



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 10th October

Clubs

This week saw the return of clubs to the federation. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying a huge range of activities from rugby to guitar and everything in between. Please remember to notify either admin team if your child cannot attend their club.



Homework Club

Homework club is up and running again this academic year and open to children (and families) who would like support with homework.

If you would like to understand more about the strategies your child is being taught at school, we are always happy to show you so that you are able to support at home.

Homework Club runs out of Spruce (Year 6) Classroom on a Tuesday from 3:15pm to 4:15pm.

Children and families do not need to sign up and can drop in.

We hope to see you there!



Email and New Website

Thank you to those of you who have shared your kind comments regarding the new website. We are continuing to update and add new pages each day, so keep your eyes peeled.

If you haven't had a chance to visit the new website yet, click the link below to take a peek.

<https://balksburyfederation.co.uk/>



Thank you also for your support during the move to school email communication. If you still have the SchoolApp installed on your device, it can now be deleted. If you need any support receiving email communication, feel free to speak to a member of our admin team.

Year 3 Tours

We will be hosting open mornings for our current Year 2 parents to look around our Junior School.

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.

If you would like to book a tour please speak to a member of the junior admin office team.

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/>

01264 352801

01264 365642

adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk

Smart School Council

This half term children will be meeting in their classes as part of the whole federation Smart School Council.

This half term the focus of Smart School Council session will be to discuss Dolce school meals.

The children will give feedback on their favourite dishes and have the chance to share any improvements that could be made.

In every session, children have the opportunity to raise an agenda item if there is something they want to discuss at the next Smart School Council meeting.



Parking

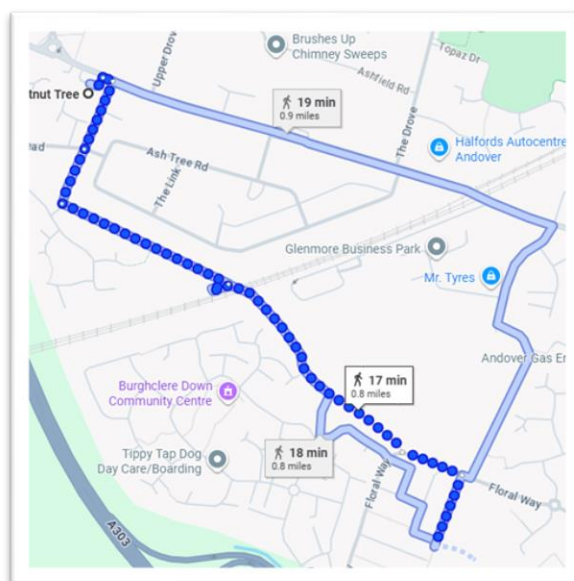
Thank you to all of our families travelling by car who are adhering to local parking rules.

Miss Bolton is currently working with the Hampshire Travel Planning Team, as well as the local community to ensure travelling to school is safe and straightforward for all.

Miss Bolton recently visited the **Chestnut Tree** who have kindly said that our families are able to use the car park in the morning to park and stride.

The walk from the Chesnut Tree is a just over 15 minutes, so provides a good opportunity for a little exercise before the start of the school day.

We ask that families respect the landlord's wishes and do not use the car park for after school pick up time.



Brilliant Building

We wanted to share some excellent work from Nathan this week who has been working on a project over the past few weeks.

With support from Mr Lunn, Nathan has been able to design and build his very own birdhouse.

Nathan has really had to persevere during the project, learning lots of new skills.

We are very proud of the outcome!



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Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 1

Year 1 have been enjoying building relationships and working on team building skills. We have had great fun pretending to be frogs with lily pads (hoops) collaborating to get across the pond (playground).

Based on the text 'Tree' by Patricia Hegarty, we explored the concept of seasons by experiencing what it is like in each one. In winter we found snowflakes, fluffy socks and hot water bottles. Whilst in autumn, we found pine cones, seeds and a variety of dried leaves in a range of autumnal colours.



Year 2

We've had a fantastic start in Year 2! We were extremely lucky to have OpenBox in the first week to support with our understanding of 'The Great Fire of London'. The children were plunged back into 1666 to get a sense of what London was like as a city, how such a big event could have started and how it spread so easily. In P.E. we have been focusing on team building activities. This has allowed children to solve problems and collaborate as a team whilst communicating with each other to achieve the same outcome. It has been wonderful seeing all the children interact and support one another.



