

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Year 6 Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to send you final details of the Balshaw's C.E. High School Summer School which is fast approaching. We have had an incredible amount of support from parents/carers for these days and are looking forward to meeting nearly every child in our new intake for some fantastic transition and learning activities.

If your child is joining us for the Summer School I know you will be eager to have the details for the days so that you can plan ahead accordingly. Please find attached some key information for you on the four days in School, and separately the day trip to the Anderton Centre.

If you are transporting your child to and from School by car, it is worth noting that the School does not allow drop offs/pick-ups using the School drive way. You should also avoid parking in the immediate vicinity of School as this causes significant disruption to traffic on a busy road, which also increases the risk of an accident happening involving our children. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please take the time to read through the following information pack and to complete the medical consent form for the Anderton Centre visit via the link in the Parent/Carer Consent section. Please also make a note of the equipment required on each of the days and ensure that they have everything that they need in order to participate fully. If you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [a.holland@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:a.holland@balshaws.org.uk).

All Balshaw's staff are looking forward to meeting your child either during the Summer School or on their first official day as a Year 7 at Balshaw's.

Yours sincerely,

A. Holland  
Summer School Organiser

**Balshaw's Summer School - Days 1, 2, 3 & 5 (In School Days)**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July & Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.**

When and where to arrive

Your child should arrive at the pedestrian gate into School nearest St Andrew's Church and Tesco at 8.30am for an 8.40am start. They will then be escorted by School Staff to the Main School Hall for the start of their day. Unfortunately, for the reasons explained above, the School Car Park is not open to parents for drop off/pick up's, so please walk your child to the gate.

What to wear

On **July 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>** your child should wear their full **primary school uniform**, including school shoes.

On **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August** your child should wear their full **Balshaw's uniform**.

Your child should also bring a pair of trainers separately for some light PE activity on the Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, and in case they wish to play sport at breaks/lunches on any of the other days.

Please ensure that all items of clothing and footwear are labelled with your child's name. As it currently stands your child will also need to wear a face mask in line with the School's policy with regards to Covid-19 safety.

Lunch

The school will provide a meal from the restaurant on all the days of the Summer School, however your child is advised to bring a water bottle (no energy drinks or soft drinks please) and snack for break times. Your child can of course bring a packed lunch if they wish, however they do have a great opportunity to sample what the restaurant has to offer free of charge on all days of Summer School.

Lunch will also be provided on August 30<sup>th</sup> if your child is attending the Anderton Centre.

Equipment

The school will provide most resources needed for the activities planned however your child may wish to bring their own basic stationary, pen, pencil, ruler, rubber etc. They should also ensure that they bring any personally administered medication such as inhalers. On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August your child will need to bring a set of **headphones** for use on the School computer. These should be plug in headphones with 3.5mm jacks, not USB or Bluetooth wireless as these are not compatible with the computers in school.

Absence

If your child has an unforeseen absence on any day of the Summer School please leave a voicemail message giving your child's name and the reasons for the absence on 01772 421009 prior to the start of School. If your child exhibits any Covid-19 symptoms please ensure you follow government guidelines with regards to isolation and testing. If your child tests positive for Covid-19 please inform the School at the earliest possible opportunity so that we can enact our track and trace protocols in line with our risk assessment. Children will be instructed to follow the Covid-19 safety measures in place in school to minimise the possibility of any transmission. Face masks will need to be worn by children throughout indoor lessons.

Activities

On the first three days of the Summer School our new Year 7s will get to sample a range of engaging lessons and get to know the school and some of the staff who teach here. Most importantly they will have a great opportunity to get to know one another and make some new friends with children from other primary schools which is a key part of our transition process and will help your child settle quickly.

The focus of the Summer School is to get to know each other, our staff and our school and to make new friends. There will also be a particular focus on boosting literacy skills using the book "Sky Dancer" by the author Gill Lewis, and lessons on these days will use the themes from the book of conservation and the natural environment.

Each tutor group will follow their own individual timetable, however an example of what their first three days at Balshaw's might comprise of can be found below.

Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> July
Getting know each other, staff & the School	PSHE	Science
	Technology	Presentation from "Sky Dancer" Author Gill Lewis
Literacy – "Sky Dancer" Chapter 1	Literacy	MFL
PE	History	Numeracy
Geography	Numeracy	Literacy

On Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August your child will undertake some baseline testing which will enable us to really understand at what point in their learning your child is starting from when they officially start in September, which will help us to pitch their learning at a level most appropriate for them as individuals right from the start. As mentioned previously **your child will need to bring their own headphones to use on this day**, as the tests are done online using computer audio. The aim of this day is to allow your child to get off to a flying start to life at Balshaw's from their official start date on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September onwards.

Catching Up

If your child is absent on any of the first 3 days of the Summer School then the Staff in School will help them to catch up and settle in on the days that they are in. However it would be helpful for your child if they are missing the first Literacy session on "Sky Dancer", which will take place on either the first or second day of the Summer School depending on your child's tutor group, to read the first chapter at home. A copy of this book for any child who we know in advance is unable to attend on this day will be provided to them via their Primary School to enable them to do this.

If your child is absent on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August then the tests they would have taken on this day will be arranged for them to catch up on in the first few weeks of School.

When and where to collect your child

Your child will leave via the same pedestrian gate they entered School in at 3.10pm where you will be able to collect them.

