

September 25th 2026

NEWSLETTER

Wherwell Primary School

A message from our headteacher, Mrs Ovenden

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of our fourth week of term. The children have settled so well into their new classes and routines, and it has been lovely to see them becoming increasingly confident, independent and engaged in their learning.

There has been a real focus on perseverance and developing positive attitudes towards learning. We continue to encourage the children to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes and recognise that progress takes time and effort. It has been fantastic to see so many children demonstrating resilience when faced with something they find difficult and showing pride in what they can achieve.

Our Pupil Leaders will soon begin to make their mark around school. We now have children taking on responsibilities as School Councillors, Eco Champions, Playground Buddies, Librarians and House Captains, with our Year 6 prefects soon to be appointed. It is wonderful to see the children taking these roles seriously and already thinking about how they can make a positive contribution to our school community.

The term is already well underway and there is plenty to look forward to over the coming weeks. We have a busy and exciting year ahead, and I know that by working together as a school community, we can continue to provide the very best opportunities for all of our children.

Our priorities for this year include:

Wherwell Primary School Improvement Plan Summary **2026 – 2027** *Let's Love To Learn and Thrive Together*	**1) Maths**	**2) Writing**	**3) Non Core- Subject Leadership**
	➢ To ensure that all children develop increasingly secure and automatic recall of fundamental number facts including number bonds, subitising, counting patterns and multiplication and division facts. ➢ To continue to embed the Mastering number programme in Year R, 1 and 2 ➢ To increase the frequency, quality and accessibility of problem solving opportunities from Year R to Year 6 ensuring pupils develop the language, reasoning skills and confidence to identify, represent and solve increasingly complex mathematical problems.	➢ To develop pupils' vocabulary so that they can select and use increasingly precise and ambitious language when speaking and writing across the curriculum. ➢ To develop pupils' sentence level knowledge so that they write increasingly accurate, varied and well- constructed sentences across a range of writing purposes. ➢ To increase pupils' independence and stamina and confidence as writers, with a particular focus on accelerating the progress of vulnerable pupils and reducing the attainment gap.	➢ Ensure that assessment is used effectively to inform planning and teaching within all non core subjects. ➢ To develop pupils' subject specific vocabulary progressively from Year R to Year 6. ➢ To further enhance the quality of teaching within the non core subjects.

Book your place

I would like to invite you to join me for my first Headteacher Update on Thursday 1st October, from 8:50–9:20am, following morning drop-off, in the school hall. This will be an opportunity to share some of our key priorities for the year ahead, provide a little more insight into our plans for the school, and talk about how you can support at home.

If you would like to attend, please complete the Google Form to let us know.

Google Forms

Headteacher Updates
Thursday 1st October 2026
Tuesday 8th December 2026
Wednesday 10th February 2027
Wednesday 17th March 2027
Wednesday 26th May 2027

Lunch orders are to placed prior to 8.30am each morning. We have a special lunch this Thursday for Census day.



Be Allergy Aware

To support our pupils with allergies, we would ask that all parents support the following:

No nuts or nut products in school (including chocolate spreads, snacks etc)

Talk to your children about the importance of not sharing their food (lunches, snacks etc)

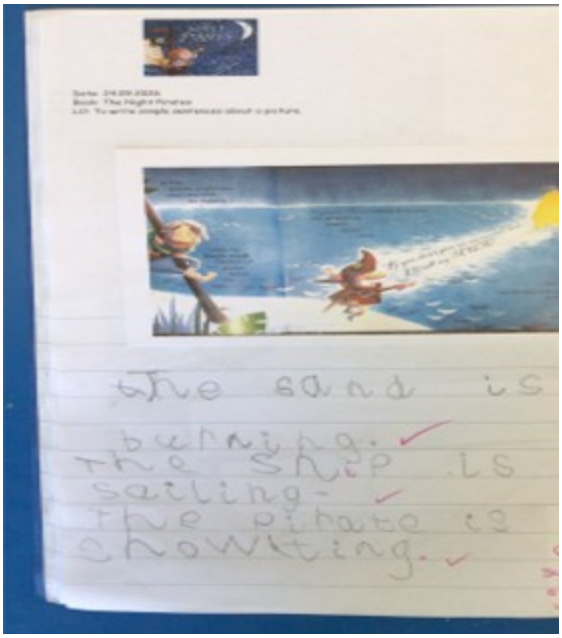
Update us if your child has any diagnosed allergy or is undergoing investigation for an allergy or food intolerance. This also applies to any packed lunches/snacks brought into school for school clubs, Woodpeckers and school trips.

If your child has been prescribed an inhaler and/or EpiPen, these must be dropped off to the school office and appropriate paperwork filed. These medications will only be used in the case of emergency.

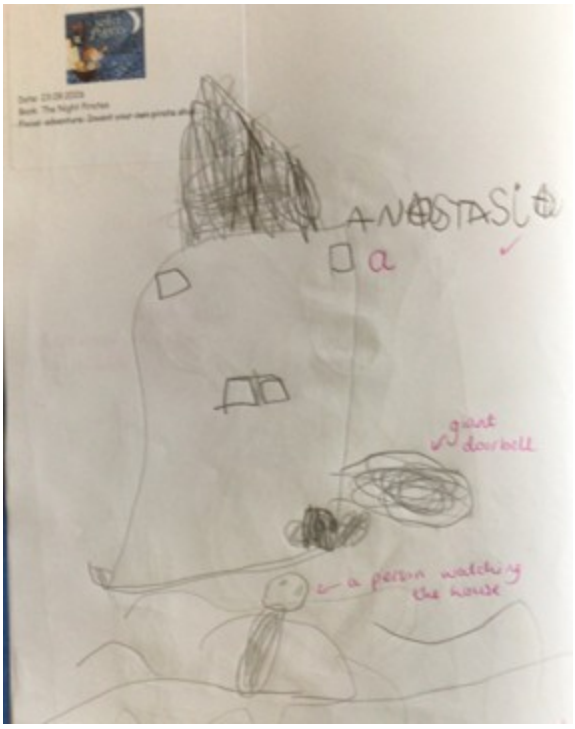


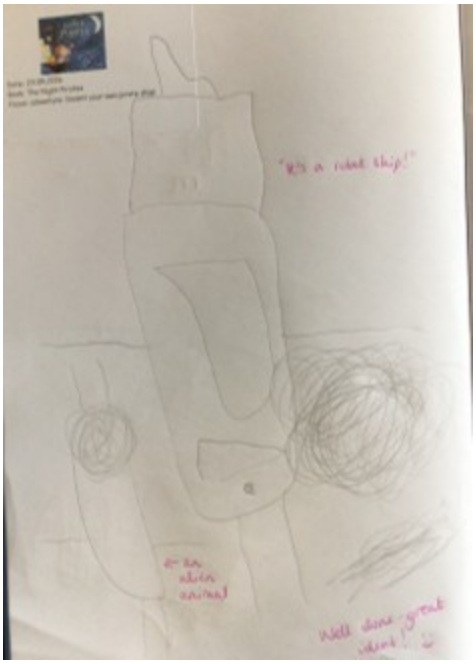
Robins

The Robins have settled in beautifully and are now busy enjoying their learning! It's been wonderful to see them enjoying Drawing Club, and the whole class is thoroughly enjoying the pirates-themed books. Year R have been impressing us with their creativity and drawing skills, while Year 1 have been writing some fantastic sentences and working on punctuation.