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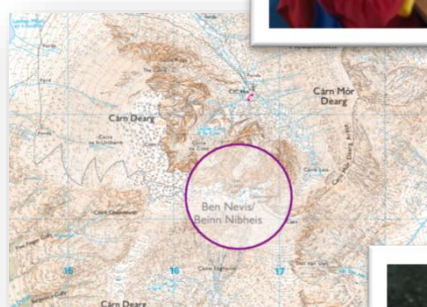
Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 4

Year 4 have had a wonderful start to the year. So far, we have been enjoying putting our own sequences together in Gymnastics using partner and individual balances. We have been able to explain how we keep control and tension and have begun to add in jumps using apparatus. In Design and Technology, we have been learning all about making biscuits. We started by tasting existing biscuits on the market and then had a go at making some of our own. After evaluating them, we designed our own packaging and are making our final product this week. We can't wait to taste them!



Year 5

What a great start to Year 5! This half term we have been busy exploring hills and mountains and have enjoyed creating our own fingerprint maps to help us understand contour lines which enabled us to draw our own birds eye view of Ben Nevis – leading some of us to comment that it was shaped a bit like a chicken nugget! In P.E. we have thoroughly enjoyed practising our hockey skills, demonstrating fantastic team skills, deepening our understanding of space and attacking and defending techniques. In music, we have loved exploring boom whackers and creating our own musical theatre scene.



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Sporting Highlights



To Kick Off

Following the successes of last year's sports teams, we have got off to a fantastic start this year both in the girls and boys sports teams. We kicked off the academic year with the Year 3/4 boys football team putting in a sterling performance against another school winning by 10-0 with some wonderful football played throughout. Our Year 5/6 team continued to dominate with a 9-0 victory over a local school. I am pleased to announce that this year we are looking to encourage and develop the growth of girls' participation in sport, which has already kicked off in our netball team winning their first two fixtures and the girls football team drawing their first game of the season. I look forward to watching the children participate in future events and being given the opportunity to represent the school.



Building upon our new sports active break and lunch times initiative, we have introduced a range of new activities to inspire our culture of keeping fit, working collaboratively and having fun. Of the new activities, we have introduced trampettes for those budding gymnasts, rugby conversion kicking to go alongside our brand-new rugby posts as well as castle ball which is a new innovative way to promote teamwork and allows children to show perseverance whilst having fun.

During our weekly staff meetings, the staff have spoken positively about the impact of their P.E. lessons and have shared ideas to support the elevation of physical education across the federation. The understanding of the fundamental movements/ball skills that the children develop in the infant school and how that supports the children's learning of invasion games such as netball, football, rugby and hockey has been a topic of conversation between members of staff so that they understand how the work in each school develops the children's love of learning.



Touring parents who have come to visit the school as a prospective place for their child, have given positive feedback regarding P.E. lessons they have seen during their tour. These range from noticing the engagement of the children taking part, their abilities and skills, and their natural enthusiasm being shown. The children should be proud to receive such lovely feedback and I know that the staff are proud of the children for their efforts and dedication.

Mr Bensaid



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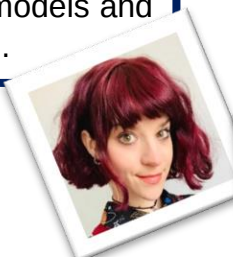
The Reading Corner



Spotlight Author

Laura Ellen Anderson

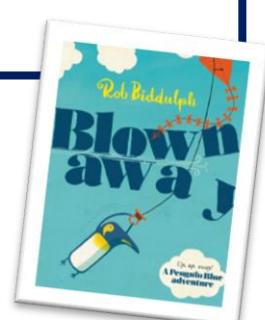
Laura is an author and an illustrator! She wrote the amazing **Amelia Fang** series which follows the adventures of a young vampire, her friends and a pumpkin called Squashy. Laura also created the **Evil Emperor Penguin** comic which you can read about in **The Phoenix** comic! When she is not working, Laura likes to make 3D models and bake (followed by eating).



Focus Bookshelves

Working Together

We have so many teams at Barksbury Federation. There are the children (very important), teaching teams, the people who maintain the site, administration (to name a few). How do you think we can work together as a community? What role could you play in a team? What makes a good team member?



Recommended Reads

Mrs Barry had the joy of catching Year 3 in the library on Thursday afternoon and was able to chat to a group of children about their favourite books and any that they would recommend!

Oliver recommends the **Horrible Science Ugly Bugs** book, 'It is really good and quite funny! It teaches you about bugs and the wild and I love bugs!'

Oscar loves reading the **Horrible Histories** books and recommends them, 'They tell us about things in the past that have happened like the Romans, Stuarts and the Trojan horse in the Greeks!'



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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

Unwanted contact

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

Location sharing

Your child could reveal this to anyone they are chatting to

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

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

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)

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 etc.)



2. Show how to block contacts or report inappropriate content

Blocking a contact means they 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://balksburyfederation.co.uk/esafety/>

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Governor Message

Yummilicious!