**Day 4 Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August (Bank Holiday Monday) Visit to Anderton Centre, Rivington**

*When and where to arrive at the start of the day*

Your child should arrive at the same pedestrian gate at the front of School as the other days, however they must arrive at the ***earlier time of 8.15am prompt***. **Unfortunately, due to the timed planning of the day we will be unable to hold the coach or delay our setting off time if your child does not arrive on time.**

What to wear/bring

The children are going to be outdoor for the duration of their visit to the Anderton Centre and should prepare for the changeable late August weather conditions at the time. The group will be engaging in some water based activities so will they will need to bring some additional garments including swimwear. The list of items below is what the Anderton Centre recommends each child brings with them for day visits.

***Day visits: (dependent on time of year)***

- Warm old clothing (tracksuit/jogging bottoms or walking trousers are ideal; don't recommend jeans)
  - Base layer/thermals (made from wool, polyester or polypropylene inner wicking fabrics; preferably **not cotton** – others are much faster drying)
  - Waterproof top and bottoms\*
  - Warm fleece type jacket\*
  - Sunhat and sun cream (dependant on time of year)
  - Mosquito repellent\*
  - Strong shoes / boots
  - Complete change of clothing
  - Drinks for the day
  - Any personal medication *e.g.* inhalers
- \*dependent on weather conditions

***Additional kit for water activities:***

- Swimming costume / shorts and t-shirt
- Towel
- Spare jumper for getting wet (fleece if possible)
- Pumps or old trainers you don't mind getting wet
- Plastic bags for wet clothing
- Warm and dry change of clothes including spare dry pair of shoes/trainers

Your child will also need to ensure that they bring a face mask to be worn on the coach travelling to and from the venue.

### Activities

The group will take part in fun team building and problem solving activities during the Anderton Centre visit. These may include Raft Building, Canoeing, Paddle Boarding, Sailing, Kayaking, Climbing, Bush Craft, Abseiling, Orienteering, Archery, Low Ropes and Hill Walking. This will be fully supervised by the professional instructors provided by the Anderton Centre as well as our own staff at Balshaw's. Your child may be involved in some water-based activities and **all children must wear** a full buoyancy aid. There is no requirement to be a swimmer to join in with these activities.

### Parent/Carer Consent

As with any educational visit parent/carer consent **must** be obtained prior to your child being permitted to join in on the day. You can find a link to the consent form below. Please ensure that you complete all the questions fully to prevent your child from missing out on this great opportunity.

<https://forms.office.com/r/SfQYxPij3E>

### **This form must be completed fully in order for your child to attend.**

*In order for your child to participate in the Anderton Centre visit the medical information you provide in the form will need to be shared with the Anderton Centre who are leading the activities on the day, so that they are able to support any specific medical needs your child may have. If you do not wish for this information to be shared please indicate this on the form, but please be aware that this could potentially preclude your child from being able to participate in the visit to the Centre.*

### Lunch

The Anderton Centre is providing a Packed Lunch (Sandwich, fruit, crisps, cake and a drink), however your child can of course bring a packed lunch prepared by you at home if they wish or they can bring additional snacks/drinks (please ensure no sugary snacks/sweets or fizzy/energy drinks).

### Absence

If your child is unwell on the day of the Anderton Centre trip and is unable to join us please email me personally on [a.holland@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:a.holland@balshaws.org.uk) at the earliest opportunity as it may not be possible to make contact via phone due to the early departure. If your child is taken ill whilst at the Anderton Centre we will contact you and a member of staff will transport your child back to Balshaw's where you will be asked to collect him/her.

### When and where to collect your child at the end of the day

The trip will be departing from the Anderton Centre and hope to be arriving back at Balshaw's for around 4.30pm depending on traffic. You will be able to collect your child directly as they exit the coach on Church Road.

We hope we have covered all questions you may have about our Summer School in the information provided. If not please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [a.holland@balshaws.org.uk](mailto:a.holland@balshaws.org.uk). Thank you and we look forward to meeting you and your child over Summer School.

June 18<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you have received a copy of the latest letter from school outlining which House your child has been allocated to. Our Pastoral staff are currently meeting with Year 6 staff to find out more information about your child this term.

As a continued part of our admissions and enrolment process we are writing to kindly ask you to provide a copy of your child's birth certificate during the days of Summer School to make it easier for you to pop into the school building to facilitate this. Please could you bring a copy of his/her birth certificate to school on the day relevant to the House your child has been placed in – outlined below. As part of our admissions process we will use this information to evidence your child's age, his/her identity and parental responsibility for both parents.

On arrival please go to the main school reception where you will be given further information. We will take a copy of the certificate and hold it on your child's school file for their time at Balshaw's. Please bring the original certificate and not a photocopy. This process should take no longer than 5 minutes and our staff will be on hand to ensure it is carried out swiftly. The day and time we will ask you to come in will be set to minimise waiting times and promote social distancing in line with our Covid-19 safety measures. When bringing the birth certificates in you may use the tennis court car park at the entrance to school nearest St Andrew's Church and Tesco. Please do not use the School Car Park on any other days as this increases the risk to children walking into School. If you are transporting your child to and from School by car, it is worth noting that the School does not allow drop offs/pick-ups using the School drive way. You should also avoid parking in the immediate vicinity of School as this causes significant disruption to traffic on a busy road, which also increases the risk of an accident happening involving our children. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**Clayton House students** - Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 – 8:30am- 2:50pm

**Cuerden House students** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 - 8:30am- 2:50pm

**Farington House students** - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 – 8:30am- 2:50pm

**Worden House students** – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 - 8:30am- 2:50pm

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Haycocks  
Headteacher