



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 11th September

A Message from Mrs Whitlock

I am delighted to share this edition of Across the Playground, which feels particularly special as my first newsletter since joining the Balksbury Federation as Executive Headteacher. It has been a genuine pleasure to become part of such a welcoming school community, and I am excited to begin this journey with you all.

The start of a new school year is always a wonderful time, full of energy, enthusiasm and opportunity. It has been a joy to see the children return after the summer break with such smiles, confidence and positivity. I have been especially impressed by the kindness and care they have shown towards one another, particularly our younger children, and I have also felt incredibly welcomed by them as a new member of the school family.

Our children have settled back into school life beautifully. They have delighted their teachers with their eagerness to learn, their positive attitudes and the way they are already demonstrating our Balksbury values each day. They are a real credit to their families and our school community.

As we look ahead, I am excited about all that this term and the year ahead will bring. Together, I know we will create many wonderful opportunities, celebrate many achievements and continue to help every child thrive.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received. I am very much looking forward to getting to know our children, families and wider community over the coming months.

Afternoon Tea for Balksbury Citizens

You may have spotted the posters around the federation advertising Afternoon Tea with Mrs Whitlock, and we are delighted to share more about this exciting new celebration!

This special event recognises our Balksbury Citizens who consistently demonstrate our federated values. Once every term, teachers will nominate two children from each class to join Mrs Whitlock for a well-deserved treat.

During the afternoon, children will have the opportunity to enjoy a slice of cake, play a game of Uno, chat with Mrs Whitlock and celebrate their achievements together. It is our way of recognising those who go above and beyond in showing collaboration, respect and perseverance to make our federation such a wonderful place to learn.

We look forward to celebrating many deserving Balksbury Citizens throughout the year!



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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Classroom Open Door

We are excited to be opening our doors across the federation on **Monday 5th October** straight after school until 4:15pm. Families will have the opportunity to drop in, see their child's classroom, meet the teacher and celebrate some of the learning which has been happening this half term.



Open Mornings for 2026/2027

We will be hosting open mornings for prospective families ready for 2027/2028. If you (or someone you know) would like to attend please contact the Infant school admin office to book one of the tours. We have multiple time slots available on the below dates:

- Tuesday 22nd September
- Wednesday 23rd September
- Thursday 24th September
- Tuesday 29th September
- Wednesday 30th September
- Thursday 1st October



Secondary School Applications

Secondary School applications for 2027-2028 are now open. The deadline is **31st October 2026**.

The link below will take you to the applying for a secondary school place on Hampshire County Council's website.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be taking place on **Monday 21st September**. Once again, Balksbury will be supporting Andover Foodbank so if you're able to support, donations would be greatly appreciated.

The foodbank are looking for donations of:

- Tinned Meat/Fish
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned/Instant Potatoes
- Tinned Soup
- Pasta Sauce
- Cereal
- Rice Pudding/Custard
- Tinned Fruit
- Biscuits/Chocolate
- Milk (long life)

Your child can bring their donation(s) in from **Wednesday the 16th September** until the morning of **Monday 21st September**. Donations can be dropped off with your child's class teacher where they will be stored until Harvest Festival.



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CSL Messages



Calling all Parents and Carers

Fed up of nagging? Having battles at bedtime?
Are you looking for more cooperation at home?
Want family life to be more fun?



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



*This course does not tell you
how to raise your children.*

*It does not criticise, judge or
put you down.*

**We still have a few remaining
spaces on the next 10-week
Nurturing Programme
starting on the 24th
September.**

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

Community Cupboard

At Balksbury Federation, we are very aware of the continuing rise of the cost of food and utility bills. This may be having an impact on your family and if it does, we would like to help.

At Balksbury, we have our 'Community Cupboard' stocked with food and toiletries, bring a carrier bag to reception and Mrs Grinham and Mrs Elcock will be happy to help.