The sand is burning. ✓
The ship is sailing. ✓
The pirate is showering. ✓



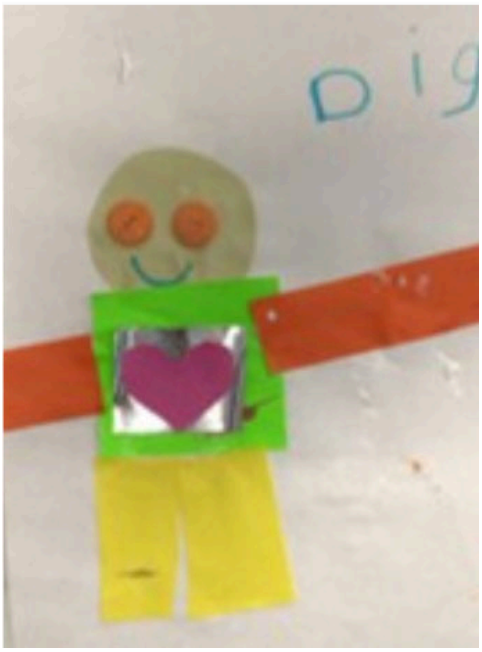


Mastering Number is also well underway, with Year R focusing on basic counting skills, and Year 1 exploring the number bonds of 5 through a range of representations.

In PSHE the Robins have met Boris the Robot and created some lovely 'Boris shapes' robots of their own.









Puffins

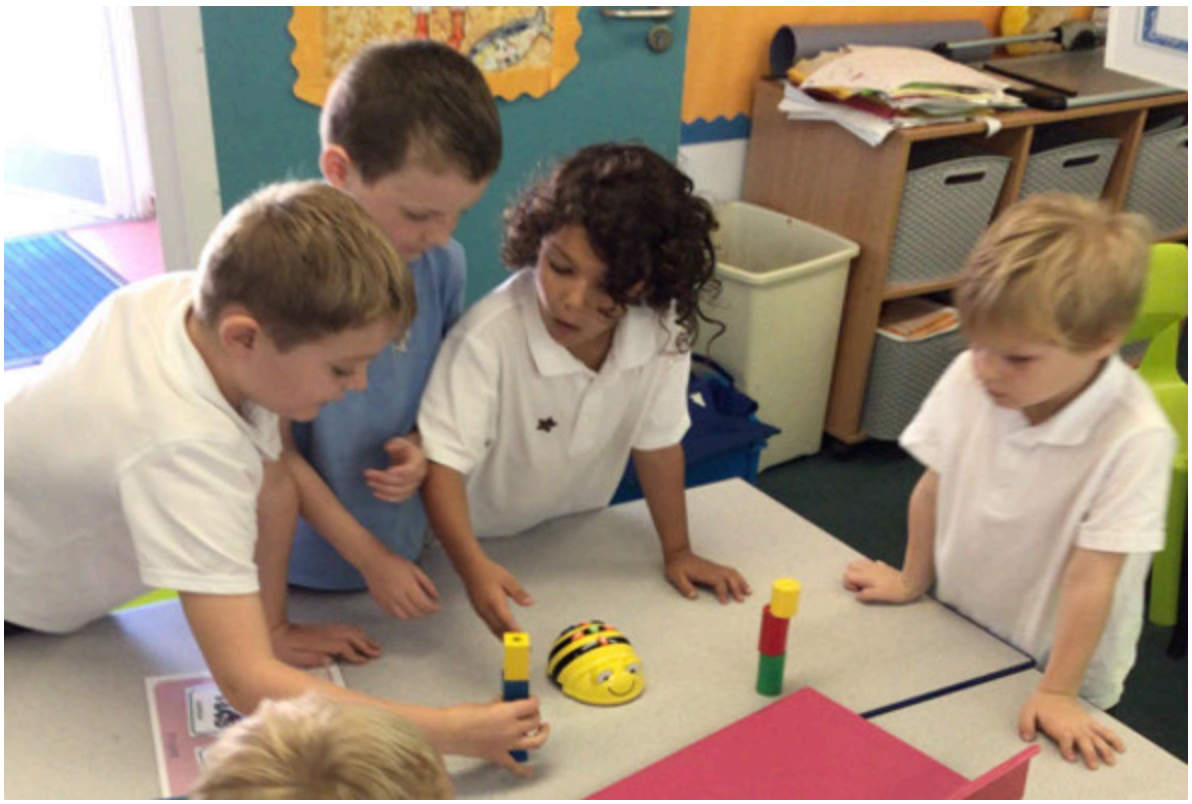
Puffins have been busy finding out more about Place Value during their maths sessions. They have been hands-on with the equipment such as bead strings and Numicon. We have been encouraging the children to 'make' the number so that they can see what it's made up of, this was particularly helpful when we were investigating teen numbers.





During our computing time we have been looking at the BeeBots, what each of the buttons mean, talking about what an algorithm is and looking at ways to fix an error in our instructions. Last week we got our BeeBots to turn around in a circle and navigate through a bridge of building blocks!

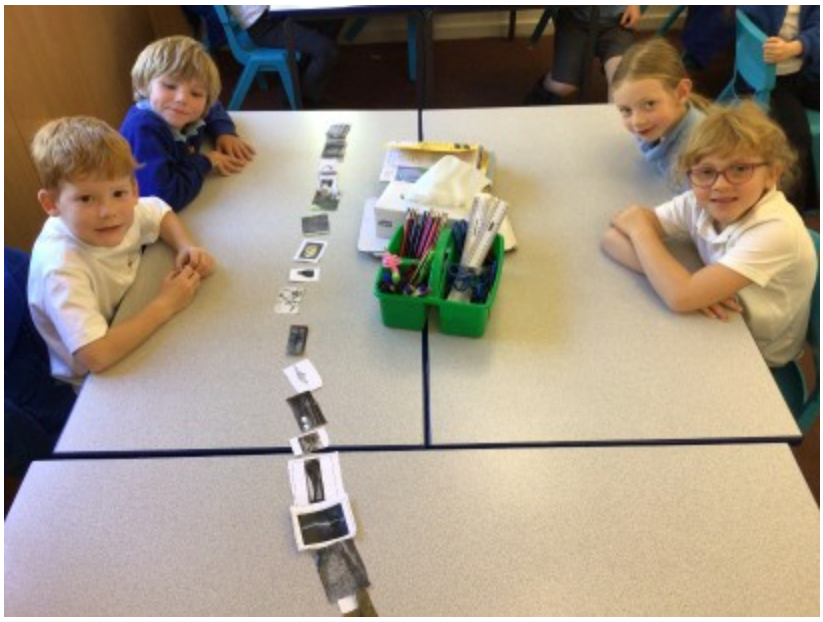






Kingfishers

Kingfishers are continuing to learn about Mary Anning and have enjoyed getting to know about her life and work. This week, we learnt all about the events that made her so famous as a palaeontologist.



In computing, Kingfishers had a wonderful time considering how digital devices help us. We decided that some devices help us in one way and others help us in lots of ways. Miss Upton set us a challenge to draw a picture in 5 minutes and then draw the same picture digitally in 5 minutes too! Here are our results.













Sparrowhawks

Sparrowhawks have had a fantastic time experimenting with Banksy-inspired stencil art, learning to use both the positive outlines and negative inverse spaces in their designs.









In science, the class has been investigating melting and discovered that significant amounts of heat aren’t always necessary to turn a solid into a liquid!









House Martins

This week, we built our own model Mayan settlements and used our bird's eye view to draw a map of them for a visitor. The children's creativity was brilliant!

We are looking forward to our Ancient Mayan drama workshop next week.

In outdoor PE this half term, House Martins are working on their orienteering skills, as part of our Outdoor Adventurous Activities unit. We have been learning to set a map and follow it effectively.







