



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 31st January

Future Projects

Although it feels as though the summer is far away, the Federation will soon be making arrangements for this years **Arts' Week and Arts' Festival**. We are already determined to make this year even bigger and better than before – so we need you!



If you, or someone you know might be able to support us over the course of the week, or at the Arts Festival, please do get in touch. We are looking for any members of our community who work in the Arts or are especially creative, to help over the course of the week. In the past we have had amazing parent and grandparent volunteers who have given talks, or even ran workshops.

If you might be able to help, contact either admin office and ask for Miss Bolton.



Lost Property

We have 2 smart watches in our lost property from the Summer term. If you believe these could be yours please call the Junior admin office.



Safeguarding Awareness Course for Parents



Helping parents make an informed choice about the football setting they enrol their children in.

Football is by far the most popular sport in the country, particularly among teenagers and children. England Football's learning faculty has designed a short, **free**, safeguarding course for parents.

The course is designed to help you, as parents, make an informed choice about the football setting you enrol your child in. It explains the vital role of safeguarding within the sporting sphere.

If you are interested in this **free** course, please click the link below:

<https://learn.englishfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

"It is a credit to The FA that this type of course is available free of charge. It should be undertaken by absolutely everybody involved with children and young person's football."

Parent

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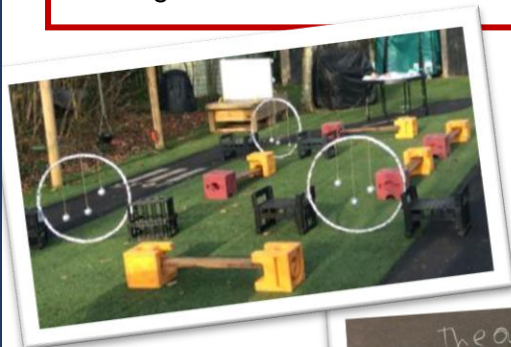


Classroom News



Across the Playground Year R

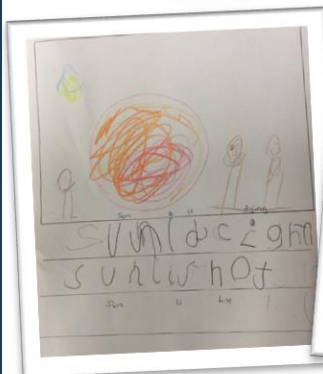
The children are having the most **amazing time** learning all about **space**. Over the last couple of weeks, the children have trained to become astronauts by tackling an assault course, built model **rockets**, taken part in a space rocket hunt, painted and chalked planets and have begun writing fact files about our **solar system**. With the help of stories such as 'Aliens Love Underpants' and 'The Smeds and the Smoos' next week, the children will explore the exciting world of **aliens**!



Year 3

Recently in Year 3, we planted some seeds and bulbs as part of our **Longitudinal Study**. We are all very excited to watch them grow over the next few months and see how they turn out. It was great to link it back to our **Science** lessons, where we are beginning to learn all about soil.

In **Physical Education**, we have continued **gymnastics**, but this time focusing on transition. We have been practising moving from one balance to another with barrel rolls, teddy bear rolls, and even forward rolls!



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Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant start to the New Year! In **Design and Technology**, they have loved experimenting with different materials and enjoyed making prototypes of different playground equipment. Similarly, Year 6 have thrived in **outdoor PE** and have been successful in developing their dodging techniques alongside perfecting their ball skills in Dodgeball. Likewise, in **Science**, the Year 6 children have been able to understand how light is reflected back into a person's eye and explored how shadows are affected by the height of the sun.



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Assembly Corner

Welcome to this half term's **Assembly Corner**. Each half term, we will share a snapshot of the themes for assemblies across the federation.

NSPCC Assemblies

Week beginning 06.01.25



Speak Out Safe

What is Teamwork?

Week beginning 20.01.25



Linked to our federated value and the British Value of Mutual Respect.

Anti-Bullying - How Should we Help?

Week beginning 03.02.25



What is Happiness and Positivity?

Week beginning 13.01.25



Exploring what it means to be happy and have a positive mindset.

How Can Positivity Help Teamwork?

Week beginning 27.01.25



Linked to our federated value of Perseverance.

Teamwork and Connections

Week beginning 10.02.25



Linked to the British Value of Individual Liberty.

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The Reading Corner



Focus Bookshelves

Being safe

What do we need to know to be safe?
How do you keep yourself safe?

Being safe when you are out and about means being aware of what's around you and making sure you look for cars. Being safe online means making sure that the website is suitable and making sure that if there is something that worries you, you tell someone.

Keeping Safe covers all manner of topics including being safe at home, internet safety, strangers and what to do if there is a problem.



Spotlight on...

Judith Kerr

Judith Kerr was born in Germany but came to Britain in 1936 to escape the Nazis. She is the author of the very lovely **Mog** books which tell the stories of Mog the cat. Judith also wrote **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit**, a semi-autobiographical book about escaping from Germany during the Second World War.



The Big Reading Survey

Today, during Free Reading Friday, all children took part in our Big Reading Survey. At Barksbury, we are committed to developing a love of reading for all of our children. We know that this means listening to the children about what they love to read! The results of the survey will be carefully analysed, and used to inform our next book orders for both of our Federated Libraries. The most recent additions to our libraries have been pop-up books in the Junior School and more books on transport and animals in the Infant School.

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.



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ESafety Instagram



Instagram is one of the hottest platforms at the moment, especially with young people.

People use photos, filters, comments, captions, emoticons, hashtags and links to talk about things and share interests.

13+

Did you know?

To be eligible to sign up for Instagram, you must be at least **13 years old**.

Letting your child use the platform before they are old enough leaves them open to risk of harm.

What are the risks?



Exposure to inappropriate content

Your child could see or hear harmful or upsetting content. Because of how the platform shows users content, it's easy to come across inappropriate or adult posts.

Unwanted contact

Children are at risk of receiving unwanted messages from people they do not know. Even if the account is set to private, other users can still request to send you direct messages.

Pressure

Children may feel pressure to post certain images or videos based on what they're seeing on the app. This could lead to experiencing issues with self-esteem and wellbeing

Location sharing

Your child could reveal this to anyone who can see their posts

Spending too much time scrolling

Instagram uses what's called persuasive design - techniques to keep users engaged on the platform e.g. the endless scrolling feature. As you can keep scrolling to reveal new content, you can accidentally spend hours engaging with content.

Keep your child safe

Make the account private - so posts can only be seen by followers

Disable direct messages - prevents adults from messaging young people who don't follow them

Mute - certain profiles from appearing on your feed. It is different from blocking because you can still see each other's profiles

Sensitive Content Control - to reduce content your child might find upsetting or worrying

Hide comments - with common offensive words, phrases or emojis and stops them from appearing on your posts

Comment controls - manage who can comment on your posts - switch off comments completely or select only followers can comment.

Take a break - set reminders to take a break away from the app

Talk - about who they are following or who is following them. Talk about what they have posted

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/>



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Governor Message

Personal Development Governor Visit - Yas Quince

I was excited to carry out my first governor visit with a focus on Personal Development. As always, Barksbury felt warm and welcoming, with its strong ethos and culture shining through in every aspect of federated life.

What is Personal Development?

Personal Development looks at how the federation nurtures and develops each child beyond the classroom, helping them grow into confident, well-rounded individuals – the Barksbury Citizen.

At Barksbury, it's safe to say that there are lots of amazing experiences and opportunities for our children to flourish and grow. One in particular, which I was able to see in action, was the added changes to the Positive Playground Initiative. This provides children at break and lunchtime, with a range of structured activities, such as frisbee, football, tennis and athletics, creating a safe, inclusive, and active environment for everyone. It was wonderful to see how this has encouraged participation and allowed the children to continue to discover new things. A particular highlight for me was the sandpit – children of all ages were having so much fun!

Beyond the playground, the federation have many enriching opportunities for every child. For example, Inter-school sports fixtures like netball, tag rugby, and the upcoming football festival encourage teamwork and resilience. Not forgetting to mention 'Barksbury Come Dancing', swimming, the community garden the STEM and Arts festivals, Intergenerational café, Carol concerts at the local church ... the list goes on!

My biggest takeaway from this visit is just how proud I am still to be part of the Barksbury community. The facilities and opportunities we are able to offer our children are truly impressive, and it's inspiring to see the positive impact these have on their personal development.



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CSL Messages



What Illnesses Can my Child Come to School With?

Coughs and Colds

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children should be given paracetamol, plenty of fluids to drink and can be sent to school.



Headache, Earache and Stomach ache

Children with headache, earache or stomach ache can go to school - just let the staff know they have felt unwell. Give paracetamol and plenty of fluids to drink. School can administer paracetamol to Junior school children once a medical form has been completed.

Conjunctivitis

Children may suffer with teary, red and itchy eyes. They can still attend school. Speak to a pharmacist if you are concerned for advice or treatment.

<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>

Where to Get Advice

NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Think Pharmacy First!

Did you know that you can take your child to your local pharmacy and get treatment for five medical conditions? These are:

- Ear ache (children aged 1-17)
- Sore throat (over 5s)
- Infected insect bites (over 1s)
- Impetigo (over 1s)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 and over)

If your child is poorly with any of the above conditions, by going straight to your local pharmacy you can have a consultation with a trained pharmacist and receive advice and even medication (if appropriate) and your child can get back to school sooner.

Visit our Pharmacy First website to find out more.

NHS
Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Healthier Together

Not sure how to treat coughs, colds, scrapes and sniffles?

Download the Healthier Together app or visit:
what0-18.nhs.uk

Healthier Together provides advice for parents on every common injury and illness your child or teenager might experience, including mental health problems. If you're not sure what the best way to treat something is, or whether it's time to seek help, Healthier Together has the answer.

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House Points and Tokens



House Points

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



Danebury



Tokens

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



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



PTA Message



The PTA would like to warmly welcome everyone back to the Federation and hope you all enjoyed your festive break. After a very busy Christmas period, we are back and ready to go with our **fundraising** this year! We have already started our fortnightly **treat sales** again and our **uniform sales** will be starting from next week! We hope to see you all at the Hive on Fridays!

We also have our next **Bag2School** collection on **Wednesday 5th March!** Please could all donations be left at the top of the Junior driveway (on the grass area) before **9am** on the day.

Thank you for all your ongoing support!



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Diary Dates

February 2025

Friday 7 th February 2025	Anti-Bullying & One Kind Word Day
Monday 10 th February 2025 – Friday 14 th February 2025	Year 6 Fairthorne Manor Residential
Wednesday 12 th February 2025	Block 2 After School Clubs – Parents Notified of Club Allocation
Friday 14 th February 2025	After School Clubs Block 1 Finish
Monday 17 th February 2025 – Friday 21 st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24 th February 2025	W/C 24 th Feb - Block 2 After School Clubs Start

March 2025

Tuesday 4 th March 2025	Year R- School Nurse Visit
Wednesday 5 th March 2025	Bags2School
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day & Dolce World Book Day Lunch
Wednesday 12 th March 2025	Year 1 Trip - Army Air Museum
Monday 17 th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm

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

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May 2025

Thursday 1st May 2025	Year 2 Trip- Titanic Museum
Wednesday 7th May 2025 – Friday 9th May 2025	Year 4 Ufton Court Residential
Monday 12th May 2025 – Thursday 15th May 2025	Year 6 SATS Week
Monday 19th May 2025 – Friday 23rd May 2025	Year 6 - Bikeability
Monday 26th May 2025 – Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term

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
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
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)

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July 2025

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
Thursday 17th July 2025	Year 6 Graduation 9:15am – 10:15am (School Based)
Monday 21st July 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 22nd July 2025	INSET Day
Wednesday 23rd July 2025	Summer Holidays

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