The Forest Federation

**"Small enough to care, large enough to inspire.
Valuing all God's children"**

Parent update - October 2026

Contents

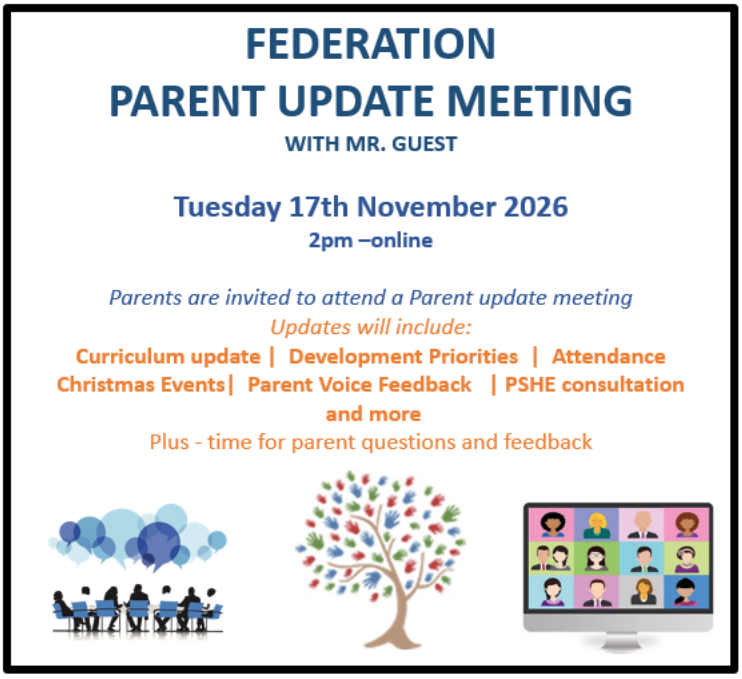
MR. GUEST'S MESSAGE 2
PARENT UPDATE MEETING 2
PARENTS' EVENINGS 3
GREAT PLACE FOR A HALF TERM WALK 3
FOREST FEDERATION - HALF TERM CHALLENGE – CATCH A FALLING LEAF 4
CLASS 1 – STOKE BRUERNE SUNFLOWERS 5
STOKE BRUERNE – VIKINGS 5
STOKE BRUERNE – TOWCESTRIANS RUGBY 6
TIFFIELD - BRASS WORKSHOP 6
TIFFIELD – AMAZING SUSPENSE WRITING 7
YARDLEY GOBION – POLICE VISIT 8
GAYTON – SHOCKING EVENTS 9
GAYTON – NSPCC VISIT 10
WHITTLEBURY – TOYS FROM THE PAST 10
FOREST SCHOOL 11
CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES 12
MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNINGS 13
HARVEST COLLECTION 14
HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES 14
PSHE INFORMATION 15
LEAVE IN TERM TIME 16
OPERATION ENCOMPASS 16
RUGBY SESSIONS FOR U6, U7, U8 AND U9 AGE GROUPS 17
RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 18
YEAR 7 APPLICATIONS 20
SEND DROP-IN SESSIONS IN WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 21
NORTHAMPTON CHILDREN'S TRUST – OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 21
TARGET - ONLINE SAFETY SESSION FOR PARENTS/CARERS 21
USEFUL LINKS FOR PARENTS 23

Mr. Guest's message

What a fantastic first term! There has been so much going on across the federation schools. I have seen the children enjoying their time in school and being so engaged in their learning. Forest school has been awesome, and children are gaining so much confidence and wider opportunities during each visit. We have also had our wonderful Harvest services where the children gave fabulous performances and delivery of scripts, pledges, poems, and prayers. Plus, the first set of Celebration assemblies enabled children to showcase their work and celebrate values and achievements of some of the children.

This edition has a few items from each of the Federation schools along with lots of other key news and information – including a half term challenge for the children (and grown-ups too!).

Parent update meeting



I would like to invite you all to the first of my parent update meetings. These will take place online and enable me to share information about the Federation and get your views and ideas about different areas of school life.

The first of these will take place on Tuesday 17th November, 2pm.

You will receive a Parent Mail message nearer the time with the link for the meeting.

I hope you can join us.

Parents' Evenings

It was lovely catching up with so many parents over the last few weeks at Parents' evening. We hope you found the hand-outs useful to support your child's learning.

Thank you for all those who have already completed the parent questionnaire – we really appreciate your feedback which helps us understand what we are doing well and ideas for next steps.

