



# Balksbury Federation

## Across the Playground

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

### A Very Hot Week...

We've all made it to the end of what has been an extremely hot week! We would like to say big thank you for all of the positive messages we have reviewed regarding our arrangements for the extreme heat we have experienced this week. The children have made us all very proud with their sensible and safe attitude. Well done everyone!

It looks as though we are due some well deserved rain over the weekend, so we hopefully have a slightly cooler week ahead of us.



### STEM Festival Competitions

We have loved hearing how the children are getting on with their individual and family competition entries. We can't wait to see their projects displayed at the STEM Festival on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

Don't forget to enter for your chance to win:

- Family tickets to the Winchester Science museum (families competition)
- A Science Experiment Bundle (Children's competition)

There will be winners and prizes for each school.

We can't wait to see what you create!

**Balksbury Federation Presents**  
**The STEM Festival**  
*Dream It, Build It, STEM It*  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> July until the morning of the STEM Festival on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

**We can't wait to see what you create!**

**Balksbury Federation Presents**  
**The STEM Festival**  
*Dream It, Build It, STEM It!*  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> July until the morning of the STEM Festival on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

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## STEM Festival Competitions

Preparations are well underway for our STEM Festival on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 the federation has, 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 Aeroplane** 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!*



## Balksbury's Got Talent

There has been a buzz around the federation as children get excited to shine in our Balksbury's Got Talent auditions next week.

If your child would like to enter, they need to bring any costume or props to school on their audition date.

The audition days are as follows:

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June** – Year R and Year 5

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 1 and Year 6

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – Year 2

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Year 3

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Year 4

A reminder that Balksbury's Got Talent is an in school event. We will be sure to take pictures to share in Across the Playground.



## Swimming Galas

The children have been working hard in their swimming lessons this year and can't wait to show off their skills in their swimming galas next week.

Everything you need to know regarding the swimming galas can be found by clicking the link below and accessing the swimming gala information document for families.

We can't wait to see you there.

[Letters - Balksbury Federation Infant and Junior Schools](#)



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# Classroom News

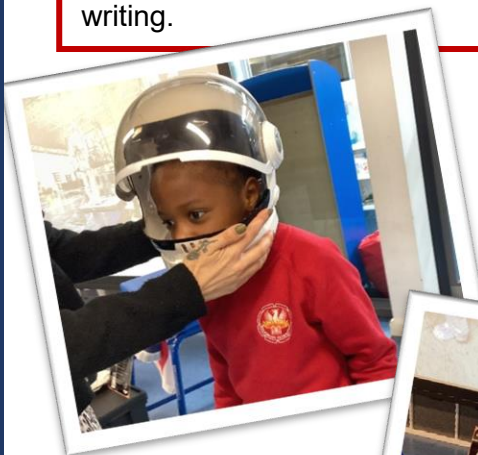


## Across the Playground

### Year 1

In History this half term, the children are learning all about moon landings. To kickstart this topic, we were visited by OpenBox Theatre Company who helped us to explore what it would have been like on the 1969 Apollo 11 Mission. The children thoroughly enjoyed trying on astronaut helmets and lying down to blast off into space!

In English the space theme has continued and the children have loved reading the story *'The skies above my eyes'*. The children then took inspiration from the text to write a section of a narrative based on Tim Peakes journey in space. The children blew us away with their wonderful writing.



### Year 2

In Science this half term, the children have been learning all about lifecycles. The children started their learning journey by studying the different stages of a humans lifecycle, then compared it to a frog's lifecycle.

The children then got to see a life-cycle take place in front of their eyes, whilst caring for and observing caterpillars for three weeks. They have loved watching them grow from tiny caterpillars, into pupas and finally into beautiful butterflies!



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# Classroom News



## Across the Playground

### Year 4

This term, Year 4 have been exploring Manaus in the Amazon Basin! The children have explored the physical features of the city through using atlases, pictures, videos and especially loved zooming in on Google Earth. In art, the children have been experimenting with water colour paint. They have practised different painting techniques and explored vocabulary such as saturation and value. In English, the children have loved reading our Shakespeare play and we been busy writing our diary entry as Hamlet about our simply DREADFUL day!



### Year 5



Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the final half term. In Music, Year 5 are thoroughly enjoying learning the traditional African song *Shosholoza*. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they explore rhythm and cultural context through this powerful piece. In History, their new learning journey focuses on the fascinating world of the Maya civilisation. Year 5 have loved discovering how the Maya lived, their achievements, and the lasting impact of this incredible ancient society.

In Science, the children have been exploring reversible and irreversible changes. The children have carried out investigations to observe how some materials dissolve in liquids to form solutions, while others create mixtures. They then examined different methods of separating these mixtures, including filtering, sieving and evaporation.



