



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 15th November

Dolce Parent Lunch Feedback

Our popular Dolce Parent lunches have been back in action this half term, with parents from Oak and Ash class joining us so far.

Parents have been so positive about the experience, and in particular the quality of food served.

Our parents had this to say:

'I can't believe how the quality of food has improved since I was at school'.

'It has been great to see my child eat all of their vegetables – I know there is no excuse at home now!'

'It has been a real treat to come and eat lunch with my child – thank you'.

Dolce Lunches with parents will continue after Christmas for those who have not had their turn to invite parents in yet.



Remembrance

On Monday, children had a special assembly focusing on remembrance and the symbol of the poppy. As a Federation, the children considered the sacrifices made by our service people and how Remembrance links to our Federated values, as well as our British values. Children listened to the last post and stopped for two minutes silence to pay their respects.



Through the sale of Poppy Merchandise, the Federation has raised an amazing **£713.93** for The Royal British Legion.

Our Forces children worked with our Community Support Leads to create a special video sharing their experience as forces children and what Remembrance means to them. This video was shared as part of the assembly.

Our Forces children said:

'When I wear my forces badge, I feel proud to be part of such a wonderful community'.



'I feel extremely proud of my Dad, especially on Remembrance Day. It is good to be able to share my feelings with other Forces children at Forces Club each week'.

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

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Balksbury Federation Presents...

A Christmas Jingle



Thank you

Thank you so much for your generous donations for this year's Christmas Jingle. The gifts you donate generate money for us to put back into the Federation so we really do appreciate it.

A reminder that the Christmas Jingle is on the **29th November** and is open to adults from 2pm. Children can be collected at the slightly earlier time of 3pm or, at usual collection times.

Collection Arrangement

A collection arrangement form will have come home with your child today. Please return this to your child's class teacher by **Monday 25th November**.

Hot Drink Vouchers

This year, we will once again offer our families free hot chocolate vouchers when £10 is spent on any one stall.

What will be there?

- A Christmas Market with handmade and high-quality gifts
- Bottle Tombola
- PTA Games and Chocolate Tombola
- Guess the weight of the cake
- The chance to win a beautiful festive wreath
- Carols from Test Valley Brass
- Artisan Pizza
- Candy Floss
- Festive Face Painting
- Delicious Hot Chocolate at the Christmas Café
- And so much more!



Keep your eyes peeled for the parent guide and Jingle sneak peeks (coming out the week of the Jingle).

We can't wait to see you there!



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Classroom News



Across the Playground

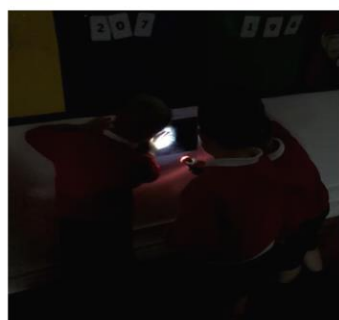
Year 1

In Year 1, we have been busy exploring the text 'Flashlight' by Lizi Boyd. To start this learning, we used our imaginations to go on a night time **woodland walk** where we used torches to spot lots of **nocturnal** animals. Then, we used black paper and chalk to draw **predictions** for what the boy in the story might find on his own walk. This inspired us to learn all about **nouns** – we now know that nouns can be a 'person, place or thing'.



Year 2

In Year 2, we have started off our learning in Autumn 2 around the fire pit! We looked at the flames and discussed how fire makes us feel as well as remembering how to stay safe around a fire. In History we are continuing to learn about the '**The Great Fire of London**'. Next, in music, we explored all the different instruments in the federation and put them together to create a song. We loved picking up a variety of **instruments** and hearing the sounds they can make. Finally, in maths, we have begun to demonstrate our learning of **division**. We used a range of concrete manipulatives and shared them into equal groups. We had so much fun using the concrete manipulatives and sharing our understanding.



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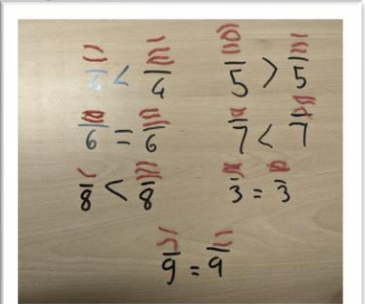


Across the Playground

Year 4

Year four have had a fantastic start to this new half term. In English, we're reading **The Pied Piper** and spent last week reading, exploring and unpicking the text using role play and hot seating to ensure we fully understood the book and the characters, exploring their thoughts and feelings. Now we will continue developing our writing skills, including writing similes, to help us write an engaging alternative ending to the well-known, traditional tale.