If you have not completed it yet we kindly ask that you do this over the coming days so we can begin analysing the results after half term.

Many thanks



Great place for a Half term walk

A Northamptonshire woodland has been named among the UK's top 20 most colourful places to enjoy an autumn walk.



"Everdon Stubbs, near Daventry, has secured 13th place in a national ranking of woodlands offering some of the best displays of autumn colours.

Everdon Stubbs was the only Northamptonshire woodland to feature in the top 20, making it a destination for residents hoping to enjoy the changing colours of the season."

https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/people/beautiful-northamptonshire-woodland-ranked-among-top-20-in-uk-to-enjoy-autumn-colours-9295791

This would be a great place to complete the half term Federation Challenge – Catch a falling leaf (see next page).

Forest Federation - Half Term Challenge – Catch a falling leaf

It's that time of the year where we can try one of my favourite activities: **CATCH A FALLING LEAF.**

This sounds simple but it can 'leaf' you feeling frustrated.

Your challenge, should you wish to accept it, is to **get a video** of you **catching a falling leaf** and then send it to Mr. Guest.

1. **Capture a video** of you *catching a falling leaf*
2. **Crop the video** to show just the part where you are *chasing and catching* the leaf *(a few seconds)*
3. **Email the video** to Mr. Guest: s.guest@forestfederation.co.uk
    - Please put the **subject** as: ***Catch a falling leaf***
    - Please put your **child's full name**, **school** and **class** in the subject or the body of the email.

If we have enough videos, I will try to put them together in a short video to share with you after half term.



Class 1 – Stoke Bruerne Sunflowers



Look at these amazing sunflowers grown by class 1 at Stoke Bruerne.

The children worked so hard growing these and then looking after them.

WOW!

Stoke Bruerne – Vikings

In class 3, the children have been finding out about the Viking achievements. The children now know that the Vikings were raiders, traders, settlers and artisans.

Here is an example of a piece of work from Class 3.



Stoke Bruerne – Towcestrians Rugby



Towcestrians Rugby Club visited Class 3 to teach the children tag rugby. The children learnt important skills such as passing, teamwork, communication and running with the ball. Everyone had great fun developing their skills and working together while learning about the exciting game of rugby!

Tiffield - Brass Workshop

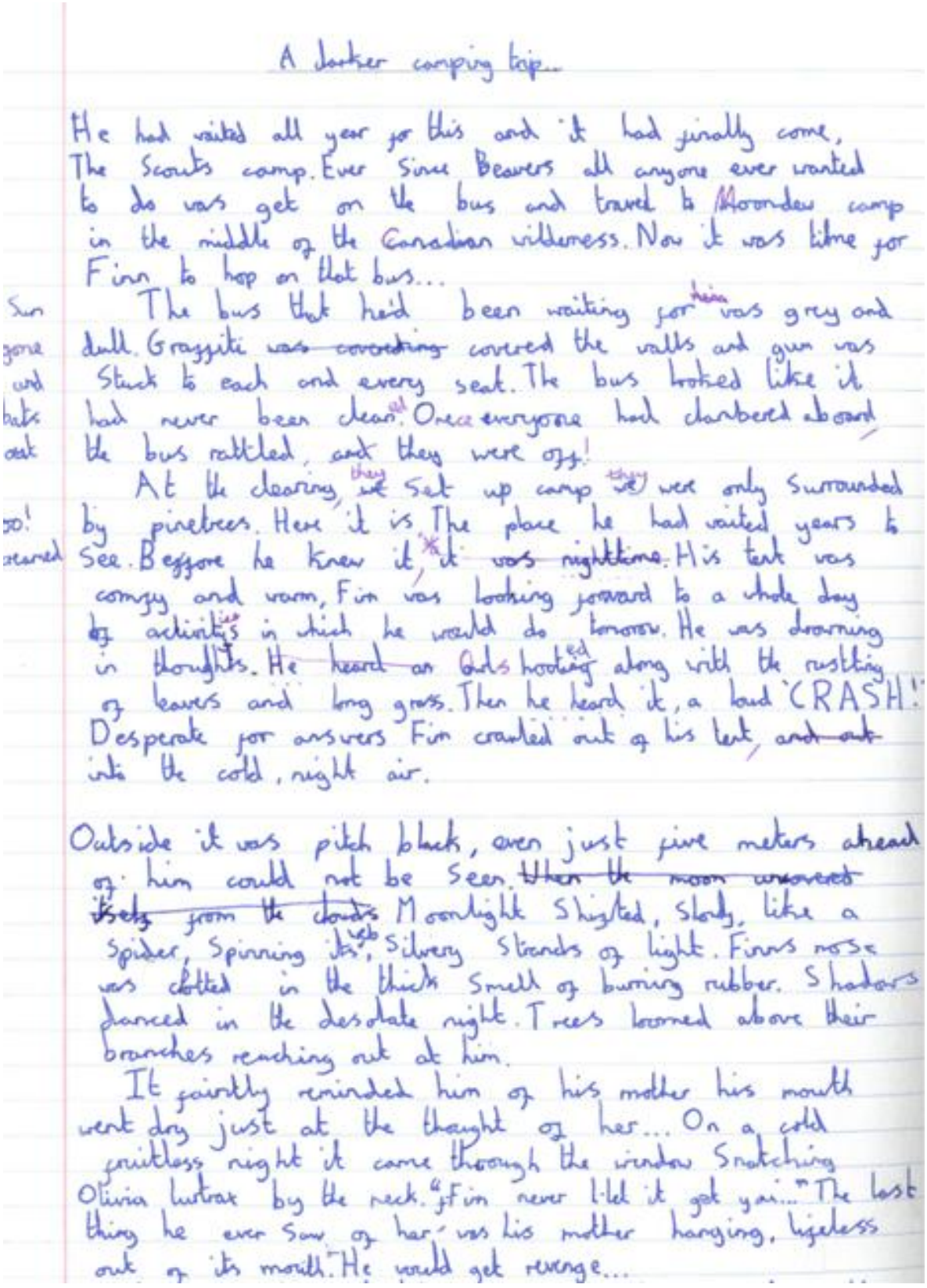
Children at Tiffield had a fantastic Brass workshop from Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) which the children really enjoyed.





Tiffield – Amazing Suspense Writing

Amazing suspense writing process by Kit in Year 6. You can see how he has made changes as he has gone along by editing and improving his work. Great work!



A darker camping trip...

He had waited all year for this and it had finally come, The Scouts camp. Ever since Beavers all anyone ever wanted to do was get on the bus and travel to Moondew camp in the middle of the Canadian wilderness. Now it was time for Finn to hop on that bus...

The bus that he'd been waiting for was grey and dull. Graffiti ~~was covering~~ covered the walls and gum was stuck to each and every seat. The bus looked like it had never been clean. Once everyone had clambered aboard the bus rattled, and they were off!

At the clearing they set up camp they were only surrounded by pinetrees. Here it is. The place he had waited years to see. Before he knew it, it ~~was nighttime~~. His tent was comfy and warm, Finn was looking forward to a whole day of activities in which he would do tomorrow. He was dreaming in thoughts. He heard an Owls hooting along with the rustling of leaves and long grass. Then he heard it, a loud 'CRASH!' Desperate for answers Finn crawled out of his tent, ~~and out~~ into the cold, night air.

Outside it was pitch black, even just five meters ahead of him could not be seen. ~~When the moon uncovered itself from the clouds~~ Moonlight shifted, slowly, like a spider, spinning its web, silvery strands of light. Finns nose was clotted in the thick smell of burning rubber. Shadows danced in the desolate night. Trees loomed above their branches reaching out at him.

It faintly reminded him of his mother his mouth went dry just at the thought of her... On a cold fruitless night it came through the window Snatching Olivia Watson by the neck. "Finn never lied it got you..." The last thing he ever saw of her was his mother hanging, lifeless out of its mouth. He would get revenge...

Yardley Gobion – Police visit

Class 1 had a wonderful time learning about the work of the police and how the Police help people. The children got to explore the police car and put the flashing lights on.

The Police also delivered a Blue Butterfly assembly to the whole school.



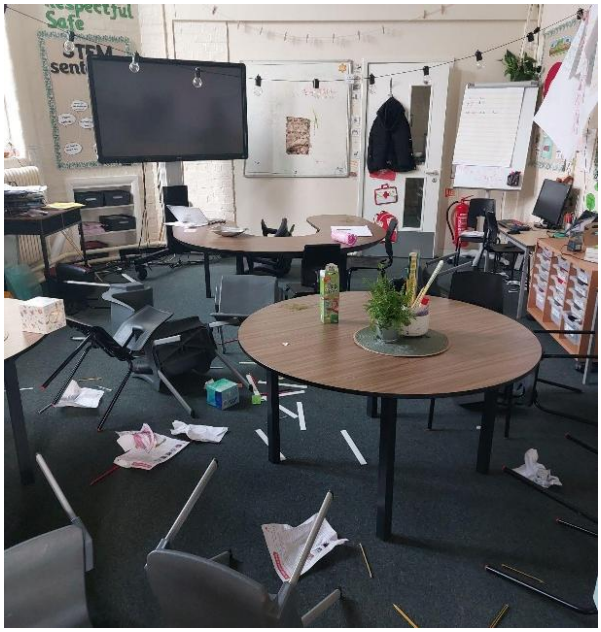








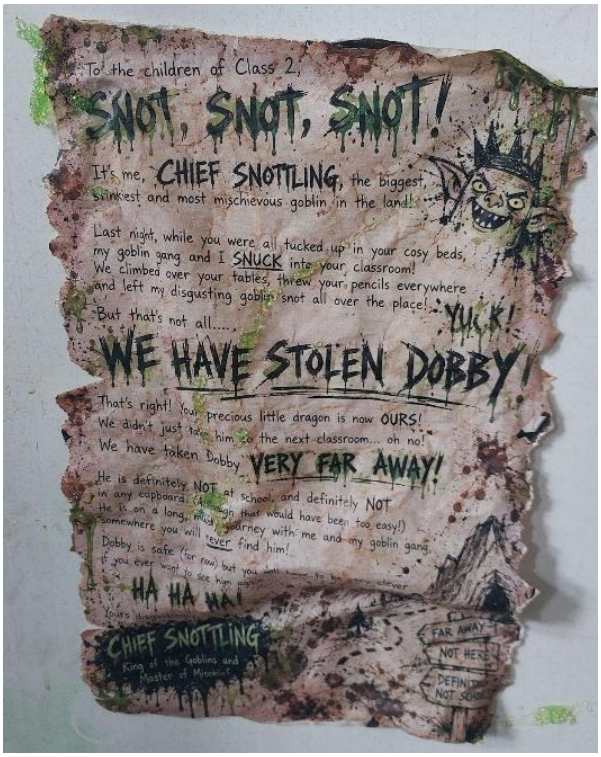
Gayton – Shocking events



Class 2 had a shocking robbery of their beloved classroom dragon, Dobby! Mrs Slack forgot to lock the classroom doors allowing Chief Snotting and his snotty gang to sneak in and steal him! 😱 Children set off on a mission to find Dobby, following a series of clues until they finally discovered him in the Pocket Park, absolutely COVERED in snot! 🤢 YUCK!

Once they had rescued Dobby (and recovered from the shock!), they returned to the classroom and had a go at writing their own news reports about the terrible crime. 📰 This exciting adventure marks the beginning of their next English unit, where they will be exploring how to write their very own news reports.

What a way to kick-start their learning! 😂





Gayton – NSPCC visit



Year 2 had a special visitor come in to talk about the NSPCC and the important work they do to help keep children safe. The children enjoyed learning more about the charity and how they help children.

Whittlebury – Toys from the past



Class 1 had a wonderful time welcoming a visitor into class. She talked about the toys she played with when she was a child. The children loved exploring how some toys have changed over time and some are still the same.



Forest School

Children across the federation have enjoyed visiting our Forest School site at Yardley Gobion – one group even found a toad!








Celebration Assemblies

It has been wonderful to celebrate the children's achievements and demonstration of the school and Christian values as part of the end of Term 1 celebration assemblies.

We have had everything from fabulous writing, design technology doodlers, performance poetry, live Stone Age art demonstrations, story map reciting and so much more.

The Term 1 Christian value for this term has been Generosity and I have been so impressed with the children's generosity of spirit. This has been so evident to me through their warm welcome as a new member of staff but also the day to day generosity with caring for other pupils in the schools.

Term 2 value is Compassion and we look forward to seeing how this can be shown.



MacMillan Coffee mornings

Thank you for all your support for the coffee mornings.



Across the federation we have raised

over £850.

Thank you for your generosity in donations of cakes and money.

Here are a few photos from around the Federation.









Harvest Collection



A huge thank you for your generosity in donating items for McCarthy-Dixon.

Below is a photo of just some of the donations.

Many thanks



Harvest Festival Services

WOW – What an absolute delight the harvest services have been.