*If we can supply you with any of these items
or advice on where you can get more
support, please get in contact with either of
our Community Support Leads, Mrs Cheryl
Grinham or Mrs Rosie Elcock via our
confidential email.*

community@balksbury.org

CYP-PCW
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
PRIMARY CARE WELLBEING SERVICE

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

PARENT AND CARERS COFFEE MORNING

UNDERSTANDING & SUPPORTING AUTISM IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

You are invited to join us for a coffee and chat around autism in children and young people. We aim to discuss what is autism, recognising the strengths of autism in your young people, autism and the impact on anxiety and how best to support an autistic young person.

Monday, 22 September 2025
9.30am - 11.30am
King Arthurs Hall, King Arthurs Way,
Andover, SP10 4BS

Scan the QR
code to book
your place

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House Points and Tokens



House points and tokens have been collected and will be added onto next week's totals.



PTA Message



CAN YOU HELP YOUR PTA?

As a small team, we are always on the lookout for new volunteers to join us in raising funds for our schools. This could be by helping us at treat sales, helping with the ACE food donations or helping to source raffle prizes.

We also have our uniform swap shop which always needs a bit of support!
Meeting attendance is optional and we really appreciate any time you can donate!

ACE food donations / Treat sales / Uniform swaps and sales all take place on Fridays at the hive. 3pm - 3.30pm.

**If you are interested in lending a hand,
please pop an email to
balksburypta@balksbury.org**

THANK YOU!



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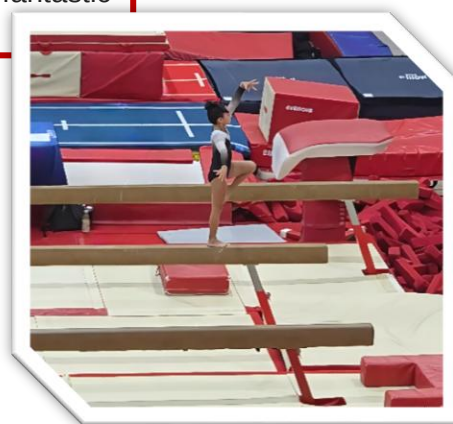
Achievements from Outside of School

We would like to say a big well done to Aria who has been very busy! She successfully completed Stages 1 - 7 of the Swim England Learn to Swim Framework and has now progressed to Stage 8 white hats, moving into competitive swimming. We are incredibly proud of her hard work, determination, and commitment to developing.

As well as swimming, Aria took part in a big gymnastics competition where she showcased some of her most difficult routines and skills.

We are incredibly proud of her, especially as she came away with a Gold Medal on Beam!

She worked so hard and showed amazing determination and confidence. We couldn't be prouder of her achievement! Congratulations Aria, what a fantastic achievement.



In the Community

The poster features a group of children in school uniforms standing in a line. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The school's logo, a stylized building, is positioned to the right of the title. The date is prominently displayed in a large, bold font. The text below the date describes the event and provides booking information. The Eventbrite logo and a QR code are at the bottom right.

Open Evening

JOHN HANSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Thursday 24th September 2026

Primary children and their families are invited to our John Hanson Open Evening. Enjoy a student-led tour of our facilities and meet our teachers.

Starts at 5pm
Ends at 7:30pm

Headteacher Talks

Our Headteacher, Mrs Sudds will deliver presentations at 6pm and 7pm in the Main Hall.

Click the link to book your slot:

link to book

We can't wait to meet you!

The poster shows a group of people dressed as Roman soldiers, standing behind a red and gold shield. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The date and time are prominently displayed. The text below the date describes the event and provides booking information. The Hampshire Cultural Trust logo and a QR code are at the bottom right.

THE ROMANS ARE COMING!

Sunday 13th September, 11am - 3pm

Come and meet some Roman reenactors and learn about life in Roman Britain. Free event as part of Heritage Open Day!

