



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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22nd December 2023

"Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas."

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe that I am writing the final newsletter of 2023! This term seems to have been one of the longest ones yet and I know that many of the children (and staff) are ready for a much-needed two-week break! School has been incredibly busy over the last month starting with our festive Christmas Fair, add in some delightful Christmas performances, stir in some magical special events and trips and add a sprinkle of Ofsted, for good measure! I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents who have supported the school over the past term in so many ways. It has been wonderfully successful, and we have achieved so much!



As a community, we are incredibly proud of our school and, of course, the children. Throughout the term, the way in which they have represented Shobnall Primary & Nursery School has been impeccable, from the very beginning of the academic year through to yesterday's trip to Beauty and the Beast at the Lichfield Garrick Theatre. Next term promises to offer many more exciting opportunities for our children, including the Young Voices concert in Birmingham on Thursday 11th January 2024 and the many different trips which have been organised by the class teachers, ready to motivate and enthuse the children with their learning.

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 devotion to all 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 learning fun and exciting. They are an absolute privilege to work alongside. What a team!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all 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 **Monday 8th January 2024!**





Message to you all from Mr. Adams!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to express my deepest gratitude to you all for the unwavering support, generous gifts, heartfelt cards and kind words that I have received from you during my recovery from surgery. Your immense kindness and thoughtfulness have touched me deeply, and I am truly grateful for being part of such a compassionate and caring community. Shobnall to me is a bit more than a special community, it's a family, and it's a family that I am proud to be part of.

My recovery has come with some complications and I need a little more time over the holiday to get myself back to full strength. I am much better than I was though and I look forward to seeing you all again in January. Thank you for your kindness towards all the staff in school during this time, they really are an incredible team, and for your kind words and support when Ofsted visited our school recently. As Mrs Farrington has already stated, the report should be ready to share with you in the new year.

I will carry the warmth from this community with me over the next few weeks as I continue my recovery, and I would like to express my sincerest thanks to you all once again.

I would like to wish you all a very 'Merry Christmas' and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new year!

Warmest wishes and kindest regards,

Mr Adams



thank
you

A decorative gold leaf branch with several leaves, positioned below the 'thank you' text.

Attendance

Congratulations go to **Year 2**, who have the highest level of attendance of any class this term! Well done! 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

Although the weather is currently mild, if the weather does turn snowy in the New year, please could we remind all 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 must 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.



Online Safety Tips

At this time of year, it's highly possible that you have a new phone, games console or other digital device stashed somewhere at home, ready to be unwrapped. Many parents also prefer to place some protective measures on those gifts – to keep their child shielded from potential #OnlineSafety risks – while others would like to, but aren't sure where to begin.

The guide at the end of the Newsletter shepherds you through the process of establishing parental controls on new internet-enabled devices, from smartphones to laptops to consoles. Simply find the device in question and read on to find out what options you have and how to enable them – letting children enjoy their shiny new gadget, without so much of the worry over where it might lead them.

ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS



'Tis the Season to Recycle

With the wonderful festive season upon us why not make some conscious changes to save money and the environment.

Gü Pots

Gü glass dessert pots are something we've all kept hold of. As handy as they seem, they usually end up sitting in the back of the kitchen cupboard, waiting to be put to

use.

These iconic glass ramekins are recyclable, but it's even better to get creative and repurpose your ramekins.

If you're a ramekin hoarder check out some of these uses for your Gü ramekins:

- creating candles in them
- placing tea lights in them to save spending money on holders
- being used as paint pots for children
- making even more desserts
- growing plants in them
- and did you know that Pringles lids fit perfectly on top of Gü ramekins?



FREE Uniform!

We have FREE uniform that is available for anyone who needs it, via our donation service. There is a box situated outside the school office for any parents who have old items that 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, collating and distributing this. If you wish to contact Amy to ask what is available that you might be in need of, please contact her via amyroobottom@outlook.com.



Hot Lunch Options – Week beginning 8th January 2024

W/c 16.10.23, 13.11.23, 4.12.23, 8.1.24, 29.1.24

WEEK 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Pork sausage with creamy mash potato & gravy	Roast turkey with potato of the day & gravy	Chicken chow mein	Crispy fish fingers with chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Roasted vegetable pizza	Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetable stir fry with chicken style pieces and noodles	Crispy vegetable fingers with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	Peas & carrots Salad bar	Broccoli & green beans Salad bar	Sweetcorn & broccoli Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Chocolate & pear sponge with custard	Shortbread	Flapjack	Jam & coconut sponge	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 adventures in Nursery this week....

It has been another exciting, fun-filled week in Nursery with lots of festive activities.

We had a surprise visit from Santa and the children all looked fantastic in their Christmas jumpers as they enjoyed using the tweezers to choose their pom poms to decorate their Christmas trees.

It has been an amazing half term and we are all so proud of the progress the children have made and the wonderful way their personalities have shone!

