



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 12th June



Sports Day

2026



Thank you to everyone who came along to support the children at this years Sports Day. The children had a brilliant day!



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/>

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STEM Hamper

Our STEM Hamper is back and bigger than ever! Tickets are only £1 and you could win:

- A giant glow STEM construction set
- A build your own mechanical dinosaur
- A giant Science apprentice kit
- A build your own motorised metal car
- An Octons building set
- A Nasa meteorology experiment set
- A crystal science experiment kit
- Two lift the flap Science books

You can purchase tickets by sending in your ticket money in an envelope, in your child's book bag. Please make sure envelopes are named.

Alternatively, the Leadership Team will be selling tickets before and after school, outside the Hive (as long as the weather is dry!)



Balksbury's Got Talent

We can't wait to see our children shine in Balksbury's Got Talent again, this year! A parent information sheet will be coming home in diaries to let know know audition dates ahead of the grand final on **Monday 13th July** (please note this is an in school event). In the mean time, get practising your dance moves, warm up your voice and dust off the joke book!



STEM Festival

Preparations are well underway for our STEM Festival on **Friday 10th July**. We can't wait to welcome you on site for a celebration of the children's learning from STEM Week!

There will also be a display of our children's and families competition entries – we want our display to be even bigger and better than last year, so get creating!

Just as in previous years, there will be fun for all the family and you can expect:



- Chances to win on our **PTA Summer Raffle, The Human Slot Machine and STEM Hamper**
- The opportunity to try out some of the amazing technology we have at the federation, including our **VR Headsets**
- The ever popular **slime lab**, construction corner and the chance to experiment with circuits
- **Green Screens, Bee Bots** and so much more
- **Aerobility** will be back, this time with their amazing **Goblin Aeroplanes** for children to explore
- New for this year, the chance to **win a £10 Amazon voucher** in our great **paper aeroplane competition!**



There will be **delicious pizza, candy floss** and **ice creams** on offer for a tasty treat.

Keep your eyes peeled for **collection arrangement forms coming home** with children soon.

We can't wait to see you there!

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STEM Week Competitions

Balksbury Federation Presents



The STEM Festival

Dream It, Build It, STEM It

Friday 10th July

Children's Competition

For your chance to **win a Science Prize Bundle**, take part in our children's STEM week competition!

To enter, create a science project linked to something you have learnt about in school.


Your project will go on display at our STEM festival and must be labelled with your **name** and **year group**.

You can bring your project along and hand to your class teacher from Monday 6th July until the morning of the STEM Festival on Friday 10th of July.


We can't wait to see what you create!



Balksbury Federation Presents



STEM Week 2026



Dream It, Build It, STEM IT!

HD Labels *Monday 6th - Friday 10th July*

STEM Week Sticker Competition

Thanks to **HD Labels**, we are excited to present the unique opportunity for children to enter our competition to create our official 'STEM Week 2026' sticker.

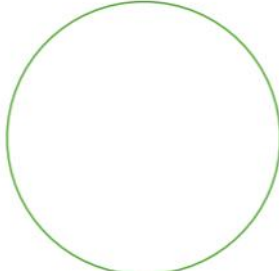
The winning sticker design will be produced and printed by **HD labels** and will be given out to children and families at our STEM Fayre on Friday 10th July.

What do I need to do to enter?

Draw your design in the template below. Entries must be drawn in **felt tip pen** to ensure your beautiful design stays vibrant when printed, if it is chosen as the winning design.

Your sticker must be about Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths and show your ideas about STEM in a colourful and creative way.

Don't forget to include 'Balksbury STEM Week 2026' on your design!



Hand your entry to your class teacher, who will keep it safe.

Please hand your entry in by 22nd June.

Good luck!

Balksbury Federation Presents

The STEM Festival

Dream It, Build It, STEM It!

Friday 10th July

Families Competition

Win a Family Trip to Winchester Science Centre!

To enter, create a **science, engineering, technology or Maths project** linked to this year's theme:



STEM in Leisure and Entertainment.

The project must:

- Be able to fit on a table top
- Have been created as a family

Your project will go on display at our STEM festival and must be labelled with your family **name** and **child's year group**.

Your can be handed to your child's class teacher from Monday 6th July until the morning of the STEM Festival on Friday 10th of July.



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Classroom News

Across the Playground



Year R

The Year R children have spent the past few weeks completely immersed in watching things grow, from carefully tending to their bean seeds and observing each new leaf, to caring for our tiny caterpillars as they transformed into butterflies. By the time release day arrived, they were absolutely buzzing with excitement. After nurturing the caterpillars, checking their cocoons each morning, and making sure the butterflies always had fresh fruit, water, and sticks to perch on, the children had become devoted caretakers. Letting the butterflies go felt like a true celebration. The children cheered, waved, and watched with pride as the beautiful butterflies fluttered into the world.



Year 3

Year 3 are having an excellent term! The children have begun their William Shakespeare learning journey in English - Julius Caesar. So far the children have discussed the attributes needed to make a good leader and whether they think that Julius Caesar was a good leader. In teams, they completed a human knot challenge, with one team being a republic and one being a dictatorship! The children will be writing their own speech from the Roman rulers perspective. Our English learning journey links brilliantly with our history topic for this half term - The Romans. The children have been on a fantastic and informative trip to Butser Ancient Farm where they made jewellery out of copper wire, spun wool, looked around a Roman Villa and became archaeologists, digging for evidence from the past. This has given them a brilliant introduction to our unit and they cannot wait to learn more!



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Classroom News



Across the Playground

Year 6

We have made a fantastic start to the final half term in Year 6. The children have returned with enthusiasm and focus, and it has been wonderful to see such a positive attitude towards their learning.

Rehearsals for the end-of-year production are now well underway, and everyone is thoroughly enjoying the process. The children are working incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs and stage directions, and their confidence is growing with each rehearsal.

The children are very much looking forward to sharing this special performance with you all in July - it promises to be a memorable celebration of their time in Year 6.

In class, the children have begun our new history topic focusing on World War Two, including exploring Andover's role in the war effort. In Science, they have been learning about adaptation and evolution, with a particular focus on Charles Darwin's discoveries and how finches adapted to suit their different environments.



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Children's Health



Hayfever

As the warmer weather arrives, hayfever can become a real challenge for many children.

Common symptoms to look out for include:

- frequent sneezing
- a runny or blocked nose
- itchy or watery eyes
- an itchy throat or ears

Encouraging children to wash their hands and face after being outside, as well as changing their clothes when they get home, can help reduce pollen exposure.

If your child suffers from hayfever, it can also be helpful to ensure they have any prescribed medication, such as antihistamines or nasal sprays, taken regularly as advised. Remember, if you require us to administer medicine at school, you must complete a form with the admin office.

Please do let the school know if your child experiences significant symptoms so we can support them during the day.

If symptoms are persistent or particularly uncomfortable, we recommend seeking advice from your pharmacist or GP to find the most suitable treatment.



Headlice

As we move through the school year, it's not uncommon for head lice to make an appearance, and while they can be frustrating, they're very manageable with a calm and practical approach.

Regularly checking your child's hair (especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck) can help catch any issues early.

If you do spot lice or eggs (nits), treat promptly using a pharmacy-recommended product and follow the instructions carefully.

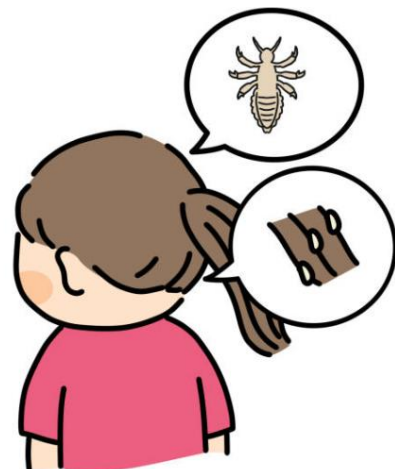
Most importantly, please remember that head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene.