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# Curriculum Corner

## Writing



### Writing Narratives

#### Across the Federation

In our learning journeys for Writing, children are immersed into a text or book to create a shared enjoyment and enthusiasm for writing.

Narrative writing can take many forms such as: fairy tales, short stories, modern classics, memoirs, character and setting descriptions.

Here are a selection of extracts from narrative writings across the federation and the books that have inspired them.

Year R



I can see a black cat  
I can see a silverfish  
I can see a white  
A dog  
I can see a ginger  
I can see a j...er...ato

Year 1



The first little pink pig found a man carrying a bunch of yellow straw and started building a fluffy yellow house of straw and started working really quickly because he wanted to go outside. The 2nd little pink pig found a man carrying a bunch of sticks and took them off him to make a house then he started to make a house of sticks by working hard.

Year 2



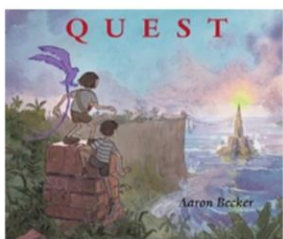
The beautiful, delighted bird was ~~relief~~ relieved because he has found his joyful <sup>whistle</sup> whistle! He showed his friends that we should be ~~good~~ friends again! Many times he tried every day to <sup>write</sup> write and he got his <sup>whistle</sup> whistle. He was excited to <sup>write</sup> write with his friends! Now he could be the one and only to be ~~exc~~ ecstatic.

Year 3



Suddenly, as the roaring storm blew ~~the~~ lighthouse keeper rose. The bulb went out. Without hesitation, he ~~run~~ ed quickly up the steep, windy staircase, as his heart beat loudly. Although the storm was crashing outside, the keeper was determined to save the small, helpless ~~boat~~ boat. Carefully, the keeper adjusted the dark bulb to face the giant waves.

Year 4



They walked and walked until they saw something. It was ~~an~~ an old ancient Greek temple. Do you think it's in <sup>here</sup> here? asked Amy curiously. <sup>Maybe</sup> Maybe it goes in <sup>there</sup> there, we can find it, ~~replied~~ replied Jack in wonder. But just then they saw something peculiar. It was an orange ~~rhino~~ rhino that seemed to know the way. Can I help you, asked the rhino politely.

Year 5

In a deserted forest, which was drenched in colour, lived a peculiar pond. The tranquil waters of this pond glistened in the sunlight as flowers blossomed. Although the pond was filled with beautiful things, the enchanted waters and trees can be as dense as glass in a freezing classroom. The ~~palace~~ <sup>place</sup> of beauty was filled with ~~enchanted~~ <sup>enchanted</sup> woodland critters - trees and wood (which is home to many ~~friendly~~ <sup>friendly</sup> animals) is ~~the~~ night when predators come out! Crack-crack-crack the leaves crumble.

Year 6



Beyond the desolate moon, where unknown creatures lurk, unsettling mist emerged. Lightning sprawled across the sky as thunder roared: their storm grew enraged. Sparse wisps of fog dragged themselves across the sodden land; jagged rocks (scattered across the ground) makes the path unsafe. Each stride down the ancient road felt heavier by the second.

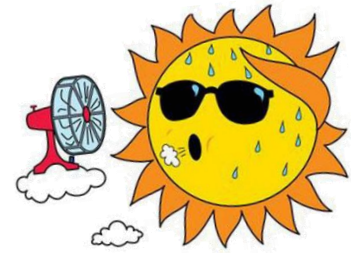


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# Children's Health



## Keeping Cool Tips and Tricks

With this summer already proving to be a real scorcher, here are some tips and tricks to keep yourselves and the kids cool.

Pop a clean, damp flannel in the freezer for 20–30 minutes. It turns into a soft, cooling compress - perfect for necks, wrists, or foreheads. (Top tip: keep a couple ready in a freezer bag!)



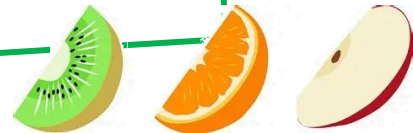
Fill a sock with dry rice, tie it off, and freeze it. It becomes a gentle, flexible cold pack that's less harsh than ice - great for little ones who don't like very cold surfaces.



Put your child's pillowcase (in a sealed bag) in the freezer for 10 minutes before bed. It can make drifting off in the heat much easier.



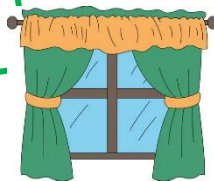
Freeze grapes, banana slices, or yoghurt tubes for a quick cooling treat. (Always supervise younger children with grapes and cut if needed.)



