



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 14th November

The Christmas Jingle

Friday 28th 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.



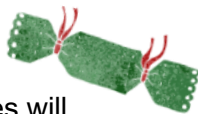
Collection Arrangements

Collection arrangement forms came home with children this week. Please hand these back in to your child's class teacher by Monday 17th December.

New for this year!

We've added even more fun to the Jingle this year. New for this year will be:

- Our 'Golden Cracker' game where families will have the chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher amongst other prizes!
- 'Where in the World is Rudolph?' game, where families will have the chance to take home their very own Rudolph plush toy



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 the ever popular **chocolate tombola, games room** and of course their **amazing raffle**
- **Face Painting** and new for this year...**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!

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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 Wednesday 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.

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.

Parking

A polite reminder to please respect our local residents by only parking in designated parking areas. The Floral Way Traffic Management Map can be found under the links and information section on our website.



If you haven't had a chance yet, why not **park and stride** from The Anton Arms or the Chesnut Tree? These car parks are available for **morning drop-off**.

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 on **Thursday 20th**, **Friday 21st** and **Monday 24th November**.

Christmas Lunch

Dolce will once again be cooking up a delicious Christmas lunch, which will take place on **Tuesday 16th 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 Christmas cracker 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 **Wednesday 17th December**. Children are welcome to dress to impress and come to school in their disco clothes on this day.



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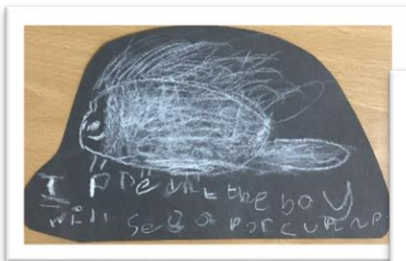
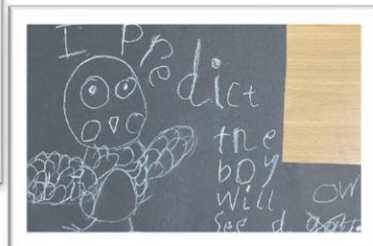
Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 1

Year 1 have embarked on a magical adventure inspired by the wordless picture book Flashlight by Lizi Boyd. To start things off, we transformed the junior hall into a captivating nighttime forest, complete with tents, hideouts, trees, and hidden nocturnal animals. Armed with torches, the children explored the scene, imagining themselves walking through the woods in the dark. Their excitement then sparked brilliant predictions about what the story's main character might discover next. It has been a wonderful way to ignite curiosity, imagination, and storytelling skills!



Year 2

In Year 2, the children have been scientific detectives by exploring different objects. The children had to feel the objects and decide whether they were human-made or naturally created. This allowed the children to understand that not all objects are human-made and that some the Earth makes naturally. Additionally, in Physical Education, we began starting our Samba dance routines. Firstly, the children listened to the music and created their own dances to the beat. Next, the children learnt the start of the routine and applied this to the rhythm of the music.



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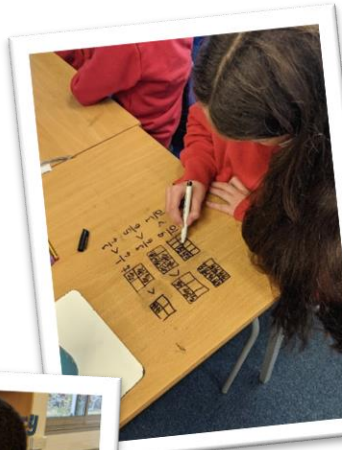
Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 4

We launched straight into our Geography unit with an exciting exploration lesson. We enjoyed immersive activities: diving into fascinating facts about global rivers through Wise Reading; experiencing a river environment up close using VR headsets; and sharpening our map skills by locating rivers both in our local area and around the world using atlases. To round off the week, Year 4 proudly shared the stories they have written with Year 1 - it was lovely to see them enjoying reading together.



Year 5

In Year 5, we began our Mathematics learning journey working with fractions. We started by pictorially representing fractions to compare them. This half term, 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 our learning journey with a visit from Open Box, where we explored the wonderful world of the Egyptian Gods. We also had a go at the mummification process.



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The Reading Corner



Author Spotlight

Ross MacKenzie

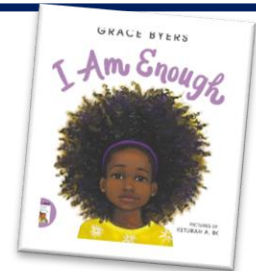
Ross MacKenzie started writing as a child and he is also an avid reader. Not only does Ross write books but also works as a graphic designer. The books that he is best known for are **The Nowhere Emporium**, **The Elsewhere Emporium** and **The Otherwhere Emporium**. These stories follow an orphan called Daniel when he stumbles on a world of magic and enchantment.



