

Balksbury Federation Across the Playground

Friday 13th September

A Message from Miss Thompson

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a good summer holiday and managed to have some quality family time together.

The team here were excited to welcome the children back, and it has been so lovely to hear their stories about their adventures across the summer break. A special Balksbury welcome to all our new children across both schools. We are so proud of how well you have settled in.

We also welcome Miss Coombes in Year 3. Mrs Reilly in Year 4, and, Miss Earle and Miss Beatson in Year 5. We also welcome back Mrs Baker who has just returned from maternity leave and joins Year 1.

Although the weather hasn't been too kind to us since our return to school, the children have still managed to have lots of fun on the playground with new activities for the autumn term. Fingers cross that the weather now holds so the children can continue to swim until the end of September!



Andover Foodbank

A huge thank you to everyone who brought in a donation on our Foodbank dress down day on Thursday 27th June 2024.

As a school, we created an amazing 429.80kg of donations which The Food Bank used to fill Summer Lunch Bags. This was the largest school donation in Andover, and the Foodbank were extremely grateful.

The Foodbank were able to deliver 466 bags of easy to prepare, kid friendly lunches to local schools. A lovely example of a community coming together to show that if everyone shares a little, nobody needs go without.

School Dinner Order - URGENT

A polite reminder that you must pre-order meals online with SchoolGrid, and you can do this up until **8:45am** on the day. You can even order weeks ahead. Parents forgetting to order their child a meal currently costs the federation between £100-£300 per week. If a meal is not selected on the day, we shall help your child select their preferred choice. This will help our families so children do not have to wait until the end of lunch time to eat



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

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Classroom Open Door

We are excited to be opening our doors across the federation on Monday 16th September after school. This will give parents the opportunity to drop in to see their child's classroom and informally meet their child's new teacher. Balksbury Federation's

CLASSROOM

Homework

Open Door

Following feedback from our families, we have made the decision to go back to homework books. Homework will commence Monday 23rd September.

More information regarding Homework can be found in our academic news for 2024-2025 newsletter. Click the link below to read:

https://primarysite-prod-

sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/balksbury-infhants/UploadedDocument/e290ca5d-9d24-44d2-9263-de152b93448f/news-for-2024_2025.pdf

What Your Child is Learning

To find out what your child is learning, please visit the year group page on our website: https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/yeargroup-pages/

Open Mornings for 2025/2026

We will be hosting open mornings for prospective families ready for 2025/2026. If you or someone you know would like to



attend please contact the Infant school admin office to book one of the tours. Dates and times for the above can be found in our diary dates section.

Flu Immunisations

This term the Immunisation Service will be offering your child a flu vaccine. The link below provides useful information:

Flu vaccination programme 2024 to 2025: briefing for primary schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Please see Diary Dates page. More information to follow.

Christmas Jingle

Yes, we know it seems early, but we are excited to announce our Christmas Jingle will return on Friday 29th November!

There will be a dress down day on Friday **15th November**, where we would be grateful for bottles and gifts to raffle and sell at the Jingle.

Young Carers in Schools Award

Balksbury Federation is pleased announce that we have been awarded the Young Carers in School award. The award recognises our work supporting Young Carers in Education and demonstrating the support we have in place to enable them to achieve.



Lost Property

We have 3 smart watches and a mobile phone in our lost property from the Summer term. If you believe these could be yours please call the Junior admin office.

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Book Fayre

The Book Fayre will be returning this academic year with a range of wonderful new books available to purchase.

The Fayre will be held at the Junior School Hall on Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd October.

The Favre will be open between 3:30pm and 4:30pm.

Prices start from £2.99 - a perfect opportunity to get a head start on the Christmas shopping!

Volunteers

This year, we hope to continue to grow our community of amazing volunteers that we have here at Balksbury Federation.

Whether you have an hour a week or an hour every once in a while, we would love to have your help! We have opportunities for admin support, gardening, reading and so much more!

If you have some time to spare and think you might be interested, please contact Miss Bolton via either the Infant or Junior Admin office.



