



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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15th September 2023

"Today is all you have right now – so just take it all in for everything it is."

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a difference a week makes! This time last week, we were sweltering in heat of 30°C+, and this week we're wrapping ourselves up in winter wear! That's the British weather for you!

We have also been shaken and saddened as a community to hear of the passing of a former pupil in a road traffic accident this week. Thank you to all those who have passed on messages of condolence, which I will be sure to pass on to the family. To reiterate again, should any of our children see or hear anything related to this tragic incident, within the community or wider media, or be affected by this sad news in anyway, please reach out to us because we have a wide range of resources at our fingertips and support available that we can provide. Our deepest sympathies go out to the family, and their friends, and our thoughts remain with them at this very tragic and sad time.



Thank you to everyone who was able to come to our 'Meet the Teacher' event on Wednesday, which will have provided you with a brief overview of the learning and expectations for the year. If you were unable to attend and would like to know more about the curriculum in your child's year group, please visit either the [class pages](#) on our school website where the teacher's presentations will be available for you to view, or the individual subject [curriculum](#) pages.

Please keep up to date with all that is going on in school through X (Twitter), the weekly newsletter and the school website. Could we also ask that you ensure your contact details are kept up to date with us? We should have at least two named contacts in case of an emergency at school. Any problems with any of these, please contact the ladies in the office who will be more than happy to help you.

Since the start of the week, the school has been a hive of activity. Forest School has begun for Year 2, a very productive PFA meeting was held, and extra-curricular clubs will resume next week. Please look out for the link to these to ensure you sign your child/ren up for their desired activities.

Whatever it is you are planning on doing this weekend, enjoy! We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

PFA News!

The first PFA meeting of the year was held on Monday! Jo Latham and Charlotte Hayes were elected as joint Chair, Ian Pullen as Treasurer and Martin Latham as Secretary. A series of fundraisers have been planned and the dates have been added to the calendar at the end of the newsletter. For your reference, we are looking forward to:

- **Halloween Disco – Friday 13 October 2023**
- **Christmas Market – Friday 1 December 2023**
- **Valentine's Disco – Thursday 8 February 2024**

- **Easter Bingo – Friday 18 March 2024**
- **Summer Fair – Friday 21 June 2024**

Further details will follow, as and when each fundraiser gets a little closer, so please keep checking the newsletter for further information. Please add these dates to your diary for now though!

The PFA are keen for more volunteers to come forward and help support our fundraising events. They have prepared a short letter below to tell you a little more about their work and how you can get involved...

YOUR PFA NEEDS YOU!



Shobnall PFA are a group of parents who organise and put on different events throughout the school year for the children and their families to raise vital funds for the school. These events include, school discos, Christmas Market, film nights, Easter Bingo and much more. All the money raised from these events is put straight back into the school to enhance the children's learning and wellbeing. Recent purchases from money raised by PFA events include new books for the school library and the trim trail apparatus on both the KS1 and 2 play areas. This year the PFA have some new projects to raise money for: we will be looking to raise money to allow the school to purchase several additional iPads for the children's use, update the lighting and sound equipment in the hall for school productions and also to create our own school allotment!

With this in mind, we need your help, the PFA are desperate for more volunteers to help out on events. We appreciate not everybody can commit to being on the "PFA Committee" and attend meetings etc. We are looking at trying a different approach and setting up a volunteers group, this would work in the following way:

- *The main PFA Committee will continue to plan and arrange events throughout the year, they would then put a message onto the volunteers WhatsApp group stating what event was coming up, how many volunteers are required and the date and times they are needed.*
- *If you were then available, you would simply respond to the message.*
- *If you were unavailable for that event, no problem.*
- *Even if you could only volunteer for one event a year for a couple of hours it would be a massive help to the PFA and hugely appreciated.*

So, if you would like to put your name forward to be on the volunteers group please drop your details into the school office and they will pass them onto the PFA who will create the WhatsApp group.

*Thanks, in advance!
Your support will be hugely appreciated!
We look forward to hearing from you!*

Shobnall PFA



Open Evening – Wednesday 15 November 2023, 4.30pm – 6.00pm

We would like to formally invite you to our forthcoming **Open Evening** on **Wednesday 15 November, 4.30pm to 6.00pm**. The admissions window opens for places in our Reception and Nursery classes in November, so as well as welcoming potential new parents to look round our school, this is also a great opportunity for our existing parents to visit too and see some of the wonderful things that are happening!