A huge thank you to the children for their performances, readings, prayers, and songs. Thank you to all the families for joining us for the services.



PSHE Information

At the Forest Federation we teach Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education lessons using a published scheme of work from a company called Kapow.

Kapow specialises in creating curriculum resources for primary schools, supporting the teaching of specialist subject areas and helping schools deliver engaging, well-structured lessons that fulfil statutory requirements.

You can find more information from Kapow here:
https://www.kapowprimary.com/subjects/rse-pshe/curriculum/rse-pshe-parent-information/

It is through our PSHE scheme that we also cover the updated statutory requirements for **Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education. You can see the guidance here:**
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education

The relationships statutory content includes:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful, kind relationships
- Online safety and awareness

At the Forest Federation we cover the Sex Education aspect through the national curriculum for science which includes subject content in related areas, such as the main external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. Human reproduction is covered in Year 6 as part of the science curriculum - this is in line with factual description of conception in the science curriculum. Before this is taught to Year 6 – we will share further information with parents.

If anyone has any questions about or PSHE/ RSE curriculum – please get in touch.

Leave in Term Time

A reminder about leave in term time.

Leave for pupils can only be authorised for exceptional circumstances. Please ensure you discuss any leave requests with the school.

Holidays in Term Time

Please remember that Department for Education guidance means that we are not able to authorise holidays in term time. Please avoid booking these.

Operation Encompass

https://www.operationencompass.org/

Operation Encompass is the reporting of police attended domestic abuse incidents to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, where there are children in the home.

Operation Encompass will ensure that the designated safeguarding lead, (DSL) in each school is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

In every force. In every school. For every child.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this is extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Rugby Sessions for U6, U7, U8 and U9 age groups

Northampton's Mens Own RFC are looking to restart their Minis and Junior section, starting with their U6, U7, U8 and U9 age groups for school aged children in Reception to Year 4.

The club are looking to relaunch sessions starting from Sunday 1st November, 10am – 12pm.

If you think your son/daughter may be interested in giving rugby a 'try' at Men's Own, please contact joinus@mensownrfc.co.uk for more information. No experience is necessary.



Reception Admissions for September 2027

If you are looking to apply for a reception place for September 2027, we have our next set of opportunities for parents and children to visit our schools. **PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION FAR AND WIDE to help ensure our pupil numbers for next year.**

If you would like to book onto one of the meetings, please complete the online booking form.

- **Gayton CE Primary:** Monday 23rd November, 9.15am
- **Stoke Bruerne CE Primary:** Thursday 26th November, 9.15am
- **Tiffield CE Primary:** Tuesday 24th November, 9.15am
- **Whittlebury CE Primary:** Wednesday 25th November, 9.15am
- **Yardley Gobion CE Primary:** Monday 30th November, 9.15am

For those not able to attend one of these face-to-face meetings, there is also an online meeting taking place on Tuesday 10th November, 5pm – please book via the admissions page on the Federation website.

Applications for Reception 2027 are now open. Apply via the West Northants website:

https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/primary-school-places/apply-primary-school-place

The Federation admissions page has more details:

The Forest CE Federation - Admissions

Please share this admissions information with anyone you know and across your networks.

The Forest Federation

'Small enough to care - Large enough to inspire
Valuing All God's children'

"Parents are unanimous in their appreciation of the education and care their children receive."
Ofsted March 2026

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

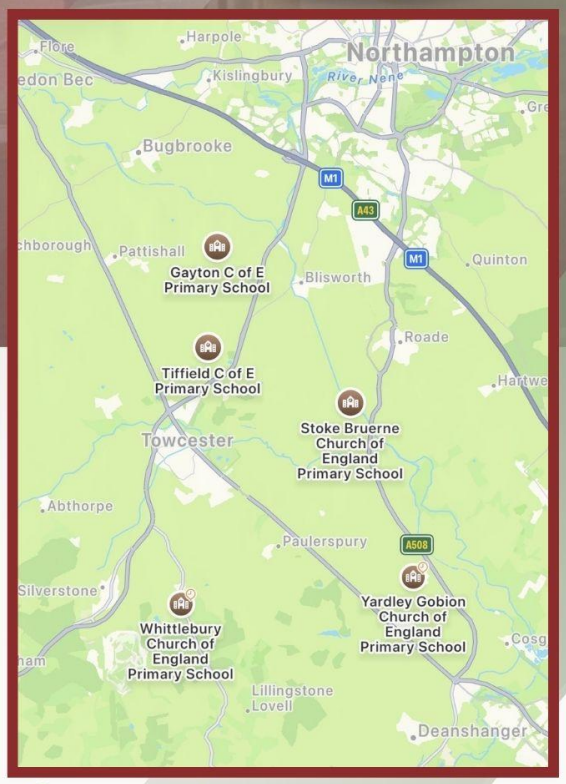


Places available for September
Apply for a Reception place
Contact us for information or a visit