Asda Rewards for Schools



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E-Safety

Díd you know that...

- 96% of children aged 5-7 go online
- 98% of children aged 8-11 go online

Spending time online is a great way for children to explore the world around them.



Using a computer for homework; a mobile phone to chat to friends; a games console to play with friends are activities that children are increasingly spending more time doing.

There are many benefits to going online.

BUT ...

There are also many dangers online.

As a parent, it may feel daunting to support your child online and keep them safe, particularly if you are not as confident as your child!

Technology can change rapidly and it can be hard to keep up with the changes.

In each edition of our 'Across the Playground' you will find tips and advice for keeping your child safe online.

You can also use our website https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/e safety-2/

for further tips and advice covering a wide range of themes such as:

- Are social media apps appropriate for my child?
- How do I set up Parental Controls on my child's device?
- Is WhatsApp safe for my child?
- Is Roblox safe for my child?
- Is Snapchat safe for my child?



If you are worried about what your child is doing online or need further advice/support, please speak to one Designated Safeguarding our Leads (DSLs) who will be able to help vou:

- **Miss Bodinham**
- **Miss Thompson**
- **Mrs Farrell**
- **Miss Bolton**

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CSL Messages

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 registration closes and 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 8.45 registration closes and your child will be marked late if they have not arrived.

What is the impact of good attendance?

Good attendance (96-100%) promotes:



- Progress and attainment
- Emotional wellbeing
- Social relationships
- Readiness for the next stage in education

At times, families might need support to improve attendance. Balksbury Federation Community Support Leads (CSLs). Mrs Grinham and Mrs Whatley, are trained to support children emotionally. They have a wealth of experience and expertise working with families who need a little help and do so for a huge range of reasons.

Remember you can check your child's attendance percentage via the Arbor app

https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/atten dance/

Reporting Absence

If your child is unwell, please notify the school office on the absent line or speak to a member of staff, 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 contact to check in.

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

Can my child come into school?

Children will be prone to coughs and colds; however, they can still attend school.

The main illnesses that result in a child needing to spend time at home are -

- High temperature (38.0 c or above)
- Diarrhoea or Vomiting can return 48 hours after last bout
- Chicken Pox Return after all lesions are crusted over (generally 5 days)

Some children may experience normal but difficult emotions that make them nervous about attending school such as worries about friendships, school work or just a change in mood. It is important to remember that these children are still expected to attend school regularly as prolonged absences can cause the worries to grow.

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House Points

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



Tokens

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



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



Achievements from outside of school

Evie McGinn and Violet Peacock aka "The Muddy Twins" took part in a sponsored Muddy run for Cancer Research. It went great for them both, and between them they raised a massive £1,265 from donations and another £305 from gift aid, making a total just over £1,500!!

They are a pair of stars 🍀 🍀 Well done to them.







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Diary Dates

September 2024	
Tuesday 17 th September 2024	Year R Parents - Coffee, Cake & Chat 8:45am-10:30am
Wednesday 18 th September 2024	After School Club Allocation (Slips sent home with children)
Monday 23 rd September 2024	After School Clubs Start (3:15pm – 4:15pm)
Wednesday 25 th September 2024	Open Box Year 2 – Great Fire of London
Friday 27 th September 2024	Year 5 & Year 6 – Climate Action Team attend Climate Conference (School day)
Monday 30 th September 2024	Federated Harvest Festival (In school event - more information to follow)
Octo	ber 2024
Tuesday 1 st October 2024	Book Fayre (Junior School Hall) 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 2nd October 2024	Book Fayre (Junior School Hall) 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Thursday 3 rd October 2024	Book Fayre (Junior School Hall) 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 2 nd October 2024	2025/2026 Year R Parent Tours
Thursday 3 rd October 2024	Dolce Character Favourites Lunch (Order via School Grid as normal)
Friday 4 th October 2024	2025/2026 Year R Parent Tours
Monday 7 th October 2024	2025/2026 Year R Parent Tours
Tuesday 8 th October 2024	2025/2026 Year R Parent Tours
Wednesday 9 th October 2024	2025/2026 Year R Parent Tours
Wednesday 9 th October 2024	Open Box Year 6 – WW2 Evacuees
Thursday 10 th October 2024	Year 3 Parents – Coffee, Cake & Chat 8:45am– 10:30am
Monday 21 st October 2024	Year 2 & Year 5 Fire Safety
Friday 25 th October 2024	INSET Day
Monday 28 th October 2024 – Friday 1 st November 2024	Half Term

