



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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16th December 2021

"The magic of Christmas never ends and its greatest of gifts are family and friends."

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the curtain closes on 2021 and we look forward to 2022, I would like to pass on our sincerest thanks to all of our parents for their patience, cooperation, support and adherence to our procedures over the past term. Times are challenging and will remain so for some time yet, but we should be very proud of all that we have achieved as a community and in how we have maintained a real sense of 'normality' for the children. They have completed some remarkable work this term with enthusiasm, smiles and



vigour, which demonstrates their sheer resilience to any of the challenges we face. With rapidly changing government advice concerning the Omicron variant, it may be that you hear from me before the start of the new term. We do need to be prepared for any possible changes in public health advice over the next few weeks and, as we have learnt to expect, things can change quickly. Even though we are in a very different position to this time last year, mainly due to the success of the vaccination programme, until more is known about the impact of this new variant, we can't rule out further restrictions being imposed on us. Should advice or guidance change considerably between now and then, I will be in touch to inform you of any such changes and how they may affect our return in January.

The staff who work in school would like me to pass on their thanks to you for all the lovely gifts, cards and kind words you have showered them with this week, all of which they are incredibly grateful for. I would personally like to thank them once again for their continued selfless dedication, full commitment and assiduous devotion to all of the children in school. The staff have looked after the children's wellbeing, worked exceptionally hard to support children with their learning, ensured the curriculum is delivered effectively, promoted safe routines and behaviours and made things as 'normal' as possible. They're an absolute privilege to work alongside. What a team!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a very peaceful and fun-filled Christmas and to our families not celebrating the festival, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable two week break. Happy New Year from all of us at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School and we look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 4 January 2022**, all being well.



Year 1 and 2 Nativity – A ‘Strictly’ Nativity

Year 1 and 2 did an incredible job on Monday with not one, but TWO performances of their version of the nativity story. It was FAB-U-LOUS and I haven’t stopped talking about it all week! It was energising and uplifting and was a fabulous end to our run of festive performances – definitely worthy of a ‘West End’ accolade! Thank you to all of our families who came along, followed our COVID procedures and supported and helped with the learning of lines at home. I must re-iterate my thanks once again to our wonderful staff and volunteers who helped ensure both performances were of an exceptionally high standard.



St. Giles Hospice

Over the course of the festive season, the school has been asking for donations from parents and staff to support a charity very close to our hearts, St. Giles Hospice. We like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of you who were able to make contributions when you came to enjoy our Christmas performances. We are delighted to announce that a total of **£177.45** was raised and we know that St Giles will be very grateful for this money in supporting the wonderful work that they do.

Kate Griffiths Christmas Card Competition

This week, Burton and Uttoxeter’s Member of Parliament, Kate Griffiths, revealed the winner of her 2021 Christmas card competition. The annual competition encourages primary and pre-school children to design the MP’s official Christmas card, and is judged by Kate herself. Kate sends out a Christmas card to hundreds of people, including the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. Congratulations to Bethan in Year 5, who was a runner-up in this year’s competition. We are very proud of her!



Young Voices

It is with a heavy heart that we publish the message below received from the organisers of Young Voices 2022 this week:



“We understand that during the rising tension around the Omicron variant and the outlook for January that there are questions being raised regarding YV 2022.

As always, our priority here at Young Voices is the health, both physical and mental, of our children, teachers and the families who attend our concerts. It is therefore our decision to postpone all of our concerts to Spring/Summer 2022. We tried so hard to give this every opportunity to go ahead but we had to make this decision in the end and as a result we would also like to apologise for not being able to make the call any sooner.

We are currently working hard alongside our venues to make sure all of our original dates can be accommodated within this new timeframe and we will be in touch early next year with your new concert date. All ticket orders will be transferable and remain valid for these new dates and t-shirt orders will continue to be processed as usual.

Until then please enjoy your Christmas break and know that the Young Voices team will be doing everything behind the scenes to make sure your concert experience is worth all of the wait!”



Burton Mail Nativity Memento

We have uploaded some photographs to Burton Mail from our Christmas festivities, mainly our EYFS performance. The *Christmas in Schools* supplement will be on sale at your local newsagents this Friday, 17 December 2021. You will need to buy early in the morning if you would like a copy - or even speak to your newsagent to save one!

