



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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24th November 2023

"May your troubles be less, and your blessings be more."

Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite it still only being November, it's beginning to look, and feel, very festive around school! The decorations will be going up shortly, nativity rehearsals are in full swing, and the Christmas Market will be entertaining visitors before the ink is dry on next week's newsletter! The Christmas holidays seem to be racing quickly towards us and there is still so much to do! Please keep checking the diary dates at the end of the newsletter to remind yourselves of what is happening.



Thank you all so much for your well wishes and your kind words this week with regards to my impending operation. I will really miss the children and all of you whilst I recover. I can rest well knowing that you are in the very safe hands of the staff and Mrs Farrington until the end of term, who as you know will be Acting Headteacher in my absence. Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office via the email address above.

Next week, Year 5 are making their way to Whitemoor Lakes and will be staying from Wednesday 29 November until Friday 1 December. Please look out on Twitter (X) to see how they are getting on! I know the children are really looking forward to their stay and it promises to be a fantastic few days for them! Year 6 also have their class assembly on Thursday 30 November at 9.00am, and don't forget that it is non-uniform on Friday 1 December in support of the PFA Christmas Market (see further information below).

We also want to give you advance notice that we are having our phone service upgraded on Monday 4 December, so don't worry if you try to call and can't get through. The phone line will be down at some point during the day but we don't know when or for how long, so please bear with us when this happens.

Have an amazing weekend everyone – whatever it is that you are doing, ENJOY! We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!



Shobnall PFA Christmas Market – Friday 1 December 2023, 3.30 – 5.30pm

The PFA Christmas Market is only a week away and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible! It promises to be a great event and I must express my sincerest thanks to the PFA, who have been working tirelessly to make this event extra special and even better than last year!

Please refer to the letter, which was emailed to you last week, if you are planning to attend which outlines in more detail the plans and stalls that will be there. We hope that you can come along and support.

To help with the last-minute preparations for the event, here are some reminders from the PFA:

- 🌲 The PFA will be running a 'street food' stall at the Christmas Market. If you are able to donate any cakes or Asian food, the PFA would be very grateful if this could be labelled with ingredients to support those with allergies. Also, if possible, please could you indicate if it is suitable for vegetarians or not? They ask that these are donated on the morning of the Market, so that all food products are as fresh as possible and will ensure that any containers are returned to you the following week via your child. Also, you are more than welcome to bring your own containers along to the event should you wish to have a 'takeaway' option!
- 🌲 If you have any unwanted items for the bric-a-brac stall (i.e., toys, books, games etc.) that are in good condition, the PFA are happy to accept these donations in school from now.
- 🌲 The choir will be performing in the hall at around 4.15pm! We look forward to hearing their singing, which will get everyone in the festive mood! They will be singing songs that they have been practising for the JTMAT Christmas Concert. There will be no Young Voices Choir Club on this night.
- 🌲 On the day itself, the children (and staff) are allowed to come to school in non-uniform! Christmas jumpers are permitted! The charge for this is for pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 to bring in a chocolate item (value of at least 50p) and pupils in Key Stage 2 to bring a bottle! Year 5 pupils are permitted to bring in their bottle on Wednesday, as they will be at Whitemoor Lakes until the Friday.
- 🌲 Santa has confirmed his attendance! Tickets are available now up to Friday 1 December in front of the entrance to the key stage 2 playground before and after school, priced at £2.50. Included with the price this year is a selection box and you are more than welcome to take your own photos of your child/ren with Santa.
- 🌲 If anyone would, or knows of anyone who would, like to hire a table at a charge of £10 for their own stall, please let the school office know and we can pass on details to the PFA.
- 🌲 If anyone is able to or has any links with local businesses who may be able to, donate a raffle prize, please let the school office know and we can pass on details to the PFA. Thank you to EVERYONE who has been able to source a prize or make a donation up to now!

The PFA would like to thank you in advance for your support with all their requests and for your attendance at the Market! We are looking forward to feeling festive once again!



NSPCC Online Safety Workshop for Parents Resources

Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend the NSPCC Online Safety Workshop on Zoom last week! I did spot a few of your faces as I was logging on. If you weren't able to attend, the session was very informative, relevant and useful.

For further support and guidance with some of the issues highlighted and discussed, please click on the following links that have been provided by the course provider:

For general online safety:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

For starting conversations about online safety:



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>

For setting parental controls:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

For Childline support with online bullying:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

If you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child, then call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

Christingle!

Monday 4 December 2023 will be our annual Christingle assembly day. If you would like to send your child with a Christingle orange (please see instructions below), please ensure that it arrives in school on the Monday morning.

Please note that due to allergies, instead of using nuts to decorate the cocktail sticks, may we please ask that parents use alternatives such as sweets and dried fruit.

Many thanks for your support!

Making a Christingle

Equipment:

- Orange
- Four cocktail sticks
- Sweets
- Candle
- Red ribbon



Instructions:

1. Tie your red ribbon in a bow around the centre of the orange.
2. Place some sweets on your cocktail sticks.
3. Insert your cocktail sticks evenly around the centre of your orange.
4. Place your candle in the hole that your teacher has made at the top of the orange.

Have a Sustainable Black Friday

It's Black Friday this week and it can be very tempting to buy lots of new things. The most sustainable Black Friday is to not buy anything at all - but here are some tips if you want to get involved.

- **Make a list** - don't be tempted to buy items you wouldn't have got if they weren't in the sale
- **Shop at local, sustainable brands**
- **Think long term** - if you do want to treat yourself, get something you know will last you a long time
- **Recycle** - if you are replacing items, such as electrical goods, take your old or broken ones to your nearest recycling centre.



Online Safety Tips

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration.

The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as age-inappropriate content, dangerous challenges and contact with strangers.

Attendance

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.

We 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.

Please note that children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This includes general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be!

Remember, **every pupil, every day**! Thank you for your support.



FREE Uniform!

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.itmat.co.uk and we will ensure this is forwarded to her.

Hot Lunch Options – 27 November to 1 December 2023

W/c 9.10.23, 6.11.23, 27.11.23, 18.12.23, 22.1.24

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	Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	Vegetarian all day breakfast	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetable & bean chilli with 50/50 rice	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	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 adventures in nursery this week...

The Nativity preparations have begun and the children in nursery have been working so hard singing the songs and remembering their parts! We have also been on the stage for the first time, and we are so impressed with how well they all sat during the rehearsals.

We have also started our new book, 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and there has been some fantastic story telling going on, especially mimicking what the troll says!



The children have really enjoyed going to the 'Tinker Table,' making their own troll figures like the one in the story. We have been really impressed with their imagination of how they have been selecting their own resources to give detail to their troll figures. We have had some extremely scary, evil trolls!

The children have loved listening to the story 'My Mum and Dad make me Laugh,' by Nick Sharatt and have been busy noticing lots of different patterns on a range of clothes, objects and in the environment. The children have created some fantastic AB patterns, and we are so proud of how well they are doing in all areas of their learning!

Keep up the great work Nursery!



Reception

At the start of the week it was fantastic exploring our igloo, we love how cosy and toasty it made us feel, especially with the flashing lights! Later in the week it was transformed into a spaceship, and we now use control panels to explore space. We love looking out for stars and some of us have even landed on the moon. This was very exciting as we have learnt all about the first moon landing by sharing the story, 'Moon's First Friends,' by Susanna Leonard Hill.

"It's very far away." (Haider)

"The moon looks like some cheese, white cheese, it has the holes in it big and small ones!" (Jensen)

"Rockets zoom fast high, high up!" (Abia)

"They bounced up and down slow on there, I can go higher than that!" (Thomas)

"It has got dust on it like the chalks." (Amore)

"I like the hoppity song the space man sang!" (Olivia)

We have had a great time continuing our adventures with the story, 'Whatever Next,' by Jill Murphy. It has been super re-telling the story using our talk for writing actions and sequencing pictures.

We also acted out the story and went on our own adventure to the moon! It was very funny when Cooper was lifted in the rocket and we all screamed with laughter when we got sprayed with water when it started to rain!

Our Christmas nativity rehearsals have begun, and we have made a great start practicing our lines and songs. We are looking forward to continuing this next week!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a lovely week. In Maths, we have been learning to add and subtract 1 and 2 from a number below 10. The children found this concept quite tricky, but we have been resilient learners and used our concrete resources to help us. In English, we have been learning about the pronoun 'I' and using finger spaces when we are writing our sentences. In Geography, we have been learning all about Burton. We went on a walk and visited different places so that we could then create our own maps. We found houses, factories, a park, and a forest. We loved learning what is in our local area. In COOL time, we have been learning to use a keyboard, being a weather reporter in our role play area, designing our own maps and monuments of Burton as well as practising our reading of phase 4 words. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week this week! In English they have been continuing to learn about The Great Fire of London and the different features of writing a diary entry. In maths they have been learning how to add 10's to 2-digit numbers. They have used lots of concrete materials to support this. They especially like to use the base 10 to help them work out the answers. In History this week the children have learnt about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot as well as learning about The Great Fire of London. The children enjoyed reading about different artefacts and discussing which ones are more useful and reliable to us. Well done!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great week! They have started their multiplication and division unit in Maths where they have looked at multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s. They have been working hard to write their reports in English all about football! In History they have been investigating the Stone Age by identifying primary and secondary sources. We have also begun learning our Christmas play which is just around the corner!

