Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground



Friday 13th November

The Christmas Jingle

Friday 27th November



2pm for adults, 3pm for families until 4:30pm

Thank you

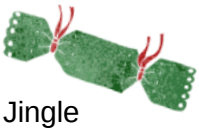
Thank you so much for your generous donations for this year's Christmas Jingle. The gifts you donate generate money for us to put back into the federation so we really do appreciate it.



Collection Arrangements

Collection arrangement forms came home with children this week. Please hand these back in to your child's class teacher by Monday 16th November.

Fun and Games



There will be fun and games at the Jingle for everyone to enjoy, including:

- The Human Slot Machine with great prizes up for grabs
- Guess the name of the reindeer for the chance to win a snuggly Rudolph!
- Guess the number of sweets in the jar for the chance to take home a very tasty treat

What will be at the Jingle?

- Our **Christmas Market,** where you will be able to purchase gifts that have been **hand-made by the children**
- **Beautifully wrapped gifts** ready to pop under the tree!
- **The chance to win** a variety of hampers and prizes
- The PTA will be there with their **amazing raffle**
- **Face Painting** and **glitter tattoos**
- Delicious **artisan pizza** slices, **candy floss** and **luxury hot chocolates**
- **Santas Grotto**
- **…and so much more!**



We can't wait to see you there!

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

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Christmas Cards

Thank you to all of our families who have supported the federation by purchasing a pack of Christmas cards. They are being printed, hand signed and packed ready for collection from classroom doors.



Christmas cards will be available for collection between **Thursday 19th** and **Monday 23rd November**.

Christmas Jumper and Lunch Day

Dolce will once again be cooking up a delicious Christmas dinner, which will take place on **Tuesday 15th December**. It is now available to order via SchoolGrid. The following options are available:

Mains

- Roast turkey with pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, sprouts and carrots
- Plant based festive lentil and chickpea bake with roast potatoes, sprouts and carrots

Desserts

- Sticky toffee pudding and custard
- Reindeer shortbread
- Fresh fruit

Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers to school on this day.

Christmas Discos

Christmas discos will take place in school on **Thursday 17th December**. Children are welcome to dress to impress and come to school in their disco clothes on this day.



Christmas at Andover Foodbank

If you are looking for ways to support our local community this Christmas, there is still time to support Andover Foodbank.

Every year, the foodbank support families in our local community to ensure they don't have to go without at Christmas time.

Details on how you can help can be found by clicking the link below:

https://andover.foodbank.org.uk/2026/09/07/christmas-2026-at-andover-foodbank/

Andover Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Carols around the Christmas Tree

Our fabulous Federated Choir will be taking part in Carols around the Christmas Tree on the 11th of December. They would love your support, so do go along to cheer them on if you are out and about.



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Remembrance

This week, our assemblies have explored the theme of Remembrance. The children have been learning about why we remember and how this connects to our British Values of Respect, Tolerance, Democracy, Individual Liberty, and the Rule of Law.

On Thursday at 11 o'clock, the whole federation came together for two minutes of silence to reflect and pay respects. We are so proud of how thoughtfully and respectfully the children took part in this important moment.

In their class assemblies on Wednesdays, children were tasked with designing an emblem to represent our forces community at Balksbury. We were very impressed with their thoughtful designs.

We are delighted to share that, through the sale of poppy merchandise, our Federation has raised a fantastic amount of money for The Royal British Legion. We are excited to share with you the final figure in due course. Thank you so much for your generosity and support. It truly makes a difference.













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Classroom News

Across the Playground

Year 1

In Year 1 recently, our budding scientists put their observation and questioning skills to the test as they explored a range of everyday materials, including wood, glass, metal, plastic, and rock. We investigated their properties, discussing whether they were hard or soft, transparent or opaque, flexible or rigid, and smooth or rough. Working together in teams, the children sorted the materials into different groups and shared fantastic ideas about how these materials are used in our daily lives. The highlight was an exciting rock hunt around the school grounds! Armed with magnifying glasses, the children searched for interesting rocks and carefully examined them up close. They compared colours, textures, shapes, and surfaces before sorting their discoveries into different categories. It was a fun-filled day of exploration, teamwork, and scientific thinking, and our young scientists impressed us with their curiosity and enthusiasm!









Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have been working hard across a range of exciting subjects. In English, we are continuing our learning about the Great Fire of London and using our knowledge of this historical event to plan and write our own recounts. In Music, we have been exploring African drumming and learning different rhythms and patterns that will inspire us to create our own musical storytelling pieces. In Science, we have been investigating the materials found in and around the Federation by carefully observing their properties and identifying whether they are natural or human-made. We are very proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and creativity the children have shown in their learning so far this half term!

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Classroom News

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Year 4









This half term, Year 4 have begun their exciting English learning journey based on *The Pied Piper*. The children will be writing narratives from the perspective of the rats in the town of Hamelin and have thoroughly enjoyed developing new skills to enhance their storytelling and narrative writing to prepare. In Science, we have started our learning about changing states, using our scientific observation skills to explore a range of solids, liquids and gases. The children have also drawn upon their existing knowledge to investigate and discuss how materials can change state. In Art, we have begun learning about the work of Vincent van Gogh and have created a series of still life drawings, experimenting with a variety of media to develop our artistic techniques and



Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have made a fantastic start to their learning and have thrown themselves into every opportunity with great enthusiasm. The children have thoroughly enjoyed beginning their history unit on the Ancient Egyptians, bringing the past to life through our exciting workshop with Open Box Theatre Company. The children fully immersed themselves in the experience, discovering fascinating facts about Egyptian life, including how papyrus was made and the intricate process of mummification. In Science, our topic of Space has captured everyone's imagination. The children's curiosity has shone through as they have begun to explore the wonders of our solar system. A particular highlight was our visit to Winchester Science Centre, where pupils enjoyed a range of hands-on activities and demonstrations that deepened their understanding and sparked even more questions about the universe around us. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent participation Year 5 have shown so far and look forward to an exciting half term ahead!

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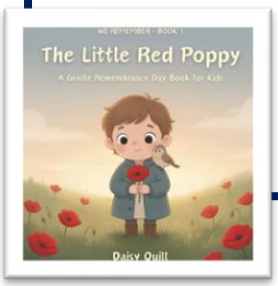
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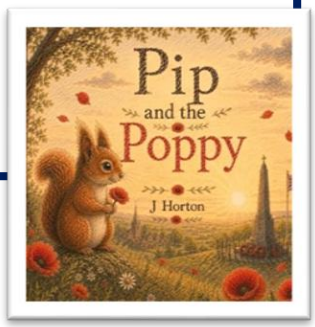
The Reading Corner

Focus Bookshelves

Remembrance

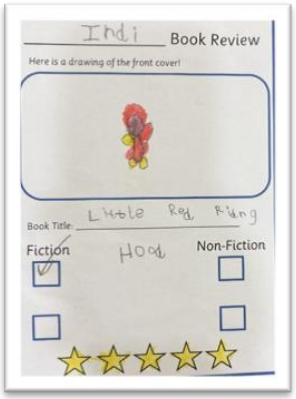
Remembrance Day is a time to remember all who fought to defend our democratic freedoms, especially those in World War 1 and World War 2. We also remember the people who continue to defend us. A two-minute silence is held as a sign of respect, this moment is on 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.





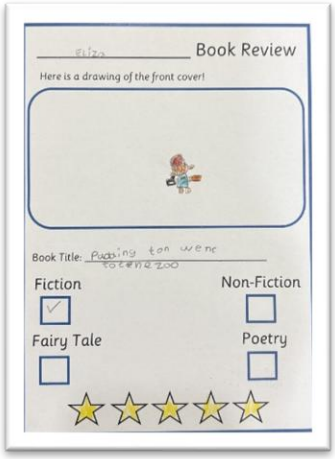
Year 1 Recommends...

Indi and Eliza have written two fantastic book reviews. One for *Little Red Riding Hood* and one for *Paddington went to the Zoo*. We love their drawings of the characters.











Spotlight on...