Dates for the diary

Autumn term dates for the diary	
Ancient Maya workshop in House Martins	Monday 28th September 2026
Census day	Thursday 1st October 2026 **special lunch menu see newsletter**
Headteacher update	Thursday 1st October 2026 8.50-9.20am
Mary Anning outreach in Kingfishers	Tuesday 6th October 2026 am
Sparrowhawks Art Gallery trip	Tuesday 13th October 2026
Harvest	Wednesday 14th October 2026 10.45am
King fisher Parent Share	Thursday 15th October 2026 2.50pm
Open morning for September 2027 Year R	Friday 16th October 2026 10.45am-12pm
Half term week	**26th October -1st November 2026**
Bonfire lunch menu	Thursday 5th November 2026 Menu to follow
Open morning for September 2027 Year R	Friday 6th November 2026 10.45am-12pm
Armistice Service	Wednesday 11th November 2026 11am
Individual photographs	Thursday 12th November 2026
Flu vaccinations Year R-6	Wednesday 18th November 2026 pm
House Martins Tree planting	Wednesday 25th November 2026
Last week of club (apart from football)	w/c 23rd November 2026
Kingfishers parents evening	Tuesday 1st December 2026
Whole School Safety Day	Wednesday 2nd December 2026
Parents evenings	Wednesday 2nd December 2026 3.30-7pm
Parents evenings	Thursday 3rd December 2026 3.30-5.30pm
Football club only	Friday 4th December 2026
Puffins and Kingfishers Nativity	Tuesday 8th December 2026 6pm
Headteacher update	Tuesday 8th December 2026 8.50-9.20am
Puffins and Kingfishers Nativity	Wednesday 9th December 2026 2pm
Christmas Jumper Day £1 for school charity	Thursday 10th December 2026
Christmas dinner	Tuesday 15th December 2026
Robins Nativity for parents	Wednesday 16th December 2026 2pm
Carol service at Wherwell Church	Thursday 17th December 2026 6pm
Last day of term	**Friday 18th December 2026**
Year 6 Bikeability	Thursday 14th January 2026
Year 6 Bikeability	Friday 15th January 2026
House Martins Sustainability trip	Tuesday 26th January 2026

Spread the word!



Both in and out of catchment welcome.

Sign up here

Starting school in September 2027



If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2027, they can start school in September 2027

Applications open for Hampshire residents on **1 November 2026**

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS **FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2027**
DON'T MISS IT!

BEST START IN LIFE

For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

What's happening in our wider community?



Contact: Lucinda Wright lucindawright@hotmail.com
or just come along to try a rehearsal
Free until October half term then £25 per half term

Highclere Castle

LITERARY FESTIVAL

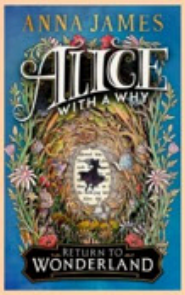
3RD & 4TH OCTOBER 2026

JOIN US FOR TALKS FROM MUCH-LOVED AUTHORS, TOUR 'THE REAL DOWNTON ABBEY' AND ENJOY INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

CHILDREN UNDER 16 GO FREE.
PRE BOOKING RECCOMENDED.

TAKE A PEAK AT SOME OF OUR LINE UP ...

ANNA JAMES



SUSIE DENT







DR HILARY JONES

HUGH BONNEVILLE

KATIE & KEVIN TSANG



AND MANY MORE.

Scan the code to book now:

For more information and tickets please visit our website.



Open Evening

Thursday 24th September 2026

Headteacher Talks at 6pm and 7pm (Main Hall)

All are welcome!
Even if you haven't booked, come along!

Meet our SLT, faculty, students and take a tour of our school!

School Tours

STARTING FRIDAY

Can't make our Open Evening? Book a school tour during the normal school day from:

Friday 25th September to Friday 23rd October 2026

Email to book your tour:
Transition@jhanson.hants.sch.uk



NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS*

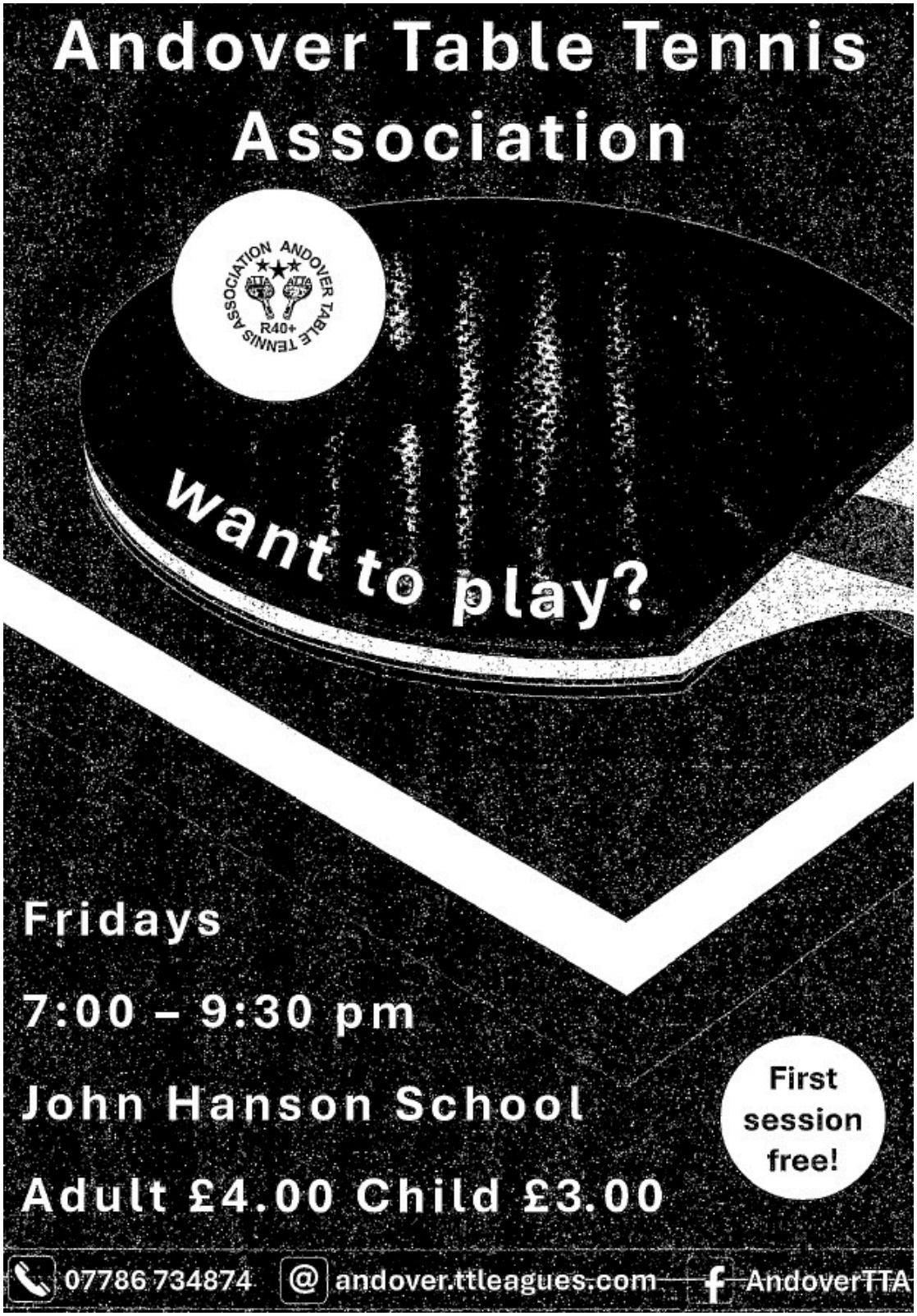
The Community Public Health Advisors from the Andover & Winchester Public Health Nursing Team(5-19yrs) are offering support with your primary aged child's health

Scan the QR code to book a 30-minute slot at Beech Hurst, Andover

- How do I manage challenging behaviour?
- Why does my child wet the bed?
- Where can I access support for my child's anxiety?
- How do I encourage healthy eating?

* These slots should not be used as a place to seek advice regarding specific medical conditions


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Free tuition
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Fully funded for one year
Henry Beaufort School
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Opportunities to work with and perform alongside the Winchester Area Schools Orchestra.
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ANDOVER TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
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