I was delighted to be invited into the Junior school to conduct a food visit with the Miss Bolton. I met with four children from Year 2 and Year 5 who were able to tell me all about how food permeates through the curriculum. They were able to tell me all about healthy eating, how to grow food, the importance of handwashing, and the impact of allergies. They described in detail the many projects that they have been involved with at Balksbury Federation such as making use of the poly tunnel, and the different cultural food experiences they have had which are embedded in the curriculum from Year R to Year 6, as well as the highly sought after Cooking Club after school, and their involvement in designing the Change4 Life posters across the Federation. It was also positive to hear about the array of cooking books available to the children in the library so they can become more involved in meal preparation at home.

We also discussed the move to Dolce, and how this has been positively received by the children. All the children especially enjoy the picnic lunches in the summer months. One child I spoke to told me that he had enjoyed his meal so much that he requested his parent make it at home, which is easy to do as the recipes are readily available via School Grid. Dolce have been incredibly responsive to feedback, and they have been conducting regular surveys with the pupils to ascertain favourite meals.

I was able to also observe (to my surprise) a very calm and orderly lunchtime, no food throwing was in sight! I saw firsthand the encouragement offered by staff to those

who were slightly too eager to dash off to the playground without finishing their food. I was also surprised to see that all the children were able to clear away their plates and remember to use the new recycling bins which were recently introduced by the Climate ActionTeam.

I have to say, as a foodie, I was genuinely pleasantly surprised by the pasta dish I ate.....long gone are the beige fried foods and sponge with pink custard!!!

This visit enabled me to see how Balksbury Federation embed food into their curriculum across the year groups and demonstrated that the children are readily able to share their experiences and learning. It also highlighted the positive impact that Dolce have had within the school community.

My last question: when can I come back for more?!

Emily Mouland

Safeguarding, Community and Young Carers Governor



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CSL Messages



Funded by
UK Government

Healthy Cooking on a Budget



Course Information

This **FREE** Healthy Cooking on a Budget Workshop is perfect for adults who would like to know more about how to prepare cheap, filling and nutritious meals. You will:

- Discover the health benefits of home cooking
- Explore the benefits of using a slow cooker to save you money on your energy bills
- Consider food safety points when using slow cookers; including how to safely store and reheat batch cooked foods
- Sample a delicious home cooked meal
- Take home a slow cooker to practice your new skills.

Commitment

- ✓ You will attend a workshop led by an experienced professional tutor
- ✓ You will take part in discussions and tasks about healthy eating
- ✓ You will receive a demonstration of a meal being prepared and get the chance to try a tasty, nutritious home cooked meal
- ✓ You will be offered opportunities to progress to further learning

Eligibility & Contact Details

This course is **FREE OF CHARGE** and funded by the UK Government for eligible adults age 19+ who are living in Hampshire. If you would like more information about this workshop, please contact our friendly team at: adult.learning@hants.gov.uk.

How to Apply

It's simple! Search for the workshop you would like to attend at [Learning in Libraries – Hampshire County Council Shop](#) or scan the QR Code with your phone to go directly to the website. Complete the online application form to book your **free** space today.



Fit Families Together is a Sport England-funded project. The project is designed to help families become more active, healthier, and more connected.

Dates: Monday 13th October 2025 – Monday 22nd December 2025

Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Location: Endeavour Primary School

Mondays at 6.30pm
At Endeavour School,
Augusta Park

FIT FAMILIES TOGETHER

Free exercise class for families in Andover

Grow more confident and more active as a family.

Book your space via our website



www.warriorcollectivecic.com/fitfamilies

Andover
Foodbank
Together with Trussell



12 Days to Christmas appeal

Every year Andover Foodbank gives Christmas hampers to families and individuals identified by local agencies. These hampers ease financial pressures, allowing people to celebrate the festive season rather than exist through it.

Here is our 12 Days to Christmas list for 2025. You can shop in one go or have some fun and add the items specified to a bag for life, on 12 days leading up to your drop off date.

Please deliver your hamper to Andover Foodbank, open Monday to Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm, by Sunday 23 November when we will also be open 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Thank you!

Drop off date up until 4pm 23 November

Day 1 - Bag for life	Day 7 - Chocolate
Day 2 - Hot chocolate	Day 8 - Marshmallows
Day 3 - Savoury biscuits	Day 9 - Sweet biscuits
Day 4 - Gravy	Day 10 - Stuffing
Day 5 - Tin of ham (small or large)	Day 11 - Christmas cake or Yule log
Day 6 - Crisps or peanuts	Day 12 - Mince pies (use by date after 25/12/25)

Donations to be taken to Andover Foodbank, Thank you.

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01264 365642

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House Points and Tokens

Tokens - Infants

House Points

The house with the most points across the federation to date is: Fosbury.



Fosbury



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



Tokens - Juniors

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



PTA Message



Can you help
your PTA?