Year 4

We have had another brilliant week in Year 4 this week. In maths, we have started our new unit looking at multiplication and division. This unit focuses specifically on timetables, so the children are finding it thoroughly enjoyable to apply their knowledge of their multiplication and division facts! In science this week, we have been learning about the different types of teeth that humans have. As part of this, we have set up an investigation to identify whether all liquids effect our teeth the same! We have done this by placing an egg in a variety of different liquids and we are observing them daily to notice any changes. Also, we have continued with our Forest School sessions and the children have been designing and making Roman crowns and have been using clay to make Roman jewellery once again! A brilliant week Year 4!



Year 5

As always, Year 5 have had a busy week! In English, the children have started planning and drafting



their very own 'Alien Invasion' stories. They have been working hard on including lots of description within their writing, as well as dialogue between characters to move the story on. In Maths, Year 5 have been re-capping previously taught strategies around fractions, so that we are secure in our knowledge before moving onto the very tricky fraction concepts covered in Year 5. In Science, Mrs Wilkinson taught the children about evaporation in their science topic of 'Changes of Materials'. Year 5 were stuck on a desert island and had to investigate which water would be safe to drink; the water from the sea, or the water from the river. Through their evaporation experiment, Year 5 discovered that when salt water

evaporates, salt crystals are left behind! In RE, we have started investigating our big new question, 'Is the Christmas Story true?'. This has included looking at how eye-witness accounts can differ, reading Matthew and Luke's versions of the Christmas story and looking at historical accuracies.

Year 6

This week the children have been working hard in maths, looking at multiplying and dividing fractions. I have seen some fantastic reasoning and problem solving skills. In English, we have continued with our work on diary recounts and looking closely at our model text 'The Diary of Alessandro Volta' to explore key features of a diary. I am so impressed with the projects that the children have completed for their WW2 extended homework pieces. We have had a range of items brought in to showcase their learning. A very well done to all the effort that has been put into such tremendous pieces of work. In Science, the children have been so engaged in learning about electricity and used the equipment to explore the effects voltage has on an electrical circuit. A great week, well done Year 6.

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Adam J	Rayyan S
Year 1	Mia L	Teigan W
Year 2	Bradley F	Noah H
Year 3	Baaqir A	Alizah A
Year 4	Elliot M	Lewis L
Year 5	Constance L	Lily J
Year	EVERYONE!	

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Ayaat A
Year 1	Paisley H
Year 2	Zayn C
Year 3	Mason E
Year 4	Alicia F
Year 5	Bonnie H
Year 6	Oliver O

Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 4!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	95.4%	Target
Year 1	95.7%	97%
Year 2	94.7%	
Year 3	95.0%	
Year 4	98.8%	Overall (to date)
Year 5	95.0%	96.1%
Year 6	96.2%	
Overall	95.9%	

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (<i>Week Ending 24.11.23</i>)	62	108	52	80
Position	3rd – 2 points	1st – 4 points	4th – 1 point	2nd – 3 points
Running Total	9	9	4	9

Reading Corner

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

Winnie the Pooh at Christmas

by Jeanne Willis

Winnie-the-Pooh at the Palace is a rhyming picture-book adventure featuring some of the best-loved characters from the Hundred Acre Wood.

On a day out to Buckingham Palace, Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends play in the snowy gardens, have a thrilling ride on a sledge, and Pooh gets stuck in a snow drift! Then, a surprising discovery leads to an invitation to have tea with the King!



With gentle rhyming verse by bestselling author Jeanne Willis, inspired by A. A. Milne's classic poem 'Buckingham Palace', and charming illustrations by Mark Burgess, in the style of E. H. Shepard, this authorised sequel is the perfect gift for anyone who loves the enchanting world of Winnie-the-Pooh and his best friends, Christopher Robin and Piglet.

Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
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
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

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
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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



Train to become a Primary (3-7 or 5-11) Teacher

The John Taylor SCITT

Start
September
2024

Placements across
Early Years, Key Stage 1
or Key Stage 2



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it *could* potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

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CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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