



Balksbury Federation
Floral Way
Salisbury Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 3QP

Executive Headteacher
Mrs C Whitlock

Telephone: 01264 365642/352801

www.balksburyfederation.co.uk

adminoffice@balksbury-jun.hants.sch.uk
adminoffice@balksbury-inf.hants.sch.uk

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Dear Families,

We are extremely excited to be offering all Year 2 children water confidence sessions from next week onwards in our federated swimming pool. There will be no charge for this.

When will these sessions take place?

The first water confidence session for Year 2 will take place next week, on Monday 7th September, during the school day. These will continue every Monday until the swimming pool closes for the winter, we will keep you updated as to when this will be.

What will be involved in these sessions?

These sessions will give all children the opportunity to spend time in the water in a calm and relaxed environment. We hope that this will enable our Year 2 children to feel happy, safe, confident and comfortable in the pool ahead of their formal swimming lessons which will take place in the summer term.

These will be short sessions (children will be in the pool for a maximum of 30 minutes) and will take place in the shallow end where all children will be able to stand. All water confidence sessions will take place in small groups and an adult will be in the pool for the entire time.

All children will have the opportunity to enter the water at their own pace – if there are children that would prefer to simply dip their toes in the water or sit by the steps to begin with, this is absolutely fine. We will have plenty of water aids, e.g. floats and pool noodles, accessible for all children.

In addition to gaining water confidence, we hope that these sessions will enable all children to become familiar with our swimming routines, e.g. getting themselves ready for swimming, entering the pool safely and getting changed afterwards. Again, this will prepare children for their swimming lessons in the summer term.

What do I need to do ahead of these sessions?

- 1) Visit Arbor and give consent for your child to take part in these water confidence sessions.
- 2) Ensure your child has a swimming kit ready and that they bring this to school each Monday. This should consist of:
 - Swimming trunks/shorts (for boys) or a one-piece swimming costume (for girls)
 - A swimming hat (if your child has hair that is shoulder length or longer)
 - A towel
 - Goggles (if required)
 - Your child will **not** need armbands or other floatation devices from home
 - Please label your child's belongings to avoid them getting lost

Due to Health and Safety laws we request that children do not wear any kind of jewellery during swimming lessons and it would be advisable if you child finds it difficult to remove earrings, that they leave them at home on the day of swimming.

Please inform us as soon as possible if you require support with any of the above.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the office, or a member of the Year 2 Team, and we will be more than happy to help.

Many thanks,

Mr Mackrill
Year 2 Lead