Your PTA is a very small team trying to deliver lots of great things for our families.

Please consider if you could help us by volunteering for any of the following:

Uniform Swap Shop / Treat Sales - 10 to 15 minutes

Friday's from 2:50pm to 3:15pm

Christmas Jingle - any amount of time
28th November from 2pm

Raffle Prizes

Helping to source from businesses or donating items

Please either come and visit us in The Hive on a Friday or email balksburypta@balksbury.org

*Thank
you.*

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Achievements from Outside of School

Mason spent hours creating a Lego football stadium which resembled his favourite stadium, Anfield! He had to show huge perseverance as many times it went wrong and totally collapsed but he never gave up and he was very proud of what he had made in the end.

Well done Mason for demonstrating Balksbury's value of perseverance. We are so impressed with your creation.



Congratulations to Daniel, Leo and Freddy who took part in their first BMX club race day event at Andover BMX Club on Saturday. All three boys received medals and are already looking forward to the next race day event. Well done boys, what an achievement.

In the Community



INSPIRED BY THE RED ROSES? SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER



GIRLS RUGBY! FREE SESSION!

COMPLETELY FREE!
10AM START
AGES 7-11
QUALIFIED COACHES
SESSION TAILORED FOR ALL LEVELS AND AGES
NO PRIOR RUGBY KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

AT ANDOVER RFC - THE GOODSHIP GROUND



ANDOVER RFC

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Diary Dates

October 2025

Thursday 16 th October 2025	Nasal Flu Immunisations
Monday 27 th October 2025 – Friday 31 st October 2025	Half Term

November 2025

Tuesday 4 th November 2025	Openbox Production: Egyptians – Year 5
Wednesday 5 th November 2025	New Year 3 2026/2027 Tours
Thursday 6 th November 2025	New Year 3 2026/2027 Tours
Thursday 6 th November 2025	Fraser Portraits – Individual and Sibling Photos
Monday 10 th November 2025	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12 th November 2025	Parents' Evening
Thursday 13 th November 2025	Openbox Production: Early Man – Year 3
Friday 14 th November 2025	Jingle Dress Down Day
Monday 17 th November 2025	Year 5 Trip to Science Museum
Tuesday 18 th November 2025	Year 1 Tree Planting
Monday 24 th November 2025	Year 4 Tree Planting at Bury Hill Meadows
Friday 28 th November 2025	Christmas Jingle

December 2025

Wednesday 10 th December 2025	Year R Nativity (more information to follow)
Thursday 11 th December 2025	Year R Nativity (more information to follow)
Tuesday 16 th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18 th December 2025	Openbox Production: Christmas Pantomime
Monday 22 nd December 2025 – Friday 2 nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays

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February 2026

Monday 9th February 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026	Year 6 Residential Trip to Fairthorne Manor
Friday 13th February 2026	End of Block 1 Clubs
Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026	Half Term
Monday 23rd February 2026	Start of Block 2 Clubs

March 2026

Thursday 5th March 2026	World Book Day
Monday 16th March 2026	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 18th March 2026	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24th March 2026	Year 1 Production
Wednesday 25th March 2026	Year 1 Production
Friday 27th March 2026	INSET Day
Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays

April 2026

Wednesday 15th April – Friday 17th April 2026	Year 4 Residential Trip to Ufton Court
Tuesday 21st April 2026	Year 2 Titanic Trip

May 2026

Monday 11th May 2026 – Friday 15th May 2026	KS2 SATS Week
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026	May Half Term

June 2026

Thursday 4th June 2026	Openbox Production: Moon Landing – Year 1
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Thursday 4th June 2026	Butterflies Parent Information Evening
Friday 5th June 2026	Sports Day and Family Picnic
Wednesday 10th June 2026	Openbox Production: Dinosaurs – Year R
Thursday 18th June 2026	Butterflies Session 1
Thursday 18th June 2026	Year 3 Parent Transition Meeting
Friday 19th June 2026	Fraser Portraits Class Photos
Thursday 25th June 2026	Butterflies Session 2

July 2026

Wednesday 1st July 2026	Year 2 Production
Thursday 2nd July 2026	Year 2 Production
Monday 6th July – Friday 10th July 2026	STEM Week
Tuesday 7th July 2026	Butterflies Session 3
Friday 10th July 2026	STEM Festival
Monday 13th July 2026	Balksbury's Got Talent
Tuesday 14th July 2026	Year 2 Fun Day
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Year 6 Fun Day
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Year 2 Graduation
Thursday 16th July 2026	Disco Fun Day
Friday 17th July 2026	Year 6 Graduation
Monday 20th July 2026	Children's Last Day of Summer Term
Tuesday 21st July 2026	INSET Day
Wednesday 22nd July 2026	INSET Day

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