NHS guidance on how to treat headlice can be found by clicking the link below:

[Head lice and nits - NHS](#)

A further video on how to wet comb to treat headline can also be found here:

[For Parents - Community Hygiene Concern](#)



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The Reading Corner

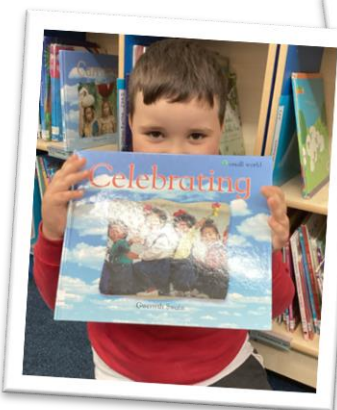
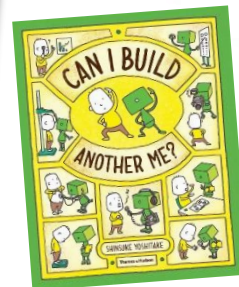


Focus Bookshelves

I am me and you are you!

At Balksbury Federation we know that being ourselves makes our school the best place to be. By showing kindness and respect towards one another we are all free to shine.

In our Focus Bookshelves this week we have an array of books all about friendship and individual liberty. Why not have a look at your next library visit?



Recommended Reads

Year R

This week our recommended reads come from Year R.

The children say:

- "I think people would love to read this book because it is all about celebrations and I love parties."
- "We read Litterbug Doug in class and my class really liked it. It is all about a boy who helps pick up rubbish, which is really important."

Author Spotlight

Our author spotlight this week shines on Jamie Smart, author of the 'Bunny vs Monkey' graphic novels. Jamie also writes for 'The Phoenix' children's magazine. Jamie Smart began drawing as a child and by only age 13 was submitting work to publishers. He studied Art at college for 4 years where he developed his craft for comics!



Why did the dog run after the book?



He was chasing his tale!

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ESafety



Snapchat



What is Snapchat?

A popular messaging app, where users send Snaps (photos, videos and drawings) to their friends.

Snaps disappear after they have been viewed (or within 24 hours for a Story or Chat).

Snapchat automatically deletes Snaps from its servers, unless users save them.

Minimum age

13+

Like many other social networks and messaging apps, the minimum age to use Snapchat is 13.

Additionally, users under 18 must have permission from a parent or legal guardian to use the app.

Snapchat features

Snap – a photo or video message sent to another user, that disappears after it has been viewed

Story – a photo or video posted to the user's profile that is visible to friends and the public for 24 hours

Streak – when 2 users swap Snaps with each other at least once every 24 hours for consecutive days

Snap Score – shows how much a user has been using the app

Filters/Lenses – effects which can be added to Snaps

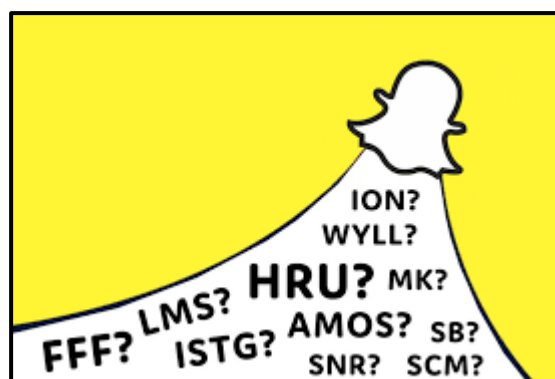
Snap Map – shares your location with friends

Live Story – where users in the same location contribute to a shared story; only available when geo-location is enabled

Discover – a section that features stories, news and shows from publishers, media brands and creators

Spotlight – a section for user generated short viral videos (works like TikTok)

Snapchat Slang



Often users on Snapchat use slang terms when messaging. Some of these are unique to Snapchat, while others are used across multiple social media apps.