Focus Bookshelves

Citizenship and Community

Everyone is a member of the Barksbury Community. Being a member of this community means responsibilities such as making sure things are fair, people are happy and the rules are followed. It is also about being proud of our community, showing compassion and feeling empowered to do the right thing.



Free Reading Friday

Year 4 and Year 1

Before Half Term, Year 4 wrote sequels to a story called **The Promise** by **Nicola Davies**. They used Free Reading Friday as an opportunity to read their narratives to Year 1. It was lovely to see the children sharing their love for reading and to also spot some of our Year 1 children reading to the older children.

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ESafety

TikTok is one of the most popular social media apps on the planet.



TikTok currently has 1.7 billion monthly active users.

What is TikTok?

TikTok is primarily a social media App where users can create, watch and livestream short video clips which are often accompanied by music.

Common videos often include:

- Dance routines
- Lip-syncing to music
- Clips from TV shows or films
- Sports
- Make-up tips
- Comedy sketches
- New and world events



Users do not need an account to watch videos on TikTok. But if a user wants to like, comment, customise their feed or create their own video, then they will need to sign up for a free account.

How does TikTok work?

Users can browse for videos via a personalised feed known as the 'For You Page'.

TikTok uses algorithms to show the user videos based on their interests and other videos they watch.

What is the age rating?

TikTok has an age rating of 13+.

When logging in for the first time, the user will be asked to log in using either their email, their Google account, or by linking TikTok to one of their other social media accounts, for instance Facebook or Twitter.



Key TikTok terms

- **Profile** – your personal page which shows your username, nickname, profile picture, bio and videos etc.
- **For You Feed** - a personalised feed of content based on your interests
- **Following Feed** - shows videos from the people you follow
- **Discover** – allows users to search for and explore content
- **LIVE** - allows users to broadcast video content in real-time. You must be at least 16 to host a livestream
- **Duet** - allows users to create a split-screen video alongside an existing video
- **Stitch** - allows users to use a clip from another person's video in their own video
- **Effect** – a special tool where you can add/change features of your video such as the appearance, colours, background etc.
- **Sound** – any audio that accompanies a video
- **Hearts** – used to show how many people have watched and liked the video. The more hearts a video has, the more likely it is to be seen by other people around the world
- **Comments** – publicly viewable statements that are posted on individual videos
- **Direct messages** – private messages sent to individuals or a selected group of people



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What are the risks?

- **Seeing inappropriate content** - Once the app has been downloaded, users will be able to see all the content without creating an account. This includes videos with inappropriate language and content. However, the user will not be able to post, like or share anything until they have set up an account
- **Receiving contact from strangers** – users can like/react to a video, follow an account or send messages to each other. There is a risk that strangers will be able to directly contact children
- **Unvetted and unmonitored videos** - TikTok's guidelines prohibits the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of videos uploaded, means they are not manually monitored and vetted
- **Dangerous challenges** – some users have been influenced by videos they have watched to perform 'challenges' which can be harmful, criminal or even deadly
- **In-app spending** – TikTok is free, but users can buy TikTok coins to use to purchase emojis in the app
- **Addictive** – some users can become addicted to watching and creating videos, spending hours online
- **Personalised unsuitable content** – TikTok's algorithms will find videos for a user to watch based on their interests and things they have searched for/commented on. If a user has accidentally clicked on inappropriate content, then the algorithm may then suggest more unsuitable content for them to see. Watching and commenting (even negatively) can send more related content to their feed
- **Links to other apps** - Under-16s cannot send or receive private messages. But once users have made contact, e.g. through comments on videos, they can switch to another app like Snapchat to chat privately and swap images and videos



Keeping safe



- **Family Pairing**
Connect your child's account with your own. It gives you access to parental controls to help manage who they can speak to and how long they can spend on the app
- **Private account**
Set your child's account to private - only approved followers will be able to watch their videos. Public accounts mean their content is viewable on or off TikTok – they may appear in search engines, and even news sites
- **Restricted mode**
Filter out videos that may contain inappropriate or adult topics and stop them appearing on your child's 'For You Page'
- **Comment filters**
Filter who can comment on your child's videos and stop unwanted/inappropriate comments from appearing on their feed
- **Direct messages**
Manage who can contact your child privately on the app. You can choose who can send them direct messages by selecting 'Friends only' or 'No one'
- **Daily screen time**
Allows you to manage how long your child can spend on the app. You can set a daily time limit, and once the time is up a passcode is needed to keep using it
- **Restrict in-app purchases**
Set to restrict your child from spending TikTok coins which are bought with real money
- **Block and report**
Report videos or block users where there are concerns. Click either 'Report' or 'Block' from the drop-down menu. You will also be asked to give a description of your concern

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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CSL Messages



Attendance

Medical Appointments

Please ensure that, where possible, any medical appointments are made outside of school hours.

Where this is unavoidable, please complete a medical request form (available from either Admin Office) and attach any evidence you have for that appointment. This can be a letter or screen shot of the appointment confirmation.

We understand there may be times that children will need an urgent appointment to see a GP or Dentist and you will be unable to fill out a medical absence request. Please ensure you contact the school to inform us of the appointment.

come and find out
how to get the best
out of family life



Family Nurture Programme

This course is not about telling you how to raise your children.

It does not criticise, judge or put you down.

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. 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.

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 parents say:

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

'I was surprised how even the smallest changes at home have made such a big difference.'

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

For more information, please contact Mrs Grinham or Mrs Whatley via the confidential email -

community@balksbury.org



FREE!



Attendee sign up

Sport & Games - for Youth Mental Wellbeing

Time Thursdays at 4.30-5.30pm (Ages 10-14)
Term-time session

Venue Sports Hall, Andover Leisure Centre, West Street, Andover SP10 1QP

Description Fun, free and interactive sessions to help improve the mental wellbeing of young people. A great way to help build confidence and self-esteem and meet new people!

This group is provided **FREE** by mental health charity Sport In Mind for the benefit of local young people. Any questions email youth@sportinmind.org

[@sportinmind](https://www.facebook.com/sportinmind) info@sportinmind.org www.sportinmind.org 03001021400

Supported by the Mr Crocombe Legacy



Working in partnership with

Part of Places for People

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House Points and Tokens



House Points

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



Sidbury



Tokens - Infants

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



Tokens - Juniors

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



PTA Message



Santa's Grotto is back at Barksbury Federation this Christmas! Families have the opportunity to visit Santa and **receive a gift!** Parents are welcome to pop along for the experience too! Please speak to a member of the PTA team for more information. Bookings will be **open on Monday 17th November** at the hive from 3:00pm - 3:30pm and **close on Friday 21st November**.

Please don't forget that we are also selling our **raffle tickets** for our annual Christmas raffle! Tickets have been coming home in your children's bags and additional books can be collected from either school office or by contacting us at barksburypta@barksbury.org.

We are still on the lookout for some **fabulous prizes** for our families to win! If you own a business and would like to **donate to our raffle**, please pop us an email! All prizes are very gratefully received.



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Diary Dates

November 2025

Monday 17th November 2025	Year 5 Trip to Science Museum
Tuesday 18th November 2025	Year 1 Tree Planting at Bury Hill Meadows
Monday 24th November 2025	Year 4 Tree Planting at Bury Hill Meadows
Friday 28th November 2025	Christmas Jingle (2:00pm – 4:30pm)

December 2025

Tuesday 9th December 2025	Intergrational Café
Wednesday 10th December 2025	Year R Nativity (2:00pm)
Thursday 11th December 2025	Year R Nativity (2:00pm)
Monday 15th December 2025	Children attend Carol Service at St Michael's Church
Tuesday 16th December 2025	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Christmas Disco
Thursday 18th December 2025	Openbox Production: Christmas Pantomime
Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026	Christmas Holidays

February 2026

Friday 6th February 2026	Anti Bullying Day
Monday 9th February 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026	Year 6 Residential Trip to Fairthorne Manor
Tuesday 10th February 2026	Openbox Production: Victorian Childhood – Year 4
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

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March 2026

Thursday 5th March 2026	World Book Day
Monday 16th March 2026	Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
Wednesday 18th March 2026	Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
Wednesday 18th March 2026	Year 1 – Army Flying Museum Trip
Tuesday 24th March 2026	Year 1 Production (2:00pm)
Wednesday 25th March 2026	Year 1 Production (2:00pm)
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 Upton 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
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 June – Friday 12th June 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week

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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)
Friday 3rd July 2026	Year 2 Country Dancing Festival
Monday 6th July – Friday 10th July 2026	STEM Week
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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