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November 2024

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November 2024		
Thursday 7 th November 2024	Sibling & Individual Photographs	
Friday 8 th November 2024	Flu Immunisations Year R – Year 6	
Monday 11 th November 2024	Open Box Year 3 – Early Man	
Monday 11 th November 2024	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:20pm (More information to follow)	
Wednesday 13 th November 2024	Open Box Year 5 – Egyptians	
Wednesday 13 th November 2024	Parents Evening 3:30pm - 6:50pm (More information to follow)	
Thursday 14 th November 2024	Year 4 Tree Planting – Andover Trees	
Friday 15 th November 2024	Dress Down for Jingle Donations	
Tuesday 19 th November 2024	Year 1 Tree Planting - Andover Trees	
Thursday 21 st November 2024	Year 5 – Winchester Science Museum	
Friday 29 th November 2024	Christmas Jingle	
December 2024		
Tuesday 3 rd December 2024	Year R Nativity 1:30pm - 2:30pm	
Wednesday 4 th December 2024	Year R Nativity 1:30pm - 2:30pm	
Friday 6 th December 2024	After School Clubs Paused for Christmas Break	
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	Open Box Christmas Production	
Friday 20 th December 2024	Christmas Discos (During school time)	
Monday 23 rd December 2024 – Monday 6 th January 2025	Christmas Holiday	
January 2025		
Monday 13 th January 2025	After School Clubs Resume	

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February 2025	
Monday 10 th February 2025 – Friday 14 th February 2025	Year 6 Fairthorne Manor Residential
Friday 14 th February 2024	After School Clubs Block 1 Finish
Monday 17 th February 2025 – Friday 21 st February 2025	Half Term
March 2025	
Monday 17 th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:20pm
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:50pm
Apríl 2025	
Monday 7 th April 2025 – Monday 21 st April 2025	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	Open Box Year 4 – Vikings
May	2025
Thursday 1sy May 2025	Year 2 Trip - Titanic Museum
Wednesday 7 th May 2025 – Friday 9 th May 2025	Year 4 Ufton Court Residential
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Monday 19 th May 2025	Year 6 - Bikeability
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Monday 19 th May 2025	Year 6 - Bikeability Half Term
Monday 19 th May 2025 Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025	Year 6 - Bikeability Half Term
Monday 19 th May 2025 Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025 <i>June</i>	Year 6 - Bikeability Half Term 2025
Monday 19 th May 2025 Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025 Thursday 12 th June 2025	Year 6 - Bikeability Half Term 2025 Open Box Year R – Dinosaurs Open Box Year 1 – Moon Landing
Monday 19 th May 2025 Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025 Thursday 12 th June 2025 Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Year 6 - Bikeability Half Term 2025 Open Box Year R – Dinosaurs Open Box Year 1 – Moon Landing
Monday 19 th May 2025 Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025 Thursday 12 th June 2025 Wednesday 18 th June 2025 July	Year 6 - Bikeability Half Term 2025 Open Box Year R – Dinosaurs Open Box Year 1 – Moon Landing 2025
Monday 19 th May 2025 Monday 26 th May 2025 – Friday 30 th May 2025 Thursday 12 th June 2025 Wednesday 18 th June 2025 Monday 7 th July 2025 – Friday 11 th July 2025	Year 6 - Bikeability Half Term 2025 Open Box Year R – Dinosaurs Open Box Year 1 – Moon Landing 2025 Arts Week

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