Attendance

Congratulations go to **Year 3**, who have the highest level of attendance of any class this term! Well done! Aside from COVID, the winter season traditionally brings with it a huge range of bugs, so this really is a remarkable achievement for these children and to all of those (you know who you are) across the school who have achieved 100% attendance certificates this week!



Snow & Extreme Weather Procedures

Here is a quick reminder of our procedures for snow and extreme weather from our newsletter dated 5 November 2021:

As the temperature starts to decrease and we begin defrosting our cars in a morning, I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind all of our families about the school's procedures should we receive substantial snowfall and extreme weathers. The school will endeavour to remain open in the first instance and closing the school will only ever be chosen in the final instance. Please can I ask that you do not contact the school office asking if we are open, as we will always use our main methods of communication in the event of such a decision. You will all receive a text message and the school Twitter account will also be used to state that this decision has been made. Please ensure that the school office has up-to-date contact details for you. We hope that we are not required to close but such a decision has to take into consideration many factors, not just the amount of snow on the school grounds. For example, the safety of parents and families on their journey to school, the staff and their journey to school (many of whom travel some considerable distances through remote areas) and, of course, the weather forecast and Met Office advice all play a part. I hope that this clarifies our procedures for you and many thanks for your understanding in this matter.



PFA Christmas Movie Night

It was wonderful to see so many children in attendance at the PFA Christmas Movie Night last Thursday. The PFA are delighted to announce that the final amount raised was **£467.65!** With just three fundraisers having gone ahead this academic year, that's already just over £1500 raised to help fund the new trim trails we have planned for the children. A massive well done to everyone who organised, helped and supported – huge thanks again!



Good News for Miss Barker!



You will be very pleased to hear that last Friday, 10 December, Miss Barker gave birth to a very healthy baby boy at 5.02am! Leo was a little late but weighed in at 9lbs 3oz! We send our warmest wishes and congratulations to Miss Barker and her partner and we can't wait to meet the baby very soon!

Latest Government COVID Guidance

The government has confirmed that the new Omicron Covid-19 variant is spreading fast. On Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 was introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with Covid-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should:

- Take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their school.
- If they test negative, they can continue to attend school.
- If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.
- Outside of school, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#).
- Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.
- This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.
- **Children under five** do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of Covid-19 and do not need to isolate.

This is the advice as it stands currently, but may be subject to change.



‘My School Fund’ Initiative

We announced some time ago that Shobnall Primary & Nursery School has joined the My School Fund initiative. This innovative scheme allows for us to be able to boost our school’s budget with your help.

How does it work?

Parents, guardians and carers can sign up to the scheme for free and start earning cashback on the things they buy in participating retail stores, including Sainsbury’s and Argos. As you spend, you’ll receive 2% cashback in the form of eGift vouchers that can be redeemed in participating stores. By linking your spend to our school on the My School Fund website we’ll also earn 1% cashback on your spend.

Add that all up across our school’s network of families and together we can all make a big difference!

How to get involved

Visit myschoolfund.org to register for free and link to Shobnall Primary & Nursery School. From there, everything you spend in participating stores will go towards helping boost our budget, plus your own!

Sign up today at myschoolfund.org.

Wellbeing Award for Schools

Shobnall Primary & Nursery School achieved the WAS Award (Wellbeing Award for Schools) in 2018! Since then, we have taken part in *Happy Healthy Children Week* with other schools in JTMAT. We also celebrated *NHS Week* last academic year and *Hello Yellow Day* this year to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing.

Shobnall Primary & Nursery School work with the Mental Health Support Team to help pupils who are suffering from mental health problems. This



year, we have trained staff as ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants), who are in school to help pupils.

Our next WAS Award inspection will take place on Friday 4 February 2022. Please complete the Parent Evaluation Form by clicking on the link below to give your invaluable views about the work we do as a school to support wellbeing.

Evaluation submissions are valid between: 16/11/2021 - 09/01/2022. Your submission will not be accepted outside of these dates.

Click [here](https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/619382f398c66) or copy and paste the following <https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/619382f398c66> into your browser to access the survey. Many thanks for your support with this.

Online Safety Tips

From streaming classic family movies to video calling friends and relations, and from some good-natured competition (or cooperation) on video games to collaborating on your ultimate Christmas playlist, there are plenty of ways that your child's devices can provide an embellishment – as opposed to a distraction – this festive season.



This handy guide, has ideas for how adults can spend time online with their child this holiday – without needing to crowbar devices out of young hands first. Eagle-eyed readers will notice that the title of each panel is taken from the lyrics of well-known Christmas hits: how many can you name? We hope the guide comes in handy ... and, of course, that you have a merry Christmas!

School Uniform Exchange

Please don't forget the *school uniform exchange*, which continues! There is a box situated by the gate on the school car park 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.itmat.co.uk and we will ensure this is forwarded to her.



Hot Lunch Options – 4 January to 7 January 2022

Please note that due to food shortages and issues with deliveries, the kitchen may have to change the menu at the last minute. *Remember, Monday is Bank Holiday so the lunch options are*

WEEK 2 11th Oct, 8th Nov, 29th Nov		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN DISH		Chicken with a side of BBQ sauce	Pork meatballs in a tomato sauce	Roast turkey and stuffing	All day breakfast	Fish fingers
VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH		Margherita pizza	Vegetarian Bolognese	Quorn fillet and stuffing	Vegetarian all day breakfast	Quorn nuggets
ACCOMPANIMENTS	5	Herby diced potatoes Garden peas Sweetcorn Salad bar	Pasta Garlic bread Broccoli Carrot batons Salad bar	Roast potatoes Green cabbage Sliced carrots Salad bar	Bread wedge Baked tomatoes Mushrooms Baked beans Salad bar	Chips Sweetcorn Mushy peas Salad bar
DESSERTS		Chocolate sponge and custard	Fruity flapjack	Strawberry jelly and fruit	Shortbread	Fresh fruit and ice cream
FRESH FRUIT & YOGHURT	5	Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt	Fresh fruit and yoghurt
JACKET POTATOES & SANDWICHES		Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings	Jacket potato and sandwiches with various fillings

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

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

Nursery & Reception

The daily routines established in early years are so important to our children and provide great learning opportunities too. With our countdown to Christmas, the children have loved opening the class advent calendar, finding the correct number on the door and have been removing Santa pictures from 5 frames to work out how many sleeps are left until Christmas. The children are getting more and more confident talking about 'What do you see?' and 'How do you see it?' They can instantly recognise full and empty 5 frames, as well as groups of 1-3, without needing to count them.

Reflecting on the first term, the children have made so much progress emotionally, socially and academically. It has been wonderful to get to know each and every one of them and see how they have blossomed before our eyes. This week has certainly been a week full of Christmas cheer, with stories, crafts and role play keeping us busy. The staff in EYFS would like to wish you all a very restful Christmas break and we look forward to lots more fun in the new year!

Year 1 & Year 2

Year 1 and 2 have had a fantastic week. We want to congratulate each and every one of them for their fantastic performance in the Nativity. They have all worked so hard and you must be so proud of them! This week we have been getting into the Christmas spirit by making cards, calendars and Christmas decorations. We wish you and all the children a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe and most importantly have fun spending time with your family and loved ones.



Year 3 & Year 4

What a fantastically, festive final week of term in Year 3 and 4. We have had an extremely busy week. Year 3 have been learning about different religions in our RE topic 'Who and Where'. We have been exploring who founded different religions and where they were founded. As all the children have been working extremely hard, we have participated in a range of festive activities including a lovely trip to the pantomime! Enjoy your well-deserved break children, stay safe and have fun.

Year 5 & Year 6

Our final few days of the term have been fun and festive! Year 6 have completed their fractions unit in maths and used debate in English to explore different views. The children are very proud with their finished Christmas tree decorations, which include electricity, made in D&T. It's been a great term - have a lovely Christmas and see you in 2022!