So, please join us as we showcase our school, our vision, our values, our philosophy and our approaches. You will meet our staff and our children and get to see first-hand our work on the curriculum. We look forward to seeing you there!



Year 7 Secondary School Applications

The application window for a September 2024 start at secondary or high school is still open. Parents can apply online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions. As in previous years, the local authority is no longer providing paper copies of the 'Information to Parents' booklet. Parents are able to access this booklet on their [website](#). Deadline for applications is **31 October 2023**.



Parent Volunteers!

We would love to welcome some parent volunteers into school to help support our pupils with their learning! Initially, we are hoping to encourage volunteers to come into school and help pupils with their reading as reading regularly to an adult has been shown to significantly increase the rate of progress that children can make. For safeguarding, we would need to ensure that all volunteers have an enhanced DBS check, which school would arrange should anyone wish to help. Please contact Mrs Foster in the school office by email at shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk if you are interested in volunteering.

Alternatively, you can catch her on the gates in the morning if you would like to express your interest in person. Many thanks and we look forward to hearing from you.

Attendance

We are very pleased with the continuing trend to attendance that we have seen! Thank you!

As you know, we are very keen as a school to work together to ensure parents have all the best possible information in order to support increasing our attendance rates this year.

Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not.

The school are always happy to advise in line with this guidance, so if you are still in doubt, please contact the school office if your child develops any symptoms and we can discuss this further with you.

Let's keep the upward trend going, and we thank you for your support with this!



Nursery Places Still Available!

Please note that there are still a few places left in our nursery, so enquire if you or someone else you know within the community, would like a place in our outstanding school.

Further information can be found on our school website [Admissions](#) page on how to apply for a place and we look forward to receiving your application!

**Shobnall Primary & Nursery School**
"Happy children, inspired learners"

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

JMAT

Will your child be 3 years old by 31st August?

Bookings now being taken for our Nursery from September 2023!

- Nursery places are every morning Mon-Fri 8.45-11.45am term time only - minimum 15hrs over 5 days applies
- Provision for 15hrs universal funding with wraparound available from 7.30am (childcare vouchers accepted).
- Pick up from Nursery by other local providers if needed
- Nursery is led by a qualified teacher, giving focus to the EYFS curriculum. All children access Forest School
- We have a strong family ethos, and are well regarded by our families. Many Nursery children transfer into our friendly Primary School
- To register your child or book a Nursery tour, please call 01283 247410 or email shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk

We look forward to meeting you!



"We have been really impressed by the school; its professionalism and dedication to teaching children."
(Parent feedback)

Second Hand September

Second Hand September is a campaign that promotes donating, reusing, re-wearing and restyling your clothes during September.

For the rest of the month, why not challenge yourself to not buying anything new? Or, buying second hand from charity shops, or online on Vinted or eBay.

[Find out more here.](#)



School Uniform Exchange

Please don't forget that we have free uniform available! There is a box situated outside the school office for any parents who have items they wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box! Amy Roobottom continues sorting and collating this. As previously stated, if you wish to contact Amy to ask what is available that you might be in need of, please contact the school office via shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk and we will ensure this is forwarded to her.





Online Safety Tips

Behind video-sharing platforms (like YouTube) and streaming TV shows and movies, gaming is the third most popular online activity for children in the UK.

In fact, according to recent data from Ofcom, an overwhelming 89% of children aged 3 to 17 play video games. Of those, more than one in five (22%) talk to other players online who they don't know outside the game.

The risk of contact from strangers is just one of the reasons that many parents are concerned about their child's gaming: increased screen time, inappropriate content and in-game spending also figure among the most frequent fears.

Agreeing on some rules around your child's gaming activities can certainly help, and our guide has some useful tips for establishing these boundaries.

Hot Lunch Options – 18 to 22 September 2023

A new menu has been launched! Please visit our dedicated school website page [here](#) for further information.

Please note that the price of a school meal has increased to £2.60.

WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	All day breakfast	Roast turkey with potato of the day & gravy	Macaroni cheese	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	5 Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	Vegetarian all day breakfast	5 Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	5 Vegetable & bean chilli with 50/50 rice	5 Quorn™ nuggets with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & broccoli Salad bar	Roasted vegetables Salad bar	Green beans & cabbage Salad bar	Corn on the cob & carrots Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Chocolate crunch	Apple & cinnamon muffin	Lemon cake	5 Apple crumble & custard	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection



SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

Nursery

Our nursery children have been absolute superstars with how well they have settled without their parents for the first time! They have all shown great independence by saying their goodbyes at the gate whilst

coming into nursery in the mornings. They have even remembered where to put their water bottles and book bags as they come in! How amazing is this! All the children should be proud of the brilliant start they have made in nursery.

Reception

Our adventures in reception this week....

We arrived at school on Monday to find we had a removal delivery. It was great fun unpacking the boxes and finding lots of fantastic items for our house. We had a big surprise when the Big Bad Wolf was found in one of the boxes! Don't worry - he has been behaving himself and helping to make cups of tea!

It has also been a week filled with love as we had a wonderful time sharing the story 'One Love' by Cedella Marley and joined in with the song by Bob Marley. We had great fun dancing and making up some actions.

We went onto decorate some hearts using a variety of craft materials. We were very creative, and all our hearts look different some have feathers, buttons, handprints, sticks etc.

The heart theme continued as we baked biscuits. We carefully measured ingredients using scales and had to stir the mixture well so we could roll it out. The best part was using icing and sprinkles to decorate!

We made a great start on our half term focus book 'The Three Little Pigs,' and have enjoyed retelling the story using our story map and actions. We are excited to have even more adventures with this story next week!

Year 1

Year 1 have been working extremely hard this week. In Maths, we have continued with learning how to count and recognise numbers within 10. In English, we have been continuing our learning about 'The Gingerbread Man' and the children have been retelling the story and looking more closely at our Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary. We have also started our PSHE learning about why it is good to be me as well as where we feel safest. The children have also enjoyed their first Science lesson looking at different materials.



Year 2



Year 2 have had a great week getting stuck in with their learning. In English, we have been focusing on the story Chicken Licken. They have been re-telling the story through drama, sequencing story cards and drawing story maps. This is in preparation for them to write their own journey story. In maths we have been exploring place value and using our knowledge of counting in 10's to find 10's and 1's within numbers. For science this week we have been focusing on everyday materials and their properties. The children have explored vocabulary such as suitability, object and material. Well done Year 2 on working hard this week!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a fab week! We have been working hard on place value in Maths and have been partitioning numbers into 100s, 10s and 1s. We have been using descriptive writing skills in English and

have planned our own version of a folk tale. In History, we have been looking at the Stone Age and created a timeline of events. Well done for a great week!



Year 4

Wow, what a great week! All the children have been working hard and I have been so impressed with all of them in all aspects of learning. The presentation of work is continuing to reach a really high standard and we have been looking at place value in Maths, Buddhism in RE and Lowry in Art. A fantastic first week in Year 4 children, keep up the great work!



Year 5

Year 5 have had another fantastic week of learning! In Maths, the children have been learning about partitioning numbers to 1,000,000 as well as investigating how many 1s/10s/1,000s/10,000s/100,000s go into a given number. In English, the children have had a SPAG focus, looking at homophones, homonyms and homographs, as well as how commas can be used to clarify and avoid ambiguity! 'Let's eat Grandma' and 'Let's eat, Grandma' certainly made us giggle. On Monday afternoon, Y5 tested the properties of materials in Science, including whether the material could conduct electricity or if it was

magnetic. The children have also been learning about biomes in their geography lessons this week, which included the very interesting fact that the North Pole is actually considered a desert due to the lack of rainfall. Keep up the great work Year 5!!

Year 6

We have had a very productive week this week in Year 6. We started the week with an RE lesson discussing what is meant by commitment and how this can sometimes be difficult to sustain. In maths we completed our unit on place value where we looked at numbers up to 10,000,000 and negative numbers. In English we revised relative clauses, modal verbs, and adverbs of possibility in preparation for using these language devices in our persuasive writing piece next week. As a class we found it very interesting looking into the key events of WW2 and began to think about how this impacted life in Britain. Some of the children even brought in their own WW2 books they have been reading



at home and have shared them with myself and the class. It is lovely to see such a love of learning happening in the classroom. A very positive start to Year 6!