Discover more: hampshireculture/museum-iron-age

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Diary Dates

September 2026

Tuesday 15 th September 2026	Openbox – Yr 6: WW2 Evacuees
Wednesday 16 th September – Monday 21 st September 2026	Harvest Festival Donations
Monday 21 st September 2026	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 22 nd September 2026	Tours for Year R 2027-2028
Wednesday 23 rd September 2026	Tours for Year R 2027-2028
Thursday 24 th September 2026	Tours for Year R 2027-2028
Tuesday 29 th September 2026	Tours for Year R 2027-2028
Wednesday 30 th September 2026	Tours for Year R 2027-2028
Wednesday 30 th September – Friday 2 nd October 2026	Year 4 Ufton Court Residential Trip

October 2026

Thursday 1 st October 2026	Tours for Year R 2027-2028
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	Year 6 Height and Weight
Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026	Half Term

November 2026

Tuesday 3 rd November 2026	Openbox – Year 5: Egyptians
Wednesday 4 th November 2026	Tour for Year 3 2027-2028
Thursday 5 th November 2026	Tour for Year 3 2027-2028
Thursday 5 th November 2026	Fraser Portraits Individual Photos
Monday 9 th November – Friday 13 th November 2026	No After School Clubs (Pick Club will run as normal)
Monday 9 th November 2026	Parents' Evening 3:30-6:30
Wednesday 11 th November 2026	Parents' Evening 3:30-6:30
Thursday 12 th November 2026	Openbox – Year 3: Early Man
Thursday 12 th November 2026	Year 5 Winchester Science Museum Trip
Friday 20 th November 2026	Jingle Dress Down Day
Friday 20 th November 2026	Year 1 Tree Planting
Monday 23 rd November 2026	Year 4 Tree Planting
Friday 27 th November 2026	Jingle

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December 2026

Wednesday 9 th December 2026	Year R Nativity
Thursday 10 th December 2026	Year R Nativity
Tuesday 15 th December 2026	Christmas Jumper & Lunch Day
Wednesday 16 th December 2026	Openbox Pantomime
Thursday 17 th December 2026	Christmas Disco Day
Friday 18 th December 2026	Children's Last Day of School for Christmas

January 2027

Monday 4 th January 2027	Children Back to School
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February 2027

Friday 5 th February 2027	Anti-Bullying Day
Monday 8 th February – Friday 12 th February 2027	Year 6 Fairthorne Manor Residential Trip
Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February 2027	Half Term
Monday 22 nd February 2027	INSET Day

March 2027

Wednesday 10 th March 2027	Year 1 Army Flying Museum Trip
Tuesday 23 rd March 2027	Year 1 Production 1:30pm to 3:00pm
Wednesday 24 th March 2027	Year 1 Production 1:30pm to 3:00pm
Thursday 25 th March 2027	Children's Last Day for Easter

April 2027

Monday 12 th April 2027	Children Back to School
Tuesday 20 th April 2027	Year 2 Titanic Trip
Friday 30 th April 2027	INSET Day

May 2027

Monday 10 th May 2027	KS2 SATs Week
Tuesday 11 th May 2027	Openbox – Year 4: Victorian Childhood

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June 2027

Monday 1 st June – Friday 7 th June 2027	Half Term
Monday 7 th June – Friday 18 th June 2027	Year 4 Multiplication Test
Monday 7 th June 2027	Openbox – Year R: Pirates
Tuesday 8 th June 2027	Openbox – Year 1: Moon Landing
Thursday 10 th June 2027	Fraser Portraits Class Photos
Thursday 10 th June 2027	New Year 3 Parent Transition Meeting
Monday 14 th June 2027	Phonics Screening Check Week
Friday 18 th June 2027	Sports Day and Family Picnic
Tuesday 29 th June 2027	Year 5 John Hanson Taster Morning

July 2027

Monday 5 th July – Friday 9 th July 2027	Arts Week
Friday 9 th July 2027	Arts Festival 2:00pm - 4:00pm
Monday 12 th July 2027	Balksbury's Got Talent
Tuesday 13 th July 2027	Year 2 Fun Day
Wednesday 14 th July 2027	Year 2 Graduation
Thursday 15 th July 2027	Year 6 Fun Day
Friday 16 th July 2027	Disco Day
Monday 19 th July 2027	Year 6 Graduation 9:15am – 10:00am
Monday 19 th July 2027	Children's Last Day of School
Tuesday 20 th July 2027	INSET Day
Wednesday 21 st July 2027	INSET Day

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