Have a very happy holiday and a fabulous new year!



Reception



Reception Adventures this week...

Wow what an exciting, busy week we have had! At the start of the week, we continued our festive adventures by thinking carefully about the importance of Christmas and reflecting on what we are grateful for. We joined in with a variety of crafts including creating paper chains, using hole punches and stampers to make bracelets, collecting tricky words in Santa hats and designing festive faces!

There was love, magic and smiles as we added ingredients to make our reindeer food. We all gave it a good shake to mix it up and see it shine. We are very excited to leave a trail outside to help the reindeers find their way on Christmas Eve.

Later in the week we mixed more ingredients this time to make snowmen biscuits. After our cut out snowmen had cooked and cooled it was time for decorating. We used icing and various chocolate drops to bring our snowmen to life- they look far too good to eat!

The days got even more exciting when we wore our Christmas jumpers and had a surprise visitor- Santa Claus! We gave him

lots of waves and after that it was time for Christmas dinner- yummy!

At the end of the week we had fun at the theatre and were very sensible when we went on our Pantomime trip to see Beauty and the Beast. There were some very funny characters in the story that made us laugh a lot!

We are certainly ready for a break now and look forward to new adventures when we return in January. Happy Holidays to you all love from reception!

Year 1

What a fabulous last week of the Autumn term Year 1 have had! In English, the children wrote their letters to Father Christmas either explaining what they will be doing over the holidays or about the importance of Eid. In Maths, the children completed their 2D and 3D shapes unit. The children need to continue to practice identifying 2D and 3D shapes so that it becomes embedded in their long-term memory. In PSHE, the children have been thinking about how to stop bullying and in RE, we have focused on learning all about the Christmas Story. They also had a special visit from Santa which the children thoroughly enjoyed as well as visiting the pantomime. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week! They have enjoyed creating their Christmas cards and calendars. This week in science they have been taking part in practical experiments about exercise and what happens to our body. They have also looked at hygiene and how soap can help prevent the spreading of germs. They especially enjoyed the experiment with the pepper! Well done Year 2 on a great last week! Have a lovely holiday!



Year 3

Year 3 have had a great week! They have worked hard to complete their art work, painting portraits of their families in the style of the artist Rembrandt. They have also completed our traditional Christmas activities which they have enjoyed. In RE we finished our topic learning about Christmas and the true meaning. They enjoyed finishing off their learning about the book George's Marvellous Medicine in Guided reading. We just want to say a huge well done to Year 3 for their hard work, enthusiasm and tremendous amount of learning completed this term. We wish them all a very merry Christmas!

Year 4



Year 4 have had a lovely final week of term! We started off our week by finishing off our French unit, which the children absolutely loved! Elsewhere this week, the majority of our time has been taken up with a range of different Christmasy activities! On Wednesday, the children enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner and even had an opportunity to meet Santa!! On Thursday, the children enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Pantomime and to finish our week, the children were able to bring in a toy for toy day and even managed to watch The Lion, The Witch

and The Wardrobe! Have a wonderful holiday and Christmas Year 4, you have worked so hard this term and I am so proud of the progress that you have made!

Year 5

Wow! What an incredible half-term it has been for Year 5! From the residential to the pantomime, this half-term has been jam-packed with lots of exciting opportunities for the children. This week, Year 5 FINALLY finished their Alien Invasion stories, with most of them being 4 pages long! They were a delight to read and certainly had lots of twists and turns in them. Year 5 have also been working on their 2024 calendars this week. All of the children have used their new-found cross-stitching skills to sew a beautiful calendar that they are taking home on Friday. The rest of the week has been jam packed with lots of festive activities, including a visit from Santa, the JTMAT Christmas Concert, Christmas dinner day, the trip to the panto and most excitingly a toy day and early finish on Friday. What a FANTASTIC half term – Miss Martin-Mills is so proud of the progress that the children have made and I think everyone can agree that they are in much need of a well deserved rest. Well done Year 5 and see you in 2024!



Year 6

This week in Year 6, in Maths we have been completing our unit on measurement and in English we have been making an information text all about an animal and how they have adapted to their environment. We have produced some great posters. We have all enjoyed the Christmas Colouring and making gonks. Also, on Thursday we LOVED going to the pantomime. We were able to support our friends in Reception and really enjoyed Beauty and the Beast. On Friday, we had toy day and we really enjoyed it. We have all had so much fun this term and have loved learning about WW2 and many other things. I can't wait to see you all again in January! Well done Year 6 😊👍

Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 8-12 years

Virtually Christmas...It's Time to Save Santa

Written by David Baddiel

It used to be the most WONDERFUL time of the year, but for years Christmas has been taken over by Winterzone. All the things that made Christmas special are gone: the human connection, the baubles passed down through generations, even the rubbish cracker jokes. Instead, Christmas is run by robots, while 3D holograms of Santa Claus called Santavatars check if you've been naughty or nice – and on Christmas Eve, all of the presents are delivered by ZoneDrones instead of Santa's reindeer! But when they stumble on a curious clue, eleven-year-old Etta and her friend Monty find themselves thrown into a fight to bring back Christmas. Racing against time and against the might of Winterzone, they must find the real Santa – before the true meaning of the festive season is lost forever . . .



Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Elliott T	Sada C
Year 1	Umar Q	Rupert M
Year 2	Ayesha F	Dahlia L
Year 3	Layla N	Ben S
Year 4	Aadil F	Finaly B
Year 5	Asra Z	Rhema B
Year 6	Oscar T	Zahra H

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Harper O
Year 1	Daisy J
Year 2	Reggie P
Year 3	Yousuf H
Year 4	Afra M
Year 5	Lily J
Year 6	Florence W

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 22.12.22)	30	39	24	31
Position	3 rd – 2 points	1 st – 4 points	4 th – 1 point	2 nd – 3 points
Running Total	16	20	11	24

Team Point Champions

Congratulations to **Trent**, who have successfully won the team point challenge for this half term! As a reward, they can wear non-school uniform (ideally something blue) on Friday 12th January 2024.

Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 8 th January 2024
Year 6 Laches Wood Meeting for Parents	Wednesday 10 th January 2024, Year 6 Classroom
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 15 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

Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 8 th January 2024
Year 6 Laches Wood Meeting for Parents	Wednesday 10 th January 2024, Year 6 Classroom
Young Voices 2024	Thursday 11 th January 2024
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 29 th January to Friday 2 nd February 2024
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 2 nd February 2024
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 6 th February 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 9 th February 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 19 th February 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Reception	Monday 29 th February 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Tuesday 1 st March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Monday 4 th March 2024

Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Tuesday 5 th March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Wednesday 6 th March 2024
World Book Day	Thursday 7 th March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Thursday 7 th March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Friday 8 th March 2024
Comic Relief	Friday 15 th March 2024
Parents' Evening	Monday 18 th March 2024, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 20 th March 2024, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
School Closes for Easter	Friday 22 nd March 2024



Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play, and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE **OPEN** OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Wednesday 27th December - Tuesday 2nd January

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us* between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.



Burton and Uttoxeter
01283 504487

Cannock and Stafford
01283 352113

Tamworth
01785 301027



*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.

BURTON & UTTOXETER MHST

Schools we work with:

- Anglesey Primary Academy
- Burton Pupil Referral Unit
- Loxley Hall School (Manor Hall Academy Trust) Secondary
- Paget High School
- Scientia Academy (Primary)
- Victoria Community Primary School
- Christ Church Primary School
- De Ferrers High School Academy
- Eton Park Junior (a deFerrers Trust)
- The Fountains High School
- The Fountains Primary School
- Lansdowne Infants (a deFerrers Trust)
- Shobnall Primary School
- Abbot Beyne Secondary School
- Edge Hill Junior School
- Holy Trinity CofE Primary
- Paulet High School
- Riverview Primary School
- Robert Sutton Catholic School Secondary
- Tower View Primary School
- Violet Way Primary Academy
- Dove CofE Primary Academy
- Oldfields Hall Middle School
- St Marys CofE First School
- St Joesphs Catholic Primary School
- Thomas Alleynes High School
- Tynsel Parkes CofE Primary Academy
- Windsor Park CofE Middle School

Mr D Adams, Headteacher
Shobnall Primary & Nursery School
Shobnall Road
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 2BB

18th December 2023

Dear Mr Adams,

YMCA Burton upon Trent
& District
Northside House
Northside Business Park
Hawkins Lane
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 1DB
T 01283 538802

Thank you very much for the wonderful donation of £219.83 collected during your Christmas Nativity this year. We are very grateful for your support and this donation will go towards supporting our vital services in the community so that we can continue helping as many people as possible. It was also really lovely to come in to say a few words about our work at YMCA Burton and engage with the children. They were all fantastic and were very keen to learn about our work, as well as giving me a very warm welcome into their assembly. We cannot thank you all enough for your support.

Struck by the difficulties of recent years, our services are in unprecedented and significant demand, with waiting lists forming for some of our services for the first time ever. As an increasing number of individuals and families need emergency food parcels, housing, emergency accommodation and support, we are working tirelessly to ensure that this is provided and that we can keep up with the demand. This highlights that it is a very distressing time for many and our support is needed more than ever.

On behalf of all of us at YMCA Burton, a massive thank you for yours and Shobnall Primary & Nursery School's support, as well as believing in the work that we do. Please also extend our thanks to all of the children and staff who helped to raise this amount. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Yours sincerely



Isabelle Winter
Fundraising Officer
Isabelle.winter@burtonymca.org

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILYWORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES