



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 20th December

A Message from Miss Thompson

Dear Families

As we come to the end of a very busy and successful term, I am sure that you will all be looking forward to the Christmas break, and spending time together as a family.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your continued support in all that we do at the federation. From supporting your child's learning to the more festive occasions such as the Jingle. Thank you also for your many positive comments that you have sent in, they are very much appreciated.

So on behalf of the federated team, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and happiness over the Christmas break. I look forward to seeing you in 2025 on the 6th January.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Miss Thompson



A Message from Mr Mirza-Davies

It's dark as I write this. Cold too. Signs that another year is ending.

Before we say goodbye to 2024, I want to thank all the staff for their hard work this year. Every day, you help our children and families to succeed.

To our children - well done! This is a time to celebrate all your achievements, big and small. Year Rs, you finished your very first term - what a great start! Year 6s, you might already be thinking about what comes next after Balksbury.

It's been lovely to see our school community come together again this year. Thank you to all the families who support our federation in so many ways - whether with the PTA or getting children to school on chilly mornings. It was great to see so many of you at the Christmas Jingle. It was bigger and busier this year and such a success!

For some, the end of the year is a time to rest. For others, it might be filled with travel, celebrations, and lots of activities.

However you spend it, have a wonderful Christmas break. I look forward to starting the new year together in 2025.

Mr Mirza - Davies



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

Intergenerational Café

For the third year in a row, the federation was once again very proud to welcome older people from the local community to our Intergenerational Café. A group of our Year 6 children sat with the older people to chat and serve them cake whilst they enjoyed performances from our dance and cheerleading clubs, choir and the Nativity.

We had some wonderful feedback from our visitors, who said:

'The young man sat with me is a credit to your school, he is kind and respectful – as are all the children here today'

'You have some very talented children at your school! We loved watching the singing and dancing'

'This has really put me in the Christmas mood! Thank you so much to the staff and children at Balksbury'.



A Special Visitor

On Tuesday morning, Father Christmas found time in his extremely busy schedule to visit the children of the federation. He even brought along his dog (Santa Paws) and an enchanted Christmas Tree! Santa brought the children a gift of a movie afternoon for all their hard work this year.



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Carol Concert at St Michael's Church

On Monday, the federation were invited to St Michael's Church for a special carol concert. The children have been working hard over the Autumn term learning songs ready to perform. The children sang beautifully and enjoyed a Christmas poem from Miss Bolton and a Christmas prayer from Miss Thompson. We were joined by Reverend Lauren from Andover Parish, who shared the story of the first Christmas with the children – and even received a phone call from Santa Claus live in the church!

A fantastic morning was had by all, and we were incredible proud of how the children represented Balksbury.



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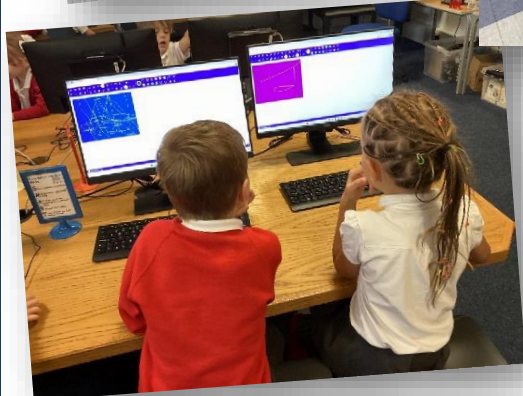
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Memories from Across the Federation

Autumn 2024



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Memories from Across the Federation

Continued...



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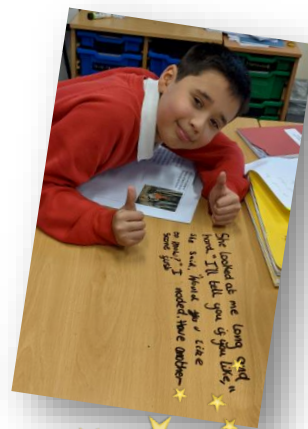
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Memories from Across the Federation Continued...



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: Skipper Class.



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



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A Christmas Message from the PTA

The PTA have had a lovely first term back this school year and have really enjoyed seeing so many happy smiley faces around the Federation. We would like to thank all of our families for your continued support in helping us to raise lots of money to go towards projects for the children. We are looking forward to 2025 and what a new year will bring! Our uniform swap shop continues to go from strength to strength as do our treat sales. We will be looking to start these back again from the second week of the new term!

The PTA would like to wish you all and your families a very Merry Christmas and a apply new year!



Achievements from outside of School

Two of our Balksbury pupils had an amazing win at their Cheer competition in Essex recently. Their team came top in their division (7 other teams) and won Grand Champion - overall winners of the morning session. A first for their Cheerleading academy Charlton Rocks Cheer!

Charlotte and Sophie are understandably thrilled with their achievement and so are we. Congratulations to all the members of Charlton Rock Cheer!



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Diary Dates

December 2024

Monday 23rd December 2024 – Monday 6th January 2025

Christmas Holiday

January 2025

Monday 13th January 2025

After School Clubs Resume

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Year R 2025 Starters School Applications Close

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Junior School Applications Close

Thursday 16th January 2025

Dolce Australia Day Lunch

Tuesday 21st January 2025

NSPCC Workshops (Year 5 and 6)

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

NSPCC Workshops (Year 2)

February 2025

Friday 7th February 2025

Anti-Bullying & One Kind Word Day

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

Thursday 6th March 2025

World Book Day

Thursday 6th March 2025

Dolce World Book Day Lunch

Wednesday 12th March 2025

Year 1 Trip - Army Air Museum

Monday 17th March 2025

Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Wednesday 19th March 2025

Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:30pm

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April 2025

Tuesday 1st April 2025	Year 1 Production 2:00pm
Wednesday 2nd April 2025	Year 1 Production 2:00pm
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

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
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	Year 2 – 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

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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
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
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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