Zillah Bethell

Zilliah was born in Papua New Guinea and spent her childhood playing in the jungle. She didn't own a pair of shoes until she moved to the UK aged 8! She now lives in Wales with her family. One of our Balksbury citizens recommended **The Song Walker** which follows two girls as they walk through the Australian outback. Other books by Zillah include **The Shark Caller** and **The Extraordinary Colours of Auden Dare**.

Joke Corner

What kind of books do rabbits like to read?
One with lots of *hoppy* endings!

Why was the library so tall?
Because it had so many stories!

What do you call a dinosaur that loves reading?
A bookasaurus!

Why couldn't the pirate learn the alphabet?
Because he kept getting lost at **C**!



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CSL Messages

What do families say about our nurture programme for parents?

'Every parent should do this course; I wish I had done it sooner'

THE CENTRE FOR EMOTIONAL HEALTH
HOME OF FAMILY LINKS

come and find out

how to get the best out of family life



We will be running the 10-week Nurturing Programme for Parents next term.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

'I came looking for ways I could change my kid's behaviour but I've learned a lot about myself along the way'

'The kids are more co-operative and I'm much more confident and patient with them'

'I was really cynical that anything could work but it's really making a difference for our family'

'Thought I'd be judged or labelled a bad parent; everyone has been so supportive and it's nice to know I'm not the only one'

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House Points and Tokens

House Points

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







Tokens - Infants

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

Tokens - Juniors

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



In the Community



Friday 20th November from 4pm to 8pm







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Diary Dates

November 2026	
Tuesday 17th November 2026	Flu Immunisation
Friday 20th November 2026	Year 1 Tree Planting
Monday 23rd November 2026	Year 4 Tree Planting
Friday 27th November 2026	The Christmas Jingle (2pm for families, 3pm - 4:30pm for children)
December 2026	
Wednesday 9th December 2026	Year R Nativity
Thursday 10th December 2026	Year R Nativity
Tuesday 15th December 2026	Christmas Jumper & Lunch Day
Wednesday 16th December 2026	Openbox Pantomime
Thursday 17th December 2026	Christmas Disco Day
Friday 18th December 2026	Children's Last Day of School for Christmas
January 2027	
Monday 4th January 2027	Children Back to School
February 2027	
Friday 5th February 2027	Anti-Bullying Day
Monday 8th February – Friday 12th February 2027	Year 6 Fairthorne Manor Residential Trip
Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027	Half Term
Monday 22nd February 2027	INSET Day
March 2027	
Wednesday 10th March 2027	Year 1 Army Flying Museum Trip
Date TBC	Year 1 Production 1:30pm to 3:00pm
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Thursday 25th March 2027	Children's Last Day before Easter break

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April 2027	
Monday 12th April 2027	Children Back to School
Tuesday 20th April 2027	Year 2 Titanic Trip
Friday 30th April 2027	INSET Day
May 2027	
Monday 10th – 14th May 2027	KS2 SATs Week
June 2027	
Monday 1st June – Friday 7th June 2027	Half Term
Monday 7th June – Friday 18th June 2027	Year 4 Multiplication Test
Monday 7th June 2027	Openbox – Year R: Pirates
Tuesday 8th June 2027	Openbox – Year 1: Moon Landing
Thursday 10th June 2027	Fraser Portraits Class Photos
Thursday 10th June 2027	New Year 3 Parent Transition Meeting
Monday 14th June 2027	Phonics Screening Check Week
Friday 18th June 2027	Sports Day and Family Picnic
Tuesday 29th June 2027	Year 5 John Hanson Taster Morning
July2027	
Monday 5th July – Friday 9th July 2027	Arts Week
Friday 9th July 2027	Music and Arts Festival 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Monday 12th July 2027	Balksbury's Got Talent Final (In school event)
Tuesday 13th July 2027	Year 2 Fun Day
Wednesday 14th July 2027	Year 2 Graduation
Thursday 15th July 2027	Year 6 Fun Day
Friday 16th July 2027	Disco Day
Monday 19th July 2027	Year 6 Graduation 9:15am – 10:00am
Monday 19th July 2027	Children's Last Day of School
Tuesday 20th July 2027	INSET Day
Wednesday 21st July 2027	INSET Day

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