OUR FEDERATION

SCAN ME
Federation Website

- 5 rural primary schools
- High quality provision
- Excellent curriculum
- Music opportunities
- Sports opportunities
- Forest School
- Flexi-School options
- Shared expertise



CONTACT US

THE FOREST CE FEDERATION	
STOKE BRUERNE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	01604 862872
GAYTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	01604 858749
TIFFIELD VA PRIMARY SCHOOL	01327 350325
WHITTLEBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	01327 857700
YARDLEY GOBION COF E PRIMARY	01908 542261

www.forestfederation.co.uk

Year 7 Applications

The application portal is now live for parents/carers to submit their school preferences for Year 7 places for September 2027.
www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions.

Closing date for parents to apply

Midnight on 31st October 2026

- National Offer Day – 1st March 2027

Any application forms received by School Admissions *after* 31 October will be considered as late and won't be processed until April 2027 onwards.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to apply online and read the online prospectus - *Applying for a Secondary School Place for 2027-28.* This provides detailed information on schools and the application process.



SEND Drop-in sessions in West Northamptonshire

The **Inclusion and Intervention Support Team (IIST)** are a team working at West Northamptonshire Council. They offer bookable drop-in sessions for parents and carers to discuss concerns around your child's special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and offer strategies and advice to support parents/carers. These are 45-minute, in-person or virtual sessions via MS Teams.

Visit their booking page for dates and to book:

SEND Drop-in sessions in West Northamptonshire Booking Page

Northampton Children's Trust – October Newsletter

Here is a link to the Children's Trust **Stay Connected newsletter**. This newsletter focuses on all the amazing events, clubs and groups that families, children and young people can access across the county that are free or affordable to attend.

LINK: West Northamptonshire Stay Connected October 2026

Target - online safety session for Parents/Carers

This is open to any families living in or who have children/young people accessing education in Northamptonshire

Our introductory parent/carer workshop aims to empower parents/carers, or the professionals working with them, to support their children and young people in navigating the online world. This includes understanding risks of being online, based on latest research, social media, laws and legislations, AI technology and parental controls.

We will also cover the upcoming law changes and the potential impact it could pose.

Monday, November 9 • 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Online Safety Session for SEN Parents/Carers Tickets, Monday, November 9 • 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM GMT | Eventbrite

TARGET

Targeting
And
Reducing
Grooming,
Exploitation and
Trading of children
and young people online

The TARGET project works with children and young people aged 8-25 years old to support with online safety, including:

- Online exploitation
- Social media
- How to keep yourself safe online
- Grooming
- Law and legislation
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Gaming
- Wellbeing and any other concerns the young person might have

Support we offer:

One-to-one support sessions – up to six weekly sessions

Class workshops

Group work sessions – up to 10 students per group for 4 weekly sessions

Assemblies – from year 5 onwards.

TARGET Champions – peer mentoring groups, teaching young people the skills they need to support others.

For more information or to make a referral contact us on:

referrals@servicesix.co.uk

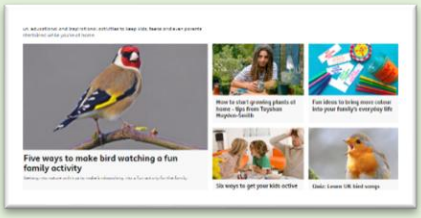
01933 277520

Service Six

Useful Links for Parents

	BBC Bitesize Lots of links to learning and skills http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary/
	Oak National Academy A huge range of lessons, resources and subjects Oak National Academy

PARENTING AND HEALTH SUPPORT

	NHS Advice and guidance **The place for trusted NHS advice and guidance to help you have a healthy and happy baby during pregnancy, birth and parenthood.**
https://www.nhs.uk/start-for-life/early-learning-development/	
	**BBC Wellbeing site** – video and help for parents own mental health and that of their children
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/groups/cw9v6l8d0q6t	
	**BBC bitesize parents** Tips, advice and activity ideas for being a parent
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/parents	