Keep a packet of baby wipes in the fridge. They make a cooling treat for sweaty little faces!



Close curtains or blinds in sunny rooms before midday - this keeps the house cooler for the whole afternoon. Then open windows later in the evening to let cooler air flow through.



You can also place pjamas in a ziplock bag in the freezer to make them nice and cool before bedtime.



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# The Reading Corner

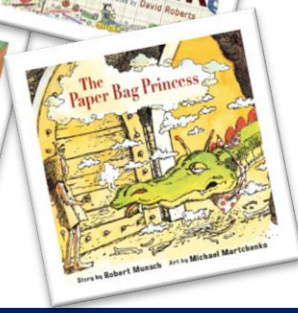
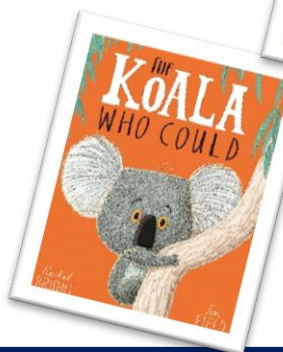
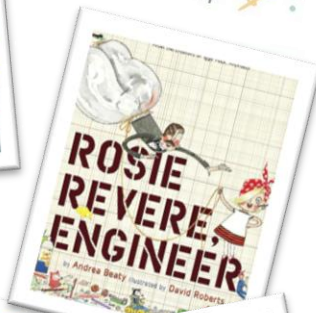


## Focus Bookshelves

### I may not be there yet...

At Barksbury Federation are always *learning and growing together*. We know that mistakes are part of learning and it's ok to take time to master a new skill.

We have lots of books in our federated libraries which have the theme of **perseverance**. One of our federated values. Why don't you try one at your next library visit?



## Recommended Reads

### Year R

This week our recommended reads come from Year 1 where the children say:

*'I think people would like this story because the pictures on the front are so beautiful and lovely.'*

*'I know that everyone likes dinosaurs, so this would be a good one. My favourite dinosaur is a T-Rex!'*

*Why did the scarecrow become a successful author?*

*Because he was outstanding in his field!*



## Author Spotlight

Tony Ross is an author and an **illustrator**. He has drawn the pictures for more than 800 books including the **Horrid Henry** series. He has also written and illustrated the **Little Princess** series. Tony Ross grew up in London and his father was a magician. Before he became a full-time illustrator and author, Tony Ross worked as a graphic designer and taught art.

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# ESafety

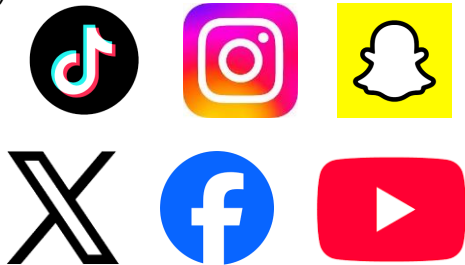
## The social media ban and new online safety measures – what do I need to know?

### What are the changes?

#### Social Media

Restrictions on access to major social media platforms for under 16s. 

Likely to involve TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, X, Facebook and YouTube (not YouTube Kids).



#### Communicating with strangers

Restrictions across relevant online services, including gaming platforms, on features that allow under 16s to communicate with strangers.




#### Livestreaming

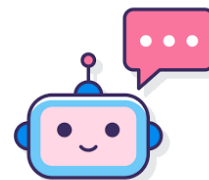
Under 16s will not be able to create or host livestreams.



#### AI chatbots

Romantic and adult AI chatbots will be banned for under 18s. 

All AI tools with similar tools must also be switched off for anyone under 18.



#### Platform design

To support children's wellbeing online, the Government is considering measures such as:

- Overnight curfews
- Breaks in infinite scrolling
- Other design changes



#### Age verification

Platforms will need to introduce robust checks for the age of the user.

Children entering their date of birth will no longer be enough.



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## When will the changes happen?

The Government has said that the legislation is expected to be introduced to Parliament before Christmas 2026. If they are approved, then the new rules will come into force in **Spring 2027**.



## What don't we know?

The Government have said that in July, they will share more information about:



- How platforms and apps will check children's ages in reality
- How the rules will be enforced day to day
- Which platforms, apps and services will be included
- What happens with the existing accounts – will they be shut down?

## What can I do?



- ❖ Review the safety settings on the apps and devices they are already using
- ❖ Talk to them about what they are already doing online:
  - What are platforms/apps are they using?
  - What have they seen online?
  - Have they seen anything that has made them feel upset, scared or uncomfortable?
- ❖ Talk to them about what to do if they see or hear online something that upsets them
- ❖ Teach them how to block and report content or a user
- ❖ Help them build the skills they need to be online confidently and safely



## **Remember...**

Online safety is not just about social media.