In Geography, we loved our exploratory lesson getting to us the **VR** headsets to discover the **Amazon River**, whilst others were exploring our local area in Andover using the OS maps to locate the nearest river to our school!



Year 5

In Year 5, we began our Mathematics learning journey working with **fractions**. We started by pictorially representing fractions to compare them. In Design and Technology, we will be creating our own **pop-up books**! We started our learning by looking at different mechanisms, which could be included in our own books. In History we are learning about **Ancient Egyptians**. We started out learning journey with a visit from Howard Carter, who asked us to decipher the hieroglyphics in an ancient letter.



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The Reading Corner



Focus Bookshelves

Friendship: Saying No

Is it ok to say no to people? Yes, but there are respectful ways to do so. Some examples are **no thanks**, **I really don't want to do that** and **I'd rather not, let's do something else instead**. We have a wonderful book called **I Can Say No** by Jenny Simmons. This book covers everything from bullying to invasion of personal space to needing some alone time. It shows children that they can use their voice to stand up for themselves and other people.

Spotlight on...

Paula Harrison

Paula Harrison is the writer of the **Kitty's Moonlight Adventures** series. Kitty is a superhero in training with cat-like superpowers! Before she started writing, Paula was a primary school teacher. Her favourite animals are cats and elephants (she has a cat called Inky). Paula also loves chocolate and cupcakes.

Reading in Action

Year 3

Mrs Barry caught Year 3 in the library this week changing their reading books and enjoying reading some books together - it was a lovely sight to see! They were so enthusiastic about reading and talked about the books they enjoy, from information books to fiction (Horrid Henry is a favourite!). It was so nice to have a chat with them about their reading and their love for it.



Story Club

Do you love stories?

Don't forget, you can come along to story club every **Wednesday lunch time**, in **Robin Class** with Mrs Baker. Mrs Baker will be reading a range of stories and **all** children are welcome.



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ESafety

Would you say it to their face?

Cyberbullying often happens on personal devices such as phones. This means it can happen anywhere and at any time. Messages can be from either someone that you know, or a complete stranger.

It can be hard to control the spread of messages, images and videos sent online, which means many people could see them in a short period of time.

Often, children do not realise that when they have shared something online it is always going to be there.



It is nearly impossible to remove something from the internet.

Messages and photos can be screengrabbed and used by someone else.



Even messages that expire, can still be copied or screengrabbed and used by someone else.

You may be able to delete or remove the message or photo you shared, but that doesn't mean that someone else hasn't already copied or screengrabbed it and sent it to someone else.

Discuss appropriate messaging

Talk to your child about the risks of sending inappropriate or embarrassing messages which could be used against them.

Use these questions to help you

Before you send a message or post anything online, ask yourself:

1. Are the things you're sharing online going to give people a good impression of you?
2. Have you thought about how your post is going to make others feel?
3. Would you be happy for your parents, teachers, grandparents, or even everyone in the world to see what you have shared?

If your answer to any of these questions is 'No' or 'I'm not sure' then think again about what you are sharing and why you are sharing it. Is it something that shouldn't be shared online at all?

What about these questions?

1. Could people in my future, search for and see what I have posted today?
2. Might the message/post stop me from getting a job in the future?

If your answer to any of these questions is 'Yes' or 'I'm not sure' then think again about what you are sharing and why you are sharing it. Is it something that shouldn't be shared online at all?

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 a wide range of themes on our website
<https://www.balksburyfederation.co.uk/esafety-2/>

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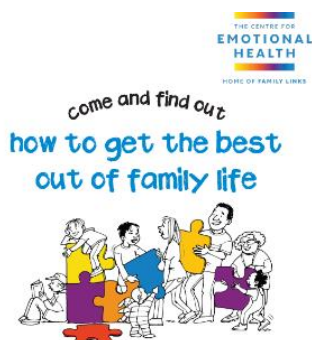


CSL Messages



Calling all Parents and Carers

Fed up of nagging? Having battles at bedtime? Are you looking for more cooperation at home? Want family life to be more fun?



