



# SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*"Surround yourself with positive people."*

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is difficult to believe that we are already nearly at the end of January and, as ever, school has been exceptionally busy with a range of different activities taking place over the course of the week.

Myself, and several subject leaders, have spent some considerable time this week talking to pupils, observing lessons and looking through children's books in order to monitor the quality of our curriculum across the school. We have been very impressed with what we have seen and heard, as have several special visitors we have shown round too!



Next week, **Year 6** are making their way to **Laches Wood** and will be staying from **Monday 29 January** until **Friday 2 February**. 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 week for them!



With **National Storytelling Week** starting on **27 January 2024** (more information below), this has been the perfect way to find out more about children's likes and dislikes when it comes to reading! We would like to thank you for your support with reading at home, as this really helps support the children with becoming confident readers and developing a passion and enjoyment for books! Please keep checking our weekly newsletter for recommended reads and further ideas of how you can support your child with reading at home!

We hope that whatever it is you are doing this weekend that you have a restful, relaxing and enjoyable one! As always, we look forward to seeing you again on Monday! Enjoy!

## National Storytelling Week – 27 January to 4 February 2024

We celebrate stories in every form during National Storytelling Week, which takes place from January 29 to February 4 this year. This engaging event is celebrated in schools, clubs, museums, spoken word venues, and various other places. Like its name, National Storytelling Week encourages people of all ages, genders, and cultures to indulge in stories new and old and participate in this centuries-old form of entertainment.



Finding the time to read with children can often be difficult, especially with the increase in technology. However, story time is an important part of a child's life, therefore, as teachers and parents, setting up a regular storytelling time ensures children can let their imaginations go wild! As a school, we will be promoting the power of storytelling next week (see Twitter for updates) and if you have any exciting ideas to share of things you do at home, please let us know!



### **PFA Valentine Disco – Thursday 8 February 2024**

The PFA are hosting a Valentine themed disco on **Thursday 8 February 2024!** The infant disco will be 3.45 – 5.00pm and the junior disco will be 5.15 – 6.30pm. Miss Alexander, Miss Barker and Miss Brewin have very kindly said that they are more than happy for children who are attending the infant disco to bring in a change of clothes on the day, which they are happy to help them get changed into. Please bear in mind that Year 1 have Forest School on a Thursday, so it may take them a little longer to get ready! Any help would

be very much appreciated. Shobnall Stars will be in the Year 2 classroom on that evening.

Tickets will be on sale next week, every morning before school outside the key stage 2 entrance. They will be priced at £2.50 (disco only) or £3.50 (disco, drink and sweets).

On the night, children will need a small amount of spending money for other drinks, sweets and savoury snacks (should they wish to have any) and, unfortunately, we will not be able to subsidise them if they don't. Water will be readily available if children do not bring spending money. We hope to see as many of the children there as possible!

### **Disruption to the A38 Branston**

The A38 Branston Interchange Scheme is planned to start in full in February 2024. The scheme is being delivered by the Branston Locks developer and Staffordshire County Council through the Levelling Up Fund. The scheme is a planning condition of the Branston Locks development and will support the creation of new homes and employment as well as improving road safety and capacity on the A38 Branston interchange roundabout and Parkway.



Construction works include widening the A38 northbound off and on slip roads to provide additional traffic lanes, installing new traffic signals on the interchange roundabout and a third lane westbound on Parkway. Works will last until Spring 2025.

Early works on Branston Road will be installing new drainage, ducting, electrical works and to install a temporary site access from Branston Road. So they can be carried out safely, a one-way road closure will be needed from the beginning of the February half-term week. The one-way closure starts on 10 February, with a planned completion on 28 February. Vehicles will be able to travel westbound on Branston Road from the A38 towards Tatenhill but will not be able to travel eastbound from Tatenhill to access the A38. A diversion route will be signed via Tatenhill, Rangemore and Needwood. Additional safety measures and signing will be provided on the diversion route.

Please see Staffordshire County Council's website for further information:

## Measles

There have been recent localised outbreaks of measles centred around the West Midlands. There is a risk of further outbreaks in other areas unless urgent action is taken to increase Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination take up in areas with low MMR vaccine rates.

Measles spreads very easily among those who are unvaccinated, especially in nurseries and schools. The best protection against measles for children and adults is to get both doses of the MMR vaccine. It is never too late to have these vaccinations. Has your child had their MMR vaccination? Ask your doctor if unsure.



The following guidance is available:

[NHS England » NHS launches catch up campaign for missed MMR vaccines](#)



## NSPCC Number Day!

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 2 February 2024!** Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it. We are planning to have a fun day of maths activities and will be taking part in Dress up for Digits. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (i.e. football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!) OR get even more creative by dressing up in a maths or numbers

theme. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for a suggested donation of £1, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event. Unfortunately, Year 6 will be at Laches Wood, but we know they'll be marking the day in their own way and celebrating with us in spirit!

We're really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.

## Times Tables Rock Stars

As part of NSPCC Number Day, key stage 2 children are invited to take part in a special [Times Tables Rock Stars](#) challenge! This will run from Monday 29 January to Friday 2 February. The children have been enrolled and will be able to log-in from then! Good luck, everyone!

You can find out more about the NSPCC's work at [nspcc.org.uk](https://nspcc.org.uk).

## Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Election – 2 May 2024

The government has confirmed that local elections will go ahead on Thursday 2 May 2024. As a polling station, we have to comply with the returning officer's request to use our school on this date.

For the safe operation of the polling station and to minimise risks to staff and pupils, we are unable to allow them on site on this day, therefore school will be closed on Thursday 2 May 2024.

Thank you for your understanding.



## Forest School Help!

Miss Alexander and Mrs Martin would still love your help with replenishing some of the stock that is used to deliver our Forest School sessions! All of the resources they are requesting can be found naturally so if you are out and about on a winter walk and happen to spot any of the following, please could you collect and send into school. They are looking for:

- Wood for the fire
- Wood suitable for cooking on
- Wood cookies
- Small, medium and large logs
- Large stones and pebbles
- Pine cones
- Flower cuttings
- Dried flowers
- Pallets
- Kindling (silver birch)
- Large and small cable spools



Many thanks in advance if you are able to help with sourcing any of these materials!



## Online Safety Tips

Teenagers' blossoming interest in romantic relationships and their devotion to online networking is a potent combination – and, regrettably, not always a safe one. It raises all kind of worries about the possibility of sharing intimate images or deeply personal information; and that's simply with contacts their own age – to say nothing of the chance of connecting with an older stranger.

MyLOL – a site which specifically facilitates interaction between 13 to 19-year-olds – has amassed around a million users worldwide, but sadly its safeguarding protocols can't match that level of success.

The ease with which an adult could pose as a teen under a bogus birthdate makes grooming a realistic threat – and that's far from the platform's only risk, as our guide explains.

We would also like parents and carers to note that **Safer Internet Day 2024** will be celebrated on **6 February** with the theme 'Inspiring Change: Making a Difference, Managing Influence, and Navigating Change Online.' Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people, and to inspire a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically, and creatively. Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day is celebrated in over a hundred countries coordinated by the joint Insafe/INHOPE network, with the support of the European Commission, and national Safer Internet Centres across Europe. Click on the link below for more information, useful guides and resources:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



## Warm up this Winter!

At this time of year, the most important thing to do is keep warm.

### Layer up

It goes without saying, but make sure you are wearing those layers, especially if you're heading outside.

Gym clothes are great to wear as your base layer, then add woolly jumpers and thick hoodies over the top before adding your waterproofs. When it's extra chilly, keeping your head warm with a woolly hat, and wearing thick socks and gloves will make all the difference when you're out and about.

### Keep moving

Heading outside to exercise may seem like the last thing you want to do when it's cold. But going out for a brisk walk is the perfect way to warm up and won't cost you a penny.

### Comfort foods are made for winter

Cook up some winter warmers to keep your body warm from the inside out. Chillis, curries, spaghetti bolognese and a good old Sunday roast are some popular favourites which are also great for batch cooking and leftovers making your meals last longer and go further.

Try cooking in an air fryer or slow cooker too, to keep your energy costs down.

### Hot water bottles

Bring out the hot water bottle instead of heating the whole house. Perfect when working from home or warming up your bed.

### Apply for free energy upgrades

Eligible off-gas homes in Staffordshire can get new energy upgrades to keep their homes warmer for less. The upgrades are free of charge and fully funded by the Staffordshire Warmer Homes scheme. You can apply if:

- Your home is off gas
- You have a household income of below £31,000
- Or you claim a means-tested benefit

### [Apply here.](#)

## 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](mailto:amyroobottom@outlook.com).



## Hot Lunch Options – 29 January to 2 February 2024





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

WEEK 1	MEAT FREE MONDAY	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

Nursery Adventures this week...

We had an exciting start to the week in Nursery as we have been completing lots of learning based on our class focus book, 'The Gingerbread Man.' It has been wonderful to watch the children working in groups, taking it in turns to retell the story. The children have loved reciting the repetitive vocabulary with some wonderful acting of the Gingerbread Man.

Science was lots of fun as the Nursery children had great fun placing a Gingerbread Man biscuit into water to see what would happen if he had swam across the river, instead of taking a ride from the sly fox! This generated lots of lovely vocabulary such as soggy, mushy and sloppy! This learning also led us on to thinking about objects that float and those that sink, and we began some simple experiments in Nursery to find out more.

On Thursday, the children got creative and used their imagination and creativity to build some vehicles to help the Gingerbread Man cross the river safely to avoid the sly fox. We had a great





range of vehicles which the Gingerbread Man enjoyed riding and was able to cross the river safely without being eaten by the fox!



## Reception

Reception Adventures this week...

During our exploration of the Arctic, we were surprised to find that people live there! We thought it would be far too cold but after sharing the story, 'The Polar Bear's Son,' by Lydia Dabovich we learnt that some of the indigenous people of the Arctic are Inuits.

*"They have very heavy warm clothes then they won't get a cold!"* (Fatima)

*"They build igloos to keep them warm!"* (Elliott)

*"When animals die, they get their fur to make coats to keep them warm."* (Jensen)

We also had fun using different materials to design our own fur parkas.

During our science adventures we discovered all about floating and sinking. We were then set a challenge to get the old lady from our story across the water to save the polar bear cub.

This led us to investigate which materials would make a good boat for the rescue mission!

*"It goes up the water to float."* (Amelia)

*"I put tape on the holes, or it will sink."* (Harper)

*"It sinks because it's too heavy."* (Kadeem)

*"My boat sinks because it's not big enough for the old lady, I made it bigger."* (Adam)

There were lots of creative boats and when we tested them many floated and sailed to rescue the cub!

## Year 1

Year 1 have had a lovely week. In English, we have been making our own instruments and beginning to write our instructions. In Maths, we have been learning to place numbers to 20 on a number line. In DT, we have been taste testing different fruits and vegetables ready to make smoothies next week. In Science, we have been learning all about how our ears work and listening





to different sounds. Our Forest School session was a lovely muddy affair with the making of rockets, aliens and moons.

## **Year 2**

Year 2 have had a great week this week! They have been exploring offspring in science and enjoyed matching the offspring to their parent. They also made connections about how some offspring do not look like their parent, for example a tadpole and a frog or a caterpillar and a butterfly. In English this week the children have been continuing to explore our new text 'How Kangaroo got her Pouch'. They have enjoyed learning about new vocabulary and sequencing sentences in chronological order. In maths this week the children have continued looking at 2D and 3D shapes and in particular the repeating patterns that they can make with the shapes. In history this week the children have been exploring significant people in history who created change. They have been looking at Emily Davison and Rosa Parks and how they are similar and different. Well done year 2 on a great week!

## **Year 3**

Year 3 have had a great week! They have been working hard writing their cave challenge stories in English and have nearly finished them! In Maths they have been multiplying and dividing using flexible partitioning. During History they are enjoying researching about the Bronze Age. Well done for a great week!

## **Year 4**

Year 4 have had another really productive week this week. The children have shown real resilience in maths this week when dividing a 3-digit number by a 1 digit number using the bus stop method. The children have also written their balanced arguments on whether they believe Banksy is an artist or a vandal and I am so impressed with how well the children have done with this! Finally, the children have started their French topic for this half term. The children have been identifying numbers from 1-31 and also learning the days of the week in French! Another great week Year 4, well done!

## **Year 5**

In Maths this week, Year 5 have started to tackle the multiplication of 2, 3 and even 4-digit numbers! They have been working on using the expanded column method to ensure that they are being systematic in showing their working out and solving all the multiplications. In English, the children have started drafting and editing their persuasive leaflets about Whitemoor Lakes. Year 5 are trying hard to include a range of writing devices to make their work persuasive and enjoyable to read, including modal verbs, relative clauses, and emotive language. The highlight of the week was the science lesson on Monday, where Year 5 had to test the effects of surface area on air resistance. Garry (the Lego man) was put to the test, with the children's handcrafted parachutes. Each table measured out and created different sized parachutes (as our independent variable) yet ensuring that our control variables were kept the same to conduct a fair test. Look at Twitter (X) to see the results of our investigation!

## **Year 6**

We have had a great week this week in Year 6. In English, we produced our own poems about





the journey of a river from source to sea. We are so proud of our poems. In Maths, we have been continuing with algebra and have remained resilient when finding the nth term and substituting for different numbers. In Science, we have looked at what fossils can tell us about the past and recapped our knowledge on Mary Anning. In music, we looked at our new unit where we started to learn to sing the melody and harmony. This will help us when eventually we will begin to compose our own short song. We looked at what is mean to be global in Geography and considered the term interdependent. Overall, a great week!

### Reading Corner

This week's recommended read is for children aged 9+...

#### The Troublemakers

Written by Tamzin Merchant

Return to the spellbinding magical world of The Hatmakers in this sweeping, epic and exciting new adventure on the high seas - perfect for fans of *Nevermoor*, *A Pinch of Magic* and *Harry Potter*.

Cordelia Hatmaker has finally united the Maker families and restored the kingdom's trust in Maker magic. But mysterious outbreaks of chaotic magic are beginning to happen across London...

And then the unthinkable happens. Cordelia is accused of treason. As the guards close in, she must flee London at once. With her father Prospero, and friends Sam and Goose, Cordelia sets sail on her family's ship, the Little Bear, for the adventure of a lifetime. They're determined to solve the mystery of a missing girl, and to clear Cordelia's name once and for all. But soon they are in the dangerous territory of a band of legendary pirates: the Troublemakers, captained by a fierce and unstoppable pirate queen...



### Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Mohammed Y	Abia L
Year 1	Mariam S	Alfie T
Year 2	Ibrahim J	Mohammed Y
Year 3	Daniel L	Nancy M
Year 4	Reece A	Seb J
Year 5	Halima L	Fatimah A
Year 6	Maheen F	Joseph W

### Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Hamza I
Year 1	Teigan W
Year 2	Peta O
Year 3	Nancy M
Year 4	Kristers K
Year 5	Angelo M
Year 6	Lilly L

### 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.



This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 2 and Year 3!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

<b>Reception</b>	98.0%	<b>Target</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	98.7%	
<b>Year 2</b>	100%	
<b>Year 3</b>	100%	<b>97%</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	97.8%	<b>Overall (to date)</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	98.1%	
<b>Year 6</b>	95.6%	<b>95%</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	

### Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (Week Ending 26.01.24)	33	35	45	42
Position	4 <sup>th</sup> – 1 point	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 2 points	1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 points	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 points
Running Total	5	6	8	11

### Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024
PFA Valentine's Disco	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants: 3.45pm – 5.00pm</li> <li>• Juniors: 5.15pm – 6.30pm</li> </ul>
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
School Closes for Easter	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024, 2.00pm
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Year 1 Class Assembly	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024, 9.00am
Reception Class Assembly	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2024, 9.00am
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Election – School Closed	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024
<b>INSET Day</b>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024
PFA Summer Fair	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024
Year 4 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024, 9.00am
<b>JTMAT INSET Day</b>	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
School Closes for Summer	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024, 2.00pm
<b>INSET Day</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024

### Spring Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024



Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Reception	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 1	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 2	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 3	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 4	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
World Book Day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 5	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Mother's Day Lunches – Year 6	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Comic Relief	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Parents' Evening	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024, 4.00pm – 7.00pm
School Closes for Easter	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **MIYLOL**

13-19



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#WakeUpWednesday