



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 11th October

Thank You to the PTA

We would like to say a big thank you to the PTA for funding the cover to our new sandpit.

We know the children across the federation will make the most of this new addition - once our Site Manager has finished playing in it.



Book Fayre

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Book Fayre last week. By buying books at our Fayre, you have generated an amazing **£483** for us to spend on books at the Federation. Miss Bolton will be asking children from across the Federation which books they would like ordered, next week.

Congratulations to Dylan Selby who won our Prize draw and has won £50 worth of books! We hope you enjoy them.



Harvest Festival



A huge thank you for the incredibly generous donations we received for our Harvest festival this year. Andover Foodbank were once again blown away by your generosity. We will be sharing the weight of the food with the children once we have had confirmation from the Foodbank.



Open Morning for Year 2 Parents

We will be hosting open mornings for our current Year 2 parents to look around our Junior School. Year 2 children will be bringing home a flyer next week with more information.

A reminder that if you are a Year 2 parent and you are planning for your child to attend the Junior School in Year 3, you must re-apply for their place.

Applications open on the **1st November 2024**, and close on the **15th January 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/>

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Parents Evening

We are very pleased to be holding face to face Parents' Evenings on **Monday 11th November** and **Wednesday 13th November**.

Parents' Evenings will be bookable via **Arbor**. Bookings will open at **10am on Monday 4th November** and close at **10am on Monday 11th November**. More information to follow.

A reminder that due to Parent's Evening there will be **no after school clubs** W/C Monday 11th November. Pick up club will run as usual.

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

Parking

A friendly reminder: please refrain from parking on the yellow zig-zags outside the federation. Adhering to this rule ensures the safety of our children during drop off and pick up times. Please note there are signs advising of the parking restrictions on entry to the federation and the local area.



Christmas Cards

We are excited to announce that the children will be making and selling **Christmas cards** again this year. You may order your Christmas cards via **Arbor** as of Monday **21st October**. Children will be coming home with a flyer next Monday with all the details.



Secondary School Applications

If you have a child in Year 6, applications for **Year 7 2025/2026** are currently open.

A reminder that the national application deadline is on **31st October 2024**.

Please visit Hampshire School Admissions to apply for your child's place.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

Dolce Special Lunch



Congratulations to Ruth and Matilda who were the winners of our find the sticker Character Favourites Lunch last week.

The next Dolce Themed Lunch day will be after half term, on the 5th November and children will once again have the chance to find a sticker for a prize!



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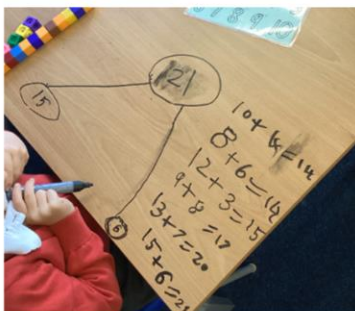
Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 1

Year 1 have had an amazing start to the year and have got stuck in to lots of new learning. We have blown our teachers socks off with our maths knowledge and dazzled them with our **wonderful writing**. We have also tried our hand at some **gardening** where we LOVED getting wet and muddy and we are super excited to see our plants grow over the year! We have also had the opportunity to explore the **4 seasons using VR**, tying our science, geography and English learning together!



Year 2



Year 2 have made an excellent start to the new year, they have particularly loved starting **swimming** in which they have all shown maturity and enthusiasm!

In English, the children have been working hard to rewrite the story of **Rapunzel** but from her perspective. We have been using adventurous vocabulary to make our stories even more interesting to read!

In History, they have been learning all about the **Great Fire of London** and we were very lucky to have Open Box Theatre company come and work with us. We loved travelling back in time to 1666!