This course does not tell you how to raise your children.

It does not criticise, judge or put you down.

We will be running the 10-week Nurturing Programme for Parents next term. The course is free but we do ask for a payment of £8 towards the cost of the handbook that accompanies the course.



To find out more, please contact Cheryl Grinham or Emma Whatley via either Admin Office or email us at community@balksbury.org

Myths & Misconceptions about The Nurturing Programme

'If I go on this course, people will assume I'm a bad parent and I'll be judged'.

Attending a group isn't about judging your motives for being there. Children don't come with a manual, there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to raising children and there's no such thing as a perfect parent either. So maybe attending a group to get some new ideas and make life a bit easier could be seen as a positive?

'I don't need anyone telling me how to raise my kids'.

We won't lecture you on how to parent your children. It's a safe environment to explore what might be causing some of those challenging behaviours, and offers you tried-and-tested techniques you may wish to try at home. It's entirely your choice how much or little of the programme you choose to use with your own children.

'I don't want to be made to talk'.

There's no pressure or expectation put on any parent to talk in the group if they don't want to, everyone has the right to pass

What do other parents think?

Here's some feedback from some of our parents who have already completed the programme:

'I was really cynical that anything could work, but it's really making a difference for me and my children.'

'I thought I'd be judged but everyone has been so supportive and it's nice to know I'm not the only one.'

'I'm more patient and much calmer. I feel more confident in what I'm doing and my kids are calmer and happier too.'

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PTA Message



What a great couple of weeks back! We hope everyone enjoyed their half term break.

The PTA are very excited to be gearing up for the **Christmas Jingle!**

As in previous years, the PTA are proud to be working alongside the Federation to bring some festive cheer!

Some key dates coming up are:

Friday 15th December - Dress down day for Jingle donations

Monday 18th - Friday 22nd - Santa's Grotto Bookings

More information will be coming out very soon!

The children have started bringing home tickets for our **Christmas raffle**. We are so pleased to have secured a number of fantastic **prizes** again this year. Please can we ask that you return all tickets to school by Thursday 28th November for our collection. We will be selling tickets at our sales and at the Christmas Jingle too!

GOOD LUCK!!

We will also be holding a **pre-loved Christmas jumper sale** on Friday 6th December. We are accepting donations of any good condition pre-loved jumpers at the Hive or in the donation box by the Junior reception. We are very grateful for all donations we receive and thank you for your support.

Our treat sales are returning this week, please see our poster for upcoming dates.



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House Points and Tokens



House Points

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



Fosbury



Tokens

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



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



In the Community

ANDOVER
Christmas
FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 22
NOVEMBER,
5PM TO 8PM,
ANDOVER TOWN CENTRE

**MUSIC,
DANCE,
NIGHT MARKET,
STREET FOOD,
MAGIC, STORYTELLING,
FACE PAINTING, SNOW GLOBE
SHOW, FAIRGROUND RIDES,
FATHER CHRISTMAS,
LIGHTS SWITCH ON,
STREET THEATRE**

THINKANDOVERTOWNCENTRE.CO.UK

Test Valley Borough Council
IN ANDOVER From Andover BID
Andover Town Council



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Diary Dates

November 2024

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 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

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|--|--|
| Friday 6th December 2024 | After School Clubs Paused for Christmas Break |
| Tuesday 10th December 2024 | Year R Nativity 1:30pm – 2:30pm |
| Wednesday 11th December 2024 | Year R Nativity 1:30pm – 2:30pm |
| Monday 16th December | Children attend Carol Service at St Michael's Church |
| Tuesday 17th December 2024 | Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day |
| Wednesday 18th December 2024 | Open Box Christmas Production |
| Wednesday 18th December 2024 | Children's 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

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|---|--|
| 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 |
| Tuesday 21st January 2025 | NSPCC Workshops (Year 5 and 6) |
| Wednesday 22nd January 2025 | NSPCC Workshops (Year 2) |

February 2025

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| Friday 7th February 2025 | Anti-Bullying & One Kind Word Day |
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| 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 |
| <i>March 2025</i> | |
| 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 |
| <i>April 2025</i> | |
| 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 |
| <i>May 2025</i> | |
| 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 |
| <i>June 2025</i> | |
| 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 |

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| 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 |
| 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 |

July 2025

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|---|---|
| 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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