11th July 2025	Arts Week (Arts' Festival on Friday 11 th)
Monday 14th July 2025	Balksbury's Got Talent
Monday 14th July 2025	Year 6 Production 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Tuesday 15th July 2025	Year 6 Production 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Tuesday 15th July 2025	Year 2 Fun Day 9:00am – 3:00pm
Wednesday 16th July 2025	Year 2 Graduation 2:00pm – 3:00pm (School Based)
Wednesday 16th July 2025	Year 6 Fun Day 9:00am – 3:00pm
Thursday 17th July 2025	Disco Day 9:00am – 2:30pm

For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk

Thursday 17th July 2025	Year 6 Graduation 9:15am – 10:15am (School Based)
Friday 18th July 2025	Children's Last Day of Summer Term
Monday 21st July 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 22nd July 2025	INSET Day
Wednesday 23rd July 2025	Summer Holidays

For feedback, compliments and comments, visit our **Contact Us** page on our website or email one of the admin offices.

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/contact-us/>

01264 352801 adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk
01264 365642 adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk