



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

*"Those who don't believe in magic will never find it."*

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been an incredible week at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School! As I write, I'm wishing time would slow down just a little as with just four weeks left, we are hurtling towards the end of the school year at a rate of knots! The term seems to be going so fast! There is so much going on in school (as you will see from the 'Shobnall Showcase') and so much still left to do! I hope we can fit it all in...

The week started off with Sports Day and we would like to say "thank you" once again for joining us and for supporting the children so well during the events! You can read more about this further on in the newsletter but given that the weather has been quite intermittent during the rest of the week, I think we definitely chose the right day! With all this hot weather, it is with much appreciation that we thank you for sending your children to school with their sunhats and suncream on. In addition to this,

please could we ask that the children bring a suitable container for water so that they have plenty to drink in these warm conditions. If you click [here](#), you will find some further advice from the NHS for adults and children on sunscreen and sun safety in the UK and abroad, which we hope you find useful.



You may have seen from the news that the National Education Union (NEU) has confirmed two additional dates on which they have indicated their members should take **industrial action**. These dates are **Wednesday 5 July 2023** and **Friday 7 July 2023**. The latter, as you have known for some time, is a scheduled INSET day, which won't affect any pupils in JTMA schools and is still scheduled to go ahead as planned. As has been the case previously, some schools are having to make adaptations to ensure that the school can be kept open for as many pupils as possible on Wednesday

5 July, but I am pleased to say that Shobnall Primary & Nursery School will yet again be unaffected. Please send your children to school as normal on this day. However, Wednesday 5 July is also the designated date for some transition activities and visits for Year 6 to Year 7. If we hear any updates from our secondary feeders that plans are scheduled to change in any way because of strike action, we will inform Year 6 parents as soon as possible. For now, we assume arrangements stay the same.

Finally, this week marked National Thank a Teacher Day, so I would like to say a personal "thank you" to all the teachers and support staff in school, who work so tirelessly to ensure that our children receive such an amazing, unique, exciting, and engaging learning experience each and every day. They are an amazing team and they really do go above and beyond.

We would like to wish you all a very relaxing and restful weekend and we look forward to seeing you again on Monday! Enjoy!



## Sports Day Results

We were incredibly fortunate on Monday to have perfect weather for our annual Sports Day and the start of National Sport Week. It was wonderful seeing the field so full during both sessions, and seeing the children look so smart in their PE kit! We really hope you enjoyed it, as we know the children definitely did!



It was lovely to receive such positive feedback from our spectators, one of which said, "My wife and I have just returned home after watching my grandson and all the other children at Sports Day and would like to say how much we enjoyed it and would like to thank you and your staff for organising such a successful event. The children looked so happy with smiles on their faces as did the staff and how well behaved they all were. I think you can say it was a job well done!! So once again thank you so much and please pass on our thanks to everyone involved."

The eventual winners of the Sports Day shield were **Claymills**, but for reference we have provided the final 'scores on the doors' for you below.

As well as thanking Mrs Welch and Mr Attwood for taking on the lion's share for organisation of this event, I would also like to express my thanks, to our merry band of PFA members for organising the refreshments. A total of **£95** was raised, so thank you for your kindness.

## EYFS / Key Stage 1

1 <sup>st</sup>	400 points	Claymills
1 <sup>st</sup>	377 points	Rosliston
3 <sup>rd</sup>	366 points	Sinai
4 <sup>th</sup>	365 points	Trent

## Key Stage 2

1 <sup>st</sup>	590 points	Claymills
2 <sup>nd</sup>	563 points	Rosliston
3 <sup>rd</sup>	540 points	Trent
4 <sup>th</sup>	512 points	Sinai

## Overall Winners!



1 <sup>st</sup>	990 points	Claymills
2 <sup>nd</sup>	940 points	Rosliston
3 <sup>rd</sup>	905 points	Trent
4 <sup>th</sup>	878 points	Sinai





## JTMAT Vacancies

There are a number of vacancies across JTMAT including part time roles in Finance and full-time roles in ICT.

If you would be interested in applying for these vacancies, or know someone who would be suitable, more information can be found here:

[Vacancies – John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust \(jtmat.co.uk\)](http://jtmat.co.uk).



## Ready, Set, Read! The Summer Reading Challenge 2023

It's that time of year again when we are approaching the start of the **Summer Reading Challenge**. The aim of the Challenge is to help encourage children to read during the summer holidays so that they maintain and improve their reading levels and interest in reading for pleasure. The Summer Reading Challenge can:

- Help to prevent the summer reading 'dip' for pupils.
- Ensure pupils are ready for their return to school in the autumn.
- Support the transition between year groups and key stages.
- Improve language skills, especially for those for whom English is a second language.



From 8 July 2023, children aged 4 – 11 can join the Challenge for free at Burton Library, Uttoxeter Library, Barton Community Managed Library, or the Mobile Library that visits communities in those areas. The free Mini Challenge for children aged under 4 is also available so that they can have fun reading for pleasure too!

As usual, children will receive a collectors card , stickers, a certificate and a medal for participating in the Challenge.

Books read **must** be borrowed from a Staffordshire Library; this includes fiction and non-fiction, physical books, audio

books and all reading formats borrowed through our e-library (this includes ebooks, e-audiobooks, e-comics and e-magazines). Although children are encouraged to read 6 books during the summer holidays, this is flexible as we appreciate that for some children reading one book will be a big achievement for them whilst for others 6 books is not enough!

The Challenge will end this year on 11 September.

If children are not a member of the library, then joining is free and parents / carers can also join their child online through Staffordshire Libraries website or in person at any Staffordshire Library.

Our school is also eligible to take part in the Burton & Uttoxeter Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge Cup. The school that has the highest percentage of children on roll taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge will receive a trophy to keep in school and £150 to spend on books for school with H & H Spaldings of Barton under Needwood! We would love as many children as possible to get involved with this!



## Staffing Changes

It is that time of year when we sadly have to say a few goodbyes to some of our team here at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School, who are moving on to pastures new, but also look forward to welcoming new faces...

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Green, who currently job shares in Year 1, and Mrs Barlow, who job shares in Year 5. We wish them all the best in their new ventures and thank them both for their contribution to the school.

This means that Mrs Sandhu and Mrs Knight will be job sharing a class together next year, and we look forward to welcoming a new face to the team in September as a full-time class teacher. Some of you may remember Miss Brewin-Woodhouse who covered Mrs Sandhu's Maternity Leave last year. Well, she was the successful candidate when we recently recruited for a permanent class teacher, and we are really looking forward to welcoming her back to the team! You will find out in July who your child's class teacher will be for next year when you receive their report.

Please don't worry at not seeing Mrs Farrington's name on the list though – she is definitely not leaving us! Due to the commitment of being Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo, she is stepping away from the classroom to ensure that she has the capacity to fulfil the demands of these very important roles. I know she is looking forward to the challenge!



## Remember to Wear your Seatbelts!

You may not realise it, but this year is very special when it comes to seat belts as it's 40 years since it became legal for all drivers to wear a seat belt.

Although most people wear a seat belt for every trip, there are still a small number of people who don't, or who think they're not at risk on a short familiar route, so we're promoting the #EveryTrip campaign to encourage everyone to wear a seat belt when travelling in a vehicle, no matter how short the journey.

Last year more than 800 people were found travelling in a vehicle in Staffordshire without wearing one. The majority of these seat belt offences, 686, were committed by the driver, and 91% of these drivers were men.

Unfortunately, you never know what might happen on your journey, and if you're involved in a crash you're twice as likely to die if you're not wearing a seat belt. A seat belt is designed to keep you in your seat and prevent or reduce injuries suffered in a crash.



A passenger not wearing a seat belt can be thrown forward and may injure other people in the car, as well as themselves. If the collision happens at 30mph they will hit the front seat, and anyone in it, with a force of 30 to 60 times their own body weight.

As well as the safety dangers, drivers and passengers can also face an on the spot fine of £100 for not wearing a seat belt and this can increase to a maximum of £500 if prosecuted.

Drivers also have a responsibility to make sure any children under the age of 14 are wearing a seat belt, or are in an appropriate child seat



if they're up to 12-years-old or 135 centimetres tall. You can check if you have the correct seat for your child [here](#).

By belting up every time you're in a vehicle you're helping to keep everyone in your car safer, as well as other road users.




### Nursery Places Still Available for September!

Please note that there are still a few places left in our nursery for September, 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!

### Active Learning Sports Holiday Camp


Please find further information about the Summer Holiday Sports Camps at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School and William Shrewsbury Primary School provided by Active Learning Sports.



SHOBNALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

# HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Have fun in the school holidays with your friends!



**Who we are**

- A leading sports and physical activity provider within primary schools.
- We provide highly qualified PE teachers and experienced coaches.
- All of our coaches are first aid trained and DBS cleared.

**About the camps**

- Over 20 sports and fun activities provided with children from your school and surrounding schools.
- Affordable, safe, fun and structured child care during school holidays.
- Presentation at the end of each week including certificates, prizes and trophies for star players!

Here are all the activities that you can enjoy!

**Dodgeball**  
**Football**  
**Basketball**  
**Cricket**  
**Movies at lunch time**  
**Tag rugby**  
**Street dance**  
**Nerf wars**  
**Zorb football**  
**Capture the flag**

## Shobnall Primary & Nursery School Summer Holiday Sports Camp

- Week 4 – 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August
- Week 5 – 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August

## William Shrewsbury Primary School Summer Holiday Sports Camp

- Week 1 – 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July
- Week 2 – 31<sup>st</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August
- Week 3 – 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August

### Holiday Camp Times

Drop off between 8.30am and 8.45am

Collection time between 3.15pm and 3.30pm

*Please be aware these times have changed since the last sports camp - an additional hour has been added on to the day.*

Cost £18.00 per day, 10% discount on siblings

Children will be able to take part in a massive variety of sports provided by our fully qualified coaches. Whether it's having a go on our new laser guns, dancing away with virtual dance-offs, water fights, archery, Lego building, colouring competitions, limbo, football, tag rugby or scooting around with their friends, your child will most definitely have fun! Over twenty different activities available provided by qualified coaches who are all DBS cleared and First Aid trained.

If you would like to book your child onto one of our courses, please click on to the link [here](#) or scan this QR code via your mobile phone.



### **FREE Uniform!**



Remember, 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](mailto:amyroobottom@outlook.com).

### **Swap One Journey**

66% of all journeys are less than 5 miles, yet just 10 minutes of walking goes a long way towards helping air pollution and your health.

This week, we encourage you to consider incorporating active travel into your daily routine.

By choosing to walk, cycle, or use other forms of active transportation, you can make a positive impact on both your health and the environment.

So, swap your car keys for a pair of walking shoes or hop on your bike to commute, run errands, or explore Staffordshire.

Join in #TheBigTravelChat!





## Online Safety Tips

Artificial intelligence is probably *the* hot topic in technology circles right now, with questions being raised worldwide about how AI might conceivably affect the very future of the human race.

In the short term, however – definitely as far as its impact on young people is concerned – the clearest risk is almost certainly the AI-powered ‘virtual friends’ which are springing up all over the internet.

There’s Replika and Kuki, for instance, while Snapchat has recently got in on the act with My AI – and search engines like Bing and Google have developed their own versions. Are these machine intelligences suitable online companions for young people? What are their limitations and weak spots?

Our guide profiles the emergence of AI ‘virtual friends’.



## Hot Lunch Options – 26 to 30 June 2023

W/c 26 June 2023						
WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
MAIN DISH	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Beef Lasagne & garlic bread	Roast chicken with mash potato & gravy	Pork Meatballs with Pasta	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips	
VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH	Vegetable Quiche with baked potato wedges	Quorn Lasagne & garlic bread	Quorn fillet, with mash potato & gravy	Vegetarian Meatballs with Pasta	Cheese & bean bake with chunky chips	
ACCOMPANIMENTS 5	Corn on the cob & broccoli Salad bar	Peas & cauliflower Salad bar	Carrots & parsnips Salad bar	Roasted Vegetables Salad Bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar	
DESSERTS	5 Bananas & custard	Pls Ginger biscuit	Chocolate & orange muffins	Fruit Sponge & custard	Chocolate Brownie	
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

The nursery children have been exposed to so many different resources this week, starting with Sports Day on Monday, where they showed great resilience and determination whilst taking part in their physical activities. Later in the week, they worked together in groups to set up their own obstacle courses, giving instructions to others on how to navigate them. During this task they demonstrated great teamwork and pulled on all their experiential knowledge of using PE equipment and resources in the outdoor learning environment. Inside the classroom, further collaborative learning took place as the children chose a wide range of resources to represent a body. It was fantastic to see so many unique bodies being created, we certainly have great creativity in nursery!

### Reception

It was an active start to the week as the reception class joined in with Sports Day! There was fun, laughter and competitiveness as the children took part in a variety of team races including football shoot, beanbag balance and hula hoop throw. The children all participated brilliantly, and we are extremely proud of them.

The holiday theme continued this week with the lovely 'What the Ladybird Heard on Holiday' by Julia Donaldson.

On Thursday, the children went on their summer walk across to Shobnall Fields and enjoyed looking for signs of summer. The children showed excellent observation skills and identified lots of signs of summer during the walk. The children have also recognised the affects the heat can have on our bodies and the importance of taking care of themselves by drinking lots of water, wearing sunhats and applying sun cream.

### **Year 1**

This week year 1 have been working hard in maths to understand place value of numbers to 100. They have been working hard on finding 1 more and 1 less and comparing numbers using greater than and less than. In English, they followed instructions to make honey sandwiches! They enjoyed eating them too! In geography, they have been working hard on a fieldwork enquiry, investigating if we have enough plants on the field to attract wildlife. Well done year 1 for a great week!



### **Year 2**

In Maths, Year 2 have started tackling the abstract concept of multi-step word problems. Although some of the lessons have been tricky, everyone persevered and used everything they have learnt this year to support them, including bridging, number bonds and inverse operations. In writing, the children have been learning about 'How to be Healthy'. Through this topic they have completed independent research, drafted sections for their information poster and next week they will be creating their posters - we can't wait to see the finished product! In the afternoons, Year 2 have been doing geography. They have completed fieldwork on the KS1 playground to analyse the human and physical features, using a grid reference to support their findings.



### **Year 3**

Year 3 have been drafting and editing their hiking adventure story and we are so impressed with their writing stamina. The children have been continuing their learning about time and the difference between a digital and analogue clock. In geography, we have been learning all about volcanoes and even made some of our own! We also had our class assembly this week and all the staff in

Year 3 could not be any prouder of the hard work and dedication that the children have shown. Keep it up!

### **Year 4**



Year 4 have had another brilliant week this week. Firstly, what a fantastic afternoon all the children had on Monday for Sports Day! It was amazing to see the teamwork and sportsmanship shown by all the children on a fantastic afternoon. In maths this week, we have been learning about triangles, polygons and quadrilaterals and also learning about the different types of angles. In English, the children have been writing an information text about Ancient Egyptian homes and settlements and it has been really pleasing to see the children take their time and really think about how their writing is impacting the reader. Elsewhere this week, we have been practising our Brewhouse performance in the hall with year 5 and year 6 and it has been so pleasing to see that all of the children have been busy learning the songs at home. Finally, to finish the week, the children have had a final practice for their class assembly ready for next week. A fantastic week Year 4!

## Year 5

An amazing Sports Day for Year 5 earlier this week. We were so impressed with their determination in the heat, and they worked well as part of a team.

In English this week, the children have been researching key events from the Battle of Hastings in preparation for writing a recount as a Norman soldier. The children were so enthusiastic, and they are excited about writing their final recount. They have begun their planning and have discussed how they think a Norman soldier would feel on the eve of the battle.



In Maths, the children have finished their geometry topics and have shown great understanding of shapes and using coordinates. Our new topic this week is decimals and the children have made a flying start being able to recall place value for each digit in a number and use this to check their understanding.

We have had our first rehearsal for the Brewhouse performance and the children have begun to showcase their singing skills!

## Year 6

A very busy week for Year 6 this week. We have finished our descriptive writing piece basing our ideas on the film clip 'Francis' from Literacy Shed. This tense clip has proved to be a great stimulus for our writing. We have used a range of techniques to ensure our writing creates suspense and tension, using sentence starters and powerful adjectives. In maths we looked at problems involving shape (position and direction). We have been reading our whole class text 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and are excited to find out what happens next. The children performed amazingly well in their Brewhouse rehearsals this week. I am so proud of them all for the effort and dedication they put into this.

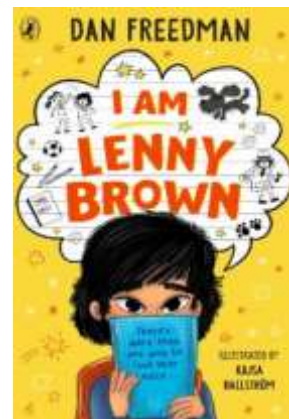
## Reading Corner

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

### I am Lenny Brown

Written by Dan Freedman

There's more than one way to find your voice . . . Lenny Brown is eight years old and can't talk. Except to his mum and his dog, Rocky. When Lenny has to move house and start at a new school, it feels like his whole life is changing, and not for the better. Will he be able to make friends and find a way to fit in? But when Lenny finds a different way to express himself, everyone is in for a big surprise as they find out just how amazing he can be . . .



## Head Teacher's Awards

<b>Reception</b>	Khalia R	Shayanni R
<b>Year 1</b>	Ibrahim J	Hassnain Q
<b>Year 2</b>	Aiza L	Toby N
<b>Year 3</b>	EVERYONE!	
<b>Year 4</b>	Bonnie H	Kian S
<b>Year 5</b>	Florence W	Amina H
<b>Year 6</b>	Ismail R	Isabelle J

## Lunchtime Star Awards

<b>Reception</b>	Jack P
<b>Year 1</b>	Jacob S
<b>Year 2</b>	Aiza L
<b>Year 3</b>	Jacob R
<b>Year 4</b>	Jibreel Q
<b>Year 5</b>	Amelia A
<b>Year 6</b>	Amy R

## Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions are **Reception** and **Year 1**! Well done! Here are the figures for this week...

<b>Reception</b>	100%	<b>Target</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	100%	96%
<b>Year 2</b>	93.5%	
<b>Year 3</b>	94.0%	
<b>Year 4</b>	98.7%	
<b>Year 5</b>	97.2%	<b>Overall (to date)</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	98.7%	95.4%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	

## Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 23.06.23)	113	109	148	96
Position	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 points	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 points	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 points	4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point
Running Total	8	5	12	5

## Summer Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Year 4 Class Assembly	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Year 3/4 Trip to Twycross Zoo	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>JTMAT INSET Day – School Closed</b>	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2023



Year 4, 5 & 6 Brewhouse Performance – Peter Pan	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Nursery Graduation	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
School Closes for Summer	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>INSET Day</b>	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023



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 John of Rolleston Primary School  
 Lansdowne & Eton Park  
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 Rykneld Primary School  
 Shobnall Primary School  
 St Modwens Catholic Primary School & Nursery

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**The Mosley Academy**  
 Tower View Primary School  
 Victoria Community School  
 Violet Way Academy  
 Violet Way Nursery & Care Club  
 William Shrewsbury Primary School  
 Winhill Village Primary School

**SECONDARY**

Abbot Beyne  
 Blessed Robert Sutton  
 Fountains High School  
 Granville Academy  
 John Taylor Free School  
 John Taylor High School  
 Paget High School  
 Paulet High School and Sixth Form College  
 The de Ferrers Academy  
 The Pingle Academy  
 The William Allit School







## Heroes Assemble at Tutbury Castle!

Sunday 25th June 2023

11.00am-5.00pm, (last admissions 4pm).

Here at Tutbury Castle, we've seen our fair share of pirates, princesses, Vikings, and queens, but for the first time ever, get ready to welcome a whole team of superheroes! Join our 'Patriotic Hero' to learn superhero moves from the super soldier himself! Join the 'Iron Hero' and 'Arachnid Hero' in the marquee to check out some of the inventions they've been working on! Grab photos and autographs with the 'Captain of the Cosmos' and the 'Super Spy hero'! But be careful... the 'Chaos Witch' has taken over the Great Hall to study her spell book! But if you're brave enough to enter, she might tell you a story or two! It's sure to be a memorable day for all! (We encourage kids to dress up as their favourite heroes and for parents to wear their favourite comic book hero t-shirts too!)



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the ‘AI friend’ or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this ‘virtual friend’ functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

D@\*#!

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

## Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.





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



Wednesday 26th July - Friday 1st September

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.

We can help with:

- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Sleep difficulties
- Worry
- Panic

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.