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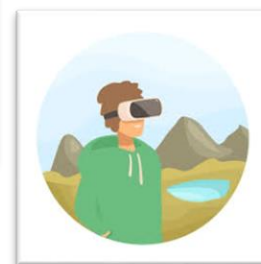
Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 4

Year 4 have had such an excellent start to this academic year. In Science we have been learning how we classify living things – both animals and plants. We used simple closed questions about the characteristics of living things to group them using **classification keys**. When discussing plants, we went for a walk around our school grounds looking at the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees. In **Design and Technology**, we have enjoyed our unit on biscuits so far and had fun practising skills like sieving, rolling and cutting. We loved tasting and evaluating existing biscuits even more and we also talked about the packaging and their target audiences. We cannot wait to make our own! In **English**, everyone has been working so hard on their **Land of Neverbelieve** scientific journals and we cannot wait to read them when they are finished.



Year 5

What an amazing start to Year 5 we have made! We have used the **VRs** to visit the **mountains** and we have been able to virtually climb Mount Everest – such a great experience! In **Science**, we have been learning all about forces and have carried out lots of practical investigations to learn more about how **forces** affect us. To investigate the effects of air resistance, we made three different size **parachutes** and attached them to a teddy, we then dropped them from the windows upstairs, it was interesting to see that the larger parachutes took longer to fall – the poor teddy attached to the parachute!



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The Reading Corner



Free Reading Friday

This week Mrs Barry (who has joined Miss Bolton as a Reading Leader at the Federation) visited the children during Free Reading Friday time.

She said *'It was lovely to see the range of what the children were reading. I was impressed to see cookbooks, newspapers and even Atlases.'*



Spotlight on...

Terry Deary

Before he was a writer, Terry Deary worked as: a butcher's boy, an electrician and as an actor! He then became a drama teacher. Terry is now known as the writer of the wonderful **Horrible Histories** series. Terry has even appeared in some of the live action **Horrible Histories** on television.



Focus Bookshelves

Harvest

Harvest time sees the gathering in of crops, such as grain or fruit. However, climate change is having an impact on the harvests. In the UK we are having droughts in the summer that can impact on how much is grown. But, we can do things to help climate change. We can use less energy by turning electrical items off, if there are fruit or vegetable peelings put them in the compost and we can recycle as much as possible.

Recommended Reads

Tanisha says: *'My favourite books are these ones (Little People, Big Dreams) and every library day I take one out to collect them all!'*

Sophie chose Letters from the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll because: *'It's mysterious and the end is exciting!'*

Ofelia recommends The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett because *'It's full of mystery and helps people to think about making friends'.*

Sammy and Amelia both enjoyed the Judy Moody books *'because there were lots of emotions in them.'*

Julia and Asilya are both enjoying reading Wonder by R.J Palacio in class. They said *'It's fascinating and we're looking forward to reading more.'*



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ESafety
WhatsApp



WhatsApp is one of the most popular instant messaging apps, used by over 2 billion people in 180 countries.

All you need to set up a WhatsApp account is a phone number

What are the risks?

Inappropriate content

With end-to-end encryption, content cannot be monitored. Your child could see or hear harmful or upsetting content

Location sharing

Your child could reveal this to anyone they are chatting to

Unwanted contact

Children are at risk of receiving unwanted messages or calls from others

Oversharing

Privacy features may mean children feel safe to reveal private information or images. However, there is always a risk that an unintended person might see what they have sent

Group chats

Anyone in the group, even if they are not in your contacts, will see messages that you post, and you will see theirs. If you are added to a group with someone you have blocked, that person will still be able to contact you in the group chat

Edited messages

Messages can be edited up to 15mins after they have been sent. This could mean, a child could send a hurtful message and quickly edit it afterwards (and avoid repercussions)

Cyberbullying

The 'admin' can change - the name of the group, who can send messages, who can invite and remove people from the chat. This could lead to children feeling left out or being deliberately excluded or removed from groups

Top Tips to keep your child safe

1. Check the privacy settings

The default setting is 'Everyone'. Checking the privacy settings helps you control who can see your child's information (profile, status, last seen)



2. Show how to block contacts or report inappropriate content

Blocking a contact means that person will not be able to see the profile information or contact your child



3. Talk about sharing information

Talk to your child regularly about what they should and shouldn't share with others on WhatsApp. Remind them that, even if they think what they are sending will stay private, others might save, forward or screenshot it.



4. Set rules about location sharing

Decide with your child if it is appropriate for them to share their location with others and who they are allowed to share it with. You can disable location permissions by going into your device settings and switching off location services for WhatsApp



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 covering a wide range of themes on our website

<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/esafety-2/>



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Governor Message

Firstly, let me introduce myself—I'm Yasamin Quince, the newest Governor to join Barksbury Federation's Governing Body. For some of you, my name may already be familiar from my time as the federation's Deputy Headteacher, but for those who don't know me yet, that was my previous role.

Last week, I attended my first in person meeting as part of the Governing Body. So, I thought it would be good to give you a brief insight into what it's like to attend a governing meeting - you never know, it may be something you would like to do too!

Before each meeting, we access the 'Governing Hub'—an online platform where the agenda and key documents for the meeting are uploaded in advance, giving us the opportunity to prepare ahead of time. Once at the federation, we all meet in a classroom; it was lovely to see the fantastic learning environment showcased on the walls already!

Our meetings kick off with Charlotte, our Clerk, leading the way, who, alongside James, our Chair of Governors, helps coordinate the meeting. This particular Full Governing Body (FGB) included re-electing both the Chair and Vice Chair, as well as assigning Governor roles.

So, what exactly is a Governor role? Each Governor is given particular roles to focus on and monitor. For example, Safeguarding, Quality of Education and Behaviour and Attitudes. This helps us as governors to get a real understanding and support the federated team to provide the highest quality of education and care for the children at Barksbury.

During the meeting, we also covered and discussed key areas such as safeguarding, received updates from Miss Thompson about the federation, and looked over the School Improvement Plan.

The highlight for me was to hear how positively the term has started, with children settling in beautifully and plenty of exciting activities already underway.

All of this was accomplished in just under two hours! I'm excited to continue being part of the Barksbury community as a Governor. I look forward to my first Governor visit next week.



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CSL Messages



Community Cupboard

At Barksbury Federation, we are very aware of the continuing rise of the cost of food and utility bills. This may be having an impact on your family and if it does, we would like to help.

At Barksbury, we have our 'Community Cupboard' stocked with food and toiletries



Breakfast Packs

We are also able to offer a Breakfast pack to any family to ensure everyone has a good start to the day.

Our breakfast packs contain cereal, jam or chocolate spread, a bottle of squash, a box of cereal bars and a voucher to purchase fresh produce. If this is something we can help with, please contact us.



If we can supply you with any of these items or advice on where you can get more support, please get in contact with either of our Community Support Leads, Mrs Cheryl Grinham or Mrs Emma Whatley via our confidential email

community@barksbury.org



Part of Places for People

The Big Sister Project

What is Big Sister Project?

The programme helps girls aged 9-15 feel 'sport ready' by recruiting a network of 'big sisters' – peer leaders and supporters from sport, school and community organisations. Sport leaders will be trained on the emotional and physical barriers girls face.

As part of their commitment to helping girls get into activity Places Leisure are offering a **free** membership to girls who meet the eligibility criteria*, or a **50% discounted membership** for all other girls, which includes:

- Unlimited gym use during Junior Gym hours, which includes a gym induction (11-15 year olds)
- Unlimited swimming
- Age appropriate group workout classes including exclusive We Move classes
- Friendly on-site team, to support you through your activity
- Free access to Places Leisure App and Virtual Studio which includes a Big Sister channel

*Membership is free for girls whose parent/carer/guardian meets one or more of the following criteria:

Full-time students aged 26 or over, selected corporate groups (NHS, Emergency Services, MOD - including military veterans, RNLI and those working in education), those in receipt of one of the following; Housing Benefit, Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Working Family Tax Credit, Disability Allowance, Carers Allowance or Universal Credit, current tenants of a Places for People property.

Proof of eligibility required.

Please enquire at Andover Leisure Centre for more detail.

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House Points and Tokens



House Points

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



Fosbury



Tokens

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



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



PTA Message



We have had a busy few weeks with our treat and **pre-loved uniform** sales. Thank you so much for your support!

Next Tuesday 15th October we will be having our next **Bag2school collection**, please can all donations be left at the top of the junior school drive before 9am.

We also have our **AGM** on Tuesday 15th October, we look forward to seeing you all and celebrating our successes last year. This will be held at the Junior school from 3:30pm.

We will be back with our next **treat sale** on Friday 18th October and look forward to seeing you then!



BAG 2 SCHOOL

Bag2School is a free eco-friendly fundraising scheme that helps schools, businesses, community groups, local councils, and charities raise funds through textile recycling as well as spreading textile recycling awareness.

Simply fill a black bag with old but good quality clothes, or textiles and Bag2school will make a donation to the PTA in exchange! It's a great way to de-clutter and support your PTA at the same time!

The following items can be donated:

- Clothes
- Paired Shoes
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and Ties
- Socks
- Belts


Our next collection will be on
Tuesday 15th October
 Please leave all donations **before 9am** at the top of the junior school drive.
Thank you!

BALKSBURY FEDERATION PTA

AGM
 Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
 Stay informed and get involved.

Tuesday 15th October 2024
3:30pm
Junior school



Parentkind

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Achievements Outside of School

It appears rugby is a popular choice amongst our latest Year 4s. On a sunny weekend in October, Andover RFC sent multiple age groups to Alton RFC for their annual rugby tournament.

Andover RFC U9s who attended included four of Barksbury Juniors finest rugby players; Owen Smith, Joshua Ferguson, Tommy Cutler, and Louis Potter.

The boys were all try scorers throughout the tournament, and are already showing exceptional talent across the park, from blistering tries to steadfast defence.

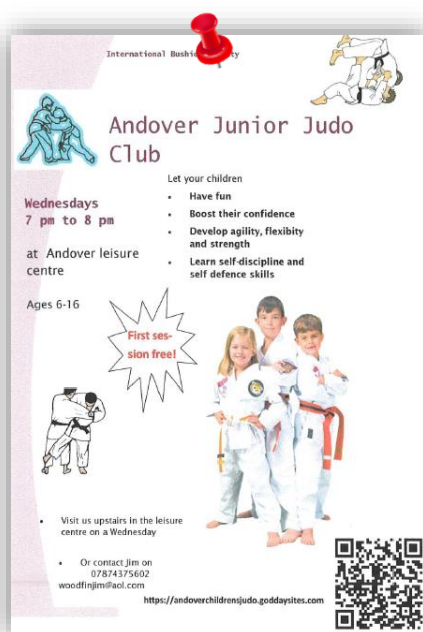
At this age group, the children are now engaging in full contact rugby and learning the skills necessary to take forward towards the more advanced game in later years.

This was the first full contact tournament, always a test of what has been taught in training, and the team didn't disappoint. The camaraderie that's developing within this team, some of which who have trained together since the age of 5, is incredible and one of the wonderful aspects of the rugby game.

A massive well done to them all.



In the Community



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Diary Dates

October 2024

Tuesday 15th October 2024	Bags2school Collection
Tuesday 15th October 2024	PTA Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 16th October 2024	Parent Workshop for Online Safety 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Wednesday 16th October 2024	Football Fixture (Letter coming home to relevant children 3:00pm – 4:00pm)
Monday 21st October 2024	Year 2 & Year 5 Fire Safety
Monday 21st October 2024	Christmas Card Ordering Opens on Arbor
Wednesday 23rd October 2024	Football Fixture (Letter coming home to relevant children 3:00pm – 4:00pm)
Friday 25th October 2024	INSET Day
Monday 28th October 2024 – Friday 1st November 2024	Half Term
Thursday 31st October 2024	Secondary School Applications Close

November 2024

Friday 1st November 2024	Junior School Applications Open
Monday 4th November 2024	Parents' Evening Bookings Open on Arbor at 10:00am
Tuesday 5th November 2024	Dolce Fireworks & Bonfire Night Special Lunch
Wednesday 6th November 2024 – Amended Date	Flu Immunisations – Infants
Thursday 7th November 2024	Sibling & Individual Photographs
Friday 8th November 2024	Flu Immunisations – Juniors
Monday 11th November 2024 – Friday 15th November 2024	No After School Cubs. Pick Up Club to Run as Usual
Monday 11th November 2024	Open Box Year 3 – Early Man
Monday 11th November 2024	Parents' Evening Bookings Close on Arbor at 10:00am
Monday 11th November 2024	Parents' Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm (More information to follow)

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Tuesday 12th November 2024	Christmas Card Ordering Closes on Arbor
Tuesday 12th November 2024	Year 6 Height and Weight Checks
Wednesday 13th November 2024	Open Box Year 5 – Egyptians
Wednesday 13th November 2024	Parents' Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm (More information to follow)
Thursday 14th November 2024	Year 4 Tree Planting – Andover Trees
Friday 15th November 2024	Dress Down for Jingle Donations
Tuesday 19th November 2024	Year 1 Tree Planting – Andover Trees
Thursday 21st November 2024	Year 5 – Winchester Science Museum
Friday 29th November 2024	Christmas Jingle

December 2024

Friday 6th December 2024	After School Clubs Paused for Christmas Break
Tuesday 10th December 2024 – Amended Date	Year R Nativity 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Wednesday 11th December 2024 – Amended Date	Year R Nativity 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Tuesday 17th December 2024	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 18th December 2024	Open Box Christmas Production
Wednesday 18th December 2024	Kids Favourite Day Dolce Lunch
Thursday 19th December 2024	Christmas Discos (During school time)
Monday 23rd December 2024 – Monday 6th January 2025	Christmas Holiday

January 2025

Monday 13th January 2025	After School Clubs Resume
Wednesday 15th January 2025	Junior School Applications Close
Tuesday 21st January 2025	NSPCC Workshops (Year 5 and 6)
Wednesday 22nd January 2025	NSPCC Workshops (Year 2)

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February 2025

Friday 7th February 2025	Anti-Bullying Day & One Kind Word
Monday 10th February 2025 – Friday 14th February 2025	Year 6 Fairthorne Manor Residential
Friday 14th February 2025	After School Clubs Block 1 Finish
Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term

March 2025

Monday 17th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:20pm
Wednesday 19th March 2025	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:50pm

April 2025

Tuesday 1st April 2025	Year 1 Production 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Wednesday 2nd April 2025	Year 1 Production 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Monday 7th April 2025 – Monday 21st April 2025	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 29th April 2025	Open Box Year 4 – Vikings

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 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	Parent Butterflies Meeting 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Thursday 12th June 2025	Open Box Year R – Dinosaurs
Tuesday 17th June 2025	New Year R Children – Butterflies Session 1
Wednesday 18th June 2025	Open Box Year 1 – Moon Landing

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Thursday 19th June 2025	New Year 3 Parent 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
<i>July 2025</i>	
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
Monday 7th July 2025 – Friday 11th July 2025	Arts Week (Music and 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)
Thursday 17th July 2025	Disco Day 9:00am – 2:30pm
Thursday 17th July 2025	Year 6 Graduation 9:15am – 10:15am (School Based)
Friday 18th July 2025	Year 6 Fun Day
Monday 21st July 2025	INSET Day
Tuesday 22nd July 2025	INSET Day
Wednesday 23rd July 2025	Summer Holidays

Dates to Remember

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