Working out what they mean can seem like a minefield, especially when you are trying to keep your child safe online.

Click the link below for the top 20 most popular slang terms and their meanings.

<https://gamequitters.com/snapchat-slang/>

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What are the risks?

Exposure to inappropriate content

Your child could see harmful or upsetting content. Due to the disappearing nature of Snaps, Snapchat has sometimes been used for sharing inappropriate images



Disappearing Snaps

Due to the disappearing nature of Snaps, it often encourages impulsive behaviour where children may take and send Snaps they later regret.



It is important to remember that Snaps can be screen-shotted or recorded with another device. This feature also makes it difficult to collect evidence in cases of bullying or similar behaviours.

Unwanted contact from strangers

Like many other apps, strangers can attempt to contact young people directly. You can set the privacy settings so that messages and Snaps can only be received from friends.



Sharing location

Snap Map allows Snapchat 'friends' to see where your child is. Locations are fairly accurate, sometimes even revealing the street name.



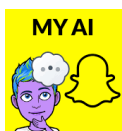
Snap Map is switched off by default, but once enabled, there are four options:

- Ghost Mode – no one can see your location
- Friends – all current and future friends can see your location
- Only These Friends – a custom list of users who can see your location
- Friends, Except... – a list of friends who won't be able to see your location

It's advisable that location sharing is disabled entirely, or Ghost Mode is used for added privacy.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Snapchat has an AI feature called 'My AI'. Like all other AI tools, it can answer questions, suggest activities and generate images based on prompts.



While this can be fun and creative, it is not risk-free. 'My AI' may provide inappropriate answers to certain prompts, and the image-generation features could be misused in harmful ways.

Keep your child safe



Set up Family Centre - Snapchat's main parental control feature. It lets parents see who their child is chatting with and how often – without being able to read the actual messages. To access Family Centre, both parent and child must have Snapchat accounts, and the child must accept the parent's request.

Remove My AI from the chat feed - Tap on 'My AI', select 'Chat Settings', and choose 'Clear from Chat Feed'. Note that the feature may reappear or be re-added after app updates.

Check privacy settings – Select who can send your child Snaps, view Stories and see their location. Ensure your child's account is set to private. Disable 'Quick Add' to prevent random users from adding them.

Manage push notifications - to help promote balanced screen time, turn off or limit notifications.

Take a break - set reminders to take a break away from the app.

Talk to your – about what they are seeing on Snapchat.

Show how to block/report inappropriate Snaps or a user – Press and hold on the Snap, then tap the 'Report Snap' button

How to set parental controls on Snapchat

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/snapchat/>

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 on our website
<https://balksburyfederation.co.uk/esafety/>

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Other Safeguarding messages

HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC ABUSE PARTNERSHIP
Recognize it. Seek help.

Domestic abuse rises during major football events

Win, lose or draw – reports increase by over 25%

If you are experiencing any type of abuse, find support here:
hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse



Advice Line
03300 165 112

Hampshire County Council

STOP DOMESTIC ABUSE



Let's Build a **KINDER, SAFER HAMPSHIRE**

Everyone has the right to feel safe and be respected.

DOMESTIC ABUSE CAN AFFECT ANYONE

Together, we can make a difference. ♥

Help and support is available.

- Call Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service 03300 165 112 (24/7)
- Visit hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse for support and information
- In an emergency, always dial 999.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Let's listen. Let's support. Let's build a safer Hampshire.
#SaferHampshire

Hampshire County Council

WATER SAFETY

Stay safe. Have fun. Enjoy the water. ♥

DROWNING IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH IN CHILDREN IN THE UK.
MOST INCIDENTS ARE PREVENTABLE.

As the weather warms up, children and young people spend more time around water – at home, on days out or on holiday. Let's keep them safe.

Almost half of drownings occur during the summer months when temperatures are higher – especially when 25°C or above.

THE HSCP WATER SAFETY TOOLKIT FOR PARENTS & CARERS INCLUDES:

- EVERYDAY RISKS AT HOME**
Including bath time safety and garden hazards.
- STAYING SAFE OUTDOORS**
Such as the beach, around rivers and in open water.
- PRACTICAL SAFETY ADVICE**
Including the Water Safety Code and how to "Float to Live".
- AGE-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE**
For babies, young children, older children and teenagers.
- WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY**
Including simple first aid steps and where to find further support.

Small actions, big difference ♥

- Keep children within arm's reach of water.
- Choose safe places to swim.
- Talk to your children about water safety.

Together, we can help prevent tragedies and keep our children safe this summer.

For practical advice and resources, download the Water Safety Toolkit:
www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/

Enjoy the water Stay safe Look out for each other

HSCP
Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership
Safeguarding children together

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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: Merlin Class.

Tokens - Juniors

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

Achievements from Outside of School



Congratulations to Oscar who took part in a football tournament last weekend. His team got through to the final and won! A great achievement for him and the rest of the team.

Well done to Lucas who proudly represented Balksbury Infant School at the British Schools Cycling Association, National Hill Climbing Championships. He competed against riders across the country, he delivered an outstanding performance to finish 2nd in his group. The event took place in very challenging conditions, with heavy rain and strong winds making the race particularly demanding. Lucas showed excellent determination and resilience and his achievement is a testament to his hard work and determination.



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Diary Dates

Dates to Remember

June 2026

Thursday 18 th June 2026	Butterflies Transition - Session 1
Thursday 18 th June 2026	Year 3 Parent Transition Meeting (3:30pm – 4:30pm)
Friday 19 th June 2026	Fraser Portraits Class Photos
Monday 22 nd June – Friday 26 th June 2026	Bikeability Week – Year 6 (more information to follow)
Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	Year 4 Mini First Aid
Wednesday 24 th June 2026	Andover Dance Festival 4:00pm – 9:00pm
Thursday 25 th June 2026	Butterflies Transition - Session 2
Monday 29 th June – Friday 3 rd July 2026	Swim Gala Week (more information to follow)

July 2026

Wednesday 1 st July 2026	Year 5 Taster Day at John Hanson 9:00am – 12:00pm
Wednesday 1 st July 2026	Year 2 Production (2:00pm)
Thursday 2 nd July 2026	Year 2 Production (2:00pm)
Friday 3 rd July 2026	Year 2 Country Dancing Festival
Monday 6 th – Friday 10 th July 2026	STEM Week (12:00pm – 4:00pm)
Tuesday 7 th July 2026	Change Up Morning and Butterflies Transition - Session 3
Friday 10 th July 2026	STEM Festival 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Monday 13 th July 2026	Balksbury's Got Talent (In school event)
Monday 13 th July 2026	Children's School Reports Come Home
Monday 13 th July 2026	Year 6 Production 6:00pm
Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Year 6 Production 6:00pm
Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Year 2 Fun Day
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 6 Fun Day
Thursday 16 th July 2026	Year 6 Graduation at the Lights 9:00am – 12:00pm (more information to follow)
Friday 17 th July 2026	Disco Fun Day

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July 2026

Monday 20 th July 2026	Year 6 Graduation 9:15am (more information to follow)
Monday 20 th July 2026	Children's Last Day of Summer Term
Tuesday 21 st July 2026	INSET Day
Wednesday 22 nd July 2026	INSET Day

September 2026

Tuesday 1 st September 2026	INSET Day
Wednesday 2 nd September	First day back at school for all children

February 2027

Monday 22 nd February 2027	INSET Day
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April 2027

Friday 30 th April 2027	INSET Day
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July 2027

Tuesday 20 th July 2027	INSET Day
Wednesday 21 st July 2027	INSET Day



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