# CANNOCK MHST

## Schools we work with:

- Redhill Primary School
- Moorhill Primary School
- Bridgtown Primary School
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
  - West Hill Primary School
- Redbrook Hayes Community Primary School
  - Littleton Green Community School
    - Heath Hayes Primary Academy
  - Churchfield CofE Primary Academy
    - Kingsmead School
  - Cannock Chase High School
- Cardinal Griffin Catholic College
  - St Lukes CofE Primary School
    - Five Ways Primary School
  - Landywood Primary School



# STAFFORD MHST

## Schools we work with:

- Burton Manor Primary School
- Castlechurch Primary School
- Doxey Primary & Nursery School
  - Flash Ley Primary School
- John Wheeldon Primary Academy
  - King Edward V1 High School
  - Penkridge Middle School
  - Sir Graham Balfour School
- St. Leonard's CofE First School
  - Stafford Manor High School
  - Veritas Primary Academy
- St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
  - St Leonard's Primary School
- St Austin's Catholic Primary School
  - Walton Hall Academy
  - Walton Priory Middle School
  - Silkmore Primary Academy
    - Marshlands School
- Blessed William Howard Catholic School

# 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



# TAMWORTH MHST

## Schools we work with:

- Kettlebrook Short Stay
- Landau Forte Academy Gems
- Moorgate Primary Academy
- St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary
  - Two Rivers High School
  - Oakhill Primary School
- Glascote Academy Primary
  - Lakeside CP School
- Amington Heath Primary
  - Two Rivers School
- Anker Moor Primary Academy
  - Landau Forte Amington
  - Two Gates Primary
  - Hanbury Fram Primary
- Tamworth Enterprise College
  - Birds Bush Primary
- Three Peaks Primary Academy
  - Stoneydelph Primary
  - Wilnecote High School
  - Wilnecote Junior School

**OFFICIAL**

## Community Safety Flash



### Wildfire Aware

Never light a fire in the countryside.

Small fires can quickly get out of control.



NFCC  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council



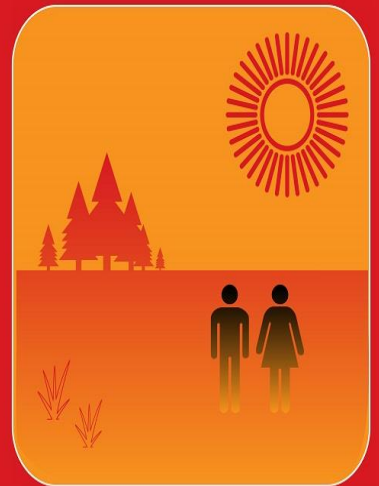
### Wildfire Aware

Many wildfires can easily be prevented.

Make sure you enjoy the countryside safely.



NFCC  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council



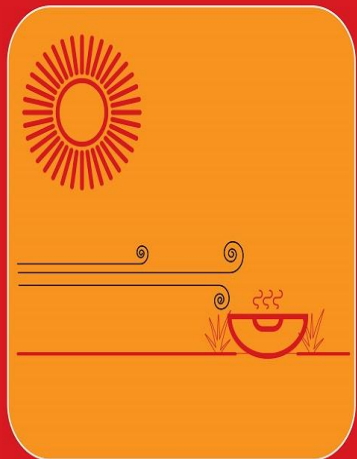
### Wildfire Aware

Always BBQ on a hard, flat surface.

Never leave a BBQ unattended and fully extinguish with water.



NFCC  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council



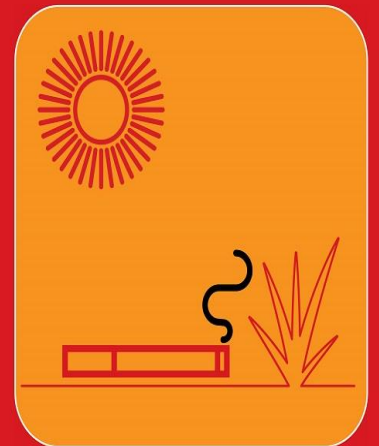
### Wildfire Aware

Extinguish and dispose of cigarettes properly.

Don't throw them on the ground or from car windows.



NFCC  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council



## Wildfire Aware

If you see a fire in the open, no matter how small, get yourself to safety and call 999.



NFCC  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council



[www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk)



**Staffordshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service  
preventing • protecting • responding