It also includes:

- gaming platforms
- messaging apps
- video sharing sites
- livestreaming platforms
- AI powered services

**MOST OF THESE WILL NOT BE COVERED BY THE BAN**

## Helpful resources

**If your child is not yet using social media**

- [First phone advice](#)
- [ABC online safety checklist](#)
- [Family agreement template](#)
- [Social media checklist](#)

**If your child already uses social media**

- [Social media advice hub](#)
- [Platform safety settings](#)
- [Screen time advice](#)

**If your child uses messaging apps**

- [WhatsApp safety guide for parents](#)
- [Discord parental controls guide](#)
- [Social networking and messaging apps guide](#)

**If your child watches or creates livestreams**

- [Parents' guide to livestreaming and vlogging](#)
- [10 tips for keeping children safe when livestreaming](#)

**If your child uses AI chatbots or tools**

- [AI chatbots and companions — a parents' guide](#)
- [How to use AI safely with your child](#)

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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: Skipper Class.

## Tokens - Juniors

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



## PTA Message



**BALKSBURY PTA  
SUMMER  
RAFFLE**

1st prize -  
£150 Merlin gift card  
More fabulous prizes including a hamper!  
£1 a ticket

Draw date - Friday 10th July

*The PTA are absolutely AMAZING and we are so very grateful for all their selfless hard work!!*

*Thank you so very much for getting the fans for the classrooms. It is a much welcomed relief knowing the children will finally have a fan in the classroom and we will be forever grateful!*

*Whether it's freezing cold, pouring with rain or a sweltering heatwave, they continually work hard in order to raise funds for the school and our children. They are silent heroes at Balksbury.*

*It may not always be talked about, but your hard work and dedication does not go unnoticed.*

*Thank you for everything!*

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# Achievements from Outside of School



Shout out to Leighton for an amazing achievement.. Leighton currently swims for Andover Swimming and Water Polo Club. A competition on Saturday 6/6/26 saw him collect the gold medal in the 50m Freestyle. Not only did he win the competition, his official Swim England recorded time now shows him officially ranked 1 in the 10 and under age group. Leighton is officially the fastest freestyle swimmer in Hampshire for the age group 10 and Under. He is due to race again to then represent the county at competition. Congratratulations Leighton!

Rankings

Event Rankings (Last 12 Months)

Open/Male - Short Course - 50m Freestyle - Hampshire - 09 Years Age Group - At 31st December 2026

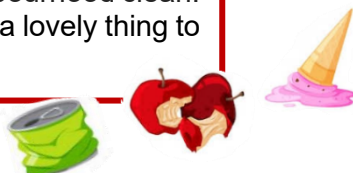
Rank	Name	Ranking Club	Year	Event Name	Year	Level	Date	Time	Final
1	Leighton Reed	Andover	10	Andover S&PC Short Club Championships 2026	Andover	A	06/06/26	38.93	133



We would like to say a massive well done to Jessica and Charlotte for completing the Cancer Research Pretty Muddy Kids 5k course on Sunday 24th May. They completed the course in very hot weather including lots of very muddy obstacles!



Both Maddie and Sammy were very excited to join the community litter pick. They were very happy that they were helping to keep their neighbourhood clean. Well done Maddie and Sammy, what a lovely thing to do.



Congratulations to Mikel who has earned his black belt in Korean kickboxing. Mikel has been training since he was in year one. What a wonderful achievement!



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# Diary Dates

## June 2026

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

Swim Gala Week

## July 2026

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

Year 5 Taster Day at John Hanson 9:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

Year 2 Production (2:00pm)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

Year 2 Production (2:00pm)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026

Year 2 Country Dancing Festival

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

STEM Week

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Change Up Morning and Butterflies Transition - Session 3

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

STEM Festival 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Balksbury's Got Talent Final

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Children's School Reports Come Home

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Year 6 Production 6:00pm

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Year 6 Production 6:00pm

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Year 2 Fun Day

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Year 6 Fun Day

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Year 2 Graduation at 1:45pm

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Year 6 Graduation at the Lights 9:00am – 12:00pm

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Disco Fun Day

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Year 6 Leavers Ceremony 9:15am

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Children's Last Day of Summer Term

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026

INSET Day

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

INSET Day

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## September 2026

Tuesday 1st September 2026

INSET Day

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

First day back at school for all children

## February 2027

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027

INSET Day

## April 2027

Friday 30th April 2027

INSET Day

## July 2027

Tuesday 20th July 2027

INSET Day

Wednesday 21st July 2027

INSET Day

Dates to Remember

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