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	EVERYONE!	
Year 1	Ava E	Arthur H
Year 2	Zayn C	Ava O
Year 3	Sophia W	Daniel L
Year 4	EVERYONE!	
Year 5	Flora P	Bonnie H
Year 6	Alexis H	Hakeem A

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Millie G
Year 1	Shayaani R
Year 2	Hasnain Q
Year 3	Meerab N
Year 4	Oliver M
Year 5	Zahra B
Year 6	Joseph W

Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 3** and **Year 5**! Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	99.2%	Target
Year 1	95.7%	97%
Year 2	94.2%	
Year 3	99.2%	
Year 4	95.2%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	99.6%	98.3%
Year 6	98.4%	
Overall	98.3%	

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 15.09.23)	28	44	54	52
Position	4 th – 1 point	3 rd – 2 points	1 st – 4 points	2 nd – 3 points
Running Total	4	3	6	7

Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 5+...

Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf

by Craig Green

Gina Kaminski is here to tell you three facts. 1 – Little Red Riding Hood is full of BIG mistakes. 2 – Gina Kaminski is off to fairy tale land to fix them. 3 – She WILL save the wolf.

Join Gina, our autistic hero, as she rewrites a fairy tale in her own brilliantly bold way.



Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 27 th October 2023
INSET Day	Monday 6 th November 2023

School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 7 th November 2023
Open Evening	Wednesday 15 th November 2023
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 29 th November to Friday 1 st December 2023
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 1 st December 2023
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 21 st December 2023, 10.00am
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 22 nd December 2023, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 8 th January 2024
Young Voices 2023	Thursday 11 th January 2024
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 29 th January to Friday 2 nd February 2024
PFA Valentine's Disco	Thursday 8 th February 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants: 3.45pm – 5.00pm • Juniors: 5.15pm – 6.30pm
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 9 th February 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 19 th February 2024
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 18 th March 2024
Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court	Thursday 21 st March 2024
School Closes for Easter	Friday 22 nd March 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 8 th April 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 9 th April 2024
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 6 th May 2024
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 13 th May 2024 to Friday 17 th May 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Thursday 23 rd May 2024
INSET Day	Friday 24 th May 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 rd June 2024
PFA Summer Fair	Friday 21 st June 2024
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 5 th July 2024
School Closes for Summer	Friday 19 th July 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 22 nd July 2024

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Harvest	Monday 2 nd October 2023
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB CLOSED	Tuesday 10 th October 2023
PFA Halloween Disco	Friday 13 th October 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants: 3.45pm – 5.00pm • Juniors: 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 16 th October 2023 Wednesday 18 th October 2023
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 16 th October 2023 to Friday 20 th October 2023 inclusive
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 27 th October 2023
INSET Day	Monday 6 th November 2023
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 7 th November 2023
Odd Socks Day	Monday 13 th November 2021
Open Evening	Wednesday 15 th November 2023, 4.30-6.00pm
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 29 th November 2023 to Friday 1 st December 2023 inclusive
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 30 th November 2023, 9.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 1 st December 2023
Christingle	Monday 4 th December 2023
Choir Winter Wonderland Concert	Tuesday 5 th December 2023, Hill Street Church, Swadlincote, 7.00-8.00pm
EYFS Nativity	Wednesday 6 th December 2023, 9.15am

EYFS Nativity	Thursday 7 th December 2023, 9.15am
KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 12 th December 2023, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Year 3 Cosy Christmas Celebration	Thursday 14 th December 2023, 9.15am
JTMAT Christmas Concert	Tuesday 19 th December 2023
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 20 th December 2023
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 21 st December 2023, 10.00am
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 22 nd December 2023, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 8 th January 2024





SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

OPEN EVENING



WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER
4.30pm – 6.00pm

Please join us as we showcase our school, our vision, our values, our philosophy and our approaches. You will meet our staff and our children and get to see first-hand our incredible Museum of Wonder. We look forward to seeing you there!

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>