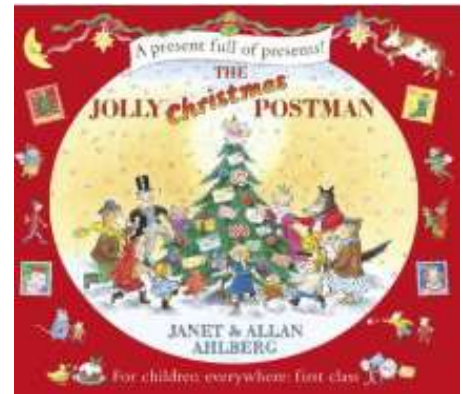
Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 4+...

The Jolly Christmas Postman

Written by Janet and Allan Ahlberg

One of our seasonal favourites and a justified classic that never loses its magic. Peek inside the special deliveries in the jolly holly postman's Christmas mailbag. It's Christmas Eve and the Jolly Postman is delivering greetings to various fairy-tale characters – there's a card for Baby Bear, a game appropriately called 'Beware' for Red Riding Hood from Mr Wolf, a get-well jigsaw for hospitalised Humpty Dumpty and three more surprise envelopes containing letters, cards etc. Everyone's favourite postman keeps on peddling his bicycle up hill and down dale...and into everybody's hearts.



Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Inaaya A	Penelope T
Year 1	Alizah A	Sophia W
Year 2	Aadil F	Afrah M
Year 3	Nell T	Halima L
Year 4	Azaan M	Safa U
Year 5	Lucy W	Owais H
Year 6	Qayyam A	Abdullah M

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Rupert C
Year 1	Layla N
Year 2	Zain A
Year 3	Saif N
Year 4	Inaya S
Year 5	Lucy W
Year 6	Harry F

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 16.12.21)	123	79	87	110
Position	1 st – 4 Points	4 th – 1 Point	3 rd – 2 Points	2 nd – 3 Points
Running Total	52	19	36	33

Team Point Champions

Congratulations to **Claymills**, who have successfully won the team point challenge for this half term! As a reward, they can wear non-school uniform (ideally something red) on Friday 7 January 2021.

Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 4 th January 2022
Swimming Commences – Year 5	Tuesday 11 th January 2022
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 31 st January 2022 to Friday 4 th February 2022 Inclusive
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 4 th February 2022
Parent Consultations	Monday 7 th February 2022 Wednesday 9 th February 2022
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 8 th February 2022
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 18 th February 2022
INSET Day	Monday 28 th February 2022
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 1 st March 2022
World Book Day	Thursday 3 rd March 2022

Red Nose Day	Friday 18 th March 2022
Mother's Day Lunches – Reception	Monday 21 st March 2022
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Tuesday 22 nd March 2022
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Wednesday 23 rd March 2022
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Thursday 24 th March 2022
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 24 th March 2022
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Friday 25 th March 2022
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Monday 28 th March 2022
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Tuesday 29 th March 2022
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 31 st March 2022
School Closes for Easter	Friday 8 th April 2022

Diary Dates 2021-2022

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 4 th January 2022
Young Voices	Thursday 27 th January 2022
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 18 th February 2022
INSET Day	Monday 28 th February 2022
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 1 st March 2022
School Closes for Easter	Friday 8 th April 2022
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 25 th April 2022
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2 nd May 2022
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 9 th May 2022 – Friday 13 th May 2022
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 27 th May 2022
INSET Day	Monday 6 th June 2022
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 7 th June 2022
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 8 th July 2022
School Closes for Summer	Wednesday 20 th July 2022

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are hundreds of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Building boilers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little ones can make up gingerbread cakes, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer snowflakes. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!

2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect. It wasn't amazingly catchy, missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more playing for the Prettenders or waiting for Wizard.

3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal ornaments like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.

4 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engaging yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ears, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal story books by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.

5 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Bravely up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolate) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.

6 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and celebrity stories of 2021, or be Christmas-themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.

WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

7 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other national festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!

8 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid restrictions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just isn't so possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the situation by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.

9 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they happily treasure you at *Fortnite* or *Minecraft*. Digital versions of traditional board games like *Monopoly* and *Cluedo* are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.

10 CANT WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see their names on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knit pullover.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday