



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground



Friday 19th December

A Message from Miss Thompson

Dear Families,

As we wrap up an incredibly busy and rewarding term, I hope you are all looking forward to a well-deserved Christmas break and the chance to enjoy time together.

I want to take this moment to thank you for your continued support throughout the term - whether it's encouraging your child's learning or joining in with our festive celebrations like the Jingle. Your kind words and positive feedback mean so much to us and truly make a difference.

On behalf of the entire federated team, I wish you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful festive season. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year on **Monday, 5th January 2026**.

Wishing you all happiness and good health this Christmas.

Miss Thompson

A Brilliant Week

This week the children have been busy with lots of festive fun.

On Monday, the children attended St Michael's Church for a Christmas Carol service. We were so proud of how beautifully the children sang – the priest said they were much better than his usual congregation!



On Tuesday, the day started with a visit from a very special guest who came all the way from the North Pole with his little dog helper! The children were gifted a Christmas film afternoon for all their hard work this year.



The children then enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch cooked by Dolce. A few comments from the children included:

'This sticky toffee pudding is so delicious'



'Christmas lunch day is my favourite, the food is so yummy'

Wednesday saw the children boogie on down to their favourite songs at their end of term discos - we've never seen so many great dance moves!

Open Box Theatre company arrived on Thursday with their brilliant production of 'Handsome and Grotty'. The children had a fantastic time.

The children ended their week with a special assembly from Miss Thompson, celebrating all of the wonderful learning that has taken place this term. There were also a few cheeky tricks played on teachers, much to the children's delight!

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Memories from Across the Federation

Autumn 2025

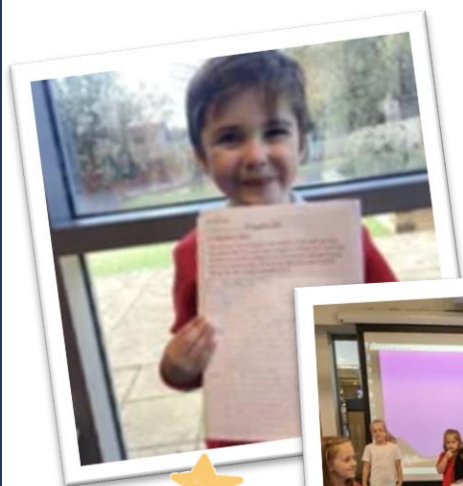


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Memories from Across the Federation *Continued*



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Memories from Across the Federation

Continued



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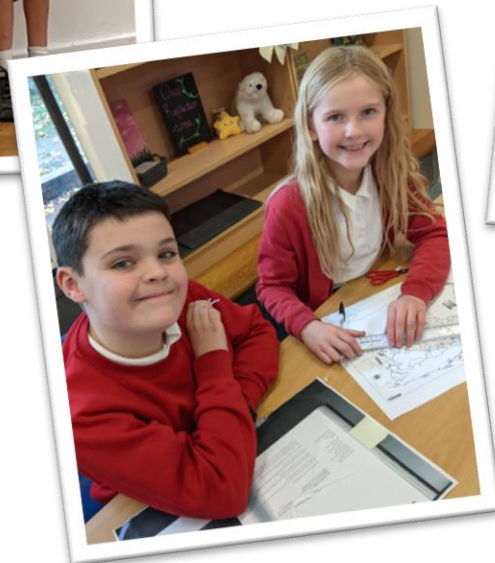
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Sporting Highlights



Balksbury Come Dancing

Building upon a fantastic start to sport this academic year the children have been captivated in our Balksbury Come Dancing extravaganza. From Year R learning the turns and spins of the Waltz, Year 3 going back in time to learn the Charleston, Year 5 focusing on a more modern contemporary street dance and finally Year 6 upping the tempo with Jump and Jive. It has been wonderful to walk through the Federation and see the energy that the children are putting into their dances. The smiles on their faces and the collaboration being shown to create their version of the dances that they have learnt.

It has been a privilege to take part in P.E. lessons across the Federation. In Year 1, the children have been developing the fundamentals of ball skills, learning basic movements and techniques that will support them as they progress through the school. Year 2 has completed their fitness block, exploring the cardiovascular system, stamina, and strength, and working hard in each lesson to demonstrate their understanding.

Within the junior school, pupils have continued to build on their growing knowledge of invasion games. Year 3 and Year 5 have focused on football, while Year 4 and Year 6 have concentrated on netball. Each unit culminated in competitive matches, giving every year group the opportunity to showcase their skills as a final outcome.



Team Updates

This term I am pleased to announce that our girls sports teams have gone from strength to strength. Firstly, our netball team have competed in a number of matches which they have demonstrated a good level of skill and camaraderie

culminating in a netball festival against other schools in which they won. As well as this our girls

football team have had a number of fixtures, and have remained undefeated so far. I look forward to our future fixtures as we return in 2026. As for the boys, they have had a fantastic start winning all of their matches so far however, most pleasing to this is the level of performance, discipline and respect that each of them are showing for each other which has been fed back to me by other teachers and coaches from the schools that we have played. Both the girls and the boys should be very proud of themselves, as I am of them, for the hard work and dedication they are putting in to representing Balksbury.

Mr Bensaid



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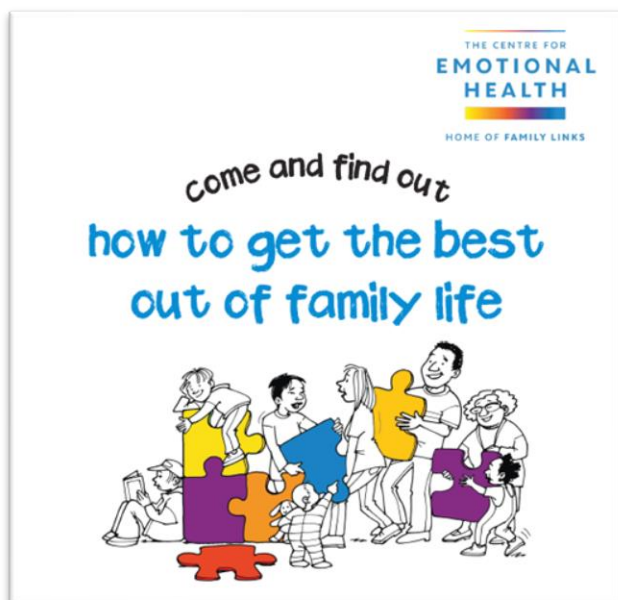
CSL Messages

Calling All Parents and Carers



Fed up of nagging? Having battles at bedtime?

Are you looking for more cooperation at home?



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

It does not criticise, judge or put you down.

It is not going to call you a 'bad parent', there is no such thing.

What do Parents Say About the Course?

'It wasn't what I thought it was going to be, it was so much better, our family have much better communication and understanding for each other'

'I have learnt so much about myself as well as different ways to respond to my children'

'I found it all extremely helpful. It's made me a much more positive person, Thank you'

'It's been great to be able to discuss with other parents also going through difficulties'

We will be running our next 10-week Nurturing Programme from the 14th January 2026.

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



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House Points and Tokens



House Points

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



Walbury



Tokens - Infants

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



Tokens - Juniors

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



PTA Message



The Barksbury Federation P.T.A would like to thank you all for your support at this year's Christmas Jingle!

Together, we raised an amazing £1253.37!!

We hope you all enjoyed it and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



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Achievements from Outside of School

On Sunday 7th December, the girls both successfully did their Taekwondo grading and are now both blue belts which officially makes them senior belts!
Congratulations to Agnes and Margo, well done girls!



In the Community



IGNITE YOUR POWER CIC

Fit-Families TOGETHER

Weekly FREE family exercise class.
Grow more confident and more active together as a family.

£ Free to attend

Fun

Book your space via our website

Endeavour School, Kings Campus, Augusta Park

MONDAYS 6:30PM

www.IgniteYourPowerCIC.com/FitFamilies

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Diary Dates

December 2025

Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays
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January 2026

Monday 12th January 2026	Clubs Restart After Christmas Pause
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Monday 5th January 2026	First Day Back
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February 2026

Friday 6th February 2026	Anti Bullying Day
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Monday 9th – Friday 13th February 2026	Year 6 Residential Trip to Fairthorne Manor
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Tuesday 10th February 2026	Openbox Production: Victorian Childhood – Year 4
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Friday 13th February 2026	End of Block 1 Clubs
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Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026	Half Term
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Monday 23rd February 2026	Start of Block 2 Clubs
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March 2026

Thursday 5th March 2026	World Book Day
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Wednesday 18th March 2026	Year 1 – Army Flying Museum Trip
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Monday 16th March 2026	Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
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Wednesday 18th March 2026	Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
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Tuesday 24th March 2026	Year 1 Production (2:00pm)
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Wednesday 25th March 2026	Year 1 Production (2:00pm)
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Friday 27th March 2026	INSET Day
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Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026	Easter Holidays
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April 2026

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

May 2026

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

June 2026

Thursday 4th June 2026	Openbox Production: Moon Landing – Year 1
Thursday 4th June 2026	Year 3 Butser Farm Trip
Thursday 4th June 2026	Butterflies Parent Information Evening (for new Year R families)
Friday 5th June 2026	Sports Day and Family Picnic
Monday 8th – Friday 12th June 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
Wednesday 10th June 2026	Openbox Production: Dinosaurs – Year R
Thursday 18th June 2026	Butterflies Transition - Session 1
Thursday 18th June 2026	Year 3 Parent Transition Meeting (3:30pm – 4:30pm)
Friday 19th June 2026	Fraser Portraits Class Photos
Thursday 25th June 2026	Butterflies Transition - Session 2

July 2026

Wednesday 1st July 2026	Year 2 Production (2:00pm)
Thursday 2nd July 2026	Year 2 Production (2:00pm)

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Friday 3rd July 2026	Year 2 Country Dancing Festival
Monday 6th – Friday 10th July 2026	STEM Week (12:00pm – 4:00pm)
Tuesday 7th July 2026	Change Up Morning and Butterflies Transition - Session 3
Friday 10th July 2026	STEM Festival 2:00pm – 4:30pm
Monday 13th July 2026	Balksbury's Got Talent
Tuesday 14th July 2026	Year 2 Fun Day (more information to follow)
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Year 6 Fun Day (more information to follow)
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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